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Donnie Edwards better known as the Waterdog was an American amateur pool player who is regarded as one of the best during his peak years. Donnie's life was full of struggles to make ends meet and the saddest part is that he wasn't able to do justice with his immense talent. Waterdog was a kind of player who gets straight 5 shelves without losing a single ball and just pay for it at the club. Born into a troubled family in Waterbury Connecticut, Donny's dad was addicted to alcohol, while his mother suffered from heroin addiction. He left home at the age of twelve and took refuge in Cue and Cushion. Away from home, they do not have a proper diet that suffered from several diseases such as bronchitis, asthma and iron deficiency. Throughout his childhood, he was optimistic and prayed to God to give him the talent to be excellent at something in Life. In addition to all sports, he realized that the pool felt natural to him. He will get a few dollars from his mother and will go to Cue and Pillow every day to play with experienced players. The owner of Cue and Pillow spotted the talent in the boy and allowed him to play at his club. At just one year at the age of 13 Waterdog started going to New York at the weekend to play with good players. He slept at the pool table or in cheap hotel rooms and had only one ambition and that was to become a world champion. His first mentor was Gene Nagy, champion of the state of New Jersey, but he tried to charge him for some food that shut Donny out of him. He played with beginners and had good money. Soon the authorities were after him for skipping school and his grades were slipping. The young man flew from Waterbury to Norfolk for a few hundred dollars. He had a tough time at Norfolk, but he managed to make a living winning games in the group stage. Still considered a child of looks, players would bet \$20 to \$30. By the end of his teens, he realized that big money isn't in Norfolk so he moved to California, where he earned his nickname Waterdog because he was from Waterdog. Soon Waterdog got addicted to heroin because it was widespread in the area. A kid who wanted to be the world champion by the end of his teens goal had been made to work only on his heroin addiction. He was playing to earn \$30-\$40 a day and would buy his drugs. He pushed himself to the limit to get his heroin by not having meals for days. Years passed like this and

waterdog addition took a tribute to him. Once upon a time a he who will win against no one lost to the recruits. The coordination of his muscles had suffered en masse over the years. The looks were unrecognizable. The drugs just got a destination pool champion. It was a shame and a disappointment. The end was coming, methadone had eaten him from the inside. He had a broken one. Broken. That made his life more difficult. For some people, sincere friendship and luck can change the course of life. With all the talent he had, he lost someone whose words would force him to leave his addition. On August 9 or 10, 2006, he died in a nursing home in Chicago. The Super-Famous Cheats, Gamblers and Pool Sharks Who were the greatest cheats of all time? Who were the best pool sharks ever to take a cue? The two aren't necessarily the same: a big hustler like Minnesota Fats can earn tons of money, but he can't hope to play the best sharks yet. On the contrary, a pool shark on a roll can't be rushed if it makes every shot in sight! A short list of the top ten net hustlers, cheats and proposal players should include Minnesota Grease, Titanic's Alvin Thompson, and Eddie Allen's Ronnie Fast. But they weren't the great kings run-out, and couldn't compete on a nine-ball with insane shotmakers like Saint Louis Louie Roberts, Earthquake Keith McCready, Efrén The Wizard Reyes, Earl The Pearl Strickland and Buddy The Rifleman Hall. In addition, there are sharks in my top twenty list below that I rank higher than anyone named so far. Ironically the worst player may be the best pool shark of all time, while the best nine-ball player may have been the wimpiest. The Top Ten Pool Hustlers of all time (based not on skill, on its own, but on the ability to make games and make money) #10) Buddy Hall aka the Rifleman didn't bother to hustle anyone; in its prime spotted top advantages of seven and still beat them like drums! #9) Ditto for Earl The Pearl Strickland, except that it was obviously unfair for him to pin up his long, flowing locks with bobby-shaking pins like a dork—and then still drill hi signals! #8) Alfred Peter Pan Frey was the first American pool hustler; his baby-face has edded competitors to their respective performances. Was it fair for him to play shape before anyone else even knew what it was? #7) Efrén The Magician Reyes disguised his identity as one of the best pool players on the planet when he began to rob American pros. #6) Vernon Burnie Elliot has been called the best secret shark of all time. #5) Don Willis was another legendary secret monster player. #4) James Evans could not play in a pro tournament during the dark days of separation, but he will challenge the winners, drill them, and still receive the prize money! #3) Titanic Thompson was a legendary 'proposal gambler' who claimed to have killed people who opposed his proposals. But he said they'd agree they deserved what they got! #2) Ronnie Allen was (at least according to him) the original for Eddie Felson's Fast in the film The Hustler. #1) Minnesota's Rudolf Grease Wanderone helped create huge public interest in the pool; Just as Ronnie Allen claimed to be the base. Base, a character in The Hustler, and even stole the name Minnesota Fats from the fictional character! Was that the biggest fuss of all time? Well, maybe until Donald Trump makes the presidency! Actors who played pool sharks: W.C. Fields made his acting debut in the 1915 silent film Pool Sharks; Paul Newman starred as the fast eddie fellow in the 1961 film The Hustler? Jackie Gleason starred as Minnesota Fats in The Hustler; straight pool legend Willie Mosconi had a cameo in The Hustler; Minnesota Fats played himself in the 1971 film The Player; James Coburn and Omar Sharif played big crooks in the 1980 film The Baltimore Bullet. Pros with cameos in Baltimore Bullet include Machine Gun Lou Butera, Irving The Crane Surgeon, Richie Florence, Allen Young Hoppe Hopkins, Pete Margo, Ray Cool Cat Martin, Jimmy Pretty Boy Floyd Mataya, Steve The Miz Mizerak, Willie Mr. Pool Mosconi, Jim King James Rempe and Mike Captain Hook Sigel; Johnny Cash played a pool shark in the 1984 film The Baron and the Child; Paul Newman playing an aging Fast Eddie Felson in the 1986 film The Color of Money; Tom Cruise starred as the young hotshot Vincent Lauria in the Color of Money; Keith McCready (a top pro) played Grady Seasons in The Color of Money; Grady Matthews (another pro) played Duke in The Color of Money; Steve Mizerak (another pro) played Duke in the color of money; Jim Mataya and Howard Vickery's pros had cameos in the color of money; Mike Massey (a legendary trick shooting artist) played St. Louis Louie Roberts in the 2002 film Poolhall Junkies, which featured Rod Steiger (in his last role) and Christopher Walken. Pool Shark Phraseology / Hustler Lexicon Sneaky Pete: a two-piece or three-piece cue that looks like a house cue when assembled Road Player: a shark good enough to go on the road and earn a living playing billiards for Shortstop money: a better than average player who isn't good enough to beat the top pros and money man street players, Banker or Backer: someone who puts money in exchange for a share of Easy Mark's winnings; someone who is ripe to be taken for a bundle of Spot money; a concession made by the (probably) best player to get the (probably) weaker player to play; for example, identifying the eight ball in a nine-ball game The Nuts: a point that makes a player almost certain to win Famous Hustler Quotes Identifying the greatest pool hustlers of all time can be difficult, since the better he was at hustling, the less likely he is to know how good he really was. But sometimes scammers use reverse psychology, trying to make their marks to believe that they overestimate their abilities. That's why Minnesota Fats said boastful things like... Beat me up? King Kong couldn't beat me! - Rudolf Wanderone, aka Minnesota Fat, playing U. J. Puckett, another notorious hustler It's interesting, I too that two of the most famous cheats of all time were utterly mythical: Fast Eddie Felson and Minnesota Fats. They were characters in the 1961 film The Hustler, one of the best drk sports films. Rudolf Wanderone later claimed to be Minnesota Fat and even changed his name to the flattering nickname. Ronnie Allen also claimed to be Quick Eddie. Were they really the originals, or did they do what they did best—that? I suspect the latter, but at this point of imagination it may have outweighed fact. Was it minnesota fats' biggest fuss claiming to be Minnesota Fats? If so, it was undoubtedly his most lucrative fuss. Here's an interesting comment on how the real hustlers end up earning what's not locked up: Things can come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle. - Abraham Lincoln, a self-described billiard addict murdered by another billiard addict, John Wilkes Booth Who were the best crooks? No one can ever trust something a real crook says. But we can risk educated guesses because the best scammers earn a lot more than they lose, and sooner or later the word spreads that it's hard to beat. So here's some reasonable speculation... I see a man shooting billiards for an hour. If he loses more than one sues, I know I can beat him. - Luther Wimp Lassiter, one of the best nine-ball players of all time If I ever had to have someone else shoot pool for my life, win, lose, live or die, the man who would like shooting for me is Don Willis.. - Luther Wimpy Lassiter (and yet Willis was trounced by the worst player, Harold Worst) My game is not a carnival. I'm simple and consistent, but dangerous. - Jose The Giant Killer Parica And here's a website dedicated to a hustler of a different stripe: The Best Donald Trump Jokes. According to TIME magazine, Donald Trump has the ability of the trust man to incorporate nuggets of truth into a welter of lies. Donald's father, Frederick Fred Trump, was also quite a con man, accused of overcharging the federal government \$3.7 million at the Beach Haven apartment complex, a huge windfall in 1950. Woody Guthrie, the famous folk singer, was one of Fred Trump's tenants, and wrote bitter songs about his racist owner, whom he called Old Trump, accusing him of discriminating against black Americans. Fred Trump was arrested at a KKK rally in 1927, and both he and his famous son for racism, violation of the Fair Housing Act, bribery of politicians and use of eminent domain to condemn the homes of small property owners. During his run for the presidency, Donald Trump wept crocodile tears for vets with disabilities after working very hard to sweep them off the streets around his ritzy Trump Tower for the past twenty years. Trump reminds me of Titanic Thompson, a very dangerous man who would do anything to win and make one at a time. Buck. Other famous scammers, fraudsters (trust men), bunko men, fraudsters and proposal players include Frank Abagnale (forger), Sheldon Adelson (casino tycoon worth \$24 billion), Amarillo Slim (cards), P. T. Barnum (pranks), David Blaine (magician), Beau Brummell (gambler, dandy and clotheshorse), Jeanne Carmen (golf trick shot artist), Casanova (farfighter), Lottie Deno (poker, inspiration for Miss Kitty of Gunsmoke fame), Wyatt Eer, James Frey (fraudulent memoir), Nick the Greek (high roller), Jimmy the Greek (oddsmaker), King Henry VIII (cards and dice, rumored to have played away the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral), Wild Bill Hickok (died holding aces and eight, the hand of the dead man), Benny Hinn (prophet and faith healer), James Hogue (crook), Doc Holliday (gambler and gunfighter), Harry Houdini (magician) , Calamity Jane (gambler and prostitute), Canada Bill Jones (three Monte cards), Archie Karas (poker), Don King (boxing), Victor Lustig (sold to the Eiffel Tower for scrap), Gregor MacGregor (sold a non-existent island to 250 settlers), Bernard Madoff (pyramid scheme), Richard Raskin (gambler), Bat Masterson (gambler and gunner), Vince McMahon (professional wrestling), Chris Moneymaker (card shark with a prophetic name), John Montague the fourth Earl of Sandwich (invented the sandwich to eat without interrupting his gambling) , Natwarial (sold the Taj Mahal and the House of Parliament of India), Kerry Packer (high roller), George C. Parker (he sold the Brooklyn Bridge many times), Charles Ponzi (pyramid scheme), Bobby Riggs (tennis), Arnold Rothstein, Soapy Smith (bunko), Ida Summers (cards), Titanic Thompson (proposal player), William Thompson (trust man), Edward Thorp (blackjack card count), Donald Trump (presidency and political swamp), compiled by Michael R. Burch In my dictionary, a hustler is someone who wins with his mind and cunning, while a shark is someone who outshoots the opposition. Louie Roberts wouldn't try to fool you. He'd come, he'd say, I'm Louie Roberts, the best pool player in the world. I'll give you the 7th ball. Let's play! Then if you weren't able to run seven balls with remarkable consistency, they would drill you and take your money. (And you probably wanted him, and I brag about getting punched by such a great player for the rest of your life!) Minnesota Fats probably earned more money than Louie Roberts, by outfoxing his opponents. Fats can get you drunk, find you with one that's done all your strength, and then keep leaving because of important dates every time you start moving on. (He is in accordance with the how he robbed Richie Florence when Florence was at the height of his powers). If Fats was betting against you, you'd better start asking what he knew you didn't have. If he couldn't get over you, he'd get over you. Still Still He could get over you, he'd make you track him down to the table. (And you'd probably like him and brag for the rest of your life about what a mythical crook he was!) Οι κορυφαίοι είσκοι καρχαρίες λιγνών (με μερικούς δεσμούς) #20) Δαβίδ Matlock (#1 σε ένα πίνακα φραγμών) Walter Lindrum (#1 της Αυστραλίας, Lindrum του 57 παγκόσμια ρεκόρ και έδωσε χιλιάδες εκθέσεις, συγκεντρώνοντας εκατομμύρια για φιλανθρωπικούς σκοπούς) #19) Rudolf Minnesota Fats Wanderone (#1 σε hustling και showmanship? Βοήθησε να δημιουργήσει τεράστιο δημόσιο ενδιαφέρον για την πίσνα) #12) Saint Louis Louie Roberts (#1 shotmaker? επίσης ένας μεγάλος hustler, showman, εκπαιδευτής και πρεσβευτής πίσιας) Keith Σσιαμός McCready (ένα άλλο μεγάλο shotmaker, run-out καλλιτέχνης και προσοικότητα) #17) Jose The Giant Killer Parica (#1 σε κλασιέτς? μεγάλος παίκτης χρήματα? έχει κερδίσει περισσότερα από 100 τουρνουά σε όλο τον κόσμο) #16) Steve The Miz Mizerak (το affable John Madden της πίσιας? ένα άλλο υπέροχο πρεσβευτή του παιχνιδιού) Allen Young Hoppe Hopkins (ένas μεγάλος παίκτης παρά ιδιόμορφο εγκεφαλικό επεισόδιο? επίσης μια εξαιρετική αναλύτης τηλεόραση) #15) Vernon Burnie Elliot (#1 μυστικός καρχαρία όλων των εποχών? Θα παίξει ο καθένας για τίποτα , anything) Don Willis (another legendary secret monster player) Dick Hunzecker (another legendary undercover player; Willie Mosconi προεβόησε τους φίλους να μην τον αντιμετωπίσει σε ευθεία πίσια) #14) Leonard Bugs Rucker (δίσαιερα ισχύρη στην τράπεζα και μία τσέπη) #13) John Rags Fitzpatrick (#1 σε μία τσέπη, σύμφωνα με τους θρούλους Eddie Taylor και Bill Weenie Beee Station) #12) Raymond Cullumens (#1 σε μπλιάρδο τριών μαζιλιαρίων στη σύγχρονη εποχή, με 24 παγκόσμια πρωταθλήματα, συμπεριλαμβανομένων 11 στη σειρά) Ronnie ο πύραυλος O'Sullivan (#1 στο ανούερε? Έπρεξε ένα τέλειο 147 σε 12 διαφορετικές επικυρωμένες περιπτώσεις και έχει 751 διαδεχόμενα αιώνια) #11) Johnny O Σκορπιός Τοξότης (#1 για την πραγματοποίηση δύσκολης βολής πισιάς ρουτίνας? μεγάλη μορφή? πίσια κρπίερα προσοικητομένο) #10) Mike Captain Hook Sigel (#1 σε ασφάλειες? σπάνια έχασε ένα makeable shot, ακόμη και υπό έντονη πίεση) #9) Ronnie Fast Eddie Allen (#1 στην εξουσία μια τσέτη , shooting with mop handles and other crazy spots) #8) Eddie The Knoxville Bear Taylor (#1 in the bank, almost as good in one pocket) #7) Earl The Pearl Strickland (#7 in a run-out nine-ball, a McEnroe-like talent though with similar temper tantrums) #6) Efrén The Wizard Reyes (#1 in rotation; great kicker? strong in all disciplines, including nine-ball, one pocket, even three billiard pads) #5) Buddy The Rifleman Hall (#1 for long-term spectacular consistency; rarely loses or gets out of line; more consistent than Reyes) #4) Alfredo de Oro (held world titles on three billiard pads and straight simultaneously several times) #3) Ralph The Showman Greenleaf (first charismatic superstar; star: sport with skill and pizzazz) #2) Luther Wimpy Lassiter (dominated the legendary Johnston City pool hustler tournament despite being in his fifties) Willie Mr. Pocket Billiard Mosconi (the undisputed king of the straight pool when straight pool was king, usually ran hundreds of balls) Willie King Hoppe (#1 in three pillow billiards; He won 51 world titles and held the high run for 50 years, set at an unheated table) James Evans (being black could not play in pro tournaments during the dark days of separation, but would challenge the winners, drill them, and still receive prize money!) Alfred M. Frey dominated the earliest American pocket pool pro tournament: fifteen ball, eight ball, 61-pool and continuous pool (the forerunner of the straight pool). #1) Harold the Best Worst (Lassiter and Taylor avoided him, other top professionals demanded mortal locks, but still everyone who played worse shook) There are no losers on the above list, just as there are no losers in Cooperstown or Canton. And good cases can be made for any of these high honorable mentions: Joe The Balsis Butcher, Jean Balukas, Jack Jersey Red Breit, Melvin Strawberry Brooks, Billy Cornbread Red Burge, Machine Gun Lou Buttera, Francisco D'Angio Bustamante, Jimmy Boy Wonder Cars, Irving The Deacon Crane, Arthur Babe Cranfield, Welker Cochran, Kim Davenport, Steve Davis, Allison The Duchess of Doom Fisher, Richie Florence, Stephen Hendry, Mika The Ice Larry Boston Shorty Johnson, Champagne Ed Kelly, Johnny Layton, Sang Chun Lee, Johnny Irish Lineen, Ray Cool Cat Martin, Mike Tennessee Tarzan Massey, Cowboy Jimmy Moore, James Cisero Murphy, Alex The L Von Pagulayan, Jim King James Rempe, Erwin Rudolph, Jake the Prodigy Schaefer Jr., Frank The Inexorable Snail Taberski, Alfie Taylor, Kentucky's Nick Conner Ionic trivia question : Was Harold Worst the best pool shark? Some keen observers saw him play like that, including Ronnie Quick Eddie Allen, Minnesota Fats, Champagne Ed Kelly, Jay Helfert, Freddy The Beard Bentivegna, Bill Mr. Three Pillows Smith, and Artie Bodendorf. And one might suggest that other guests, such as Luther Lassiter and Eddie Taylor, have endorsed Harold Worse as the best refusing to impersonate him. So the last player on the alphabetical list is definitely just as important. The best pool nickname of all time? Frank The relentless Tabersky Snail gets my vote. His name was also Sluggish. His fuss was to play so slowly and deliberately that he drove his competitors insane (or at least boiling crazy). The first pool tournament shooting clock was established because of the laggardly of his. He lost his world title in 1919 after officials set a one-minute time limit for shots, but returned to win four more titles in the late 1920s. 1920. His slow game (or perhaps because of it), Taberski was ranked number seven on the Billiard Digest list of the fifty greatest players of the century. And if his slow play was a psychological tactic, he could have been the biggest crook of his time to start! Every player on the list above, at his absolute best would be difficult for us mortals to beat, so the best player at any time is the one with the most talent, playing his best game, who has the hottest hand. But the best players were the ones who played at the highest levels the longest time. When Louie Roberts and Keith McCready were on they could play with anyone but not hit their top speed and maintain it consistently as the highest ranked players. If I had to pick a player to shoot for me with everything on the line, I'd pick Buddy Hall for his remarkable consistency and composure. But if I wanted to have fun, I'd choose the charismatic kings: Louie, Earthquake, Pearl. And if I just wanted to earn a lot of cash, hook or crook, I'd bet with Fats. Why aren't there women in my upper 20's? Not because I'm sexist, but because, for whatever reason, the best female players are still not as good as the best men. For example, Jean Balukas had a high straight pool run of 134, which is very good, but some of the men on my list have doubled or tripled that number. Willie Mosconi almost quadrupled it. But women narrow the gap. Ewa The Striking Viking has had the high straight pool run in the WPBA competition for many years, with 68 balls in 1992. More recently, Loore Jon Jones, Jennifer Chen and Jeanette Lee had runs in the range of 140 to 150+ consecutive pocket balls. Alfredo de Oro's high run in a tournament was only 82 balls, according to the New Illustrated Encyclopedia of Billiards, so things can get a little blurry. But there are hundreds of men, many of them unknown to the public, who have run 150 balls in a straight pool, so for now I'm going to stick to my guns and say that while there are some great female players, the best male players are even better by a comfortable margin. The best female shark I've ever seen playing is Alison The Duchess of Hamou Fisher. Don't gamble with her... or she'll bust you... Her name is Ewa Mataya Laurance, nee Ewa Svensson, the Impressive Viking. She is a BCA Hall of Fame pool player, and the wife of Jimmy Pretty Boy Floyd Mataya! And you really think you can get over that shark with your eyes out of your head? ... Her name is Anastasia Lupova. And don't even dream of any of these guys for money, regardless of what you wear... The best money players of all time: Ronnie Fast Eddie Allen, Billy Cornbread Red Burge, Vernon Burnie Elliot, Leonard Bugs Rucker, Titanic Thompson, Buddy The Rifleman Hall, Keith Earthquake McCready, Saint Louis Louie Roberts, Minnesota's Rudolf Fats Wanderone, Minnesota's Don Willis While Minnesota Fats many haven't been on the same level as run-out specialists like Ronnie Allen and Buddy Hall, when it came to money-making suggestions were second to none. The goal of hustling is to end up with the spoils, and by this measure Fats was world champion. Still, it's hard to imagine Fats trying to match Buddy Hall, much less beating him, on nine ball. Until you've received a wood from Mr. Buddy Hall, you don't know what a perfect pool it's about. - Alfie Taylor The most intimidating pool sharks of all time: Buddy The Rifleman Hall, Titanic Thompson The above photo is of Buddy The Rifleman Hall taken in 1986 by Billie Billing. Hall, the picture of tension, rarely seemed happy at a pool table, even when he was winning on a cakewalk (which he usually was). Titanic Thompson, aka Alvin Clarence Thomas, earned his nickname because when it comes to gambling, he was always plunging his opponents, whether in billiards, golf, dice, petals, cards, or various other suggestions. He allegedly killed five men (each of whom, according to him, would have admitted that they got what they deserved!). Minnesota Fats called him the greatest action man of all time. Ben Hogan said he was the best golf shooter he'd ever seen. When asked if he would become a golf pro, Titanic Thompson refused, claiming he couldn't afford the pay cut. Billy Cornbread Red Burge, circa 1982. Several of the black and white photos on this page were taken at the 1982 Dayton Nine Ball Open at Forest Park Billiards in Dayton, Ohio. The billiard room belonged to Joe Burns at the time. These stunning photos were taken by Mike Haines. photo editing was done by Bill Porter. My thanks to them for their excellent (and artistic) work. Leonard Bugs Racker, circa 1982. The best undercover cheats and players (the ones the general public still hasn't heard of): Richie Ambrose, Glenn Atwell, Smokey Bartlett, Jafar Basheer aka Patch Eye, Jerry Brock, Eugene Browning, Jack Cooney, Warren Monk Costanzo, Rod Surfer Curry, Vernon Bernie Elliott, Ricky Grick, Peter Gunn, Horace Harper, Bruno Harrison, Dennis Hatch, Larry Gabby Hill, Norman Hitch Hitchcock , Bud Hype, Tom Jennings, Bill Lawson, Dan Louie, Dick Lane, Frank Levy, Henry LotchaPopa McCloud Jr., Peter Margo, Jimmy Madge, Chuck Morgan, Johnny Morrow, Willie Manson, Gary The Bushwhacker Nolan, Reed Pierce, Gary Servil, Sam Soto, Gary Spaeth, Sonny Springer, Roy The Stanzioni Cook, Hippies Jimmy Reed, David Rhodes, Weldon Rodgers, Rodd, Denny Shercl, Ray Schultz, Bernie Schwartz, Randy The Terminator Smith, Greg Stevens, Greg Stevens , Jay Swanson, Toby Sweet, Mark Tadd, Danny High Heels Tator, Cheyenne Pete Trujillo, Cecil Twiggell, Howard Vickery, Nick the Indian Vlahos, C. J. Wiley, Don Willis, Willis, Roadplayer Wolfe, Harold The Best Worst, Mike Zuglan There is an account that Danny High Heels Tator was in danger of going to jail on a drug count unless he could explain the source of his income and impressive victory. Buddy Hall appeared as an expert witness and told the judge that Danny played pool at a professional level. The best players with a lot of money: Ronnie Fast Eddie Allen, Jack Jersey Red Breit, Jewe Paul Bruslov, Billy Cornbread Red Burge, Clyde Childress, Jack Cooney, Vernon Burnie Elliot, Minnesota Fats, Richie Florence, John Rags Fitzpatrick, Buddy The Rifleman Hall, Jose Parica, Efrén Bata Reyes, Kenny Romberg Remus, Leonard Bugs Rucker, Jimmy Fldybo Spears, Sonny Springer, Eddie The Knoxville Bear Taylor This was posted online by Keith McCready: I'm really sad to hear about Vernon Elliott. I consider him a good friend of mine. I knew he was sick. God bless him. He was one of the best in the pool business. There are probably a lot of people who don't know who Vernon was, but I've had the privilege of knowing him as a good man, a good heart, and a champion at the bar table, as well as a bank pool champion, one of the best bankers I've ever seen for money. That's one thing Vernon could do is play for the money. I think it was in the early '80s or about when I was there in Knoxville during the World's Fair. I was sneaking around bars in bars, trying to cause some action. I made some good scores and felt my oats. The first time I met Vernon Elliott was this time. I walked into a bar with only about three or four people in it. They had a few bar tables in there. I said, where's all the action around here? Hoping I'll have a bite. Dude, did I ever get the big cow. Vernon, unknowingly, said, I'm going to play you a little bit, and I asked him why you want to play. He said, I'm going to play you 50 or 100 a game. I looked at this guy and thought I was stealing because Vernon didn't look like a pool player to me. I've never been wrong. Lol. He went up there, ran a 5-pack for 50 a game. I asked him if he wanted to bet 100, hoping he could start losing balls. He laughed at me and said, Bet. He got up and ran another seven and broke me. So I went and got some more money and came back. All I could collect was another 500. Well, he ran five more shelves. He put me in a coma. That was my introduction to Vernon Elliott. We talked a few at the bar and he let me break him back for a hundred, so I had a little money walking to go hustle a little more bar, but I told myself right then and there that I'd leave Vernon alone and wouldn't be on my hit list. good friends after that. I saw him there in Detroit betting as high as you could fly, some of the best I've ever seen about money, and I'm talking about big ones. Large. Not just 5 and 10,000 a set. They played 15 and 20,000 a game. It was Vernon Elliott. Rest in peace, Vernon. We're going to miss you. Moving buffs may be interested to know that a number of players listed here appeared in the 1986 film The Color of Money and/or served as technical consultants. Sharks with speaking roles included Steve Miz Mizerak, Grady Professor Mathews, and Earthquake Keith McCready. There have been cameo appearances by Jimmy Pretty Boy Floyd Mataya, Mark Jarvis, Howard Vickery and Saint Louis Louie Roberts. Mike Captain Hook Sigel was the technical director of the film. Sigel and Ewa Mataya Laurance, aka The Striking Viking, served as technical consultants and performed footage. Paul Newman won an Oscar for his portrayal of an aging Fast Eddie Felson, whose arrogant protégé, Vincent Vince Lauria, played by Tom Cruise, looked a lot like his younger self. From what I've read about making the film, Saint Louis Louie Roberts kept a large audience of extras entertained between sets, with his showmanship on the table. Roberts rivals Fats as the most charismatic and entertaining pool shark of all time, except that fats were, well fat, while Roberts looked and acted like the young, hip Elvis. Pool legend Willie Mr. Pocket Billiard Mosconi had a cameo in the 1961 film The Hustler, one of the best sports movies of all time. It starred Paul Newman as young, reckless Fast Eddie Felson. Mosconi also served as a consultant and performed footage of the film, in addition to those of Fat Man. Indeed, Jackie Gleason was nominated for the Minnesota Fat role by Mosconi because he was an accomplished pool shooter. So a wide-angle lens could be used for his shots (please forgive the pun). Hustler was well received by critics and audiences. She was nominated for nine Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Newman for Best Actor, Piper Laurie for Best Actress, and Gleason and George C. Scott for Best Supporting Actor. The film won two Oscars for artistic direction and cinematography. There is more information about both the films and the real sharks that helped create their cinematic magic later on this page. How good was Willie Mosconi? That's very good. His best game was straight pool, but when he matched minnesota fats gambling in one pocket in the early 1950s, Fats reportedly asked his supporters for more money, saying: Willie has no idea how to play this game, he just keeps running eight and out! I've seen top players Buddy Hall doing the same thing. When they want to earn money quickly, they can shorten slower games like the bank and a pocket by going on offense, knowing that most of the time, they can come out. And they can discourage their opponents at the same time. Fats may have out-hustled most of the shortstops he played, but what, please say, is the defense against a really real continuous table runs? James Coburn and Omar Sharif played big pool hustlers in the 1980 film The Baltimore Bullet, that featured cameos from a number of real sharks who played themselves: Machine Gun Lou Buttera, Irving The Crane Surgeon, Richie Florence, Allen Young Hoppe Hopkins, Pete Margo, Ray Cool Cat Martin, Jimmy Pretty Boy Floyd Mataya, Steve The Miz Mizerak, Willie Mosconi, Jim King James Rempe , and Mike Captain Hook Sigel. (Mosconi received top billing, with the names of the other sharks displayed below him in alphabetical order.) The film includes one of the Jansco brothers' legendary Johnston City hustler tournaments, which lasted from 1961 to 1972 and really attracted players like Buttera, Crane and the company. And the FBI's arrest in the film took place in 1972, killing the action. But it's a little anachronistic that the film centers around straight pool. As Danny DiLiberto pointed out, it was the Janscos who really threw out straight pool as they preferred the most entertaining players' games of nine ball and one pocket. In The Baltimore Bullet, Coburn plays an aging Fast Eddie character similar to Newman in The Color of Money, Bruce Boxleitner plays his cheeky protégé in a role similar to Cruise's, while Sharif plays a much more suave Minnesota Fats. Since TBB came out several years before the TCOM, one could suggest that TBB is the most original of the two, with both paying tribute to The Hustler. And while I've seen TBB panned here and there for not being as deep as its ancestor, it's a comedy not meant to be taken too seriously, and I found it to be both fun and enjoyable. Minnesota Fats played himself in the 1971 film The Player, which I believe had only a limited release. While Fats was perhaps not the absolute best player in the pool (despite his many detailed claims to the contrary), he was nonetheless a top shark, not the shortstop some revisionists have tried to turn him into. As Larry Gunninger has pointed out, when the Johnston City tournaments were in full swing, attracting the cream of pocket pool culture, it was Fats who ended up with most of the moolah. And as Muhammad Ali suggested, I don't brag if you can support it. Poolhall Junkies is a somewhat dark film starring Christopher Walken (who did a trick of his shot at the first attempt). Robert Cotton LeBlanc served as a technical consultant, had a cameo, and performed most of the trick shots. Ironically, Tennessee's Mike Tarzan Massey, who played St. Louis Louie Roberts in the film, didn't shoot any of the film's trick shots, though it's probably famous artist shooting trick of the world. Country music legend Johnny Cash, the Man in Black, played a pool hustler in the made-for-TV film The Baron and the Child. W.C. Fields starred as a hustler in the first film he made, in 1915 Silent Silent Pool sharks. Best game on earth. - Mark Twain, who was perhaps America's best and sagest writer (and perhaps his most passionate pocket billiard enthusiast!) Unknown monster players who could play with anyone on a given day: Eddie Adams, Richie Ambrose, Glenn Atwell, Mike Bundy, Smokey Bartlett, Danny Barpie, Mike Blevins, Terry Boucher, Donnie Branson, Larry Gabby Browning, Eugene Browning (bar), George Brandt, Clyde Childress, Dan Clark Clark, Warren Monk Costanzo, Baltimore Buddy Dennis, Fat Harold Dollar, Don Water Dog Edwards, Ed Eversole, Vadis Meathhead Eversole, Brian Ezell, Sebastian Chino Franco, Roy Futternick, Leil JR Gay, Rich The Hat Geiler, Mike Geese Gerace, Wayne Giles, Junior Goff, Ricky Grack, Billy Graves, Steve The Gump/Gumpster Gumph, Peter Gunn , Horace Harper, Bakersfield Bobby Hernandez (bar box) , Pete Horn, Dick Honeyker, Tommy Kennedy, Chicken George Kieselat, Bobby Logan, Dan Louie, Marlboro, Mike McClaine aka Little Mikey and The Dwarf and Pittsburgh Mike, Kenny McCoy, Chuck Morgan, Johnny Morrow, Lew Newberry, Gary The Bushwacker Nolan, Curtis The Mountain Man Payne (also King Curtis), Richard Peck, David Dought Boy Rhodes, Charlie The Ape Romanis, George Road, John Rouse, Johnny Ross Schultz, Bernie Schwartz, Brad Bullwinkle Schwartz, Navy Gary Servil, Omaha John Souput, Randy The Terminator Smith, Sam Soto, Roy The Stanzioni Cook, Chris Szoutre, Mark Tad, Danny Tator, Brian Tidwell, Cheyenne Pete Trujillo, Cigar Tom Vanover, Sebastian Vera Cruz Villanueva, Nick The Indian Vlahos, James Walden, Don Watson, Sparky Webb, Billy Werf According to Toupee Jay Helfert , Keith McCready went looking for monster players. The best players with one hand: Ronnie Allen, Jesse The One-Handed Hustler James, Martin Omaha Fats Kaiman, Ernie Morgan, Chris Rafits, Richard T. Riggie, Little Sergio Notorious Sharks, Part I: The most notorious pool shark in history may have been John Wilkes Booth. According to Henry Hogan, after his performances were over, Booth would be in a hurry to make Joe Dillon's billiard room play with the best in town. He is also said to frequent the Miller Billiard Parlor, located on the second floor of the National Theater Building (where Helen Hayes Gallery now resides). On April 13, 1865, Booth dropped by the Grover Theater and asked C.D. Hess if President Lincoln was to be invited to attend Aladdin or the Magnificent Lantern. Hess assured Booth that Lincoln would be invited. Booth then went upstairs to Deery's Billiards, located above the lobby of the Grover Theatre, where he drank whiskey until 8 p.m. Booth asked the saloon's owner, John Deary, a national pool champion, to get him tickets to the box. borders the box where the He'd be sitting down. According to what Deary told the New York Times in an article published on October 5, 1921, Booth had been drinking all day before he shot the president. According to another account by Ernest C. Miller, Deery said: For a period of about ten days before the murder, he visited my place daily, sometimes in the afternoon, sometimes in the evenings. Right now he was out of an engagement and drinking quite freely, noticeably so, even for him, I thought. At times he seemed a little crazy, apparently because of the frequency of his potatoes... During this past week in Washington I sometimes drank at my bar as much as a quarter in the space of less than two hours of an evening... I think Booth was as crazy about the drink he drank as he was with any motive when he shot Lincoln. The best tournament players: Johnny The Scorpion Sagittarius, Ralph The Showman Greenleaf, Buddy The Rifleman Hall, Allen Young Hoppe Hopkins, Luther Wimpy Lassiter, Willie Mosconi, Steve The Miz Mizerak, Jim King James Rempe, Efrén The Magician Reyes, Mike Captain Hook Sigel, Earl The Pearl Strickland The above image is of Earl The Pearl Strickland, at the 1982 Nine-Ball. That's it, I believe, the first professional tournament he won, against a loaded field that included Billy Cornbread Red Burge, Steve Cookie Monster Cook, Danny DiLiberto, Buddy The Rifleman Hall, Allen Young Hoppe Hopkins, Jimmy Pretty Boy Floyd Mataya, Grady Professor Mathews, Hippie Jimmy Reid, St. Louis Louie Roberts, Mike Captain Hook Sigel, and various other pool gods. , contenders and pretenders. The best jump shot: Fong Pang Chao, Niels The Terminator Feijen, Po Chen Kou, Alain The Dancng Bear Martel, Earl The Pearl Strickland, Yang Ching-Shun the Son of the Pool first saw Earl Strickland at the Music City Nine-Ball Open, held at the ritzy Nashville Maxwell House Hotel, around 1982-1983. The pearl had bobby pins holding back away, flowing his mane, and was giving Buddy Hall serious grief with his amazing jump shots and spectacular shotmaking. If I remember correctly, Pearl spotted all the players on the ball of seven. If you ever lost money giving the seven to Nashville, I never heard of it. I believe Mike Sigel won the Music City Open in 1982, and Ray Cool Cat Martin won in 1983, coming out of the group of losers to defeat Larry Hubbard. But the player I remember best is Earl the Pearl, gleaming with pins, jump balls and running out. The best shot makers and thin cutters: St. Louis Louie Roberts, Earthquake Keith McCready It was good luck to have seen some of the best tournament pool players, sharks and hustlers in the flesh. The ones I remember best are. Johnny Archer, Michael Colin, Buddy Hall, Truman Hogg, Allen Hopkins, David Howard, Jeanette Lee, Mike. Mike. Keith McCrydy, Alex Pagulayan, Mike Siegel, Earl Strickland and Nick Varner. I even saw Steve Davis score a perfect 147 on snooker. (I was on holiday in England when I hit the magic number, in a match broadcast by the BBC.) But the most charismatic, exciting and crowd-pleasing pool player I've ever seen personally was Saint Louis Louie Roberts. He was an incredible, fearless shooter. There was something eerie in his game when he was on. I remember watching him advance through the bracket of the losers at the 1981 U.S. Open Nine-ball Championship, promoted by Mike Massey at the Downtown Sheraton Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee. As I recall things, Roberts had lost his first-round match, and then almost lost for the second time to the little-known Nat Green. In that match, there was a controversy about someone breaking out of his turn and the referee didn't catch it, so Roberts ended up breaking the last two games despite the alternating break form. Roberts capitalized to win the double-hill game. After that, he seemed to freewheel, drinking openly, teasing with fans, and mostly contemptuous fuses. If his opponent made a ball out of his turn, and two balls lined up on the spot, Louie would hit the head ball with so much English that he banked the second ball on a long railway... a shot I've never seen anyone else attempt in a big nine ball tournament. Roberts went on to beat an embarrassed Buddy Hall, who just shook his head at Louie's showman-like antics and incredible shotmaking. It was Louie's long-held dream to beat Buddy Hall, who was the top nine-ball player in the world at the time. What Louie accomplished that day, and how he did it, was magical, and I'll never forget how the crowd had to eat from the palm of his hand until he was declared the winner, to wild cheers that included mine. St. Louis Louie Roberts Keith McCready earthquake at the 1984 River City Open Nine-ball Tournament (photo by Mike Haines; photo editing by Bill Porter). I used to watch McC grady play golf at a snooker table at the Scott Entertainment Center in Nashville. He wasn't acting in The Color of Money... As Grady Seasons, he was playing himself, in a T. When I saw him play, I would eye a really difficult shot, say something outrageous as God couldn't make that ball, then pocket. He once ran nine consecutive racks of nine balls, to come from behind and beat The Iceman's Larry Hubbard 11-6 in the Sacramento Open Nine-Ball Championship, and I believe he has confirmed that he once ran 21 racks of nine balls in three consecutive races at 7, at a bar table. best nine-ball players: Johnny Archer, Friends Hall, Luther Lassiter, Keith McCready, Efrén Reyes, Louie Roberts, Mike Sigel, Earl Strickland, Nick Varner, Don Willis, Harold worst mention: Ronato Alcano, Darren Appleton, Carlo Biado, Biado, Van Boening, Francisco Bustamante, Jung Lin Chang, Fong-Pang Chao, Lee Van Cortesa, Kim Davenport, Mike Dechaïne, Niels Feijen, Richie Florence, Dennis Hatch, Allen Hopkins, Dave Howard, Thorsten Hohmann, Mika Immonen, Jeremy Jones, Eklent Kaci, Warren Kiamco, Mike Lebron, Chris Melling, Rodney Morris, Dennis Orcollo, Oliver Ortang, Albin Oschan, Alex Pagulayan, Jose Parica, Reed Pierce, Ko-Pin, Y, Evgeny Stajev, Ralf Souquet, Billy Thorpe Johnny The Scorpion Sagittarius has won more than 60 professional tournaments and was voted the best player of the decade 1990 by Digest Billiards. The history of the pool, Part I: The game of billiards dates back at least to 1300, when it was an outdoor game similar to croquet and golf. It seems likely that rich people wanted to enjoy billiards when the weather was bad, and were willing to pay significant sums of money to have the game brought indoors. This may explain why the billiard table covers were historically green, as they represented a grass pitch. The rails looked like river banks. hence the term bank shot. The first versions of billiards included arches similar to croquet hoops, and maces similar to golf clubs. (In fact, the term cue comes from the French word tail, meaning tail; the thinner rail was used when a ball was too close to the rail for the bulky mace head to participate.) The first billiard table on record, built for the Louis XI by carpenter Henry de Vagne around 1470, had a stone bed covered in fabric and a hole in the centre, in which the balls were driven. So the first documented billiard table sounds like a green place! The first female billiard shark may have been Maria Adouante. It had an excellent motto carved from a single piece of ivory, which was in insert with gold. She held the cue in a special locking cupboard and wore the key around her neck. Notorious Sharks, Part II: One of the most famous pool sharks was a French infantry captain, Francois Mingaud. In 1807 it introduced the leather cue tip, which provided stillborn strength and allowed the use of rotation (ironically now called English). Mingaud allegedly developed controlled rotation techniques playing billiards in a Paris prison, and when entitled to release he asked to serve further time in order to improve his techniques! It has been credited with applying the extreme rotation known as massé (a French word related to mace). John Carr, who worked in a billiards room in Bath as a pointer, has also been credited with inventing the side stroke became known as English. Carr became England's champion pool player with a stunning (for the season) run of 22 consecutive shots. He explained his prowess as due to a special brand of twisting powder that he sold to other players for significant sums of money due its magical properties. They didn't know it was ordinary chalk. In any case, leather cue tips and chalk are still standard fare in pool rooms around the world today (although modern chalk pool is no longer of the blackboard variety). Notorious Sharks, Part III: In 1828, opponents of President John Quincy Adams charged that he kept gaming tables and gaming furniture in the White House. According to Edwin A. Miles, the president's pool table served as the central idea for political attacks on Adams, in what quickly became one of the dirtiest presidential campaigns in American history. Owning a billiard table was used by his enemies to portray Adams as an aristocrat, so at least it was a shark upper crust, according to them! Notorious Sharks, Part IV: The enemies of John Quincy Adams were apparently unaware that the father of their country was a pool shark! George Washington kept detailed records of his pool wins and losses in his diaries. So we know that his highest score was \$1.75, a net amount in those days before inflation. Notorious Sharks, Part V: According to the website of the Brunswick billiard company. The first true American celebrity to own a Brunswick table was an extremely important figure in American history-Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was a self-confessed billiards addict. He described the game as a source of inspiration for health, scientific play, leisure lending in the otherwise tired mind. General George Armstrong Custer also had a Brunswick table, and Buffalo Bill Cody would play Brunswick tables for his hotel in Cheyenne. Earl The Pearl Strickland and Mike Captain Hook Sigel look sharp at the 1982 Dayton Nine-ball Open. The best showmen: Ralph The Showman Greenleaf, Jimmy Pretty Boy Floyd Mataya, Utley Jim U.J. Puckett, St. Louis Louie Roberts, Rudolf Minnesota Fats Wanderone Jim Mataya, also known as Pretty Boy Floyd, formed the first pool power couple when he married the Impressive Viking, Eda Svensson, in 2004. They helped bring some much-needed glamour to the often-miserable world of pocket billiards. Java Mataya, The Impressive Viking. The Women's Professional Billiards Alliance (WPBA) was founded in 1976 and is the oldest pro player organization in the sport. She sanctions WPBA and produces the Women's Pro Billiards Tour, which features ESPN-televised events among the sport's greatest female players. The best first WPBA tour players: Jean Balukas, Robin Bankroll Bell, Belinda Campos, Vickie Frechen Paski, Ewa The Striking Viking Mataya Laurance, Loore Jon Ogonowski, Lori Shampoo, Walker Other notable female pool players: Borana Kisser B Andoni, Mary Avina, Jennifer Barretta, Brittany Bryant, Yu Ram Cha, Jennifer Chen, Karen Corr, Christina De La Garza, Emily Duddy, Allison The Duchess of Fisher, Kelly Fisher, Liz Ford, Olga Gaskova, Gail Glowbrock, Gerda Hofstater, Hofstater, Jenschura, Ga-Young Kim the Little Devil Girl, Kjørsvik Line, Jeanette The Black Widow Lee, Michelle L, Shanelle Loraine, Jasmin Jasmin Uschan, Angelina Angel Paglia, Xiaoting Pan, Natalya Seroshtan, Kim Shaw, Fraziska Stark, Helena Thornfield, Vivian Texas Tornado Villareal, Monica Veb Allison Fisher, The Duchess of Doom Jeanette Lee, The Black Widow Vicki Diamond Vic Frechen (now Vicki Paski) were a top ten WPBA during the 1980s , reaching number one in 1981. It was the year that the year was the player of Pool &amp; Billiards magazine in 1982. He is also a member of the WPBA Hall of Fame. In 1985 he was elected vice president of the WPBA. In 1987, she became ESPN's first female pool analyst. In 1991 he was elected president of the WPBA. Jean Balukas, the first female superstar of the pool, is already a shark at the age of six. The game of billiards has naturally ruined my sweet mood. - Mark Twain, April 24, 1906 This is a more fun game. When you play badly it amuses me, and when I play badly and lose my temper I definitely have to entertain you. - Mark Twain Celebrity Sharks: Jackie Adams (as Minnesota Fats in The Hustler), Tom Cruise (as Vincent Vince Lauria in Color of Money), Paul Newman (as Fast Eddie Felson in both films), Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, H.G. Wells, Samuel Pepys, Mozart, Shakespeare, Van Gogh, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Lincoln, Cornelius Vanderbilt, J.P. Morgan , Mary Quinn of Scotland, Louis XIV, Louis XVI and Marie Antuanette, Lafayette, Napoleon, Queen Victoria. King George IV, Cap Anson, Babe Ruth, Frank Sinatra, Milton Burle, Bob Dylan, Woody Allen, Ovi Osborne, Elvis Presley, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - Mark Twain, who was strongly dedicated to playing pool Babe Ruth played billiards. But another Hall of Fame baseball player was probably better... Famous Sharks, Part I: Baseball hall-of-famer cap Anson (Captain Adrian Constantine Anson) was a strong pool player. Anson was the first major league baseball player to get 3,000 hits, and over 100 years after his retirement, he still holds several Cubs franchise records, including most career hits, runs, doubles and runs batted in. He joins Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron as the only major league baseball players with more than 2,000 runs batted in. After retiring from baseball, Anson opened a mall in Chicago which was billed as having the largest and best equipped pool and pool rooms in the world. On December 9, 1910, in a at the Union Billiard Academy, Anson gave George Moore, a world billiards champion, all he could handle, losing 50 to 42 in a match that was neck-

and-neck until Anson went scoreless after being up to 42-44. According to the World Almanac and Encyclopedia, just two days earlier, Moore had set a new three-pillow billiard record for consecutive shots made, at 15. This was in a tournament against world-class opponents like Alfredo de Oro and John W. Daly. Moore won a world title in 1915 and had a string of victories over de Oro, who was fourth in the Billiard Digest ranking of the 50 greatest players of the century. So Cap Anson obviously wasn't a bush-leaguer if he was able to get Moore to the limit. According to a New York Times article published the next day, Anson showed remarkable form and had two rounds of five billiards before running out of steam at the end. The history of the pool, Part II: By the mid-19th century, elephants were slaughtered for their ivory at an alarming rate, mainly to keep up with the rapid demand for billiard balls. Records show that in 1890 around 750 tonnes of ivory entered England only through London. It was said that at the peak of demand around 12,000 elephants were slaughtered each year to supply England with billiard balls. Ivory balls became too expensive, and people began to feel a moral aversion to such excessive massacres. The billiard industry realized that elephants were in danger, and that ivory was dangerous to obtain (an issue of notable public concern at the time). As such, the inventors were challenged to come up with an alternative material, with a \$10,000 prize offered by a New York vendor (about \$175,000 today). John Wesley Hyatt invented such a manufactureable material in 1869, called nitrocytocin (U.S. patent 50359, the first U.S. patent for billiard balls). It is unclear whether the prize money was ever awarded. Until 1870 nitrocellulose was commercially branded Celluloid, the first industrial plastic. Unfortunately, the celluloid was volatile in production, occasionally exploding. Legend has it that celluloid billiard balls will explode occasionally during the game, but no reliable sources have been found to substantiate this. Other synthetic materials, such as Bakelite, crystallite and other plastic compounds, were then used. Today most pool balls are made of phenolic resin, an extremely powerful, chip-resistant plastic. The strangest strokes: Willie King Hoppe, Allen Young Hoppe Hopkins, Keith Earthquake McCready, James Cisero Murphy, Efen Bata (The Kid) Reyes Some of the older players had extremely unusual strokes. Willie Hoppe's bizarre stroke style was a result of his so young, as a child prodigy. He barely made it to the table and had to stand in a box. In his book Billiard as it should be played, Hoppe emphatically advised players not to copy the way they employed the cue stick. James Cisero Murphy was the first African-American professional pool player to win national and international titles. Murphy was inducted into the BCA Hall of Fame in He is the only player in the history of the pocket billiard competition to win a world title at his first attempt. The best black players during the bad old days of racial segregation, when they couldn't compete in major pool tournaments: Patcheye Basheer, Melvin Strawberry Brooks, Johnny Cannonball Chapman, James Evans, Andrew The Gentry, Marvelous Marvin Henderson, Leonard Bugs Rucker, Mark Tadd Tademy, Cliff Spotmaster Joyner, Cecil Tugwell, Willie Munson, Buffalo Jerry, Rotation Slim, James Cisero Murphy, Lucky Charms aka Sizzle Adams, Bus Driver, Ike Runnels, Henry LatsaPoppa McCloud Jr., Javenly Youngblood Washington, Edgar Shake and Bake White, Robert Rags Woods The History of the Pool, Part III: The First Player Recognized as the English Champion John Carr Bath However, in 1824 when it was arranged a decisive fight for the title of champion with Edwin (Jonathan) Kentfield Carr failed to show up. Kentfield then became known as the first player in the world. It remained so until 1849 when John Roberts challenged Kentfield. Kentfield pulled a Carr and failed to reach for the proposed match, so Roberts claimed the title of first player in the world by default. The history of the pool, Part IV: During the 1850s, Michael Phelan and his colleagues began to make a significantly different American style of billiard table. The pillows were lower in height and the pocket openings became sharply cramped in contrast to the gradual curvature of the English pillow (as with the snooker tables to date). Phelan was identified as the Father of the American Pocket Billiard. Pool became so popular in the United States that during the Civil War billiards sometimes received more press coverage than the fighting. The history of the lake, part V: In 1870 the first official English championship was played (finally!) between John Roberts and William Cook. This match was considered so important that it was watched by the Prince of Wales. Cook took the title from John Roberts. About five years John Roberts Junior took the title from William Cook and was regarded as the greatest billiard player in the world until his retirement in 1909. The term pool room probably became associated with pocket billiards when tables were installed in rooms used by players to spend time betting on horse races. Eight ball was invented shortly after 1900; followed straight pool in 1910; nine ball around 1920. Best foreign/international pool players: Ronato Alcano, Darren Appleton, Nick van den Berg, Carlo Biado, Karl Boyes, Francisco Bustamete, Jung Lin Chang, Wu Chia-Ching, Lee Vann Corteza, Steve Niels Feijen, Joshua Filler, Che Wei Fu, Stephen Hendry, Alex Higgins, Erik Hjørleifson, Thorsten Hohmann, Raj Hundal, Mika Immonen, Eklent Kaci, Warren Kiamco, Kohl Florianer, Po-Cheng Kuo, Alex Lamy, Lam Lam Investment, Chris Melling, Dennis Orkolo, Oliver Ortman, Ronnie O'Sullivan, Albin Uchan, Alex Pagulian, Jose Para, Daryl Pitts, Stefano Pelinga, Ray Reardon, Efren Reyes, John Schmidt, Huiji E She, Mark Shelby, Jason Shaw, Ralph Souquet, Judd Trump, Jimmy White, Charlie Williams, Jiaqing Wu, Ching-Shun Yang The best foreign/international pool player nicknames: Ronato Ronnie Alcano, Darren Dynamite Appleton, Nick El Nino van den Berg, Carlo Lucky Luke Biado, Karl Gwapo Boyes, Francisco Django Bustamande, Jung Lin Chang the Pool Demon, Wu Chia-Ching, Lee Lee Vann Vann Corteza, Steve The Ginger Magician Vans, Nick The Greek Ekonomopoulos, Niels The Terminator Feijen, Joshua Joshi Filler, Stephen The Golden Boy Hendry, Alex Hurricane Higgins, Erik Big Red Hjørleifson, Thorsten The Hitman Hohmann, Raj The Hitman Hundal , Mika The Ice Man Immonnen , Warren The Warrior Kiamko, Florian Venom Koler, Po-Cheng Kuo the Little Monster, Alex Little Napoleon Lely, Antonio Nikoy Investment, Chris The Magician Melling, Dennis RoboCop Orcollo, Oliver The Ortmann Machine, Ronnie The Rocket O'Sullivan, Alex The Lion Pagulayan, Jose The Giant Killer Parica, Daryl The Dazzler Peach, Stefano Il Maestro Pelinga, Ray Dracula Reardon, Efen Bata Reyes, Mark The Jester from Leicester Selby, Jayson Eagle Eye Shaw, Ralf Kaiser Souquet, Judd Stud Trump, Jimmy The Whirlwind White, Charlie Williams the Korean Dragon, Jiaqing Wu The Little Genius, Ching-Shun Yang the Son of the Pool The best straight pool players: Joe The Meatman Balsis, Machine Gun Lou Buttera, Jimmy Caras, Irving The Crane Deacon, Ralph The Greenleaf Showman , Johnny Irish Lineen, Peter Margo , Ray Cool Cat Martin, Steve The Miz Mizerak, Willie Mosconi, Frank The Inexorable Snail Taberski Willie Mosconi shooting a massé (1987 photo by Mike Haines; photo editing by Bill Porter). Mosconi was second in the Table Digest ranking of the 50 Greatest Players of the Century, just ahead of his mentor, Ralph Greenleaf. Ralph Greenleaf, sometimes called Aristocrat of Billiards, was a twenty-time pocket billiard world champion who shared sports pricing pages with Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey and Red Grange. A glamorous playboy, Greenleaf was one of the most romantic figures in the Roaring Twenties. His wife, the former Amelia Ruth Parker, was a flapper (vaudeville actress) performed as Princess Nai Tai and Oriental Thrush. I've also seen it called the Oriental Nightingale. In The Bank Shot and other major robberies, Minnesota Fats described her as exquisite beyond belief and said that Greenleaf was so handsome she made Rock Hudson look like Quasimodo! When Greenleaf wasn't competitive, he toured with his wife, performing trick shots and demonstrations. Here's how a New York Times article describes their and lifestyle: It was a kind of act. Greenleaf, in a form fitting tuxedo, performed trick shots under suspended mirrors that took the dazzling movement of billiard balls and sent it to the audience, an LA satellite, like the princess, in a stunning, ankle-length white hermine coat, narrating the action. The Greenleats, with income in six figures, lived in penthouses and hotel suites on these plush, carefree days... Ralph Greenpeace makes a shot. Peter Margo appeared in the Baltimore Bullet movie and on Good Morning America and the Merv Griffin Show. He had a 330-ball high run in the 1978 series of Lake, held in Arlington, Virginia. Joe The Balsis Butcher, also known as The Meatman, won the Philadelphia City Boys Championship at the age of 11 in 1932, then went on to win four consecutive National Junior Pocket Billiard Titles. He was so famous at the time that his photo appeared in The New York Times, along with pool stars Ralph Greenleaf and Willie Hoppe. But Balsis retired from the competitive pool for 32 years to work in his father's meat business (hence his nicknames) and raise a family. When he finally didn't take up competing in professional tournaments, he took the pool world by storm. According to George Fels: During the first 28 months of his professional career in the pool, Balsis competed in 10 major tournaments, winning five, second once, two quarters, two fifths. Overall, between 1965 and 1975, he may well have been the best player in the world ... His peers shuddered at the thought of taking him, just as he once was in awe of Mosconi. Steve Miz Mizerak was sixth in the Billiard Digest ranking of the 50 greatest players of the century. It was John Madden of pocket pool. The best street players and cheats: Ronnie Fast Eddie Allen, Danny Kid Delicious Basavich, Billy Cornbread Red Burge, Leonard Bugs Rucker, Vernon Burnie Elliot, Minnesota Fats, John Rags Fitzpatrick, Richard Little Richie Florence, Keith McCready, St. Louie Roberts Roberts John Rags Fitzpatrick looking wonderfully dapper above; His nickname was obviously ironic. But Minnesota's Rudolf Fats Wanderone may have pulled the ultimate fuss. He was known as New York Fats and Brooklyn Fats, until shortly after the film The Hustler came out. Then Wanderone began calling himself Minnesota Fats after jackie gleason's character, and very soon almost everyone assumed that the movie had been made for him! Fats never won a major championship, and yet he became the most famous pool shark of all time, with the audience! Minnesota Fat: Was it full of hot air, too overpriced, or a player? The best pool commentators who were also strong players: Buddy Hall, Allen Hopkins, Billy Incardona, Grady Matthews, Vicki Vicki Allen Hopkins, circa the 1980s. I believe I met Hopkins at the time this picture was taken because of the beard. When Hopkins was commenting on ESPN, he would shave, and when he was on the road he would wear a beard to make it less likely that people would recognize him. But it was easy to recognize, once you'd seen him play, because he had a very strange stroke. One night Doug Preacher Almy, a friend of mine who shoots good (but not world-class) nine-ball, made a play with a bearded stranger who calls himself John. Doug is a good judge of talent, and although he was ahead for a while, once John broke even with a spectacular shot, Doug walked away from the game. Doug explained his action later saying He's someone, though he didn't know exactly who at the time. Not long after, Doug saw John commenting on ESPN, and it was Allen Hopkins, without the beard! Around the same time, Buddy The Rifleman Hall appeared in the same pool room, so I suspect he was on his way, headed for the next pr tournament... probably the 1981 U.S. Open Nine-Ball championship in Chattanooga. Best pool nicknames: Ronnie Fast Eddie Allen, Marshall Tuscaloosa Squirrel Carpenter, Steve Cookie Monster Cook, Larry The Iceman Hubbert, Mike Captain Hook Sigel, Earl The Pearl Strickland, Frank The Inexorable Snail Taberski, Titanic Thompson (Alvin Clarence Thomas), Vivian Texas Tornado Villareal, Edgar Shake & Bake White Taberski was born on March 15, 1889 in Amsterdam. He grew up in Schenectady, New York, and at the age of twenty-six became the world champion, a title he would hold for seven years. He was called The Sluggish and Releentless Snail because he played too late and deliberately, taking several minutes to ponder each shot, which of course annoyed his opponents. Because of the snail's style, a three-minute firing clock was established. In 1919, he lost his title due to illness. He joined a vaudeville tour from 1919 to 1923, and became the Harlem Globetrotters of the pool, winning all 313 games he played. In the mid-1920s, he returned to professional billiards and won four additional titles. Taberski was seventh in the Billiard Digest ranking of the 50 greatest players of the century, despite the fact that few people have ever heard of The Inexorable Snail. Edgar Shake & Bake White, always smiling. Larry O'lsman Hubbard (photo by Bill Johnston). Larry O'lsman Hubbard (photo by Bill Porter). The bank's best players: Donnie The Cincinnati Kid Anderson, Freddy The Beard Bentivegna, John Brumback, Billy Cornbread Red Burge, Johnny Cannonball Chapman, Clyde Childress, Tony Banks Coleman, Shannon The Cannon Vernon Burnie Elliot, Tony Fargo Ferguson, Jimmy The Philadelphia Flash Fusco, Buddy The Rifleman Hall, Truman Hogue, Mark Jarvis, The Price, Kenny Romburg Remus, Glen Piggy Banks Rogers, Leonard Bugs Rucker, Gary Spaeth, Eddie The Knoxville Bear Taylor, Nick Varner, Mexican Johnny Vasquez aka Big Head, Javenly Youngblood Washington Eddie The Knoxville Bear Taylor is considered by many players who know to have the best bank shot of all time. Jimmy The Philadelphia Flash Fusco was one of the best bankers of modern times, along with Buddy The Rifleman Hall and Nick Varner. Jimmy Fascoe is the cousin of another well-known player, Pete Fascoe. Best pocket players: Ronnie Fast Eddie Allen, Arthur Artie Bodendorfer, Jack Jersey Red Breit, Melvin Strawberry Brooks, Billy Cornbread Red Burge, Marcel Camp, Marshall Tuscaloosa Squirrel Carpenter, Steve Cookie Monster Cook, Hubert Daddy Warbucks Coke, Jack Cooney, Shannon The Cannon Daulton, Danny DiLiberto, Vernon Burnie Elliot, Johnny Ervolino, John Rags Fitzpatrick, Scott Frost Freezer, Jimmy The Philadelphia Flash Fuco, Buddy The Rifleman Hall , Marvelous Marvin Henderson, Allen Hopkins, Larry Boston Shorty Johnson, Cliff Spotmaster Joyner, Champagne Ed Kelly, Bill Incardona, Hayden Lingo, Larry Lisciotti, Grady Professor Matthews, Eugene Clem Metz, San Jose Dick McMorran, Gabe The Babe Owen, Jose Amang Parica, U. J. Puckett, Efen Bata Reyes, Kenny Romberg Remus, Big Nose Roberts, Leonard Bugs Rucker, Early Schriver, Gary , Joey Spaeth, Jimmy Flyboy Spears , Bill Weenie Beenie Station, Eddie Knoxville Bear Taylor, Cecil The Left Duke Tugwell, Nick Varner, Rudolf Minnesota Fats Wanderone, Don Willis, Glen Eufaula Kid Womack, Harold Worth According to pool professor, Grady Matthews, one pocket had his genesis in Oklahoma in the 1930s and Hayden Lingo was the first big pocket player. They were followed by Big Nose Roberts, Glen Eufaula Kid Womack, Marshall Squirrel Carpenter, Eugene Clem Metz, Ronnie Fast Eddie Allen, Jack Jersey Red Breit, Eddie The Knoxville Bear Taylor, Johnny Vevis, and Johnny Irish. According to R. A. Dyer, the author of Hustler Days, two of the all-time great pocket players named John Rags Fitzpatrick the best of the best. Eddie Taylor told Dyer that Rags was the best pocket player he'd ever seen. Bill Weenie Beenie Station, who played Rags, said He was the best one-pocket player during his time ... there was no one near him ... His closest was Eddie Taylor, and there was a ball underneath him. Jack Jersey Red Breit (1987 photo by Mike Haines; photo editing by Bill Porter). Arthur Archie Bodendorfer prepares to shoot a massé. Grady Professor Matthews was first inducted into the One-Pocket Hall of Fame in 2004. He was the creator of the Legends of One-Pocket tournament series and helped promote many other tournaments. photo by from Haines; photo editing by Bill Porter.) Ronnie Allen during his psychedelic days, or was it a psychedelic fog? (Photo 1980 by Mike Haines/Bill Porter). According to Jimmy Reid's Hippiie, Walter Tavis, the author of The Hustler and the Color of Money confirmed in a movie-recorded interview (while playing chess in a suite at the Holiday Inn in Dayton, Ohio) that Eddie Felson's Fast was based on Ronnie Allen. According to Reid, At one point during this interview, I became the interviewer instead of the interview, I flat out asked Mr. Tavis-based Eddie Felson's Fast? His answer went like this: I went to Pool Roon corcoran in Frisco and saw a young, cheeky player named Ronnie Allen who was a worldbeater, got the idea for the book and the rest is fiction and history. According to an online post on the subject by Jay Helfert, Ronnie Allen had more heading for the claim, based on several incidents. He ran around San Francisco around 1959-60 and calls himself Eddie. He was prone to raise the bet so quickly that someone (Jack Perkins maybe) started calling him Fast Eddie. Jack told me that when he saw Ronnie coming into the pool room, he yelled, Fast Eddie's coming again! His exploits have reached all over the country. Even in the Midwest, word got out about this cheeky young kid who was hitting the best crooks in San Francisco. Whether Tevis ever went out there or not, I don't know. What I do know was that he was a keen observer of the pool scene, mostly hanging in the pool rooms in Louisville and Lexington. As for Fats, Eddie Taylor probably had more influence on Tavis than anyone else. Walter certainly watched Taylor in action on more than one occasion. Eddie was a buckled man who dressed impeccably and was always a gentleman at (and away from) the table. And he was a great player, the best around, and certainly the best Tavis witnessed at the time. Any of this sounds familiar? So if we're going to give credit, let's give it where it needs to be. In a June 2, 1987 article in the Los Angeles Times, In those days, Minnesota Fats said of Allen: Whoever plays him for money doesn't go any chances at all. I'm the only man in the world who can beat him. (Allen claims to have beaten Fats. she has lost to him as well.) It was also in those days, as Allen says it, that author Walter Tavis was hanging around pool halls, collecting material for his book, The Hustler. Allen and others in the pool world say that Tavis based his book on the Oklahoma City player. Nick Varner at the 1984 River City Open Nine-ball Tournament (photo by Mike Haines; photo by Bill Porter). Ronnie Allen, Jack Breit and Champagne Ed Kelly (about 1983-1984; photo by Mike Haines/Bill Porter). Bill Incardona once said while commenting on a pocket fight that no one shoots caroms, and combos better than Steve Cook. The cookie monster ran out of everywhere, and had a high straight pool run of 189, but his impossible break put him on nine shots. Allen Hopkins said in Shots, Moves and Strategies that since the mid-1970s throughout the 1980s, Steve Cook was the best pocket player in the world. I've been lucky everywhere. - Bill Weenie Beenie Station, who used his pool profits to make millions from his hot dog stand company The Best Pool Flip: Michael Train Coltrain, Andrew The Gentleman Gentry, Wonderful Marvin Henderson, Champagne Ed Kelly, Johnny Irish Lineen, Cowboy Jimmy Moore, Danny Searcy, Harold Worst, Alton Babyface Whitlow Andrew The Gent Gentry was the best player in Nashville when I was running there will take on even the best advantages in his specialty Bank. I saw him play Buddy Hall, Truman Hogg, Little David Howard, and other top street players. Gentry had the most amazing slip stroke: he would pull the stick completely out of his bridge hand with a long, elegant, fluid backstroke, then bring it back in effortlessly. He could also play amazing fuses, sending the cue ball the length of the table to feather an object ball, then bring the cue back down to the opposite end of the table. While Gentry wasn't the best money player, he was fine to watch and a real gentleman (and a gentle man) to boot. Cowboy Jimmy Moore either shooting a trick shot or recovering from incredibly bad shape (1987 photo by Mike Haines; photo editing by Bill Porter). The best cue ball control (position, or shape): Ronnie Alcano, Johnny Sagittarius, Marshall Tuscaloosa Squirrel Carpenter, Allison Always in Line Fisher, Buddy The Rifleman Hall, Willie Mosconi, Jim King James Rempe, Efen Bata Reyes, Mike Captain Hook Sigel, Ralf Souquet, Earl The Pearl Strickland, Nick Varner, Krzysztof Wróbel The History of the Pool, Part VI: After The First World War the popularity of popularity continued to grow. The first professional snooker championship was held in England in 1927. To demonstrate the prestige with which the game took place, when Walter Lindrum, the greatest champion of all, toured England during 1931, he met the English Prime Minister and was invited for a royal administration performance before King George V. Over the next thirty years the popularity of snooker skyrocketed. After the advent of colour TELEVISION, snooker became England's most popular indoor game. Major tournaments with very significant prize money and extensive television coverage led to great increase in interest in the game. The history of the pool, Part VII: Did TV kill straight pool? The 1973 U.S. Open, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel, may have marked the end of the straight pool as a spectator sport thanks to television. The finals that year featured Steve 'Miz' Mizerak, the affable John Madden Madden against notorious North Carolina crook Luther Wimpy Lassiter. At the time, Mizerak and Lassiter were the cream of the straight pool crop. Mieseak had won the previous three U.S. Open. Lassiter had won a number of major tournaments during the 1960s. Both players appear on The Digest Billiards' list of the top ten players of the century. The scene was perfect set for an epic battle, and ABC cameras were there to electronically transmit it to the couch potatoes of the watching audience. It was like Babe Ruth of the pool tripping against Ty Cobb, with everything on the line. But there was one major problem: time, combined with boorness. According to the New York Times, Mizerak, undefeated in the double elimination tournament, lost a marathon match that began last night and lasted more than 4 hours, 150-110, in 22 innings. Matt Rackie of Billiard Revue said that Mizerak played the first game as his cue had been in a deep freeze for a few years. And because Lassiter won, it took a second game to determine the champion. Unfortunately, it wasn't much better for viewers. Mizerak, usually the picture of joviality and optimism, later said that the double marathon simply took too long for the film. Pool historian Charles Ursitti pointed out that a long section of the safety game made for miserable television. According to Ursitti, I used to broadcast the U.S. Open on ABC for years... It was just a pool and only a straight pool. For the tough fan, that's what you want to see. But it can get boring, and in 1973, they got into about 18 minutes of security play. And of course, 18 minutes of safe play is extremely difficult to edit. What people want to see is an offense. They want to see a lot of footage downtown. And so [the TV networks] abandoned it. CBS and ABC said, That's it. We're done here. Within a few years, by 1978, the BCA (Billiard Conference of America) had also abandoned a straight pool for nine balls. The newly formed PPPA (Professional Pool Players Association) soon followed suit. So the prediction of the legendary Jansco brothers, the first big supporters of the pool, that the straight pool would lose by nine ball, had come to pass. I don't know. Mainly because nine ball is faster and more fun. Another important factor, no doubt, was the soaring popularity of coin-operated bar tables, which make it annoying and expensive to spot balls. Soon millions of pool enthusiasts were playing at tables not offered in games such as the straight pool and a pocket, and of course most amateurs would prefer to take wildy exciting offensive than play security after mind-numbing security. (In many bars today, playing safe is just about paedophilia and incest on the list of you won't.) But the initial kiss of death, if I may say so, for a straight pool was next year. Best trick shot artists: Chef Anton, Paul Gerni, Mike Mike Tarzan Massey, Stefano Pelinga, Tom Rossman, Andy Segal Mike Tennessee Tarzan Massey (about 1983-1984 photo by Mike Haines/Bill Porter). The best all-round modern players (good at all): Buddy The Rifleman Hall, Jim King James Rempe, Efen Bata Reyes, Mike Captain Hook Sigel, Earl The Pearl Strickland, Nick Varner Jim King James Rempe won more than 100 tournaments, with multiple major championships in all majors Efen Reyes raised as Morales in his first American pool tournament victory in 1995. Like Julius Caesar, he came, saw, conquered. The best table bar big ball players: Surfer Rod Curry, Buddy The Rifleman Hall, Little David Howard, Boston Joey Kiley, Dave Matlock, Keith Earthquake McCready, St. Louie Louie Roberts, Omaha John Shuput, Three Fingers Ronnie Sypher, Shane Van Boeding Dave Matlock (1984 photo by Mike Haines; photo editing by Bill Porter). If there is consensus in the pool world, it is probably that Dave Matlock was the best box bar player with the big ball. The best three pillow billiard players: Torbjörn Blomdahl, Raymond Ceulmans, Roland Forthomme, Dick Jaspers, Johnny Layton, Sang Lee, Alfredo de Oro, Harold Worst, Jake The Magician Schaefer Sr., Jake Schaefer Jr. Willie The Hoppe King, around 1910. Hoppe held the record for consecutive billiards made, 26, for fifty years. He won 51 world titles in three pillow billiards, four variations of balkline billiards, and pillow caroms. Hoppe was the only pocket pool player ever to report to the White House, where he played for President William Taft in 1911. Hoppe was the first in the Billiard Digest rankings of the 50 greatest players of the century. Alfredo de Oro, circa 1914. He won world titles in three-pillow billiards and straight pool/continuous pool, and sometimes held them at the same time. De Oro was fourth in the Pool Digest ranking of the 50 Greatest Players of the Century. Best snooker players: Steve Davis, Stephen Hendry, Alex Typhoon Higgins, Ronnie O'Sullivan, Ray Reardon, Mark Shelby, Krzysztof Wróbel Alex Hurricane Higgins The best eight ball players: Darren Appleton, Johnny The Scorpion Sagittarius, Nick El Nino van den Berg, Shane Van Boening, Rodney Morris, Alex The Lion Pagulayan, Efen Reyes, Ralf Souquet, Jayson Shaw Johnny The Scorpion Archer The best break: Shane Van Boening, Wade Boom Boom Crane, Hurricane Tony Ellin, Little David Howard, Chuck Morgan, Earl The Pearl Strickland A former 8-ball and nine-ball world champion, Wade Crane was voted by his peers to have the best nine-ball break in history. Best safeties: Eugene Clem Metz, Mike Captain Hook Sigel, Efen Bata Reyes Mike Captain Hook Sigel fifth in the Billiard Digest ranking of the 50 greatest players of the century, and among modern nine-ball players. The best kickers (kick shot artists): Shannon The Cannon Daulton, Jose Parica, Efen Bata Reyes, Danny High Heels Tator, Glen The Eufaula Kid Womack Efen Bata Reyes, aka the magician, eying a shot strongly. Larry Lisciotti's Oil Can nickname has been attributed to Jimmy Mataya, who called him a handsome, high-living, high-rolling pool hustler, lidded eyes, slightly lusty smile-a lost sharpshooter, a well-oiled gunslinger of the 70s. Mark Twain, Was Minnesota Fat Overrated?, A Brief History of Billiards, Pool/Pool Record High Runs, The Sexiest Sharks, Johnston City Sharks, Nashville Sharks, Dick Hunzecker, Saint Louie Louie Roberts, Earl The Pearl Strickland, Who Was the Best Nine-Ball Player?, Famous Cheats, Famous Cheats, Famous Americans, The Best Donald Trump Jokes, Famous Geniuses, Famous Confessions, Famous Firsts, Famous Super Couples

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