



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

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**Patino Unbeaten in Finals at US Bida Open Tournament**

The field Piedrabuena 2nd and Lee 3rd in Competitive Event

Seventeen players assembled in Houston Texas at US Bida for the USBA Tour Open tournament held August 22-24. Current US Champion Pedro Piedrabuena topped the group of A players, which included former US Champion Hugo Patino, Sang Jin Lee from New York, and local Houston players Cong Nguyen and Thanh Vu. USBA President Jim Shovak entered in the A group as well. The eleven B players included Ellis Lawrence and Jim Bishop who traveled to Houston to play, as well as nine local players including room owners Tim Nguyen, Patrick Tran and Quang Tran along with Dung Ngo, Minh Lam, Nacho Galindo, Kiet Nguyen, Lan Vo and Doug Deitel.

Pedro and Hugo were seeded into separate flights along with the other A players, which led to some excitement and surprises in the preliminary rounds. The field was divided into the A flight of 9 and B flight of 8 for round robin play. No surprise in flight A was Piedrabuena topping the flight with a perfect 8-0 record. The remainder of the field battled fiercely with Galindo beating Vu and Shovak, as did Dung Ngo. At 5-3 both Patrick Tran and Dung Ngo moved on to the finals. Vu with 178 total points was awarded the fourth spot ahead of Galindo. Unfortunately Ngo was unable to continue play, so Galindo ended up moving on as the fourth finalist from the group.

The B flight had some real drama as all three A players felt the sting of loss to the hungry group of B challengers. Patino dropped three games, as did Cong Nguyen. Lee only lost one to Ellis Lawrence to win the flight at



6-1. With that win against Lee, Lawrence clinched clear second with only losses to Patino and Cong Nguyen. The third and fourth spot were awarded to Cong Nguyen and Hugo Patino respectively. Despite a great win against Patino, Lan Vo just missed out having suffered a crushing loss to Lee early on. His total points were not enough and the final eight were decided.

The finals were set up with 8 players in round robin, and had five of the A players and three from the B entries. That is where Patino found his rhythm after his rocky preliminary round, and with strong consistent play came out on top round after round. Going in to the final two rounds Piedrabuena and Patino were both undefeated? That is where lightning struck and Lee, playing hard, beat Pedro to deliver his first loss of the tournament. It would prove to be a costly one. Patino continued his winning ways to set up the final match. Pedro and Hugo together again. A familiar sight to many who follow US Billiards. And like so many games in the past it was hard fought. But this time Hugo would prevail, making great shots, playing strong defense, and winning to go undefeated and clear first in the finals.

Houston is one of the premier Billiard cities in the country. US Bida is one of the premier spots in the city to play, with eight Verhoeven tables, a warm friendly atmosphere as well. Tim Nguyen is a gracious host. We look forward to many more tournaments at US Bida and in the city of Houston.

# 9th Annual Fall Classic Minneapolis Billiard Club, Minneapolis, MN

## Fred Lamers Wins the 2014 Fall Classic by one point!

The Fall Classic billiard tournament held at The Minneapolis Billiard Club was living up to the hype on Sept. 19-21. Some of the best players in the mid-west were here to do battle for the top prize and maybe some bragging rights. The player list for this 10-player round robin was a familiar one, with local players John Logan, Mickey Campbell, John Zech and Fred Lamers. Also from 4 other states were Gary Eake, Nam Cho, Travis Gallup, John Jacobson, Lupe Cruz and George Ashby.

As the chart began to fill out, it was clear that Ashby, Cruz and Jacobson were in the driver's seat without a loss going into Sunday. Lamers had suffered a loss in his first match of the tournament on Friday, 25-24 to local legend John Logan. Sunday's games for Lamers were not to be taken lightly, needing to win all three games to have a chance at winning the tournament and it wasn't going to be easy. The first game against Cruz found both players struggling a bit but Lamers was to prevail, 25-23. John Jacobson couldn't quite find his stroke in his match and fell to Lamers as well. That left only Ashby who picked up a loss from Cruz in the previous game 25-22, and it was down to George and Fred in the last game of the long weekend: a very well-played game by both players. The game was never really out of reach for either player but Lamers was not to be denied and beat Ashby to win this year's Fall Classic.

MBC would like to thank all the players for coming out to play in this year's event and would also like to thank those who supported our tournament: Greg Vavra, Mickey Campbell, MBC, David Levine and everyone who helped in running this great event.



John Jacobson, 4th, Fred Lamers, 1st, George Ashby, 3rd, & Lupe Cruz, 2nd



## President's Desk:

The 2014 USBA TOUR is alive and well with recent tournaments in Houston and Chicago and upcoming events in Los Angeles and possibly Florida and more. The 2015 National Championship is likely to be held in Florida although there is still no official word yet.



The USBA Board of Directors is trying to work out the details for possibly having a USBA League (handicapped) in 2015 culminating with a large tournament at the end of the year. Also being hammered out are details for rooms to hold USBA events in their room, preferably on a regular basis such as monthly. This is not an easy task but the details need to be worked out if we want rooms across the country to hold regular USBA Tournaments. Without tournaments, players lose interest.

Also, Paul Frankel informed me that the Founders of the Illinois Billiard Club, Jim and Bonnie Parker, have agreed to let Paul use their private Illinois Billiard Club and public Bonnie's Dining & Banquet facilities to hold a special USBA Qualifier at the (IBC) in Willow Springs, IL. It is America's oldest Billiard Club in North America.

The banquet facility's 19th century dining room and café together seats one hundred and twenty guests. The Illinois Billiard Club's antique billiard room glows with historical charm and features three generations of antique billiard tables and spectator seating for 50 guests.

The event will take place on November 13-16th, 2014. For more information call Paul at (901) 210-7251.

# Dick Jasper's Wins World Cup

by Frits Baker of Kozoom

PORTO – After three seasons without a major victory, Dutchman Dick Jaspers is back at the top. In the Portuguese port city Porto he won the final on Sunday afternoon, against Belgian Roland Forthomme. For Jaspers, it was the 20th victory in a World Cup. The Dutch champion lived emotional moments in the full and lively billiard arena. „I had to wait a long time for this, and I am overjoyed.” His win took Jaspers to the third place on the world ranking, behind Frédéric Caudron and Torbjörn Blomdahl.



Dick Jaspers on the podium with Roland Forthomme, Peter Ceulemans and Sung-Won Choi

Photo by Harry van Nijlen/Kozoom

His run in this World Cup started with a win over Pierre Soumagne (France), then he beat Ryujji Umeda (Japan), Quyet Chien Tran (Vietnam), Sung-Won Choi (Zuid Korea) and finally the Belgian lion Forthomme. The tournament was given a tremendous climax, when both players had their chances to win it. Roland Forthomme had the better start and was in the lead until the interval. The Belgian, who had earlier eliminated two countrymen (Caudron and Ceulemans) missed his opportunity at 38-34. Jaspers had the stronger nerves, and ended the match with a winning run of four.

Dick Jaspers was in the final of a World Cup for the 36th time. The last win for him was Suwon, four years ago, when he

beat Filippos Kasidokostas in the final. The crown on his glory years was the World title in Lima 2011, but from then on successes were few and far between. „I never stopped believing, because I kept playing top averages everywhere”, he said, a happy man supported by his fellow members of the FC Porto club.

The final was a clash of two styles, the technically gifted, cautious Jaspers against the explosive Forthomme. In this tournament, the Belgian had performed heroic comebacks after the interval on several occasions. He did it against Greek Nikos Polychronopoulos and again in the semifinal against Peter Ceulemans, when he was trailing 22-5 after 8 innings to win 40-31 in 20. Dick Jaspers performed majestically in his semifinal against Sung Won Choi: his run of nine from 14-12 to lead 23-12 was the intro to a classy win: 40-26 in 15.

The FC Porto stronghold, with a billiard arena that held hundreds of fans, ready to



**Dick Jaspers**  
Born July 23, 1965  
St Willebrord, Netherlands

**FACTS ON TOP PLAYERS**  
*Dedicated to Promoting the Sport*



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Present town of residence: St Willebrord, Netherlands    Which cue do you play with: Longoni    What weight cue: 510 Grams

What tip do you use: Kamui and Fuji    What size tip: 11.6mm    What age did you start playing: 8 Years Old

Who were your teachers: Tony Schrauwen of Belguim    What make of table do you like best to play on: Gabriels & Wilhelinia

Which chalk do you prefer: Blue Diamond    What percentage of your shots do you play: With position: 40%    With safety: 30%

Do you use systems: Diamond systems: Sometimes    Ball systems: No    Do you only use systems on banks: Regular

Who is the toughest safety player on the tour: Blomdahl    Where is your favorite venue to play a tournament: Germany, Netherlands

Which of the billiard books you recommend: Ceulemans and Caudron    What is your high run: Tournament: 26

applaud every point made by the grand masters, was more than ready for a climax to a week of matches. Dick Jaspers, under the highest of tension, could not produce the level of play he had shown earlier in the week against Soumagne (3.333 average) and Choi (2.666), because the encounter with Forthomme developed into a tactical and defensive battle. Relief was overwhelming, when he had produced the final carom.

The three-time world champion smiled his widest smile, raised his cue in the air, and celebrated the win with the crowd for minutes. Roland Forthomme could not add a third to his two World Cup victories, both even older than the one by Jaspers. The Belgian won in Hurgada 2005 (final against Caudron) and in Volos 2006 (final against Blomdahl). The Belgian can't possibly get closer without winning than he did today in Porto.

### The final rankings with averages:

1 Dick Jaspers	1.923	2 Roland Forthomme	1.8253
Sung-Won Choi	1.678	4 Peter Ceulemans	1.5895
Sani Sánchez	2.234	6 Quyet Chien Tran	1.818
7 Murat Naci Coklu	1.765	8 Torbjörn Blomdahl	1.486
9 Eddy Leppens	1.789	10 N.Polychronopoulos	1.744
11 Quoc Nguyen Nguyen	1.648	12 Koong Kang Dong	1.340

### The new world ranking (not yet official):

1 Frédéric Caudron,	439	2 Torbjörn Blomdahl,	384
3 Dick Jaspers,	324	4 Filippas Kasidokostas,	289
5 Sung-Won Choi,	277	6 Eddy Merckx,	274
7 Marco Zanetti,	261	8 Kyung-Roul Kim,	254
9 Dong Koong Kang,	233	10 Jae Ho Cho,	223
11 Tayfun Tasdemir	222	12 Dani Sánchez	216.

### Mike Fahey Memorial Tacoma Elks Lodge, Tacoma, WA:

B Level: Jesus Quinonez (1st), Dan Louie (2nd), Tim Poole (3rd)  
C Level: Toshi Moriguchi (1st), Ed Brasfield (2nd)

### Upcoming USBA Tournaments

<b>October 24-26: USBA</b>	Hood River Elks, OR
Handicapped Tournament at Amazin Billiards, Malden, MA	Contact the lodge at 541-386-1507.
<b>December 5-7:</b>	
Contact Mazin Shooni: 248-910-4466.	Dick Takano Memorial Qualifier at Tacoma Elks Lodge, WA
<b>November 7-9:</b>	Contact: Ed Brasfield 253-468-9839.
USBA TOUR OPEN at Eight Ball Billiards, Maywood, CA	<b>December 12-14:</b>
\$18,000 estimated prize fund.	USBA TOUR EVENT to be announced.
Contact Ricardo Carranco: 323-490-8075.	See www.USBA.net and click "Tournaments" and "Tournament Calendar".
<b>November 14-16:</b>	
Russ Guppy Memorial at	

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10-Rail 3-Cushion bank shot. Level cue - hit as diagramed  
Use 1 o'clock english - Employ very firm stroke.

## **USBA Tour Open at Chris's Billiards, Chicago, IL**

The Open Tournament at Chris's Billiards was a huge success as we expected a maximum of 28 players and got 33 players participating. With the players arranged into 5 groups of 7 players each (2 flights had a bye), instead of only taking the top 2 players from each flight (since one top player was seeded into each flight), tournament director Jim Shovak decided to take the best four 3rd-place finishers of each flight, making a total of 14 players advancing to the next round plus an auction and a lottery winner for a total of 16 players.

In order to find the time for a finals involving 16 players, a relatively-new format was tried which is currently being used in Mexico. It is basically a group of 4 players playing double-elimination. If you win 2 matches then you advance to the final 8. If you lose 2 matches, then you are out. Points do not matter and neither does average. Just win.

With 16 players, we had 4 groups of 4 players each; double elimination to 25 points. The format was difficult and time-consuming, but it was a huge success with most of the players, especially the B and C players. Although the format took a long time, it still took less time than playing 2 round robin groups of 8 players each.

In the prelims, the top finishers of each group were Hugo Patino (2-time US National Champion), Luis Aveiga (Ecuadorian Champion), Pedro Piedrabuena (7-time US Champion), Javier Teran (Ecuadorian Champion) and Luis Avila (many times Mexican Champion). The 2nd place finishers were local players Luis Milan and Olegario Gonzalez as well as room owner Felipe Razon, Adrian Viguera (a top US player who has represented the USA in World Championship Events) and Sang Jin Lee from New York, who finished in 3rd place in the recent Open Event at US Bida in Houston, TX. The best four 3rd-place finishers were Savino Manriquez (a fine local player), tournament-regular Ellis Lawrence from Florida who placed 7th in the US Bida event, many times Champion George Ashby from Illinois and Mexican player Carlos Elias. Noe Lara, a talented local player just missed out on making the finals.

Highlights from the Preliminary Rounds: Gary Scharf from Michigan and Olegario Gonzalez both defeated Ecuadorian Champion Javier Teran. Adrian Viguera defeated Pedro Piedrabuena 25-21 with a stellar performance. Carlos Elias ran a 12 and a 6 in back-to-back innings to defeat Adrian Viguera 25-12. With Jim Shovak ahead of top player Sang Jin Lee 18-9 and needing to win in order to advance, Sang Jin Lee ran a 3-



**I to r, Felipe Razon room owner, Hugo Patino 3rd, Pedro Piedrabuena 2nd, Luis Aveiga 1st, Luis Avila 3rd, and Jim Shovak USBA Pres**

3-8-2 to knock Shovak out of the finals. Local player Jose Alfredo Sanchez defeated Mexican Champion Luis Avila, 25-24.

Nam Cho from Madison, Wisconsin won the auction for \$800 and a local player, Alex Cruz won the lottery and opted to sell his ticket to Jim Shovak. With 16 players and four groups of four players each, it was time for the double-elimination experiment. Knocked out of the top 16 were Adrian Viguera, George Ashby, Felipe Razon, Savino Manriquez, Nam Cho, Olegario Gonzalez, Luis Milan and Ellis Lawrence. Advancing to the final 8 was Hugo Patino, Luis Avila, Pedro Piedrabuena, Luis Aveiga, Javier Teran, Sang Jin Lee, Jim Shovak and Carlos Elias. With 8 players remaining, the players were again put in 2 groups of 4 players each, double elimination. Knocked out of the final 8 were Javier Teran, Jim Shovak, Sang Jin Lee and Carlos Elias. Advancing to the final four was Hugo Patino, Pedro Piedrabuena, Luis Aveiga and Luis Avila. The four players then played single elimination with Aveiga defeating Avila and Piedrabuena defeating Patino. The final match was very exciting with Piedrabuena ahead of Luis Aveiga by a score of 21-14 in a 30 point match. Piedrabuena left a very difficult position for Aveiga and Aveiga attempted a shot with a ridiculous amount of speed and ended up scoring it accidentally. Aveiga took full advantage of the lucky break and ran 5 more points, tightening the score to 21-20. Pedro made one point and missed. Aveiga stepped to the table and promptly ran a 10-and-out to win the tournament! What was so amazing was that those 10 points were scored so quickly that it seemed as if only 2 or 3 minutes had passed and 10 points were scored. Amazing! Congratulations to Luis Aveiga from Ecuador and special thanks to the room owners at Chris's Billiards for being very helpful and very hospitable.

**USBA TOUR**  
**"B" and "C" Tournaments:**  
**Marti Tracy Memorial, Ashland Elks**

Twenty-four players participated in the Third Annual Marti Tracy Memorial 3-Cushion Billiard Tournament, held for the first time at the Ashland Elks Lodge in Ashland, Oregon., This was a USBA B/C Tour event, with separate prizes for B and C tournament winners.



**B Cesar Cardoza 2nd - Mark Hansen 1st - Homero Landa 3rd**

In the B's, Mark Hansen from the Sacramento, CA area finished first with a perfect record of 9 wins and no losses. Cesar Cardoza from Santa Clara, CA, came in second with 7 wins and 2 losses, and Homero Landa of Menlo Park, CA finished third with 6 wins and 3 losses. Antonio Rivera of Greenbrae, CA had the first high run of seven to win that prize.



**C + Marc Smith 2nd - Galen Lee 1st Bob Hilton 3rd**

After finishing his preliminary flight with a perfect record of 6 wins and no losses, including the best game in the entire tournament of 25 points in 20 innings for a 1.250 average, Galen Lee of Union City, CA won the C+ finals with another perfect record. (He generously shared his winnings with the Ashland Elks Lodge by purchasing the Tiger Cue donated to the event by the USBA, with the proceeds going to the

lodge.) Marc Smith from Grants Pass, OR, finished in second place Marc averaged a very solid .615 in the finals for the best average in the C/C+ event. Third place went to Ashland player Bob Hilton, and the high run prize in the C+ group went to Jerry Gibson of Medford, OR, with his run of 6

C finals provided the most dramatic finish of the tournament. Bill came in first, Toshi second, and Victor Lee of Stockton, CA finished in third place. The high run prize in the C's went to Toshi, who had the first run of 5 among the C players.



**C Toshi Moriguchi 2nd - Bill Wood 1st - Victor Lee 3rd**

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