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**Judge Jay Karahan Sponsors Local Tournament**

**U**S Bida in Houston Texas hosted a local B championship on Saturday March 1st. The event was sponsored by Judge Jay Karahan, an avid billiard player and respected member of the Harris County judiciary. Judge Jay added \$500 to the prize fund and helped officiate the event. Our host, Tim Nguyen, provided a wonderful lunch and beverages for both players and spectators. It was a grand day for billiards!

Fifteen B players from Houston and as far away as Dallas assembled for play in this exciting one-day tournament. The format was a popular one among local players in Houston, with all games to 18 points at each stage of the event. The field for the prelims was split into five groups of three to play round robin. That meant two or three games per group, with the top two moving on to the semi-final round, along with two wildcards by draw. The twelve players for the semis were again split into groups of three for round robin play. And lastly, the top player from each of the semi-final groups moved on to the 4-man single elimination finals.

The top four players emerging from the prelims and semis were Dung Truong, Quang Tran, Luis Castillo, and Hoan Ton. Dung Truong came from Arlington Texas to play in the event. He has traveled to Houston before, but had his best showing so far defeating local player Daniel Ho in his semi-final group. Quang Tran also advanced from his group with a strong showing, going undefeated to that point. Luis Castillo in the third semi group was trailing 14-8 in his semi-final round when he exploded with a run of 8 (high run in the



**Final Four B Championship (l to r) Dung Truong 3rd/4th, Quang Tran 2nd, Luis Castillo 1st, Hoan Ton 3rd/4th**

event) to take the lead. Two billiards later Huy Hunh was finished and Castillo moved on. In the last semi-final group there was real excitement. Nacho Galindo, Hoan Ton and Nghia Nguyen all finished with 1-1 records as can happen in the three man round robin format. In addition, Nacho and Hoan both had the same total points scored. So according to the rules of the event we had a shootout from the break. Nacho made the break shot but could go no further. Hoan also made the break shot, and on his second shot saw a freak bounce score the point on a scratch to take the match.

In the finals Quang Tran defeated Dung Truong while Luis Castillo defeated Hoan Ton. With the crowd around the table for the final game we watched Castillo jump to a quick lead against Tran and never look back. Castillo finished the tournament undefeated with a strong final performance of 18-6 to take the \$450 first prize. Quang Tran received \$350 for second and Dung Truong and Hoan Ton both received \$250 for 3rd/4th.

With the B championship behind us, next week (March 8), the national qualifier at US Billiards will give the A players in Houston their turn at the tables.

# Robert Raiford Takes the 1st Place in USBA Qualifier at the SBE

by Merrill Hughes

At this year's Super Billiard Expo in Edison, NJ, the USBA (United States Billiard Association) hosted a qualifying tournament put together by Paul Frankel. Paul (of ProfessorQBall.com) invited twelve players to play a the tournament that would qualify three of them for the 2014 USBA Nationals in Houston, TX on April 9, 2014.

The format for the event was two groups of six playing a 'round robin' tournament of 25-point games. The top two from each group advanced to the final round. The tables and cloth were new, and throughout the preliminaries, the players struggled scoring points.

Emerging from the preliminary rounds were:

Group A: Jim Shovak (1st) Robert Raiford (2nd)

Group B: Edward Gomez (1st) Ellis Lawrence (2nd)

Edward Gomez finished first in Group B of the round robin undefeated at 5 – 0, with an average of 0.822 and a high run of eight.

Jim Shovak completed the round robin in first place of Group A, averaging 0.619, and losing only to Tom Rossman. This set up Sunday's finals, pitting Jim Shovak against Ellis Lawrence, and Edward Gomez against Robert Raiford. "Lefty" Ellis Lawrence went on to defeat Jim Shovak 25-21 in 41 innings, and Robert Raiford won 25-16 over Edward Gomez.

In the battle for first place, it was two lefties; Robert Raiford and Ellis Lawrence. Raiford prevailed in the finale, as he won the game 25-19 while having a run of eight.

Battling for the third qualifying spot were Gomez and Shovak, and with a run of nine and out, Gomez came out ahead at 25-16. This would be the best single game of the tournament, as Mr. Gomez would average 1.042.

The event was a high-quality tournament directed by New York-based Charles Brown.

Saturday night featured the 2008 USBA National Champion, Miguel Torres, performing his artistic billiard show. He delighted the fans with an array of spectacular shots. Miguel also explained to the mostly-pool playing crowd the point values and other areas of how an artistic billiard competition is run. A fun time was had by all, and Miguel would finish his show with a 10-rail shot around the table avoiding all 15 bottles of water that were placed on the table.

View the video of the incredible shot, from Professor-Q-Ball's YouTube Channel.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIc5Bt9WVFM&feature=youtu.be>



Ellis Lawrence (2nd), Jim Shovak (4th), Robert Raiford (1st), Edward Gomez (3rd) - Photo by Professor-Q-Ball

## President's Desk

Greetings to all! I would personally like to thank Andrew Janquitto, our outgoing President for the splendid job he did. He will be missed.

As the new President, I am hoping to work with our new Board of Directors so



that we can start increasing the number of USBA Tournaments dramatically in rooms all around the country. This will require cooperation and coordination with the rooms and establishing key people in each of those rooms to organize and run tournaments. It is important that we establish a network of room owners and tournament directors so that we can all communicate and be on the same page. If the Board wishes to implement some kind of promotional program such as a nationwide contest, the network would make the implementation of the program a lot easier.

There is much work to be done. In 2015, I would like to see a 7-8 day Nationals week with Championship Tournaments for all player levels leading up to the Nationals Tournament. The hope is that more players, especially those at lower levels of skill will wish to participate throughout the week. Qualifiers may be held for ALL player levels.

Another idea is a year-long promotional contest raising money throughout the country to help fund the Nationals week and bring the prize funds to a new level. The credit for this idea goes to Joe DeAmato. Details are being worked-on now and will be released when they are final.

### Semifinals

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#13	Jim Shovak	21	40	0.525	3	L
	Ellis Lawrence	25	41	0.610	5	W

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#14	Edward Gomez	16	26	0.615	4	L
	Robert Raiford	25	27	0.926	5	W

### 3rd & 4th Place

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#15	Jim Shovak	11	23	0.478	3	L
	Edward Gomez	25	24	1.042	9	W

### Final

MATCH	NAME	PTS	INN	AVG	HR	W/L
#16	Ellis Lawrence	19	39	0.487	3	L
	Robert Raiford	25	40	0.625	8	W

## Professor-Q-Ball Special 3-Cushion Billiard Promotion

It was 3 separate tournaments, that took place during the USBA Invitational Qualifier on March 13-15th held at the Allen Hopkins Expo. Each Tournament was limited to 32 players, Race to five, Single Elimination, The entry was \$20.

This event would not of been possible without the vision of Kyong Ra (Nothing But Billiards) whom sponsored all 3 tournaments. After his successful, after hours open table event at the 2013 Expo, Yura set in motion his plan to expand on this theme and his goal, of exposing the game to more pool players. Trophies were given out to all winners in all 3 tournaments, with a total payout for all three events coming to \$2,030.00



**Thursday Night**  
I-r, 1st-John Christiano, 2nd-Bob Dalpiaz,  
3rd-Bruce Gardner, Yura- Tourn. Director



**Friday Night**  
I-r, Yura-Tourn. Director, 3rd-Arnoldo Tostado,  
2nd-Chris Bartzos, 1st Joe Friedman



**Saturday Night**  
3rd-Dave Kregel, 4th- Frank Riccelli, 1st-Bob  
Dalpiaz, 2nd- David Cogos, Yura-Tourn. Director

## John Magulas Passes Away

Some people called him Jack, some John, some Magu but no matter what you called him if you were fortunate enough to know him, really know him, you have some beautiful memories of a strong-minded, softhearted man that you could call a friend.



John Magulas Jr. passed away in late January after failing health became an issue years ago. He scoffed at health issues that came his way because he was always strong enough to ward them off. Well, John did that for years but his passing served to remind us all that we are human.

John loved the game of 3 cushion and being a young man who was good at so many things, he developed a very decent game of 3-cushion after a relatively short period of time. He wasn't one of those players who had been playing for 40 years. Yet he competed as a solid "B" player and he was actually my personal nemesis on the table.

John loved the game and the people that played it so much that his passion in those areas is what drove him to purchase World Class Billiards in Peabody, MA and help keep the game alive in New England. He did so for better than 10 years and as much as the closing of World Class will be felt, so too will John's passing be felt by those who knew him, for a long time to come.

Rest in peace John Magulas, I know I speak for many when I say, 'I will miss you my friend'!



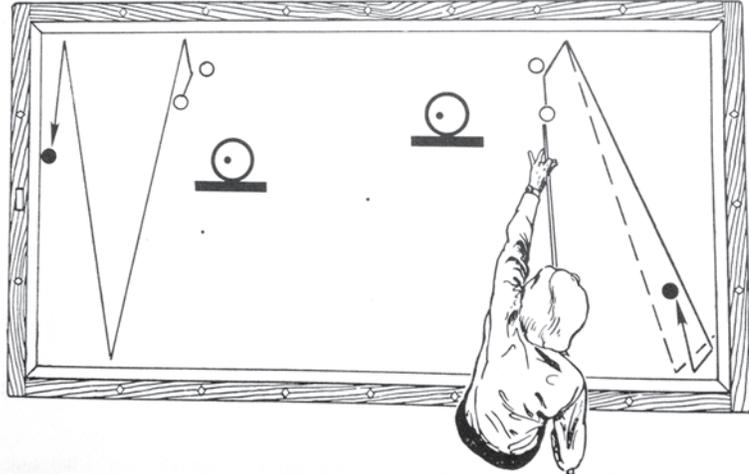
# Drop-ins and Holdups

by Robert Byrne

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



If the red ball is past the center of the table, as at the left of Diagram 129, an option that must be considered in the so-called twice-across shot. The third rail target is much bigger than it is in the previous patterns. It seems obvious as drawn, but for some reason the pattern is often overlooked when the balls are moved several feet toward the center of the table.



At the right diagram 129, is a spin shot. If the first ball is hit fairly full, the cueball will return across the table spinning like a top. When the "hole" between the red and the end rail is small it is, of course, best to follow the dashed line; which the hole is large, the solid line path must be considered. An advantage of the solid line path is that reverse English on the second and third rails kills the speed of the cueball, leaving it far from the other cueball if you miss.

## Upcoming USBA Tournaments

<b>April 09 -13</b> USBA 2014 National Championship Paris Bida - Houston, TX 11810 Bellaire Blvd Suite A	917-204-6070
<b>April 19 - 20</b> USBA Tournament "B" Carom Cafe - Flushing NY Michael Kang 917-204-6070	<b>April 27</b> USBA SHOT CONTEST The Rack - Memphis Tn Contact Paul Frankel 901-210-7251
<b>April 25 - 27</b> Mike Kelley Memorial Marshalltown IA Send entries to; John Jacobson 501 Terry Terrace Marshall- town, IA 50158 John @ 641-751-4696	<b>May 3 - 4</b> USBA Tournament "A" Carom Cafe - Flushing NY Michael Kang 917-204-6070
<b>April 26 - 27</b> USBA Tournament "B+" Carom Cafe - Flushing NY Michael Kang	<b>May 09 - 11</b> USBA Parker Hess Memorial Ashland Elks Ashland OR Tom Thomsen (509)-240-2027
	<b>May 16 - 18</b> Northwest Open Tacoma Elks, Tacoma WA Mark Williams 541 941-1291

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# 2014 Three-Cushion National Tournament will be held at Paris Bida in Houston, Texas April 9 - 13th



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