

DESPITE SHORT NOTICE, BCA STATE TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS!

C.J. Jerome

The BCA State Tournament, one of the highlights on the league player's calendar, was nearly cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances affecting the Board. Once the news began to spread, frustrated players responded in huge numbers. BCA league members have a lot of heart, and they weren't taking "not this year" for an answer. The Board responded swiftly. In collaboration with Dean Roeseler of *Dr. Pool Promotions*, Greg Thornton of *Statewide Billiards* and the *Quality Inn* at Houghton Lake, the BCA state tournament came to fruition the weekend of March 27-30, and the number of players that participated on such short notice was amazing!

The event opened Thursday evening with 17 teams vying for the Scotch Doubles title. Master teams had to give one on the wire (and there were six in this event). Races were 5/4 in the winner's bracket and 4/3 in the loser's. Tom "Kollins" and Heather Tompkins went toe-to-toe with Angel Romo and Dawn Fital in the finals, which were held late the next night. Both teams came out swinging, running racks back to back. Kollins/Tompkins then pulled to a 4-2 lead and, for a moment, it looked like the match was in the bag. But veteran players Romo and Fital were not to be taken so lightly. They kept the pressure on all the way to a hill-hill match. The last game see-sawed back and forth with tough safeties, but Romo/Fital snagged the win and the 2008 Michigan State Scotch Doubles crown. (This was an especially sweet victory for Fital. It was her second consecutive BCA Scotch Doubles title. Last year she won it with Marc Roedel.)

In the meantime, the nine-ball tournament was underway with 43 players and 19 of them were masters. In all singles events, masters had to give one on the wire. Races were double-elimination, 7/6 and 6/5. Although this format was the biggest complaint of the tournament, it didn't stop the players from participating and, if anything, it pushed everyone to play that much better. In the end, Lupe Rosas occupied the hot seat with Ron Prime hot on his trail. The finals weren't to be played until late the next day, however, so they decided to split the money, and Lupe Rosas was declared the BCA 9-Ball Singles champion.

On Friday, the 8-ball singles competitions were held. In the men's division, there were 77 participants and 22 of them were masters. The races were 5/4 and 4/3. Billy Pinion won his way to the hot seat while Pat White was plowing through several loser's brackets to make it back to the finals. Ultimately, they decided to split the

money as well, although they played a short race to determine this year's champion, and it was Billy Pinion who was awarded the BCA State 8-Ball Singles title.

There were 21 competitors in the women's division, including nine masters. Races were the same as the men's (5/4 and 4/3). Although the field was small, it was tough with several of Michigan's and one of Canada's most talented female players in attendance. India Slaughter, living up to her name, showed no mercy, destroying her opponents all the way to the hot seat. Carol DiSalvo (a master player, and one of Slaughter's victims) was not ready to roll over, however, and won her way back to the finals, armed and dangerous, pulverizing Slaughter 5-0 in the first race. Slaughter refused to lay down, though. She would not relinquish her hold on the title she had already envisioned, and after losing six straight games, came back to defeat DiSalvo 3-1 to take the State Women's Championship crown.

On Saturday, the team events began and, unfortunately, that is where the short notice for the tournament hit the hardest. Only four teams showed up for the women's event, but they were strong and determined, nonetheless. Because of the low number of entrants, a round-robin format was played. Every team played each other and at the end of the contest, *Felt Up* (a master team) and *ICA Shot* (a non-master team) were tied. A play-off ensued with each team putting up three players for a race-to-two tie-breaker. With the odds weighing heavily against *ICA Shot* (with no master players), *Felt Up* got the job done, earning the BCA State Women's Team championship title. Good job, ladies!

In the men's division, there were 22 teams and six were considered masters. The races were 13/11 in the winner's bracket and 11/9 in the loser's bracket. Many were unhappy about the handicap, feeling that a two game spot against a master team wasn't enough. When the race was on, however, it didn't matter. Rack upon beautiful rack was run. Palms were sweating and hearts were racing. With so many exciting matches, it was hard to pick which ones to watch. The action never stopped—all the way to the last game. The finals pit *Player's Sports Bar* against *Marty's Bar*, soaring to a climatic hill-hill bout. At the conclusion of that exciting match, it was *Player's* who became the BCA Michigan State Men's Team champions. Congratulations, guys! Thanks for the thrills!



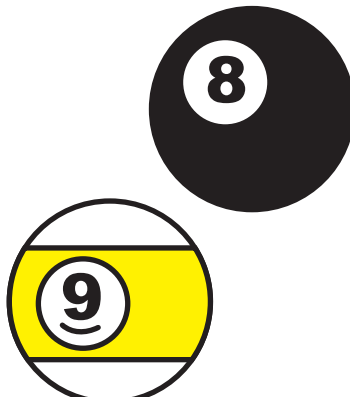
The final results and payouts were:

Scotch Doubles:

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| 1. | Angel Romo ,Dawn Fital | \$475 |
| 2. | Tom "Kollins" Kalinowski Jr., Heather Tompkins | \$325 |
| 3. | Randy Seid, Karol Grove | \$200 |
| 4. | Cecil Dillon, C.J. Jerome | \$100 |

9-Ball:

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| 1. | Lupe Rosas (split) | \$500 |
| 2. | Ron Prime (split) | \$350 |
| 3. | Paul Rolfe | \$230 |
| 4. | Joe Henry | \$170 |
| 5. | Rick Schroeder | \$130 |
| 6. | Ron Jonovick | \$130 |
| 7. | Randy Hollingsworth | \$90 |
| 8. | Steve Semelbauer | \$90 |
| 9. | Brad Brewer | \$65 |
| 10. | Dan Bell | \$65 |
| 11. | Billy Pinion | \$65 |
| 12. | Rod Garrison | \$65 |

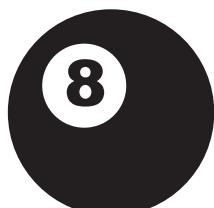
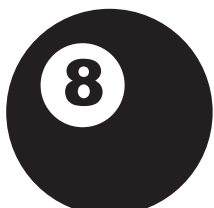


8-Ball (Men's):

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| 1. | Billy Pinion (split) | \$600 |
| 2. | Pat White (split) | \$450 |
| 3. | Angel Romo | \$300 |
| 4. | Randy Hollingsworth | \$200 |
| 5. | Joe Henry | \$150 |
| 6. | Lyle Western | \$150 |
| 7. | Steve Semelbauer | \$120 |
| 8. | Brad Brewer | \$120 |
| 9. | Paul Garcia | \$95 |
| 10. | Cecil Dillon | \$95 |
| 11. | Ken Brisbon | \$95 |
| 12. | Matt Beckwith | \$95 |
| 13. | Rick Schroeder | \$70 |
| 14. | Doc Bergeson | \$70 |
| 15. | Jim Lifford | \$70 |
| 16. | Marc Roedel | \$70 |

8-Ball (Women's):

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| 1. | India Slaughter | \$325 |
| 2. | Carol DiSalvo | \$210 |
| 3. | Angela Mears | \$140 |
| 4. | Heather Tompkins | \$75 |
| 5. | Jill Powell | \$45 |
| 6. | Irene Henry | \$45 |



Men's 8-Ball Team:

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|----|---------------------|--------|---|
| 1. | Player's Sports Bar | \$1100 | Jerry "Jedl" Aniszczyk, Randy Hollingsworth, Jim Smith, Tim Lichon, Rick Storck, Rick Mahalic |
| 2. | Marty's Bar | \$900 | Rick Schroeder, Ron Jonovick, Mike Zygmunt, Ron Prime, Lyle Western |
| 3. | Hustlin | \$750 | Joe Henry, Billy Pinion, Danny Barnes, Craig McPartlin, Kenny Massicotte |
| 4. | J&H Construction | \$600 | Bob Wheeler, Jim Knapp, Chris Black, Jim Lifford, Dale Maxey |

Women's 8-Ball Team:

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|----|----------|-------|--|
| 1. | Felt Up | \$425 | Angela Mears, Sharon Russeau, Karen Damron, Irene Henry ,Lupe Harpster |
| 2. | ICA Shot | \$215 | Linda Middleton, Beverly Inman,Jan Valley,Vickie Irving |



It is truly remarkable that such an outstanding event was put together so quickly. Aside from the regular events mentioned above, there were also mini tournaments, including blind-draw Scotch doubles, singles 8-ball and singles 9-ball. If that didn't keep you busy enough, you could have joined Kip and Carol's 3-person team event or the special \$25 9-ball tournament. Other perks included Lupe Rosas doing on-site cue repairs, the hotel (with pool,

spa and jacuzzi) offered discounted room rates, and restaurants within walking distance. All-in-all, it was an extremely well-run tournament with very few complaints. A special thanks to Dr. Pool of *Dr. Pool Promotions* (www.drpool.net) and Greg Thornton (*Statewide Billiards* - 231-420-0783) for coordinating this event with the Board for the Michigan BCA league players.



DID YOU KNOW...

- That the BCA Board of Directors is made up entirely of volunteers? They are not paid positions.
- That at the state tournament, 'other' expenses include liability insurance and referees? You can cut expenses by not hiring official referees (which is what the Board did this year), but you can't cut the insurance.
- That your money for membership dues is sent to Nationals, but your weekly fees go to the league operators? They (alone) decide how much money comes back to you at the end of the season. There is no mandate on how much that has to be.
- That the reason the state event has no added money is because the players (through league operators) have not set aside money for the tournament and currently there are no outside sponsors?
- That the BCA is known for having the strongest competition of all nationally organized leagues?
- That the Michigan BCA has its own website? Please visit www.bcaofmichigan.com for more information. You may request copies of financial statements, as well.)



Currently, the Michigan BCA Board is looking for more Directors. Board Directors usually meet once per month between September and January, and twice a month thereafter (if needed) until the state tournament. Meetings are held at a central location for those attending. Although these are not paid positions, if tournament funds permit, Directors are reimbursed for food and mileage. If you are

interested in becoming a BCA Board Director, please contact Jerry Potvin or Brenda Parker through the website. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about your league operators or other league operations, contact the Board. They are committed to making your BCA experience a fun and pleasant one.

