



The USBA Newsletter
3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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Pedro Wins Sixth Title!

Pedro Piedrabuena again proved to be the best three-cushion player in the United States, winning his third consecutive USBA National Championship and sixth overall, by besting a field of 42 at Allen Hopkins Super Billiards Expo in Edison, New Jersey. In the final game, Piedrabuena defeated an old rival, Hugo Patiño, 40-24 in 31 innings. With his victory, Pedro Piedrabuena earned the right to play in the Pan American Championship (PAC) tournament in Colombia in June. Joining him will be Patiño. In addition, Mazin Shooni will play as he and Piedrabuena were unable to play in last year's PAC because of a calendar conflict. The 2013 PAC is scheduled for the week of June 17 in Colombia.

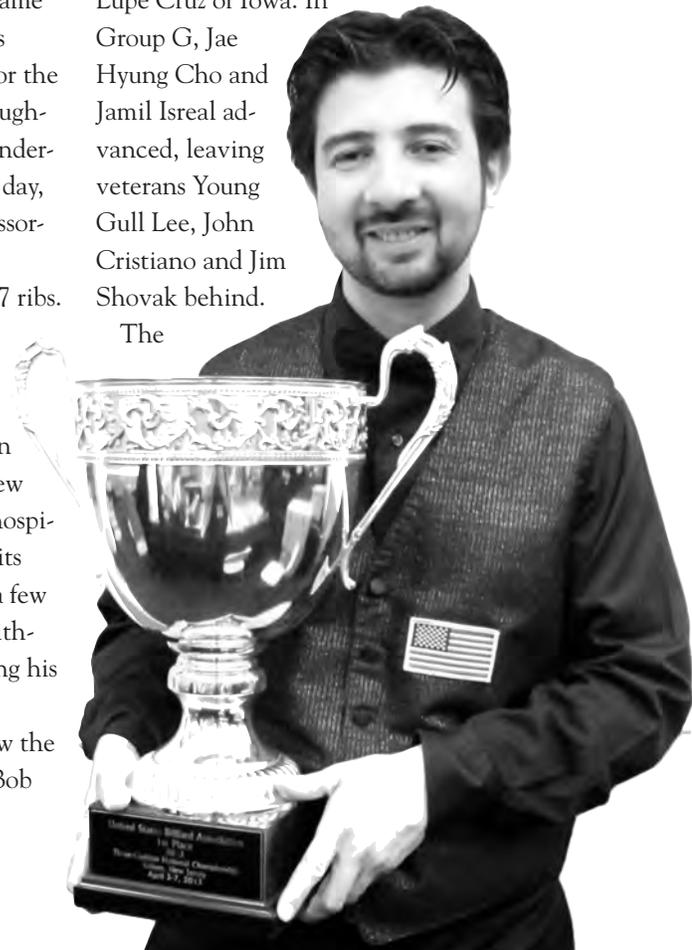
Piedrabuena's victory ended four long days of play. The 42 players ranged in age from 21-year-old Sergio Hernandez of Miami to 81-year-old Bob Tracy of Washington and came from all across the country. The field was divided into six flights of seven players for the preliminaries. Play was competitive throughout the first day as the tournament got underway. With one round to play on the first day, tragedy struck when Paul Frankel (Professor-Q-Ball) fell off the stage that had been erected for the head table and fractured 7 ribs. He had to be taken from the arena to a local hospital. At the time, Frankel was 2-1 with a legitimate chance to move into the semi-finals. The players' concern about Frankel's health was alleviated a few hours later when word leaked from the hospital that Frankel was resting, in good spirits and was even showing the nursing staff a few card tricks. His injuries caused him to withdraw from the tournament, thus nullifying his games.

The second day of preliminary play saw the biggest upset of the early round action. Bob

Tracy defeated Mazin Shooni, the 2006 National Champion and the 2012 runner up. Despite that defeat, Shooni advanced into the semi-finals, where he found himself in Group I, clearly the toughest flight as it contained Piedrabuena and Sonny Cho, the 2005 champion. The shocker of the tournament came in the first round of the semi-finals when Jim Bishop, a New Yorker now living in Florida, ran 9 and out to beat Piedrabuena, 30-25 in 28 innings. With Piedrabuena on the ropes, Shooni and Cho tried to put him away but couldn't. Shooni fell 30-18 and Cho lost 30-26. With a place in the finals on the line, Shooni beat Sonny Cho, 30-29.

In Group H, Patiño and Michael Kang appeared to be the favorites, but Kang lost to Hernandez, a tall Cuban-born player now living in Miami. Group J also saw another veteran, Carlos Hallon, fall to a new comer, Lupe Cruz of Iowa. In Group G, Jae Hyung Cho and Jamil Isreal advanced, leaving veterans Young Gull Lee, John Cristiano and Jim Shovak behind.

The



See USBA Nationals 32



Eight Finalist

Points & Innings Throughout Entire Tournament								
Best Game: 2,667 (40pts in 15inns) Pedro Piedrabuena \$100				High Run: 11 in the Semi-Finals by Jae Hyung Cho \$100				
FINAL RANK	NAME	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	BEST GAME	HIGH RUN	Ranking Points	Prize
1	Pedro Piedrabuena	385	292	1.318	2.667	11	120	\$4,000
2	Hugo Patino	374	314	1.191	1.579	10	80	\$3,000
3	Jae Hyung Cho	380	342	1.111	2.273	11	60	\$2,000
4	Miguel Torres	370	329	1.125	2.778	11	50	\$1,800
5	Lupe Cruz	363	415	0.875	1.389	7	45	\$1,500
6	Mazin Shooni	350	342	1.023	1.667	10	45	\$1,300
7	Sergio Hernandez	335	418	0.801	1.034	7	40	\$1,100
8	Jamil Isreal	337	442	0.762	1.471	8	40	\$900
9	Sonny Cho	259	230	1.126	1.471	7	30	\$400
10	Michael Kang	242	238	1.017	1.667	8	30	\$400
11	Brian Haff	224	278	0.806	1.190	6	30	\$400
12	Young Gull Lee	228	303	0.752	1.087	5	30	\$400
13	Carlos Hallon	245	306	0.801	1.087	5	25	\$350
14	Thang Le	198	317	0.625	0.968	6	25	\$350
15	Jim Shovak	215	326	0.660	0.968	6	25	\$350
16	Jim Bishop	203	313	0.649	1.471	9	25	\$350
17	John Cristiano	214	317	0.675	1.000	5	15	\$300
18	Tony Ferrara	216	344	0.628	1.042	5	15	\$300
19	Tom Rossman	183	291	0.629	0.893	5	15	\$300
20	Ellis Lawrence	198	352	0.563	0.781	6	15	\$300



Helpers at This Year's USBA National Championship
 l-r, Fredy Ulloa, Jwan Jones, Andy Janquitto, Demarco Woody, Jose Anasicha, Stefon McDonald and Tom Leahy, Ass't Coach

President's Desk

The 2013 Major League Baseball All Star Game is slated for Citi Field in Flushing, New York, on July 16. Balloting is underway, and the likes of Prince Fielder, Ryan Braun, and Buster Posey will likely play, but they will not be the only all-stars in Queens.



Summer usually signals another international tournament at Carom Café in Flushing, and this summer, there is a double pleasure. From July 14 to 17, Carom Café will host a Woman's 3-cushion Tournament. Invitations have been extended, including current world champ Natsumi Higashiuchi, former world champ Orié Hida, Therese Klompenhouwer, and always dangerous Karina Jetten. Mercedes Gonzales will venture north from Miami to vie for the crown.

Immediately after the women's tournament, a men's tournament will be held. Torbjörn Blomdahl and Frederic Caudron, currently ranked 1st and 2nd in the world, respectively, will be joined by Eddie Merckx (5th), Roland Forthomme (20th) and Eddie Leppens (21st). Now, that's a Murderers' Row. Another fellow, who is affectionately called Grand Père by many, plans to attend, he is Raymond Ceulemans. They say he can play some and there's a rumor that a certain Turkish player with the initials S.S. might show up to slug it out.

Baseball may be America's game. But, in Flushing in July, the international game is 3-Cushion.

PQB 3-C Challenge A Great Success

During the first two nights of the preliminary rounds at this year's USBA National, pool players lined up three deep to accept Professor-Q-Ball's challenge: a race to five against one of the billiard players in the tournament, with the pool player getting the break shot and some instruction from a three-cushion player. With no entry fee and the chance to win \$15, pool players anxiously chalked their cues, but, after two days, and 70 challenge matches, the three cushion billiard players triumphed, winning 63 and losing only 7. For their efforts, the pool players pocketed a total of \$105. It was money well spent by Professor-Q-Ball and the USBA, as many friendships were formed and carom and pocket players alike gained great appreciation for the skills necessary for each game.

The event, conceived by Paul Frankel (Professor-Q-Ball) as a way of introducing pocket billiard players to the carom game, proved to be a most enjoyable time. In addition to the seventy players who entered the challenge, a large crowd watched the games with great curiosity. Each pool player was given the break shot—a decided advantage as it is a set shot with a high degree of scoring probability—as well as coaching from a USBA member in shot selection and shot technique. Three-cushion players Jim Shovak, Brian Haff, Thang Lé, Tom Rossman, Carlos Hallon, Rigoberto Cuevas, Tony Ferrara, Carlos Hallon, Mercedes Gonzales and Michael Kang took on challenger after challenger (or provided the advice on selection and technique). Laughter and applause filled the room with each shot.

Perhaps the highlight came on the second night, when a young pool player, 9 year old Luca Tomassetti stepped up to the table. Luca is from Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, about 20 miles south of Pittsburgh. With Michael Kang's help, Luca proved to be a sure shot. Kang was greatly impressed with the youngster's technique and skill level. "He has a great stroke," Kang said repeatedly as Luca followed Kang's advice perfectly. "How old are



Luca and Kang

you," Kang also asked, convinced that the child was much older because of his highly-developed technique. "Hit half a ball with two tips of English and drive the object ball to the long rail," Kang explained one shot. When Luca did exactly as Kang said, Kang exclaimed. "I wish I could hit them that way." As the kid made each shot, the crowd erupted in applause. After the game, Kang, the owner of Carom Café in New York and a veteran player who has represented the United States in international competition, marveled at Luca's skills. "I hope he picks up the game," Kang said, smiling with the thought of the boy's future in the carom game.

Luca is an exceptional pocket billiard player. He and his father play out of South Hill Golden Cue in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. At the Super Billiards Expo, Luca placed third in a field of 48 in the Under 12 category. But that's pocket billiards. But Luca now has a bright future in carom billiards, and his father said they planned play some more the next time they went to the South Hill Golden Cue, which has one carom table among its many pool tables. But one table is surely enough for Luca to hone some of the skills he learned when he took on the USBA.

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

June 8th and 9th (Sat & Sun)

Amazin Billiards USBA 3-Cushion Handicapped Tournament

Contact Mazin Shooni: 248-910-4466

40 Faulkner Street-Malden, MA

Entry Fee: \$135*, USBA Members receive \$25 back.

"A" players (.900+) go to 30 points

"B+" players (.700-.899) go to 25 points

"B" players (.550-.699) go to 21 points

"C+" players (.400-.549) go to 17 points

"C" players (below .400) go to 15 points

June 14 - 6, 2013

4th Annual Dubuque Open Three-cushion billiard tournament

Dubuque, Iowa-Entry fee: \$125

Contact: Robert Byrne, bob@byrne.org

July 14-16th USBA Women's Tournament - Carom Cafe
Flushing NY

July 17 -21 Verhoeven Open Tournament - Carom Cafe - Flushing
NY Contact: Charles Brown 646-528 3238

July 26-28 (Fri - Sun)

USBA Marti Tracy Memorial
Medford Elks - Medford OR

Contacts: Mark Williams: 541-941-1291

Contacts: Tom Thomsen: 541-938-6889; 509-240-2027

"B" and "C" Tournaments- (.700 Avg. or Less)

Entry Fee: \$145 for non-USBA members

\$120 for USBA Members

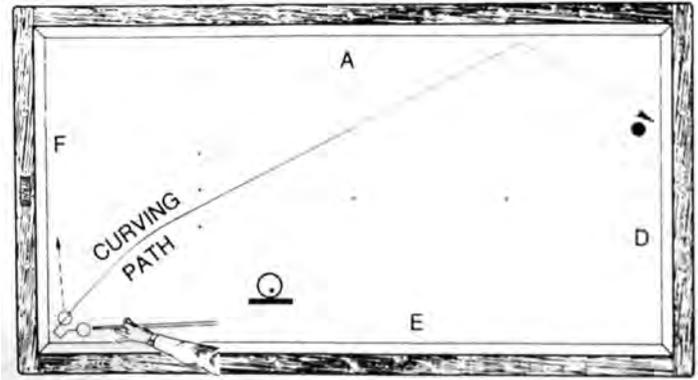
Shots From A Master Play

by Robert Byrne

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



The red ball is in a position that can't be reached with a normal shot. With running English you would be lucky to get to point A on the third rail and D on the fourth. What else is there? If the cue ball was a little farther from the end rail you could go thin off the white to point F, Then zigzag up the table to the red. Navarra's the trick is to hit the white thin as shown with plenty of draw and just a hair of running English. Because the first two rails are hit immediately, the draw doesn't take effect until after the cueball has left the corner, bending the cueball into a "longer" path. The dashed line is there to emphasize how thin you have to hit the object ball. The shot is also good if the second object ball is at E or F. Shoot with crisp speed.



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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

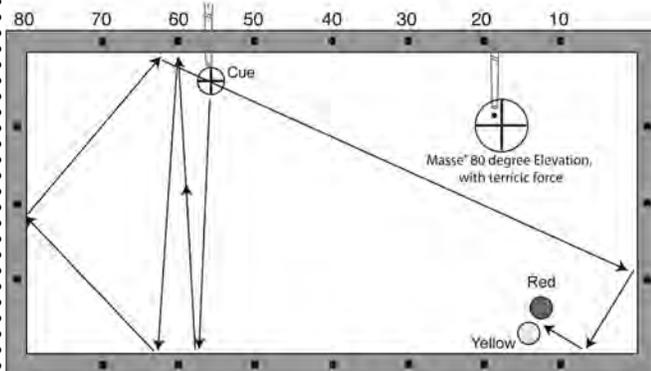
Rip's Tips



In all my days at the table I never would have imagined that such a shot would be possible, but of course this is "Roberto The Great" shooting. It seems that he strikes the cueball with such force that the ball hits the first three cushions with stunning effect, that turns out to still be with spin which turns out to blossom on the third rail and continues to score on the yellow-red combination which is still fourteen diamonds away. Sensational! Roberto is truly a master of the masse.

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

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George Ashby Prevails in Marshalltown

The warm weather brought 18 players to Marshalltown for the 8th Annual Mike Kelley Memorial Tournament. 3 flights of 6 made up the prelims with George Ashby, Lupe Cruz and Fred Lamers seeded into separate flights. Prelims were to 25 points. Diamonds flight highlights included Fred's 19 inning game including a 7 run. Fred had a flight average of .831. John Jacobson edged out Fred by 2 to win the flight.

Hearts flight had Lupe Cruz dominating everyone except for his brother Jose. Lupe wins the flight with a .723 average and a best game of 25 in 15 innings with the help of a 10 run! Jose takes the second spot.

George Ashby sails through the Clubs flight with a .984 average a couple 8's and best game of 1.316. 2nd place was a hard fought battle between Gary Eake and John Langhoff with Gary leaving John in the 2-hole.

The Finals was a dogfight with the top 3 having one loss.

It was a great tournament with many sponsors. I would like to thank the Kelley Family for the food and hospitality along



John Jacobson, 3rd George Ashby, 1st and Lupe Cruz, 2nd

with the cash donations; Kelcey at Bens Tire, the Blue Note Lounge, Mike's Bikes, Old Timer Tavern, The UAW and RJ's!!!! Thanks! Table time was donated by Miranda at The Blue Note Lounge and Bob Jacobson. Thanks to Jim Shovak and all those at the USBA who added the matched \$.





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USBA To Send Three to PAC

The USBA will send four American players to vie for the Three-Cushion Pan American Championship in Cali, Colombia in June. Led by six-time US champion and former Pan American champion Pedro Piedrabuena, the United States contingent also includes Hugo Patiño, Mazin Shooni and Michael Kang. Piedrabuena owns College Billiards in San Diego. He won the Pan American Championship in 2009.



Patiño finished second in the 2013 nationals, and won the crown in 2003 and 2009. A Colombia-native, Patiño has lived in the United States for nearly two decades. He recently became a US citizen. The Pan American Championship presents the first time he will return to his native country to compete as a US Citizen.

Shooni is the 2006 national champion and the 2012 runner up. The owner of Amazin Billiards, in Malden, Massachusetts, Shooni was also the runner up two other times. He is the holder of the American record for the highest run in a national tournament, scoring 18 in a row in the final game on route to his championship.

Kang is the owner of Carom Café in Flushing, New York. He has placed several times in the USBA nationals, including a second place finish in 2000 and another one in 2007. He is a veteran and always dangerous player who has represented the United States in several world championships.

The four players will compete in the individual championship, which begins on June 25. They will also compete in the team competition.

USBA Nationals from 26

eight finalists, in order of their seed, were Jae Hyung Cho, Hugo Patiño, Miguel Torres, Piedrabuena, Shooni, Sergio Hernandez, Lupe Cruz and Jamil Isreal. The eight players started the final day of play in a single elimination bracket. Cho defeated Isreal, Torres topped Hernandez, Piedrabuena again bested Shooni and Patiño beat Cruz. In the next round, Piedrabuena and Cho had the best game of the tournament, playing at a high quality. Piedrabuena emerged from the battle, 40-30 in 15 innings (for a 2.667 average). In the other bracket, Patiño edged Torres 40 to 37 in 30 innings. The final game of the tournament proved anti-climactic as the two veterans played cautiously and had trouble finding their rhythm and the ball tracks. Piedrabuena built a big lead and Patiño struggled. Slowly Patiño found his stoke and closed the gap, but Piedrabuena pushed to victory.

In third place action, Jae Cho triumphed over Miguel Torres 40-33. Lupe Cruz ended his tournament in fine fashion, taking fifth place with a 40-38 victory over Shooni. Sergio Hernandez finished 7th, beating Jamil Isreal 40-22. At the end of the tournament, many of the veteran players commented upon the bright future of three-cushion in America. Three of the 20 semi-finalists were under 25: Sergio Hernandez, Thang Lé and Tony Ferrara.

At the award's ceremony, Andy Janquitto, president of the USBA and this year's tournament director, extended his utmost thanks to Paul Frankel, Jim Shovak, Mazin Shooni, Charlie Brown and Merrill Hughes for their hard work on the tournament committee. Janquitto also singled out USBA board members Steve Andersen and Raye Raskin for their assistance during the final round play by keeping score and running a score clock. Janquitto mentioned other USBA members who volunteered to keep score or even vacuum tables, including Jim Watson, Victor Cuzzi and Sonny Cho. A special word of thanks went out to the wrestling coaches and the six wrestlers from St. Benedict's Prep School in Newark, New Jersey, who kept score, vacuumed tables, and operated scoreboards during the final two days of play.

The USBA extends its thanks to Richard Helmstetter, Michael Bray, Bob Jewett, George Hart, Al Metzinger, David Levine, Jim Shovak, Marty Isserlis and Tommy Thomsen for their generous contributions. The USBA also thanks its sponsors for their continued support: Gabriels, Tiger, Simonis, Aramith, Professor-Q-Ball, and Consumer Lender Zone.