



The USBA Newsletter
3-Cushion Billiard News

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Pedro Piedrabuena Wins Final: 3.750 avg
Open USBA Three-Cushion Tournament in
Maywood, California



Pedro Piedrabuena

The 40-year-old Pedro Piedrabuena from San Diego, California has won the Open USBA Three-Cushion Tournament in Maywood, California. In the finals, he defeated Hugo Patiño, the number one ranked U.S. Player, in a magnificent match: 30 points in eight innings (final score 30-17).

The tournament, with a total prize money amount of over \$18,000.00, was played at Eight Ball Billiards in Maywood and was part of the Open tournament series of the USBA.

Forty-three players were divided into 6 groups. Five of the groups had 7 players and one group had 8 players, playing round robin to 25 points. The top USBA-ranked "A" players were seeded into the qualification groups, one per group. The top 2 finishers from each group advanced to the semifinals along with one auction winner and one lottery winner.

Final Matches

	Pts	Innings	Avg	HR
1st: P. Piedrabuena	30	8	3.750	6
2nd: Hugo Patino	16	7	2.286	6
3rd: Luis Avila	30	17	1.765	7
4th: Miguel Almaraz	25	16	1.563	9
5th: Javier Teran	30	15	2.000	11
6th: Salvador Diaz	24	15	1.600	4
7th: Guillermo Sosa	30	32	.938	5
8th: Mike Kim	29	31	.935	5
9th: Sonny Cho	30	19	1.579	6
10th: Peter Banyai	24	18	1.333	4
11th: Carlos Palafox	30	27	1.111	7
12th: Jim Shovak	22	27	.815	5
13th: Scott Lee	Did not play			
14th: Hien Nguyen	Did not play			

Mike Kelley Memorial • Marshalltown, IA

Lupe Cruz Wins Mike Kelley Memorial

FORMAT - 2 flights of 7 players made up the field in Marshalltown on the last weekend in April. The usual suspects, except Ronald Hopkins from Washington. Top 3 players from each flight advanced to the finals based on W/L, total points, head to head. Prelim games were played to 25 points. \$110 Entry

The draw put Kevin Callahan, Ronald Hopkins, Lupe Cruz, Fred Lamers, Rich Kuchma, Greg Vavra and Edward Wedge in the Clubs flight. Lupe went undefeated with Fred losing only to him. Kevin Callahan made it in by one point over Greg Vavra. Lupe had best game in prelims with 25 in 10 innings!

Hearts flights had John Jacobson, William Kim, Russ Rosenberger, Matt Lind, Jose Jiminez, Gary Eake and Mike Melloy in that flight. Top 3 in this flight all went 5-1 with William Kim winning, then John and Jose.

Final games were played to 35 points. Lupe went undefeated to again win the Mike Kelley Memorial. Lupe's best game in the final was 35 in 26 innings. Fred-2nd, John-3rd, William-4th, Kevin-5th and Jose-6th.

High run prize in the finals was \$50 and won by William Kim and John Jacobson who both had 7's.

Thanks to our sponsors...The Kelley Family, Ben's Tire, Iowa Lumber and David Levine. We do appreciate all the help to keep this tournament going every year!



l-r, Lupe Cruz (1st), Fred Lamers (2nd), John Jacobson (3rd)

President's Desk

Held for the second consecutive year at the Las Vegas Tropicana, the USBA 3-Cushion National Tournament was a rousing success. Work on the tournament began almost a year ago, and I wanted to use this column to



thank all those who made it possible. But space limits me, so I'll single out a few of the many whose assistance went above the call of duty. Charlie Brown nearly cancelled his trip to Vegas at the last minute due to illness, but he literally left the hospital to catch his flight so that he could be Tournament Director. And what a tournament: efficient, player-oriented, professional and very classy. Paul Frankel worried over the smallest details. He stayed up late each night and woke up early each morning to deal with the things that happen behind the scenes.

Many volunteers helped at various stages, setting up tables, installing light, vacuuming tables, scoring games, selling raffle tickets, live streaming, etc. The USBA sponsors, Gabriels, Simonis, Aramith and Tiger, all contributed 110%. We are privileged to have such partners. The biggest thanks goes to the players and spectators. Forty-nine players entered, and nearly 300 spectators packed the Cohiba room to watch the finals. I had the opportunity to oversee the entire week, from the table set-up to table tear down. What a week! Thanks to everyone who made it possible. (P.S. We've working on next year's tournament.)

Finals	Player							WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING	Prize
	Cruz	Kim	Lamers	Jacobson	Jiminez	Callahan	W/L								
Lupe Cruz	40	39	42	45	47	4	5	175	197	0.888	6	1.346	1st	\$520	
Billy Kim	28	52	42	44	52	4	2	143	244	0.586	7	0.795	4th	\$225	
Fred Lamers	15	35	42	35	35	4	1	155	217	0.714	5	0.854	2nd	\$410	
John Jacobson	20	35	23	35	35	3	2	148	227	0.652	7	0.795	3rd	\$310	
Jose Jiminez	21	14	23	19	19	0	5	96	239	0.402		0.548	6th	\$105	
Kevin Callahan	22	20	19	18	35	1	4	114	266	0.429	4	0.530	5th	\$155	
Points Against	106	139	123	129	175	159		TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:			0.598				

Shooni at Shooters, Kansas City MO

Shooters, a major poolroom just outside of Kansas City, were host to 3-cushion billiards star Mazin Shooni on May 20. Mazin conducted a clinic for four local players—Travis Gallup, Stan Lombardo, Bob Mansky, and Dennis Reinecker in the afternoon, and that evening he put on an exhibition before an attentive and appreciative audience. Both events were on Shooter's newly recovered Gabriels Emperor table.

Besides being a perennial champion with 93 victories in USBA events, Mazin is a superb teacher of the game and a real showman. In his clinic he emphasized stroke fundamentals and shot selection, and concluded with a unique and effective short-rail- first system that he developed himself. He began the evening exhibition by demonstrating a wide variety of shots, explaining the mechanics involved and receiving frequent and well-deserved applause as the shots became more and more difficult and he nailed one after another with ease and finesse. His passion for the game and the excitement he generates for it are extraordinary. The exhibition concluded with a very well played 15-point game between Mazin and the valiant Juan Reyes. Dave Matlock had been scheduled to play a longer exhibition game with Mazin but had to bow out due to a death in his family.

Mazin is as gracious a person as he is a phenomenal player and supporter of the game, and he proved to be all three throughout his visit to the Kansas City area.



Mazin's Clinic at Shooters



Upcoming USBA Tournaments

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:
Only 18 players permitted: Call first:
Mazin Shooni: 248-910-4466

July 20-22: USBA TOUR "B/C" - Marti Tracy Memorial - Medford Elks, OR:
Contact Tommy Thomsen: 541-938-6889;
509-240-2027

August 1-5: USBA TOUR - "Verhoeven Open" -
Carom Cafe - Flushing, NY:
Contact Charles Brown 646-528-3238;
Michael Kang 917-204-6070

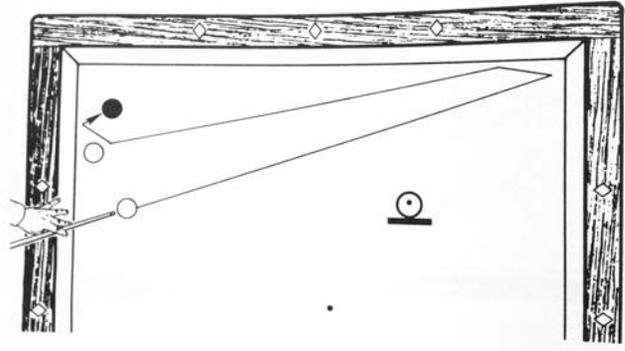
Shots from the Master Play

by Robert Byrne

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



On most tables, a double-the-rail shot wouldn't work in this position. Play the shot softly with no English, as diagrammed. This shot can't be made with the cueball much farther to the right because of the English the cueball would pick up coming out to the corner.



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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

Threes Shots

Here are 3 shots, which require a quick hand and a lot of wrist. With the cue ball and the first object ball no more than 1/8 th inch apart, shooting at diagrams 1 & 2, elevate your cue about 20 degrees so that you can apply low English with a 5" quick stroke. For diagram #3 use bottom right English and go right through the yellow ball quickly with the tip of your cue tailing off to the right at the 6" mark. Use a level cue for #3 shot. Maybe this type of shot will be allowed in tournament play one day as it is in artistic billiards where the referee can rule either "Yeah" or "Nay" without controversy, after all, it is a gentlemen's game. Good Luck gentlemen, and Ladies.

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

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THE BELGIAN BILLIARD BALLS

USBA National 3-Cushion Championship Tournament

Pedro Takes Title for 2012

The 2012 USBA National Three-Cushion Championship Tournament, played for the second consecutive year at the Las Vegas Tropicana Hotel as part of the ACS national tournament week, ended in dramatic fashion as defending champion Pedro Piedrabuena overcame a twelve point deficit with a scorching finish to defeat Mazin Shooni 40 to 33 in 34 innings. With the victory, Piedrabuena not only defended his crown but also notched his 5th national championship title.

Played in the Cohiba Room of the Tropicana on 8 fabulous Gabriels Elements tables with Simonis 300 Rapide cloth, the championship started on Sunday, May 6th with 49 players from around the country. The players were randomly placed in flights of 7. After a three-day round robin, where a player competed against each other player in a flight, 20 players advanced to the semi-finals. The semi-finalists were placed in 4 flights of 5 players, where another round robin was played. The top two players in each flight advanced to the finals, which was contested in a single-elimination bracket with consolation matches to determine all 8 places.

In addition to Piedrabuena and Shooni, the other finalists were Hugo Patiño, Miguel Torres, Sonny Cho, Jae Cho, Michael Kang and Khalil Diab. In first round action of the final day, Patiño squeaked by Diab 40 to 38,



2nd place went to Mazin Shooni



Piedrabuena handily Kang 40 to 13 in 17 innings for a 2.353 average, Sonny Cho topped Jae Cho 40 to 36 and Shooni bested Torres 40 to 24 in 24 innings for a 1.667 average. Piedrabuena continued his strong play in the next round by beating Patiño 40 to 21 in 24 innings (1.667 average), and Shooni defeated Sonny Cho 40 to 28 in 24 innings (1.667 average), thus setting up the Piedrabuena-Shooni final.



In the title match, Shooni started strong, scoring almost at will. "I knew I had to remaining patient and not do anything crazy on the table," Piedrabuena later explained what went through his head as Shooni built the early lead. But, with Shooni leading 30 to 18, he missed a five-cushion shot by a hair that would have left position and provided the opportunity to lengthen his lead. Piedrabuena stepped up the wide-open table and ran 5, making the score 30 to 23.

With Shooni's miss and Piedrabuena's run, the momentum shifted. Over the next eight innings, Shooni managed but 3 billiards, while Piedrabuena scored 17 times, including a finishing run of 7, to win the title. For the game, Piedrabuena averaged 1.212 and Shooni averaged 1.000. For the finals, Piedrabuena's overall grand average was 1.600, while Shooni's was 1.395.

With the victory, Piedrabuena took home \$4,000, while Shooni pocketed \$3,000. In other finals action, Sonny Cho defeated Patiño for 3rd place, and Jae Cho defeated Diab 40 to 15 for 5th place. Torres finished 7th, and Kang 8th. Prize money was awarded to the top 20 players. Eighth place was

See USBA page 32

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worth \$1,000, and 20th place was worth \$300. The total prize fund topped \$20,000.

Gabriels was the primary sponsor for the tournament, supplying the tables, the Dyna sphere balls used in the finals, and a cash contribution. Other sponsors included Simonis, which supplied the 300 Rapide cloth and contributed to the prize fund. Aramith supplied the balls used in the preliminaries and the semi-finals, and Tiger Cues supplied three beautiful billiard cues that were raffled by the USBA at the conclusion of the tournament. Tony Ferrara from Massachusetts, Doug Deitel from Texas, and *** from Denver won the cues. The finals were live streamed courtesy of Richard Helmstetter and Helmstetter/Adams cues.

Many individuals contributed to the success of the tournament. Thanks go out to Charlie Brown, the Tournament Director, Larry Hundley, Jan Janssen, Rich Kuchma, Ron Kilby, Jim Hendrickson, Paul Frankel and Andy Janquitto Russ (“Rosy”) Rosenberger, Raye Raskin, Jim Shovak, Cliff Dubay and Tony Ferrara, Doug Deitel, and many others.

2012 USBA National Championship Prize Fund

1st Place	\$4,000
2nd Place	\$3,000
3rd Place	\$2,000
4th Place	\$1,800
5th Place	\$1,600
6th Place	\$1,400
7th Place	\$1,200
8th Place	\$1,000
9th Place	\$400
10th Place	\$400
11th Place	\$400
12th Place	\$400
13th Place	\$350
14th Place	\$350
15th Place	\$350
16th Place	\$350
17th Place	\$300
18th Place	\$300
19th Place	\$300
20th Place	\$300
Best Game	\$200
High Run	\$200
Total	\$20,600

Final Ranking

FINAL RANK	NAME	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME
1	Pedro Piedrabuena	229	153	1.497	9	2.500
2	Mazin Shooni	221	194	1.139	8	1.667
3	Sonny Cho	228	209	1.091	6	1.481
4	Hugo Patino	207	193	1.073	12	1.500
5	Jae Hyung Cho	235	196	1.199	7	1.667
6	Khalil Diab	192	247	0.777	5	1.500
7	Miguel Torres	215	170	1.265	7	1.875
8	Michael Kang	173	207	0.836	11	1.200
9	Thanh Vu	98	107	0.916	5	1.429
10	Lupe Cruz	85	113	0.752	7	0.857
11	Frank Torres	105	140	0.750	8	1.429
12	Victor Cuzzi	92	136	0.676	5	0.714
13	Dung Nguyen	102	162	0.630	5	0.909
14	Peter Banyai	103	124	0.831	7	0.682
15	Gary Elias	92	171	0.538	5	0.469
16	Tom Rossman	63	152	0.414	4	0.455
17	Fred Lamers	86	119	0.723	9	1.034
18	Gary Cohen	84	135	0.622	5	NA
19	Jim Henrickson	80	164	0.488	4	NA
20	Joe DeAmato	61	127	0.480	5	NA

Quarterfinals

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#09	Hugo Patino	40	56	0.714	4	W
	Khalil Diab	38	55	0.691	4	L
#10	Pedro Piedrabuena	40	17	2.353	9	W
	Michael Kang	13	17	0.765	3	L
#11	Sonny Cho	40	49	0.816	4	W
	Jae Hyung Cho	36	48	0.750	4	L
#12	Mazin Shooni	40	24	1.667	6	W
	Miguel Torres	24	24	1.000	4	L

Semifinals

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#13	Hugo Patino	21	23	0.913	3	L
	Pedro Piedrabuena	40	24	1.667	7	W
#14	Sonny Cho	28	24	1.167	5	L
	Mazin Shooni	40	24	1.667	5	W

3rd & 4th Place

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#15	Hugo Patino	26	27	0.963	12	L
	Sonny Cho	40	27	1.481	4	W

Final

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#16	Pedro Piedrabuena	40	34	1.176	7	W
	Mazin Shooni	33	33	1.000	5	L