

POOL & BILLIARD MAGAZINE

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February 2021

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

ALLISON FISHER



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ORCOLLO



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POOL & BILLIARD MAGAZINE

Volume 38 - Number 02 - February 2021

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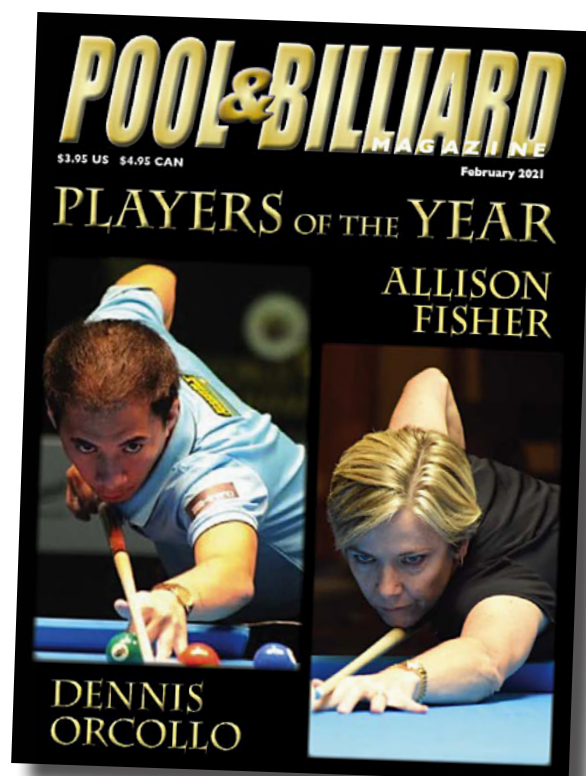
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SNEAK PEEK: MARCH 2021

PLAYER & FAN POLL RESULTS

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Love A Pool Player This Month!

There's much to love about pool players this month, including our Player of the Year choices that honor the strong performances of several players who made it happen in 2020, despite Covid-19 challenges. Coverage begins p. 25 - Enjoy!

And, the WPA recently congratulated Jayson Shaw (shown below), who has been awarded the prestigious title of Athlete of the Month (December 2020) by the International World Games Association (IWGA).

This is great news for billiard sports in general. It is the first time that a billiards athlete has been recognized with such an award. Jayson is a most consistent performer and his high-finish results from tournaments always ensures his ranking maintains itself among the world's top 10 players. Just recently at the Mosconi Cup he

was unbeaten in his five matches and besides being a member of the victorious team (Europe), he also won the tournament's Most Valuable Player award.

Learn more at <https://www.theworldgames.org/awards/Athlete-of-December-2020-83>

The World Games is a multi-sport event staged every four years by the International World Games Association under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee. The 11th edition of The World Games will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, 7-17 July 2022. 3,600 athletes from 100 countries and over 30 sports, including Pool Snooker and Carom will take part in The World Games.

Way to do pool proud, Mr. Shaw...play on!

'Til next month, shoot straight!



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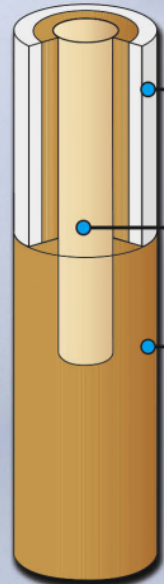
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How NY Rooms Are Re-opening with Covid-19 Safety Nets!

A group of 16 New York pool halls that sued the state to reopen received preliminary injunction relief and are now allowed to reopen.

The ruling from the state of New York applied to pool halls that joined the lawsuit, an effort led by long-standing premier poolroom, Manhattan's Amsterdam Billiards after billiards proprietors were left off the list of establishments that could reopen when New York began to open up from the pandemic late last summer.

Greg Hunt, owner of Amsterdam Billiards was thrilled to be reopening. "It's been extremely tough for our 35 employees who have been living on \$350 or \$400 a week unemployment insurance with families," Hunt told Stephen M. Lepore at pix11.com

Just over 24 hours ago, a judge in upstate New

York ruled that 16 New York pool halls that had sued the state to reopen can do so, as long as COVID-19 safety protocols are in place.

"We have a 10-point COVID protocol that all the pool halls in New York City have adopted," Hunt explained. "We are now just as safe as bowling alleys and casinos and every other form of indoor recreation."

Amsterdam Billiards Covid-19 Protocols:

- **Deep Clean**

Before we open, we did a thorough "Deep Clean." We scrubbed every area of Amsterdam Billiards with disinfectants, from top to bottom.

- **6 Ft Social Distance Markers**

Social distance decals have been placed on the floor six feet apart from the entrance to the Managers' Desk.

- **Masks**

Everyone (guests, staff, delivery-people, etc.) is required to wear masks when they are in Amsterdam Billiards. Everyone. From the time you enter until the time you leave.

- **Temperature Scanner**

Everyone (guests, staff, delivery-people, etc.) will have their temperature taken when they enter Amsterdam Billiards. We will be following CDC guidelines and will deny entry for anyone with a temperature equal to or over 100.4.

- **Hand Sanitizer**

Containers of alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available throughout Amsterdam Billiards. Everyone (guests, staff, delivery-people, etc.) should use the hand sanitizers as often as possible. All staff must wash hands and/or sanitize every half hour.

- **Maximum Of 2**

People Per Table

In order to spread our guests out, a maximum of 2 people are allowed per pool table.

- **All Equipment Will Be Sanitized After Every Group**

Table cloth, balls, and cue sticks will be sanitized after every group of guests finishes playing pool, so every new group of guests will have a clean set of equipment upon arrival at their table.

- **Bar Will Remain Closed**

Until further notice, our bar will be closed.

- **Shield Guard At The Managers' Desk**

To help protect our staff, we have placed a plexiglass barrier at our front desk.

- **Contact Tracing**

Everyone entering Amsterdam Billiards will be required to leave us their name and contact information.

An excellent plan we hope to see rooms adopt nationwide!





STARTM

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2021 CueSports International Expo Rescheduled

The 2021 edition of the Predator World 10-Ball Championship, previously scheduled for March 8-12, is now moved to September 6-10, 2021.

This change will allow more time for players to make travel arrangements following the recent approval by White House coronavirus task-force members, public health, and other federal agencies

to lift the current travel bans that were put in place in March 2020. While no time frame has been announced, it is very likely that international travel will be possible by spring 2021.

"The 2019 Predator World 10-Ball Championship had an amazing field of world-class Champions and this move to September will allow us to replicate it,"

said Karim Belhaj, CEO of Predator Group, "We look forward to this date and the return of global events for our fans, players and partners."

Since 2019, the event has been a part of the CueSports International Expo - where amateurs, pros and industry leaders meet every year. This event will now start on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, and end on Saturday, September 11, 2021, one

day after the Predator World 10-Ball Championship concludes.

"Although we are disappointed that the event had to be postponed, we are excited about the prospect of producing a full-scale Predator World 10-Ball Championship in September with players from around the globe and thousands of spectators. It will be a great way to say 'goodbye' to the misery of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Ozzy Reynolds, CueSports International CEO.



Matchroom Announces Biggest Year Ever: Six Major Events

Matchroom Multi Sport has announced its biggest ever year of pool, with SIX events including the all-new Championship League Pool and the return of the World Pool Championship to the Matchroom stable.

After the global shutdown in 2020, Matchroom brought live pool back to the global TV stage with the Mosconi Cup in December and now launches more in 2021.

The 9-ball year will kick off with the brand-new Championship League Pool, which will take place behind-closed-doors at Marshall Arena, Milton Keynes from March 22-29. Featuring 19 players and a prize fund of \$85,950, Championship League Pool will be played across two tables with every match streamed live around the world.

The World Pool Masters

will return in Gibraltar from April 6-9, before the World Pool Championship relaunches under the Matchroom banner from April 12-16.

The World Cup of Pool will be the feature of the summer pool calendar, before the 44th US Open Pool Championship this autumn.

Then the year will close out with

Europe as defending champions at the Mosconi Cup, set to take place from December 6-9.

Matchroom Pool's World Rankings will resume with the World Pool Masters, while the US Open and World Championship will both be Tier 1 Ranking events. At the Mosconi Cup, Team USA and Team Europe will both feature the top players from the World Rankings, with entry to other events also awarded to the best players on the Rankings.

Emily Frazer, Managing Director of Matchroom Multi Sport, said: "Despite such challenging times faced for all over the past year and still experiencing now, we are more determined than ever to launch a calendar of events for pool, ensuring players have a schedule to follow, look forward to and practice for."

To receive the latest news and ticket alerts for all Matchroom Pool events, sign up to the Matchroom Pool Club for free at <http://www.matchroompool.com/pool-club/>.

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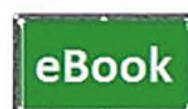
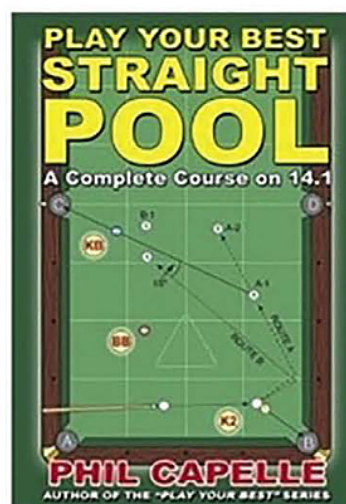
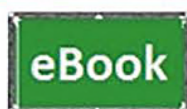
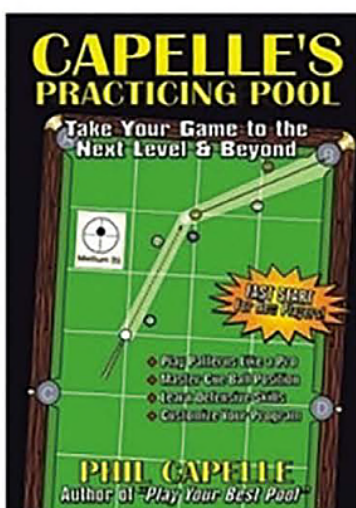
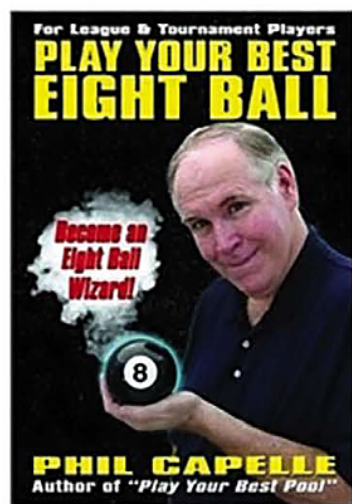
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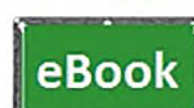
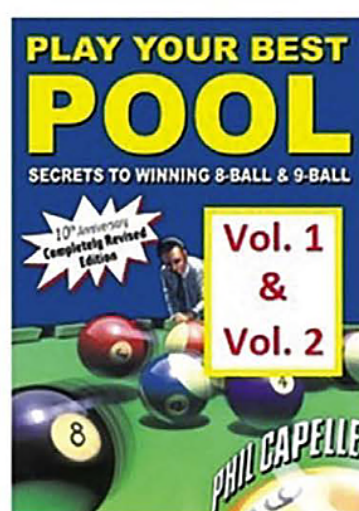
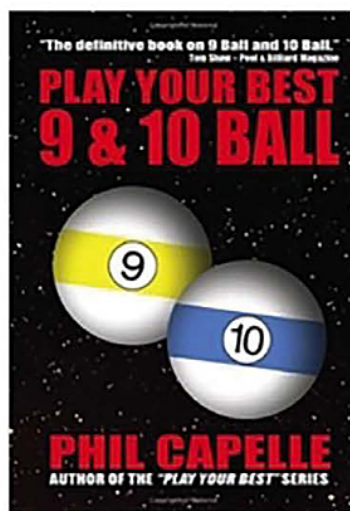
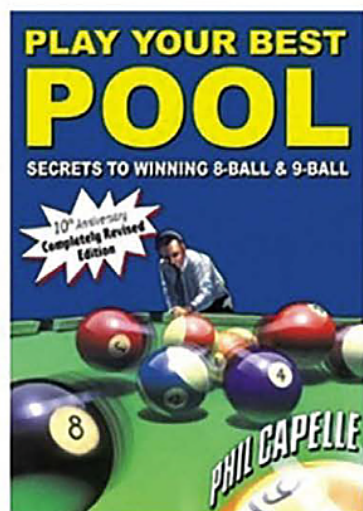


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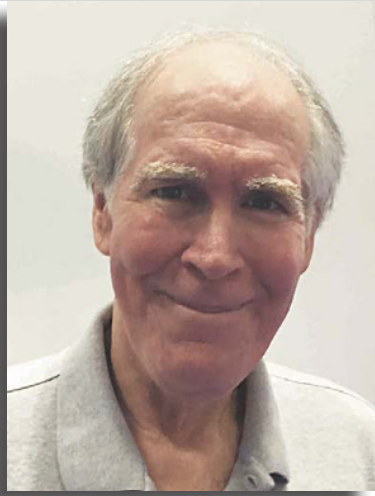


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Pick Up Your Pace

by Phil Capelle

POOL IS THE ANSWER

This month's column is adapted from Capelle's new book, which is scheduled to be released around mid-year. The book offers Capelle's ideas on why pool is the World's Greatest Sport, and how we can spread this message across the country and the world. It also offers cutting edge ideas on improving your game.

PHIL CAPELLE Phil Capelle is billiard's most prolific author with 11 books that feature more than 4,000 pages of instruction on all facets of the game. He has been involved in the sport for over 50 years. His column has appeared in every issue of P&B since May, 1996. Visit Phil's site at www.billiardspress.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pcapelle.

Back in 1969, while I was attending UC Berkeley, I will never forget traveling across the Oakland Bay Bridge to a poolroom in San Francisco with a pool playing buddy to watch Willie Mosconi play for the first of nine times.

He was playing a game to 150 against a local, which was his standard practice for his exhibitions. At one point, Mosconi complained that the table was "covered in burlap." Indeed, it was super slow, and this was causing him to struggle to get a run going. His frustration growing, he told the crowd, "Let's pick up the pace."

He then launched a run of 95, which as any Straight Pool lover knows, is quite an achievement when done on a table where the balls are seemingly glued together.

The moral of my Mosconi story is that a faster pace might ignite the flow state in your game. Indeed, when you speed up your pace, you retain more of the good feelings of one shot to the next. In other words, faster play can get you in stroke, and keep you there for extended periods of time.

This carryover is backed by neuroscience, which has revealed that certain states do linger.

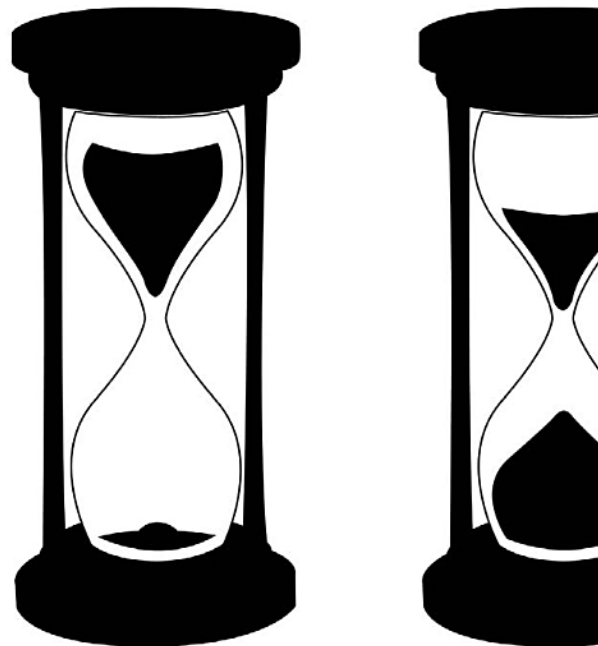
Let's assume I have convinced you, especially the slower players, to experiment with speeding up your pace of play. To play faster you are obviously going to have to reduce the time you spend planning and/or executing your shots. The time you spend over the ball should remain about the same as it takes a certain amount of time for the components of your shots (aim, speed, and stroke) to move to a state of maximum readiness. In addition, you NEVER want to rush a shot while over the ball, to play it before that little voice gives you the Go Signal.

As a result, most of your time savings should come from reducing the time you spend planning your shots. Your knowledge of the game, and your belief in your knowledge, can help you to make better decisions quicker – and to be confident enough in your choices that you can proceed into the execution phase with no hesitation, or second guessing your choices.

So, if you want to play faster, maybe even fast enough that you end up working your

way into dead stroke, you need to learn to make quicker decisions, be more decisive, and then move into the execution phase. If you know that you have saved time in the planning phase, then you can take all of the time you need to execute the shot.

Now, playing speed is a nebulous

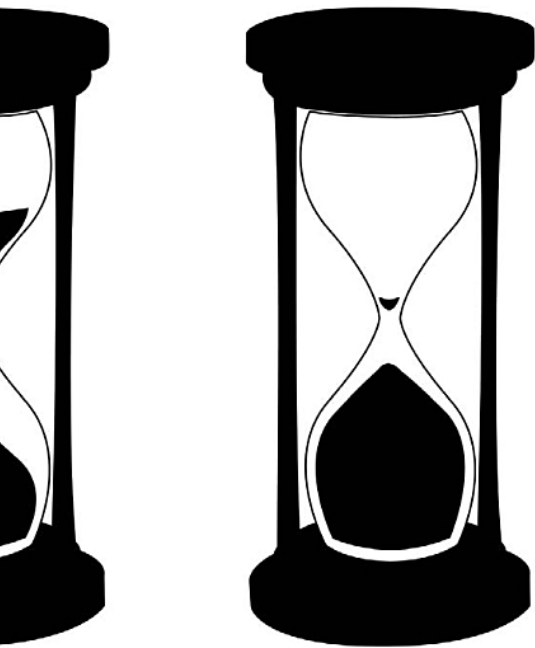


concept for most amateurs, and even pros when not playing on the clock. So, as a general rule, most players will play slower than their ideal pace because they have the luxury of taking their sweet time planning their shots when in the absence of a clock.

I have seen timed matches use a clock that gives you 30, 35, 40, or 60 seconds to play each shot. You can see pro players on the clock by going to YouTube and searching for matches from the Mosconi Cup. At this event, the players have 30 seconds to shoot. If they fail to meet this time, it's a foul and their opponent gets ball in hand. Matchroom keeps the time for the player at the table underneath their team (Team Europe or Team USA). The clock starts when all of the balls stop rolling. If the player has not shot before the time reaches 25 seconds, a loud buzzer starts to ring, warning the player that his time is about to expire.

Play Your Best Pool

So, a player has 30 seconds to shoot – but savvy pros can start planning before the balls stop rolling, especially if they are good at gauging where the last one is going to stop. Accurately estimating the ball's rolling speed is a skill that can add a few precious seconds to the



planning and playing of your next shot.

Most shots that the pros play during a run are routine, or semi-routine – meaning that they can come to a firm decision in about 2-10 seconds. This leaves plenty of time for playing the shot, which takes about 2-6 seconds for the vast majority of their position plays.

In sum, pros have little trouble playing with a clock, but there are those challenging shots that do require more than 30 seconds to plan and play. So, if they have an extension (they get one per game) they will use it. Extensions give them another 30 seconds. If they have used their extension on a previous shot in that game, then they must plan and play a difficult shot faster than is ideal. This can result in a drop in the quality of their effort – sometimes enough to lead to a mistake.

Now, let's turn to your game and how you can learn to play faster. You

can practice playing on the clock with the aid of a timer and the help of a pool playing friend, or even a helpful member of your family. Practicing playing with a clock will help you develop rhythm, and it will prepare you for the day if and when most competitions use a clock.

I am going to assume that you play a little slower than the pros, so you might try using a 35 second clock. Have your partners keep the timer. If the time gets down to 5 seconds, have them issue some kind of warning (but not a loud buzzer). You should build in a margin for error of 5-7 seconds so that you always feel comfortable, and not hurried, when over the ball.

Thirty-five seconds should be, or become, plenty of time to complete most position plays. Safeties and kick shots may take more time to play, so they often will consume your extension. Jump shots take less time to plan, but a little more time to execute due to the extra time spent setting up for them.

You may wish to have your partner keep track of your times, and you to keep their times as well. Over time, you should expect your average playing time to drop a few seconds per shot, on average. In time you will develop a subconscious internal timer that tells you when to move into the execution phase. Since you never want to have to rush a shot, be sure to allocate sufficient time for the execution phase part of the Shot Cycle.

If you and your partner practice playing the ghost on a clock for a few weeks, you may discover the benefits of faster play. If you want to play regular

games, see if you can get a third person to act as the timekeeper. You could rotate with this person so everyone gets a chance to play on the clock.

It can help in your planning to realize that: 1) some shots are planning shots – the execution time is routine: 2) some shots are execution shots – planning is fast, but you will need a few seconds more in the execution phase and: 3) some shots require more time than usual for both phases. On these, be prepared to call for an extension, if you still have one available.

Despite your best efforts at clock management, you will occasionally run across those shots where the clock is nearing the limit AND you don't have an extension. On these, you need to have the ability to speed up the execution phase without comprising quality. You could do this being satisfied with less than perfect speed.

Below is a matrix that shows some typical shots. The execution phase includes positioning your body for landing, and the second number is time spent over the ball. You can see that the first two shots were played very quickly, the third barely beat the clock, and the last shot required an extension.

In sum, faster play comes with several benefits. You up your chances of getting into top form, you are more decisive, and the confidence that you show when playing more quickly, but not too fast, could intimidate your opponents. For models of this skill at work, watch Joshua Filler and Jason Shaw – two of the best, fastest, and scariest players on the planet!

A TIME USAGE GUIDE – TYPICAL EXAMPLES

	Plan	Execute	TOTAL
Super Routine	3	3 - 4	10
Part of a Pattern	1	4 - 8	13
Very difficult	13	5 - 9	27
Kick shot	25	5 - 8	38 (extension)



Practicing Intentional Contact

by Dominic Esposito

The Drill Instructor, Dominic Esposito, is a world-ranked PBA Master Instructor. Be sure and watch "The Clinic" LIVE on [facebook.com/thedrillinstructor](https://www.facebook.com/thedrillinstructor) every Tuesday night 8:00 p.m. EST. Want to see it all? Visit: www.thedrillinstructor.us

If you've been learning and executing "The Drill Instructor Way" for any length of time then no doubt you've heard me use the terms, "Ball Bangers" and "Ball Banging" many times. Neither of which any pool player should want to be found guilty of being or doing.

This month we'll focus on the cue ball making contact with another object ball other than the intended one you are shooting at offensively or defensively.

At some point in your pool playing life, you'll need to understand how to control the cue ball to only make intentional contact.

Mastering control of the cue ball develops in stages. In fact, control of the cue ball is in direct proportion to your skill level. What happens when the cue ball makes unplanned contact with an object ball?

FACT No. 1. 80% of the time when the cue ball makes unintentional contact with an object ball, you'll be unable to run out to win the game.

FACT No. 2. Making unintentional contact with an object ball is a clear indicator to your opponent that you're going to give up ball-in-hand if put in a blocked cue ball defensive position.

There are specific reasons that you would want to use intentional cue ball and object ball contact as a playing strategy. Some reasons are to:

1. Create a new shot angle.
2. Break open a cluster.
3. Create a cluster.
4. Push a ball into an offensive position.
5. Push a ball into a defensive position.
6. Set up position in a One-Pocket game.

Until you learn the skill of intentional contact there will be any number of shots un-noticed during a match that can make all the difference in the outcome.

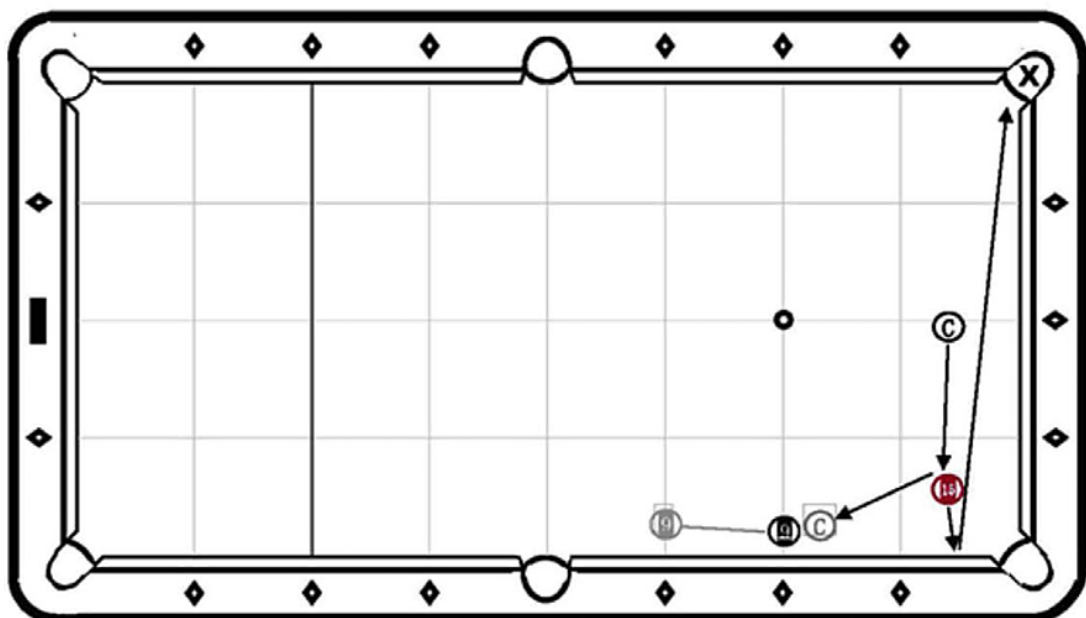
This Pro Skill Drill is all about intentional contact. It's critical to learn how to cause an intentional collision between the cue ball, the object ball, and end up with an intentional finished position.

This month's Pro Skill Drill is called "BANK and BUMP"

This is a 3 Part Drill Shot.

The objective is to:

1. Successfully bank the fifteen ball into corner pocket X.
2. Make intentional contact into the nine ball, pushing it up table one diamond at a time—in three parts.



DRILL INSTRUCTOR

Execution of the Shot

PART 1

1. Bank the fifteen ball into corner pocket X.

2. Intentionally bump the nine ball up table one diamond and remaining inside a half-diamond off the cushion. NOTE: Repeat this first shot until you can pocket the fifteen ball, and the nine ball advances no further than the third diamond on the side rail.

3. Upon successful completion, reset the fifteen ball and cue ball in their original starting position. Be sure to mark and leave the nine ball in that finished landing position at the third diamond. This becomes the new starting position for the nine ball for Part 2 of this drill.

PART 2

4. Again, successfully bank the fifteen ball into corner pocket X.

5. The cue ball slides up contacting the nine ball moving it up the table no more than one diamond. The nine ball must land in front of the side pocket and no more than a half diamond into the table.

NOTE: Repeat this second shot until you can both pocket the fifteen ball and advance the nine ball next to the side pocket.

PART 3

6. Reset the fifteen ball and cue ball in their original starting position leaving the nine ball in its finished landed position at the side pocket. Mark this as the new starting position for the nine ball.

4. Successfully bank the fifteen ball into corner pocket X.

5. Cause the cue ball to slide up, making intentional contact with the nine ball, pushing it up table one diamond and within a half diamond from the cushion.

NOTE: Repeat this third shot until you can both pocket the nine ball and cause the nine ball to land at the fifth diamond.

This drill must be mastered on the opposite side of the table as well. You decide, to do PART 1 from both sides first before moving up to Part 2 or can complete one entire side first and then shift to the other side of the table.

Either way, remember to mark your landed finishing position of the nine ball to reset it until you've made a successful intentional contact.

Both sides of the table must be mastered. When they are, your cue ball control skills will increase. When they do, the rewards will go far beyond what I could write to try and explain to you. Trust me, I know.

CAPELLE'S COLUMNS

21 Years of
POOL Instruction
1996 - 2017

Phil Capelle

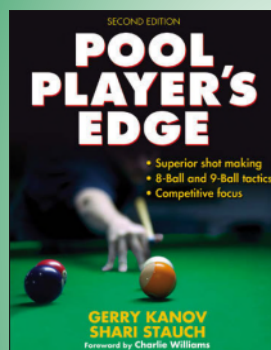
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A Full Rack of 15 Little Tips

by Ewa Mataya Laurance

Ewa Mataya Laurance has been a top player on the WPBA tour for over twenty years and is one of the sport's most famous personalities. She is in both the BCA and WPBA Hall of Fame, is a former WPA World 9-Ball champion and the reigning women's world trick shot champion. Ewa is an ESPN color commentator, and co-author of the Complete Idiot's Guide to Pool & Billiards with former P&B managing editor Tom Shaw.

Sometimes little things mean a lot. (And sometimes little things mean so little you wonder why anybody bothered!)

Below are some little things. None is worth a full column, some may apply to everybody but you, many you'll already know, and some may make a light bulb go off above your head, which can cause tingling in your ears. No matter. Your game will improve a little and that's what it's all about.

- You should have a separate cue for breaking in action rack games (9-Ball, 8-Ball, Rotation/61).
- The tip on that cue should be harder than normal, to handle the pressure, and be shaped flat because you'll only be using center ball strikes.
- On soft break games (14.1, One-Pocket) you can use your regular cue because you don't hit the break shot any harder than any other shot.
- One of the easiest ways to determine how accurately you struck the cue ball is to shoot a combination shot. A pocket is wide and making a ball only says your shot was either on the money or fairly close. A combination exaggerates any error in your aim, making it much easier to see how accurate you were.

● A second easy method is to place both the cue ball and the object ball at one end of the table and shoot into the far opposite corner. Distance also exaggerates error.

● When shooting a bank shot it helps to walk around to the other side of the table and look at it. The added perspective can show the angle clearer.

● In fact, do that on every shot, but only during practice unless you want to irritate the daylights out of an opponent.

● Bend low on a shot. The Greenleaf era players stood straighter; the Mosconi players bent; today's players get lower. Though the late Jimmy Caras once told me that many of the players in the 1930s and 40s didn't stand as straight as you think. Standing straight was better for pictures.

● Don't bend low before a shot. Many times, especially when balls are close to each other, it pays to take a tiptoe look at them to figure out the actual angles. This can help even when the balls are a moderate distance apart.

● Before you go out to play, whether at a friend's house, in a league match, or in a tournament, spend a little time watching an Accu-Stats DVD of top players. You'll be surprised how much you'll then shoot like them – at least for a while.

● Different table manufacturers cut their pockets and slate openings differently and that's something to watch out for especially on a table brand you've never heard of before. A firm shot down the cushion may bobble on one and not the other and it's not your fault (unless you keep doing it!)

● Learn to automatically and quickly calculate and understand the contact point on both the cue ball and the object ball before you shoot.

● Shots with the cue ball on the cushion come up often and can be a problem, especially if you have to go past the side pocket or you have to get position off the shot that requires a lot of cue ball spin.

For many people (who swear to me they're aiming the same as a center ball hit and have a cue with little or no deflection) shooting a ball down the cushion on the right is easier with left-hand spin, and right-hand spin shooting down the cushion on you left. So practice the opposite spin on the shot.

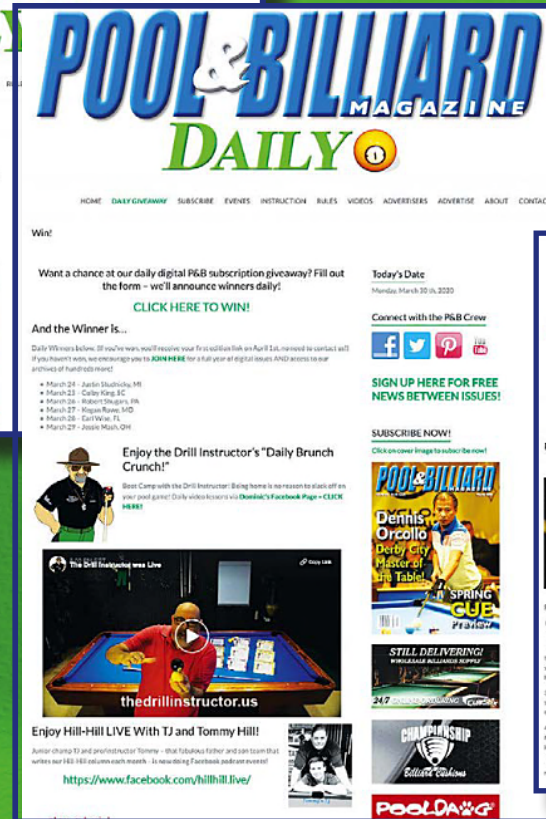
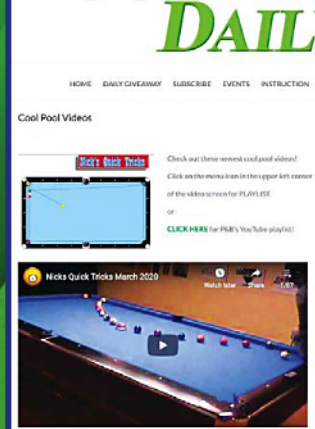
● Over-chalking a cue tip is as bad as under-chalking it. Once the tip can't absorb any more chalk it begins to form a loose layer on the tip and can slip on the cue ball and fall off and get in the table's cloth. That makes the cloth dirty which transfers to your hand, and wears the cloth excessively – but worst of all it can ruin your shot.

● Have fun! If you're not enjoying yourself, it's time to (pardon the pun) take a break.

So there you have fifteen little tips that can produce big results. I had fun doing this; there are a lot more so maybe we'll do it again some time.

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Playing The Ghost: Online Action!

by Tommy Hill and T.J. Hill

Tommy Hill is a former touring professional player. He played on both the Professional Billiards Tour and the Camel Pro Tour from the late eighties through the nineties. Tommy retired from playing pool and settled down in 2000 when his oldest son TJ was born. Tommy is now an advanced level instructor with the PBLA and still enjoys playing competitively.

TJ Hill an up and coming California pool player. He competes regularly on the Mezz west coast tour and he also competes in other local and regional tournaments. TJ's goals include becoming a touring professional pool player. TJ enjoys sharing his skills and knowledge with others, and in 2019 he became the youngest player to ever become a PBLA instructor.

Last month, TJ and I played in a NBL qualifier at The Rack Family Billiards in Fresno California.

While at the tournament we ran into Al Moreno, the creator of "Playing the Ghost" online pool tournaments.

TJ and I have mentioned Playing the Ghost in both our article and our podcast in the past but we had never met Al before and I thought this would be a great opportunity to sit down with him and find out a little bit more about what he has going on. Turns out Al is just a great guy. He was happy to spend some time with us and I just felt compelled to share his efforts with you all.

TJ: So dad and I sat down with Al Moreno and Ross Fregoso from Playing the Ghost. Dad is always happy to support pool and its players and these guys have created something that is certainly worth supporting.

Playing the Ghost is an online pool tournament or at least that is the basic fundamental. Last year, when Covid -19 hit, Al, like tons of other pool players was feeling the void of not playing pool during shutdown. He is one of the lucky ones that has a pool table at home but he said even playing alone at home just wasn't cutting it. One night he was feeling restless and wanted or maybe even needed to find an outlet to cure his desire to play competitive pool.

Al says his wife Samantha was instrumental in helping him develop and launch the online pool tournament that has become Playing the Ghost.

Facebook is the forum used for Playing the Ghost and since its start in April 2020 it has grown to over 2,000 members, with weekly tournaments for all skill levels. What started with just a few people playing once every week or two has steamrolled into an outlet for players to compete in open tournaments, handicapped tournaments and one-on-one challenge matches. There are multiple weekly tournaments, usually held on Wednesdays for the handicapped tournaments and Saturdays for open tournaments.

Tommy: I asked about how the handicaps work and how they handle the fact that players of all skill levels have different size tables at home. Ross informed me that they use the APA as their base for handicaps.

Now, that doesn't mean you must be an

APA member to participate, however APA does have a great website where it's very easy for the team to look up handicaps so they can place incoming players at the level where they should be playing.

If you are not a league member they simply ask you to play in three open events and they can give you a rating based upon your performance. As far as the table sizes they offer tournaments, they're broken down for all skill levels for 7' and 8' tables together, and separate tournaments for 9' tables.

They wholeheartedly admit that this has been a labor of love and they have made changes as they have gone along in order to offer the players the best experience available.

Playing the Ghost has picked up a few sponsors along the way. Chris Santana of Fast & Loose Designs and Mark Vidal of Stapleton Billiards have joined the team. Al mentioned they are also going to try starting a juniors program. He hasn't quite gotten all the particulars figured out yet but TJ and I have offered our service as PBLA instructors anytime they would like to use us.

TJ: One of the things I wanted to know is how they operate this thing. Is it a business, do they make a profit, payouts? It turns out this is not a business; no one from the Playing the Ghost team makes any money from this at all, other than what they may win in tournament play. They pay out 100% of the entry fees back to the players. There are no membership fees to join and any money spent and the tons of hours spent for administration is all out of pocket and donated time.

As they have grown the need to bring in additional help to keep up with the growing demand was imperative. They have enlisted some help from fellow players / friends, none of whom take any money for their time and efforts. It is a bit of a list but we feel these folks should be mentioned for their time and efforts: John Ferguson, Sandra Sue Cauchon, Kirby Lemuel Navarrete, Ray Robles, Samantha Moreno, Tony Marks, Mike Lee, Debbie Nadeau, Art Vera Breceda, Benny Chaney, Chris Santana, Cheryl Evans, Scott



Playing the Ghost's Ross Fregoso (left) and Al Moreno (right)

is something you might be interested in. It looks like a lot of fun and even though nothing can fill the void of the camaraderie and enjoyment of going to the pool room and seeing your friends, at least this can provide you good competition and an avenue to play competitively against other players, with an added bonus – an opportunity to win some prize money! The entry fees and payouts are all done through either Paypal or Venmo.

TJ: We hope to see you at a Playing the Ghost tournament in the near future. Tell 'em Tommy and TJ sent you! For now, it's time to say goodbye for the month. As always, we appreciate your loyalty to Pool & Billiard Magazine and we are humbled by all of you who enjoy our articles. Dad and I do like to travel as much as possible (WHEN WE ARE ALLOWED TO) to play or give instruction. If you ever see us out at a tournament or trade show please don't hesitate to come say hi and have a visit. If you have anything you would like to talk with us about or have a topic you would like us to write about or just simply want to say hi please drop us an email at tommnytj@aol.com Until next month,

Doucette, Linda Fisz, Liza Gazmen, Soren Ciel Mephisto and Ross Fregoso. Thank you on behalf of all the participating players all for everything you do!

Tommy: To be honest with you all I have yet to participate in an event. After sitting down and visiting with Al and Ross that will surely change. The concept of using the "playing the ghost" method for practice has been around for a long time. Years ago, world champion Mike Sigel made a set of instructional videos called Perfect Pool. In his Perfect 8-Ball and Perfect 9-Ball videos he would break, and if he didn't have good shape he would take ball-in-hand after the break and continue to run out while explaining the run and how to get there. (I still have mine on VHS.)

If you have a table at home and live



in an area where the pool rooms are still closed like I do here in California, I recommend you take a look at Playing the Ghost on Facebook and see if it

stay safe and keep the cue ball rollin'...

Ready to play the ghost? Visit

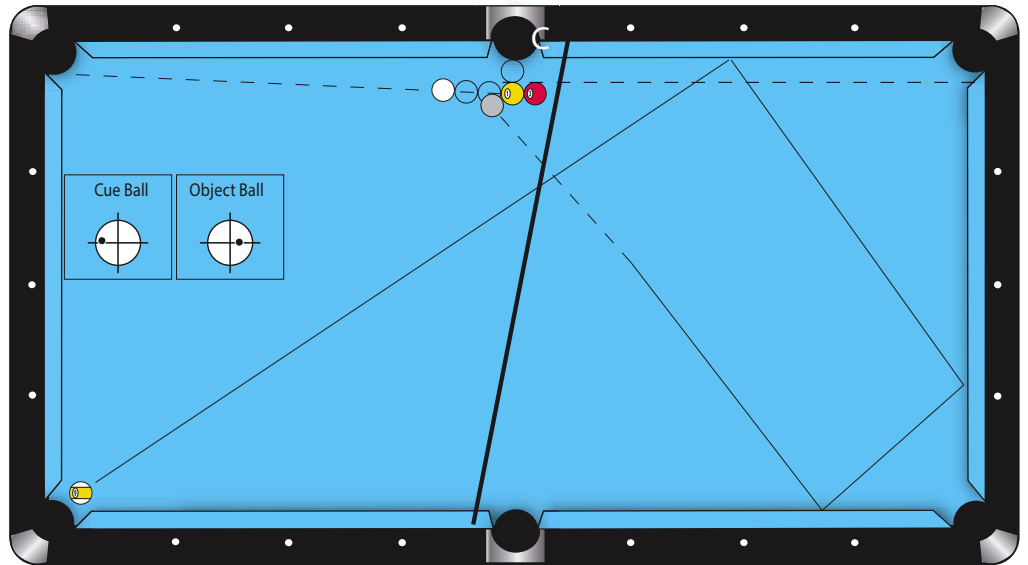
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/531091204213166>



Over, Around, and Under

by Nick Nikolaidis

Want to see how Nick makes this shot? Log on to: poolmag.com, OR watch it HERE in your Ezine! If you have a shot you'd like Nick to try, send it to us at shari@poolmag.com.



Learning to use another ball as ramp has its rewards. It can get you out of a pickle and even a game winner! This month's shot will push you to learn how to use another ball as a ramp and control the outcome.

The Execution:

Begin by placing two balls in front of the side pocket with the first ball on the center line and one ball from the pocket cut. The second ball will be frozen and follow the alignment as indicated. The game winner is positioned as a hanger at the bottom right-hand corner. Last, the cue ball is spaced two

balls from the first ball and aligned to the lower left-hand corner pocket as shown. Don't forget to place a bridge across the table from side to side.

Using a regular cue, elevate your cue slightly and fire away with a medium-hard stroke using the reference markers on the diagram for both the cue ball and object ball.

The first ball heads off the billiard in the side pocket, with the second ball combo in the corner while the cue ball will jump over the bridge, travel three rails, under the bridge and pocket the nine to win the game.

You may need to adjust your speed and cut slightly, these variables are table dependent.

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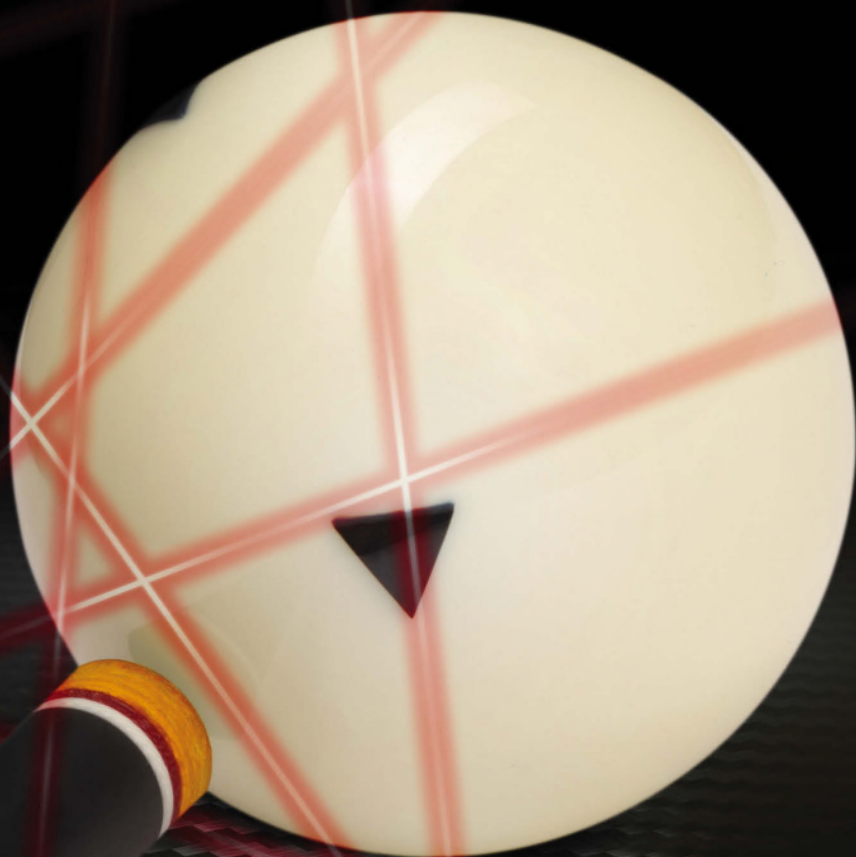


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POOL & BILLIARD MAGAZINE'S PLAYERS OF THE YEAR MDCCCLXXVIII - MMXX

1878	CYRILLE DION	1945	WILLIE MOSCONI	1990	KIM DAVENPORT
1879	SAMUEL F. KNIGHT	1946	IRVING CRANE	1990	EARL STRICKLAND
1880	ALONZO MORRIS	1947	WILLIE MOSCONI	1990	EWA MATAYA-LAURANCE
1881	GOTTLIEB WAHLSTROM	1948	WILLIE MOSCONI	1991	BUDDY HALL
1882	ALBERT FREY	1949	JAMES CARAS	1991	ROBIN BELL-DODSON
1885	ALBERT FREY	1950	WILLIE MOSCONI	1992	JOHNNY ARCHER
1884	J.L. MALONE	1951	WILLIE MOSCONI	1992	VIVIAN VILLARREAL
1885	J.L. MALONE	1952	WILLIE MOSCONI	1995	JOHNNY ARCHER
1886	ALBERT FREY	1953	WILLIE MOSCONI	1993	LOREE JON HASSON
1887	ALFREDO DE ORO	1954	WILLIE MOSCONI	1994	NICK VARNER
1888	FRANK POWERS	1955	IRVING CRANE	1994	JEANETTE LEE
1889	ALFREDO DE ORO	1956	WILLIE MOSCONI	1995	EFREN REYES
1890	H. MANNING	1957	WILLIE MOSCONI	1995	LOREE JON HASSON
1891	FRANK POWERS	1958	ART CRANFIELD	1996	JOHNNY ARCHER
1892	ALFREDO DE ORO	1959	LUTHER LASSITER	1996	C.J. WILEY
1893	ALFREDO DE ORO	1960	IRVING CRANE	1996	ALLISON FISHER
1894	ALFREDO DE ORO	1961	LUTHER LASSITER	1997	JOSE PARICA
1895	WILLIAM CLEARWATER	1962	JACK BRIET	1997	ALLISON FISHER
1896	FRANK STEWART	1963	LUTHER LASSITER	1998	BUDDY HALL
1897	GRANT EBY	1964	LUTHER LASSITER	1998	FRANCISCO BUSTAMANTE
1898	JEROME KEOUGH	1965	JOE BALSIS	1998	ALLISON FISHER
1899	ALFREDO DE ORO	1966	CICERO MURPHY	1999	EFREN REYES
1900	ALFREDO DE ORO	1967	JAMES CARAS	1999	ALLISON FISHER
1901	FRANK SHERMAN	1967	DOROTHY WISE	2000	EARL STRICKLAND
1902	WILLIAM CLEARWATER	1968	JOE BALSIS	2000	ALLISON FISHER
1903	GRANT EBY	1968	DOROTHY WISE	2001	COREY DEUEL
1904	ALFREDO DE ORO	1969	ED KELLEY	2001	KAREN CORR
1905	JEROME KEOUGH	1969	DOROTHY WISE	2002	RALF SOUQUET
1906	JOHN HORGAN	1970	STEVE MIZERAK	2002	ALLISON FISHER
1907	THOMAS HUESTON	1970	DOROTHY WISE	2003	JOHNNY ARCHER
1908	FRANK SHERMAN	1971	STEVE MIZERAK	2003	ALLISON FISHER
1909	JOHN KLING	1971	DOROTHY WISE	2004	JOHNNY ARCHER
1910	JEROME KEOUGH	1972	STEVE MIZERAK	2004	ALLISON FISHER
1911	ALFREDO DE ORO	1972	JEAN BALUKAS	2005	CHIA-CHING WU
1912	EDWARD RALPH	1973	LOU BUTERA	2005	ALLISON FISHER
1913	BENJAMIN ALLEN	1973	JEAN BALUKAS	2006	THORSTEN HOHMANN
1914	BENJAMIN ALLEN	1974	RAY MARTIN	2006	ALLISON FISHER
1916	JOHN LAYTON	1974	JEAN BALUKAS	2007	SHANE VAN BOENING
1917	FRANK TABERSKI	1975	DALLAS WEST	2007	ALLISON FISHER
1918	FRANK TABERSKI	1975	JEAN BALUKAS	2008	MIKA IMMONEN
1919	RALPH GREENLEAF	1976	TOM JENNINGS	2008	KELLY FISHER
1920	RALPH GREENLEAF	1976	JEAN BALUKAS	2009	MIKA IMMONEN
1921	RALPH GREENLEAF	1977	TOM JENNINGS	2009	JASMIN OUSCHAN
1922	RALPH GREENLEAF	1977	JEAN BALUKAS	2010	DARREN APPLETON
1923	RALPH GREENLEAF	1978	RAY MARTIN	2010	JASMIN OUSCHAN
1924	RALPH GREENLEAF	1978	JEAN BALUKAS	2011	RALF SOUQUET
1925	FRANK TABERSKI	1979	STEVE MIZERAK	2011	GA YOUNG KIM
1926	RALPH GREENLEAF	1979	JEAN BALUKAS	2012	SHANE VAN BOENING
1927	ERWIN RUDOLPH	1980	NICK VARNER	2012	KELLY FISHER
1928	RALPH GREENLEAF	1980	JEAN BALUKAS	2013	THORSTEN HOHMANN
1929	RALPH GREENLEAF	1981	MIKE SIGEL	2013	KELLY FISHER
1930	ERWIN RUDOLPH	1981	LOREE JON HASSON	2014	SHANE VAN BOENING
1931	RALPH GREENLEAF	1982	NICK VARNER	2014	GA YOUNG KIM
1932	RALPH GREENLEAF	1982	VICKI PASKI	2015	SHANE VAN BOENING
1933	ERWIN RUDOLPH	1983	MIKE SIGEL	2015	GA YOUNG KIM
1934	ANDREW PONZI	1983	JEAN BALUKAS	2016	SHANE VAN BOENING
1935	JAMES CARAS	1984	EARL STRICKLAND	2016	ALLISON FISHER
1936	JAMES CARAS	1984	JEAN BALUKAS	2017	JAYSON SHAW
1937	RALPH GREENLEAF	1985	WADE CRANE	2017	SIMING CHEN
1938	JAMES CARAS	1986	JEAN BALUKAS	2018	SHANE VAN BOENING
1939	JAMES CARAS	1987	EARL STRICKLAND	2018	GA YOUNG KIM
1940	ANDREW PONZI	1987	JEAN BALUKAS	2019	JOSHUA FILLER
1941	WILLIE MOSCONI	1988	EARL STRICKLAND	2019	KELLY FISHER
1942	IRVING CRANE	1988	LOREE JON HASSON	2020	DENNIS ORCULLO
1943	ANDREW PONZI	1989	NICK VARNER	2020	ALLISON FISHER
1944	WILLIE MOSCONI	1989	LOREE JON HASSON		



A Most Unusual Player of the Year Season

by Phil Capelle

The 2020 season will be remembered by pool fans for Covid-19 and its impact on the schedule of professional tournaments. The women were restricted to one major event and a smattering of smaller events, including several played in the virtual pool format. All of the big money men's and women's events in the Far East were canceled, so Siming Chen, possibly the top female player in the world, did not play at all.

The men's events were similarly impacted. As a result, none of the Asian players made it into our top three in the men's or women's candidates for Player of the Year.

Now that we have dispensed with the Covid asterisk, let's take a look at the seasons of our finalists, and winners:

Dennis Orcollo's Wins and Seconds

Music City Classic	Second to Skyler Woodward
Midnight Madness	Won - 8 players winner takes all
DCC Master of Table	Won - Billy Thorpe 2 nd
DCC Banks	Won - Evan Lunda 2 nd
Texas Open 10-Ball	Won - Warren Kiamco 2 nd
Scotty Townsend 10-Ball	Won - Aloysius Yapp 2 nd
Cue Time Shootout	Won - Tony Chohan 2 nd
Aramith/Simonis 1-Poc.	Second to Alex Pagulayan
Aramith/Simonis 10-Ball	Second to Alex Pagulayan
Texas Open 1-Pocket	Second to Roberto Gomez
Texas Open 9-Ball	Won - Billy Thorpe 2 nd

MEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR Dennis Orcollo

Our Men's Player of the Year is Dennis Orcollo. After finishing third in our POY selections in 2018, he wins his first in 2020 at age 41. The key was a display of brilliant play that came in two big bursts that ran from January 15 through March 14, and from September 11 through November 22. Indeed, while many sat at home for most of the year, Orcollo played in far more events, and he played consistently well in nearly every tournament. As proof, Orcollo recorded six wins, four seconds, and four thirds. That adds up to 14 top three finishes in 18 starts! In two of his other four events Orcollo still finished in the top ten!

Orcollo's season consisted largely of clusters of events at one site. He began with a win and a second to Skyler Woodward at two Music City tournaments. Looking back, we can see that his case for POY was largely built at his next series of events at the Derby City Classic. Orcollo began with a win in the Bank Pool division, then placed 16th in the One Pocket division. So, to win Master of the Table, he would need a strong showing in 9 Ball and he came through in the clutch with a solid tie for third. In sum, Orcollo earned \$41,550 for his nine days of play at the DCC.

His next win came at the Texas Open 10-Ball where he beat fellow

Filipino Warren Kiamco in the finals. Orcollo completed February with a third at the Andy Mercer Memorial. In early March Orcollo won the Scotty Townsend 10-Ball over Singapore's Aloysius Yapp. He also took third in the One Pocket division. No events were played in April through August, a five-month dry spell thanks to the virus.

After his enforced vacation, Orcollo resumed his winning ways with a big challenge match win over Roberto Gomez. He captured the Cue Time Shootout by beating Tony Chohan in the finals. His September concluded with another one-on-one win, this one over John Hennessee. At the Aramith/Simonis Classic, he was runner-up to Alex Pagulayan in both the One Pocket and the 10-Ball divisions.

Next up was a race to 120 against Shane Van Boening. Orcollo fell far behind, but then upped his pace of play, got into dead stroke, and ended up nipping Shane at the wire, 120-119! A few days later Orcollo won the Texas 9-Ball over Billy Thorpe, and took second in the One Pocket division. Orcollo finished his big year with a third in the Meucci Classic 10-Ball, and his worst finish of the year, a 17th in the Meucci 9-Ball. Adding it up, Orcollo won \$84,530 in tournament competition and another 80K in three marathon challenge matches.



Orcollo's Game

Orcollo is one of the most versatile players in pro pool. In 2020 he won twice in 9-Ball, two times playing 10-Ball, and one each in Bar Table 9-Ball and Bank Pool. And, he finished second twice at One Pocket and one time each at 10-Ball and Bar Table 9-Ball. That translates to wins and/or seconds in five different forms of competition.

I am going to put on my instructor hat and reveal a few of the secrets to Orcollo's fine play last year and throughout his long career. For starters, on most shots Orcollo surveys the table, often pointing his cue down his intended position line. This fixes the position route in his mind. On tougher shots he will assume his shooting position to gather additional information on the shot,

before settling into his final stance.

On his final forward stroke Orcollo eliminates all possible shot-wrecking tension by literally throwing his cue into contact. If you watch him closely, you will see that his hold hand is further back on the butt, post-contact, than it was when he finishes his final backstroke! Very few players, including the pros, use this technique – but that does not mean that it is not worth giving it a try. If you tend to tighten up on your final stroke, this could solve your problem.

Billy Thorpe

Thorpe opened his season with a solid fourth place finish at Turning Stone. Like Orcollo, Thorpe then enjoyed a big week at the Derby City Classic with winnings of \$32,650. Thorpe, the

2019 Bank Pool winner, came in third in 2020. Later in the week he pocketed \$8,000 for winning the Bank Pool Ring Game, a big favorite among the fans. Thorpe won the One Pocket event for the second time, adding \$16,000 to his bounty. In 2017 Thorpe, then just 20 years old, took the pool world by storm with his victory in the event. Thorpe had the inside track on Master of the Table going into the Nine Ball championship, but he finished 46th and ended up second to Orcollo.

If he had finished a little higher in 9-Ball, the closing event of the DCC, he would won Master of the Table. The additional boost of \$17,000 to his winnings for the year and the reduction of Orcollo's of the same amount would have left Orcollo and Thorpe with about the same amount – in which case Thorpe might have been our Player of the Year!

Thorpe took fourth at the Scotty Townsend Memorial 9-Ball. In his last big money tournament of the season, Thorpe finished second to Orcollo at the Texas Open 9-Ball. For the year, Thorpe won \$41,800, and added another 15K for being a member of the Team USA in the Mosconi Cup.

Jayson Shaw

Shaw, a six-time winner at Turning Stone, opened his 2020 campaign with a tie for fifth in this event. At the DCC he won the first event, the Bigfoot Challenge, which is played on a 10-foot table. His win netted him 16 grand. He recorded a 10th tie in Bank Pool and followed that with a tie for sixth in One Pocket.

He closed out a very successful run at the DCC with an 11th tie in 9-Ball, bringing his earnings for the nine days to \$20,900. A week after the DCC Shaw traveled to Europe to play a couple of events on the Euro Tour. He pocketed \$677 for tie for fifth in the Stella Artois Open.

Later in February Shaw earned \$5,039 for capturing the Dynamic Billard Treviso Open, beating Eklent Kaci in the finals. Shaw closed out his 2020 season of tournament play in March with a 17t in the Diamond Las Vegas Open. Shaw returned to Europe in the late fall to play a starring role on Team Europe, earning \$30,000.

2020 WPBA ASHTON TWINS CLASSIC - POY TOP 3

ALLISON FISHER			JENNIFER BARRETTA			KRISTINA TKACH		
AF	Opponents		JB	Opponent		TK	Opponent	
9	Stephanie Hefner	1	9	Stephanie Mitchell	2	6	Kyoko Sone	9
9	Laura Fisher	0	9	June Maiers	3	9	Ada Lio	4
9	Caroline Pao	1	9	Monica Webb	2	9	Ashley Burrows	4
9	Wei Tzu Chien	4	9	Brittany Bryant	7	9	Gail Eaton	1
8	Jennifer Barretta	9	9	Allison Fisher	8	9	Dawn Hopkins	8
9	Kristina Tkach	6	8	Allison Fisher	11	9	Caroline Pao	5
11	Jennifer Barretta	8	53	WIN: 61.6%	33	9	Line Kjorsvik	2
64	WIN: 68.8%	29				9	Brittany Bryant	6
						9	Wei Tzu Chien	4
						6	Allison Fisher	9
						84	WIN: 62.2%	51

Players of the Year: 2021

Continued from p. 26

WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR Allison Fisher

The WPBA Ashton Twins Classic in Calgary at the start of the year turned out to be THE event in 2020, eclipsing all other women's tournaments in both prize money and stature. A big reason, besides the year's strongest field, was the total absence of the big money events that are typically held in China.

In hindsight we can now see that the race for Women's Player of the Year honors essentially started and ended with the season opener. With the lack of other big events to cover, I decided to take a closer look at the performances of our top three candidates for POY in the Ashton Twins Classic:

Kristina Tkach

Let's start with Kristina Tkach, 22, of Russia, a global player who, in a few short years, has developed an enthusiastic base of fans worldwide. As an example of her desire to help our sport grow, and her responsiveness to the media, when I asked her what she thought of the event, she said, "It was truly an amazing tournament organized on a high professional level and held in one of the most beautiful places in the world - Canada. Absolutely loved it."

In her opener, Kristina drew Kyoko Sone, a very strong player from Japan - and she lost, 6-9. As fans of bracket sports know, an early loss can lead to a long journey on the one loss side. But Kristina was up to the task as she rattled

off eight straight wins before losing to Allison Fisher, 6-9. Her streak did, however, earn her a place in the top three. The most impressive of Tkach's other three starts was a third in the Maryland State 8-Ball Bar Table Championship in a field of mostly strong male players.

Jennifer Barretta

Jennifer Barretta opened up with five straight match wins in the Ashton Twins Classic, including a double-hill victory over Allison Fisher. Her other victims included perennial WPBA stalwarts Monica Webb and Brittany Bryant. After earning her place in the hot seat, Barretta waited for the winner of the loser's bracket. In the finals Fisher prevailed by three games, 11-8.

A year later Jennifer told me, "The Ashton Twins Classic was a great event. I played well and finished in second place. That was disappointing, but it did make my ranking #1. That wasn't my first win over her (Allison), but the same thing happened in another tournament. Both times I beat her, I had to play her again in the same tournament and I lost."

I suggested that she reverse the outcomes and she said, "Why not win them both?!"

In the rest of her abbreviated season Barretta scored an impressive win over Joey Korsiak on her way to a 17th at Turning Stone, an event filled with leading male players. And she was second to Kelly Fisher in a Virtual pool event.



precisely and carefully into her stance. A series of smooth warm-up strokes prepare her to stroke accurately to and through the cue ball. And, best of all, she holds her follow through for as long as anyone, which ensures that she will not prematurely jump up, which can lead to an assortment of problems.

Kelly Fisher: The Queen of Virtual Pool!

Kelly Fisher has earned Pool & Billiard Magazine's Player of the Year four times in the last dozen years, including last year's award. And, to add icing to her cake, she was voted into the BCA's Hall-Of-Fame in 2020. While largely inactive on the tournament trail, Fisher dominated the Covid-19 inspired virtual tour, winning three straight events in this fledgling form of competition.

One of my big arguments for pool is that amateurs and pros can enjoy long careers of top-flight play. In 2020 the evidence comes in the ages of our top six finishers. At the start of they were: Kristin Tkach, 21. Billy Thorpe, 23. Jayson Shaw, 31. Dennis Orcollo, 41. Jennifer Barretta, 51. Allison Fisher, 51.

Now, with 2020 in the review mirror, hopefully the virus will subside and we can get back to seeing our men and women pro heroes on a far more regular basis!

Allison Fisher

This brings us to Allison Fisher, our 2020 Player of the Year. With this award she has run her total number of POYs to 13! She won five straight from 1996-2000, and then six more in a row from 2002-2007. Her last two have come in 2016 and 2020.

Allison won this year's award based on her play in the Ashton Twins Classic. She opened with four straight wins by a combined score of 36-6! She then lost to Barretta, so she had to play Tkach, who she beat as mentioned above. And then she prevailed over Barretta. Looking back at her long and illustrious career, Fisher won her first event on the WPBA tour in 1996, and her latest—though probably not her last—in 2020. That's a span of 25 seasons which, among the legends of sports,

is the kind of longevity that made Jack Nicklaus the greatest golfer ever.

When I asked Allison what this title meant to her, she had nothing but great things to say about the event. According to Ms. Fisher, "The Ashton Twins' classic in Calgary was one of my favorite arenas anywhere in the world to play. The fans were amazing and Canada holds a special place in my heart. On a personal level, I played some of my best pool in the event and it was special because it meant I've won tournaments in every decade I've competed."

One of the reasons why Allison, who was 51 last season when she won at Calgary, has been able to stay at or near the top for so long are her rock-solid fundamentals. She, like Orcollo, approaches every shot like a consummate pro. She meticulously makes her plans and then, without fail, follows her routine as she settles





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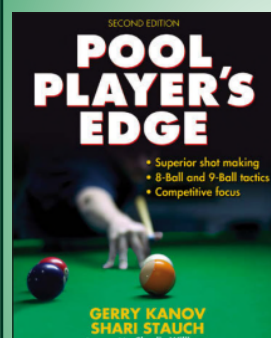
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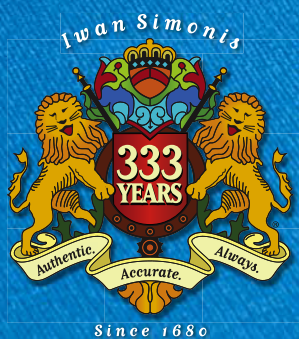
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7	8 	9 Happy B-Day BCA Hall of Famer Gerda Gregerson Legendary Player Marshall Carpenter	10	11	12	13
14 HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!	15 	16	17 	18 	19 Happy B-Day BCA Hall of Famer Danny DiLiberto	20 Legendary Player Wade Crane Born 1944 
21 BCA Hall of Famer Larry "The Iceman" Hubbart Born 1941	22 	23	24 Happy B-Day BCA Hall of Famer Allison Fisher	25 	26 Happy B-Day Hall of Famers Ewa Laurance Ray Martin	
28 	<h2>February's Pool-O-Scope</h2> <p>Guided by the sign of the 2 BALL? Pool is a game best played by two. TIP: Practicing alone? Pretend there's two of you: Break, shoot 'til you miss, then be your own opponent. Pros call this "Playing the Ghost." While you're at it, celebrate all the amazing Hall of Famers with birthdays this month!</p>					

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