



**The USBA Newsletter**  
**3-Cushion Billiard News**

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**Carom Café  
 Open  
 Handicapped  
 Flushing, NY**

**Young Ha Choi  
 Wins the Handi-  
 capped Event at  
 Carom Café**

- 1) Young Ha Choi
- 2) Sonny Cho
- 3) Jae Cheon Seong
- 4) Sang Jin Lee
- 5-8) Mark An, John Cristiano,  
 Mike Lee, Jim Watson
- 9-12) Joe DeAmato, Jong Min Lee, Kwang Sup Ok, Ester Park
- 13-16) Hoeun Jung, Johnny Kim, Cristobal Torres Sanchez, Do Hyung Yim



**Young Ha Choi (1st), Sang Jin Lee (4th), Jae Cheon Seong (3rd), Sonny Cho (2nd)**

**Carom Café National Qualifier -  
 Flushing, NY  
 Michael Kang & Sonny Cho  
 Qualify To the Nationals**

- 1) Michael Kang
- 2) Sonny Cho
- 3) John Cristiano
- 4) Lloyd Wallace



**Doral Qualifier: Victor Cuzzi and Carlos Hallon**

Doral Billiards National Qualifier, Doral, Florida  
 Victor Cuzzi and Carlos Hallon Qualify to the Nationals  
 10 Players  
 Victor Cuzzi 1st  
 Mercedes Gonzales 2nd (Ineligible)  
 Carlos Hallon 3rd

**El Miramar National Qualifier –Watsonville, California**

Antonio Rivera Qualifies in Watsonville

## **USBA TOUR Open – MGM Billiards**

### **Pedro Wins the First Stop of the 2012 USBA TOUR**

21 Players - 5 National Champions - Room Owner: Miguel Torres

Top 2 from each group + the 2 best 3rd place finishers advanced to the finals along with one auction winner & one lotto winner.

The semi-finals (10 players) were divided into 2 groups of 5 players each to 30 points.

The top 2 in each semi-finals group played 2 more matches against the top 2 players in the other group. (6 matches altogether)

The 3rd place finisher in one group played the 3rd place finisher in the other group (5 matches altogether). The same was true for the 4th & 5th place finishers.

- |                      |                   |                 |                  |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1) Pedro Piedrabuena | 2) Michael Kang   | 3) Sonny Cho    | 4) Miguel Torres |
| 5) Hugo Patino       | 6) Soong Hyun Lee | 7) Mazin Shooni | 8) Young Ha Choi |
| 9) Jong Min Lee      | 10) Jim Shovak    |                 |                  |

High Run: Michael Kang (15) Best Game: Michael Kang - 30 pts in 12 inns (2.500)

2012 USBA TOUR Sponsors: David Levine, Jim Shovak, Bob Jewett, Creative Billiard Shirts

USBA Sponsors: Simonis, Gabriels, Tiger Cues, Aramith, Consumer Credit Services

### **USBA TOUR “B” Handicapped Tournament Carom Café Billiards, Flushing, NY**

**Jim Watson Wins the “B” Handicapped**

64 players - 16 groups of 4, 3 handicaps: 28, 25 and 22

Top 2 from each group advance to 32 player Single Elimination Format.

- |               |                |             |                     |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1) Jim Watson | 2) Alex Alzate | 3) John Kim | 4) Cristobal Torres |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|

**2012 USBA Tour Sponsors:**

David Levine, Jim Shovak, Bob Jewett, Creative Billiard Shirts, Paul Frankel, Tommy

Thomsen USBA Sponsors: Simonis, Gabriels, Tiger Cues, Aramith, Consumer Credit Services.



### **Southside Billiards National Qualifier –Savannah, Georgia Jae Hyung Cho Qualifies in Savannah**

**by Jamie Sibley:**

We started by playing two games Friday night, continuing Saturday morning at 10am, until about 11:30 pm, when we finished the preliminaries. Sunday morning we played a four man round robin to decide the winners of the finals.

Early in the preliminaries, Johnny “Dozens” Shepherd made good play against Mercedes Gonzales, scoring 13 points for his best game. The next best contender against Mercedes was Sergio Hernandez scoring 16 for his only loss in the Prelims. This left the Clubs flight of five players ending with 1st Mercedes, 2nd Sergio Hernandez, 3rd Eric Salles, 4th Johnny Shepherd, 5th Dean Harrell with one game forfeit.

In the Hearts flight Jae Cho dominated the field with zero losses. Hugo Sanchez put up the best fight against Jae with 12 points, which was his only loss. There were many good matches including Chris O’Brien and Andy Janquitto, which could have gone either way near the end.

Finals were played as a 4 man round robin. Result was Jae Cho 1st, Mercedes Gonzales 2nd, Sergio Hernandez 3rd, Hugo Sanchez 4th.

*Joe and Southside Billiards took good care of the players and provided plenty of space for uninterrupted play. Thanks!*



## **President’s Desk**

The Three-Cushion national championship tournament is upon us. Held for the second consecutive year at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, this event promises to be even better than last year’s.

Gabriels, the Official Partner of the USBA, has provided eight



Element tables, and the field of players may exceed 50. Fresh from his victory at the Champion of Champions invitational, Pedro Piebrabuena returns to defend his crown. If he succeeds, he will garner his 5th title. Determined to stop Pedro’s run are eight other finalists from last year, including five former national champions.

Charles Brown has been named the tournament director. The tournament will begin on Sunday, May 6, and conclude on Thursday, May 10. The players’ meeting will be held Saturday, May 5, in the evening. The eight Gabriels tables will be available for practice on Saturday during the day and after the player’s meeting. The tournament format has been tentatively established. The field will start in flights of 6 or 8. Twenty players will advance to the semi-finals, where they will be placed in flights of five. Two from each semi-final flight will progress to the finals, where the eight finalists will play a three-round single elimination to crown the champion. The length of games will be determined by Charles Brown once the number of players in the field is set.

The United States Three-Cushion championships have a rich history, from Alfredo de Oro to Johnny Layton to Welker Cochran to Willie Hoppe to Harold Worst to Allen Gilbert. Some of these legends can be seen on YouTube. To see today’s legends, join us at the Tropicana.

## **Ken Higgins Memorial**

Ken Higgins Memorial – Tacoma Elks Lodge

Tacoma, Washington

Mark Sullivan Prevails at the Ken Higgins Memorial

- 1) Mark Sullivan
- 2) Jesus Quinonez
- 3) Neal Olson
- 4) Tommy Thomsen

The “B” winners were Jeff Bradford (1st) and John Fleming (2nd).

**Jesus Quinonez (2nd), Mark Sullivan (1st), Neal Olson (3rd), Tommy Thomsen (4th)**



## **Trish Bida Qualifier: Thanh Vu**

### **Trish Bida National Qualifier – Houston, Texas**

Six players attended the Houston Qualifier at Trish Bida. Tenth place Nationals finalist from 2011, Thanh Vu, Doral Tour B winner Dung Nguyen and four challengers Phuc Le, Jason Tran, Khanh Ly and Hung Chong. The winner was Thanh Vu who went undefeated at 5-0. Thanh also won high run honors, taking the \$100 prize donated by Doug Deitel, USBA Director with a run of 9! In fact, Thanh ran 9 twice... in his first and last game.

Special thanks to Marcus Norwood who showed up with his video equipment and recorded the final game between Thanh Vu and Dung Nguyen. Dung Nguyen took an early lead and if he held on could have had an upset win and first place. But when Thanh Vu ran 9... he signaled he was ready for Las Vegas and cruised home 25-16 in 23 innings. Marcus has the popular YouTube channel “Forcefollow”.



### **Edgie’s Billiards National Qualifier – Milpitas, California**

Cesar Cardoza Qualifies at Edgie’s

A 6 player round robin decided the Edgie’s 2012 USBA National Qualifier. Cesar Cardoza won going undefeated, although the tournament went down to the final round, in which 3 players still had a chance to win.

- 1) Cesar Cardoza
- 2) Homero Landa
- 3) Gilbert Delgadillo
- 4) Allen Castillo
- 5) Rigoberto Cuevas
- 6) Raye Raskin



## **Upcoming USBA Tournaments**

April 20-22: USBA TOUR “Open” – Eight Ball Billiards - Maywood, CA

Contact: Hector Ocampo - 323-304-3156

April 27-29: Mike Kelley Memorial - Marshalltown, IA

Contact: John Jacobson - 641-753-7168

May 6-10: USBA National Championship -Tropicana Hotel - Las Vegas, NV

Contact: Jim Shovak – 516-238-6193

June 1-3: USBA TOUR “B” or “B/C” - Mid-America North Region

Contact: Jim Shovak – 516-238-6193

June 8-10: Dubuque Open III - Dubuque, IA

Contact: Robert Byrne - 563-557-8970

June 14-17: USBA TOUR “Open” - Napoles Billiards - East Boston, MA

Contact: Mazin Shooni - 248-910-4466

Jul 20-22: USBA TOUR “B/C”-Mardi Tracy Memorial-Medford Elks, OR

Contact: Tommy Thomsen - 509-240-2027

Aug 2-5: USBA TOUR “Open” -Carom Cafe - Flushing, NY  
Contact: Charles Brown 646-528-3238/Michael Kang 917-204-6070

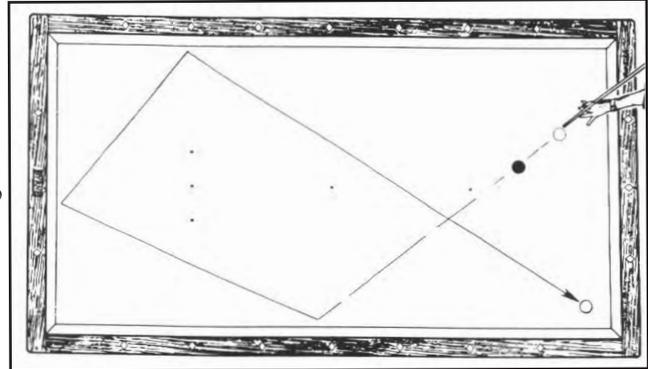
# The Jump Shot

by Robert Byrne

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



In this Diagram, a tempting shot is a force follow through the red. Unfortunately, there is a good chance that the red ball will take the same path intended for the cueball and will kiss the second ball out of the way before the cueball arrives. One solution that I discovered on my own is a jump shot that enables the cueball to almost clear the red ball. The cueball hits the top part of the red as it passes over it and continues around the table in front of the red. The basic idea goes back at least to the early years of the last century. Minguad, who is credited with inventing the leather tip and was the world's first professional exhibition player, had a shot on a pocket table in which the object ball and the cueball were lined up straight into the corner pocket. He made the cueball go into the pocket first, followed by the object ball, by using a jump shot that doesn't quite clear the object ball.



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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

## Rip's Tips

### Quick Release Super Draw

Join the elite when you make this shot.

Cue ball hits the long rail after hitting the yellow ball. Shoot cue ball with 20 degree elevation of cue. Shoot down at 5 o'clock English very quickly, also release at contact with yellow ball very quickly. Speed of hand and quick yank of cue will propel cue ball 1/2 way across the table and then send it on it's arch toward long rail and red ball. Not an easy shot but keep trying to make it so you can yell out: EXCELCIOR!

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

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## 2012 Invitational Champion of Champions

After four days of play, Pedro Piedrabuena had only to make one more billiard to repeat as the winner of the prestigious Champion of Champions invitational tournament at the Allen Hopkins' Super Billiard Expo in Oaks, Pennsylvania. Holding a precarious 34 to 33 lead over Hugo Patiño, Piedrabuena stood at the foot of the table and eyed the three balls, which rested unfavorably in a line, with Piedrabuena's cue near the foot rail, ball number two in the middle and ball three near the head spot. A miss would allow Patiño back to the table. A victory by Patiño would give him the trophy.

Earlier in the game, Piedrabuena built a solid lead over his rival with stellar play, including a marvelous run of 16, but Patiño stormed back just when it seemed Piedrabuena had it won. Knowing that he could not let Patiño back to the table, Piedrabuena pondered the situation for well over a minute. A three rail natural was impossible, and a five rail had more kisses than Hershey's. There seemed no easy solution. Finally, Piedrabuena leaned over the table. After half a dozen practice strokes, he struck the cue ball, feathering the first object ball. The crowd followed the rolling ball along its path: the cue struck the long rail, then the short, then traveled the length of the table and touched the opposite short rail. It rebounded off the third rail and rolled straight and true toward ball three. When it made the billiard, Piedrabuena dropped to his knees, triumphant and exhausted, and the crowd erupted in applause. One post on the chat room on the live stream summed up the shot: "Wow!"

Piedrabuena's last shot was a fitting end to the fabulous event, which was sponsored by Paul "Professor-Q-Ball" Frankel and endorsed by the USBA. Gabriels, the Official Partner of the USBA, supplied three newly designed Kronos tables cover with Simonis 300 Rapide cloth. Mechanic Yura Ra of New Jersey



**Pedro Piedrabuena**

and his helpers made sure the tables were set up the day before the event so the players had enough time to practice.

All the players want to thank Allen Hopkins Productions who generously donated \$5,000 & Trophy to the winner.

Eleven of the best players in the United States participated. With ten former national champions, and two runner-ups, the field was tough and experienced. Piedrabuena proved to be the best over the four-day event, losing only once and posting a 1.440 grand average. Close behind was Hugo, who suffered two losses and had the second highest average at 1.417. Finishing third was Miguel Torres with a record of 8-2 and an average of 1.275. Sonny Cho took fourth (1.333), and Jae Cho finished fifth (1.291).

Each of the other participants played well. Bill "Mr. Three Cushion" Smith returned to competition after many years and posted several wins, including a victory over Jae Cho on the first day. Mr. Three Cushion was hampered by recent eye surgery, and he played with an artificial lens over one eye, which caused great discomfort and affected his play. Mercedes Gonzales played well throughout the tourna-

**See Champions page 32**



## USBA Special Notices

The United States Billiard Association (USBA) is proud to announce an international partnership with Kozoom Corp. Kozoom is the largest live-streaming billiard/pool producer in the world.

Both the USBA and Kozoom are working together to offer high-profile, professionally produced carom tournaments from around the world.

Kozoom is working with us to offer streams of USBA events for 2012. (Events to be announced)

To celebrate this partnership Kozoom is offering a 20% discount on an annual subscription of caroms streaming to all USBA members. This offer is good only through April 30th.

A limited amount of discounted codes are available.

Contact Steve Andersen at zen\_steve@comcast.net to receive your code and instructions on how to register with Kozoom. Please support the USBA and Kozoom in bringing high-quality live and archived billiard tournaments to your home, office, or billiard room. Check out Kozoom's site at [www.kozoom.com](http://www.kozoom.com)

Sincerely,

Andrew Janquitto

President of the USBA

Mr. THIERRY GABRIELS has been nominated as UMB consultant with the aim to determine objective homologation standards for Carom billiard tables as well as for the maintenance of the material during the UMB-competitions.

He will prepare the technical headlines and norms in order to provide UMB with the necessary elements to give the possibility to catalogue and judge about the quality of all billiard tables used during competitions under the flag of UMB.

In a further stage these norms will be given to objective laboratories requesting them to test these materials.

UMB has the intention to nominate in a later stage other persons for similar purposes.

*The UMB Board*



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**Champions from page 30**

ment (save for the last two games), but she could manage only one win. Mazin Shooni suffered a devastating loss to Sonny Cho on day one. Leading 34 to 28, he missed his out shot by a hair, and Sonny ran 7 and out. Shooni finished sixth. Michael Kang had a notably win over Jae Cho and finished seventh. George Ashby started slow but finished with strong victories on the last day. He took eighth place. Frank Torres struggled with the slippery and fast tables. By the time he rounded into form on the last day, the tournament was over. The overall grand average was 1.078. The overall prize money was \$15,500.

Special thanks from all the players and myself to Chad Scharlow of Diamond Billiard Products whom supplied the Diamond Professional Tournament Edition Lighting for this great event, to the Champion of Champions Official sponsors – **Allen Hopkins Productions, Gabriels, Longoni Cues, Tiger Products, Simonis** (and to all those who made individual contributions)- Special thanks goes out to all you in making this event a huge success.

Special thanks also goes to **Jamie Sibley** who plays out of Southside Billiards from Savannah, Ga. Jamie worked long and

hard under adverse conditions to get the Live-Stream up and running; to **Tom Paley, USBA board members (Andy Janquitto, Doug Dietel and Merrill Hughes)**, and our Tournament Director, **Charlie Brown**.

1	\$5,000.00	
2	\$2,000.00	
3	\$1,500.00	
4	\$1,200.00	
5	\$1,100.00	
6	\$1,000.00	
7	\$900.00	
8	\$800.00	
9	\$700.00	
10	\$600.00	
11	\$500.00	\$15,300.00
	\$100.00	Hi Run
	\$100.00	Best Game
	\$15,500.00	Prize Fund



Professor-Q-Ball Promotions and Allen Hopkins Productions  
**2012 Invitational Champion of Champions**

March 8 to 11, 2012 Allen Hopkins Super Billiard Expo Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks



	Piedrabuena	Cho	Patiño	Torres	Gonzales	Shooni	Cho	Torres	Ashby	Kang	Smith	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Pedro Piedrabuena	21 11 23 16 29 5 18 8	35 1.697	35 1.522	34 1.172	35 1.944	W	35 1.591	35 1.667	35 1.129	35 1.522	35 1.457	9	314	218	1.440	16	1.944	1
Jae Hyung Cho	18 0.857	35 1.562	28 1.400	35 1.544	24 1.412	35 1.750	35 1.266	19 0.905	24 1.371	35 1.522	35 1.457	5	288	223	1.291	9	1.944	5
Hugo Patiño	23 7 19 6	27 1.300	35 1.546	35 1.458	35 1.862	35 1.286	35 1.458	35 1.250	35 1.591	35 1.307	35 1.250	8	340	240	1.417	13	1.842	2
Miguel Torres	30 6 21 7 25 4	35 1.667	29 1.115	35 1.397	35 1.307	29 1.160	35 1.562	35 1.562	35 1.207	35 1.250	35 1.250	8	338	265	1.275	11	1.842	3
Mercedes Gonzales	17 3 28 5 24 4 38 5	18 0.857	20 0.714	31 1.262	23 0.865	20 0.769	17 0.708	35 1.633	23 0.857	4 0.250	17 0.643	9	208	294	0.707	8	0.833	11
Mazin Shooni	L	30 1.364	17 0.785	21 0.938	35 1.000	34 1.172	35 1.296	35 1.296	35 1.094	35 1.094	35 1.094	5	277	248	1.117	8	1.296	6
Sonny Cho	22 5 18 7 26 5 26 5 25 6 29 7	30 1.364	35 1.364	27 1.038	35 1.364	35 1.400	35 1.207	35 1.167	22 1.000	35 1.346	35 1.067	7	324	243	1.333	7	1.944	4
Frank Torres	20 6 20 4 24 3 18 6 42 4 27 5 30 6	14 0.700	15 0.538	14 0.538	28 1.038	34 1.172	28 1.038	22 0.733	30 1.103	35 1.029	25 0.850	9	245	283	0.866	6	1.029	10
George Ashby	31 4 26 8 27 4 18 6 36 4 21 4 21 8 39 4	29 1.395	30 1.154	30 1.111	20 0.603	35 1.038	19 0.721	35 1.067	35 1.067	23 0.665	35 1.067	6	291	313	0.930	8	1.667	8
Michael Kang	22 4 17 8 29 5 17 8 32 4 25 4 34 4	17 0.773	35 1.364	31 1.476	28 0.938	35 1.209	26 0.813	25 1.000	23 0.769	35 1.021	35 1.021	6	290	277	1.047	8	2.059	7
Bill Smith	29 4 31 5 28 4 26 4 37 4 32 4 20 6 30 4 36 4	18 0.821	35 1.129	14 0.500	23 0.821	35 1.346	22 0.686	12 0.400	35 1.167	23 0.769	22 0.679	7	239	322	0.742	6	1.167	9
													TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:		1.078			

