

The Carolina Open — held Oct. 2-7 at Fast Eddie's in Goldsboro, N.C. — proved a popular destination for pros on their way to Chesapeake. The one-pocket event attracted 35 participants, with the majority also a part of the 74-player field in the \$6,100-added 9-ball event.

Of the 23 players who finished in the money, a dozen went on to play in the U.S. Open, including three former Open champions — Earl Strickland, Gabe Owen and Johnny Archer.

“All the top players were there. Johnny [Archer], Larry Nevel, Robb [Saez],” said Shannon Daulton, who took the 9-ball crown. “I could name 15 or 20 guys that went to the [U.S.] Open.”

Regardless of the talented field in North Carolina, Daulton waltzed through the winners' bracket on his way to the hot-seat. In the winners-side final against Saez, he controlled the match from the first rack, jumping to a 5-0 lead. He held a sizeable lead throughout, winning the match 11-7.

“I don't want to say that they were all blowouts,” Daulton said, “but none of them were real close. I think before [the final], the closest anybody got in race-to-11 was 7 or 8 games.”

Saez then outlasted Mike Davis, 11-8, in the losers-bracket final to get another shot at Daulton. Leading 13-7, Daulton finally got his first scare of the tournament; Saez took six straight racks, thanks to the winner-breaks format and a few misses from Daulton.

“Robb made a big run at me, and he came all the way back,” Daulton said. “All of a sudden it was 13-13, and I had to get things going.”

Luckily, he was able to get in gear after Saez took six straight. He closed out an open table to get on the hill, then took the next rack to win the title, 15-13.

“I knew it was going to be a tough event, and I had to play well to win,” Daulton said. “That was one of the main reasons I went, and it did do me a lot of good to go.”

In the \$3,300-added Carolina Open

one-pocket event, Strickland overcame a streaking Nevel in the hot-seat and final matches to earn the title. In the race-to-5 final, Strickland won the first two racks, only to drop four of the

next five. Facing a 4-3 deficit to an experienced Nevel, Strickland managed to take two straight games for a 5-4 final victory.

Although Strickland could not parlay this win into a deep run at the U.S. Open, Nevel appeared to benefit from the experience; he finished in ninth place. A week after that strong performance, he snapped off the

one-pocket champion at the Viking Southern Classic.



JERRY FORSYTH

Daulton rolled through a tough field.

>> PELINGA'S TRICKS A TREAT IN SECOND WIN

ESPN TRICK SHOT MAGIC & SPEED POOL CHALLENGE

ESPN Zone

Oct. 3-4; Las Vegas, Nev.

FOR STEFANO Pelinga, the 2007 version of ESPN's Trick Shot Magic proved victory is sweeter the second time around. After winning his first Trick Shot Magic title in 2005, Pelinga believes his second title has cemented him in the elite of his discipline.

“Absolutely, this win was way better,” Pelinga said. “I proved to everybody that I belong at the top. I also have two second places, so that puts me up there with Mike [Massey] and his four [titles].”

One of the most unique events on the international pool calendar, Trick Shot Magic — held Oct. 3 at the ESPN Zone in Las Vegas — collected eight of the world's most creative, and undoubtedly skilled, competitors from around the world.

In single-elimination format, each match consisted of 20 shots — 10 challenge shots from each player — with a point awarded for every successful attempt. In the event of a tie, players kicked the cue ball eight rails onto the face of a \$100 bill; the closest won.

Although each player had to prepare



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	TOTAL POINTS	UPA PRO CHAMPS. MARCH 2006 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 0.80 PLACE (POINTS)	ENJOYPOOL. COM OPEN MAY 2006 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 1.03 PLACE (POINTS)	UPA FLORIDA OPEN MAY 2006 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 0.96 PLACE (POINTS)	IPT NORTH AMERICAN JULY 2006 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 1.70 PLACE (POINTS)	IPT WORLD OPEN SEPTEMBER 2006 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 1.85 PLACE (POINTS)	U.S. OPEN 9-BALL SEPTEMBER 2006 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 1.10 PLACE (POINTS)	
1	Dennis Orcollo	753	-	17 (36)	4 (77)	3 (170)	5 (135)	-
2	Ralf Souquet	730	-	1 (144)	7 (58)	5 (124)	7 (85)	-
3	Mika Immonen	642	7 (48)	49 (21)	3 (96)	19 (53)	3 (185)	7 (66)
4	Efren Reyes	587	-	3 (103)	-	4 (136)	1 (259)	-
5	Thors. Hohmann	549	2 (96)	9 (52)	7 (58)	1 (238)	121 (0)	-
6	Rodney Morris	519	1 (112)	-	25 (29)	19 (53)	2 (222)	65 (17)
7	Ronnie Alcano	512	-	-	-	7 (78)	19 (57)	9 (55)
8	Corey Deuel	508	-	9 (52)	2 (115)	19 (53)	6 (117)	13 (44)
9	Shane Van Boening	481	-	-	-	-	61 (22)	33 (28)
10	Johnny Archer	445	9 (40)	2 (124)	13 (38)	37 (39)	37 (43)	25 (33)
11	Rodolfo Luat	436	-	17 (36)	17 (34)	7 (78)	37 (43)	2 (132)
12	Gabe Owen	391	17 (28)	17 (36)	25 (29)	7 (78)	37 (43)	3 (110)
13	Mike Davis	380	25 (24)	5 (72)	17 (34)	121 (0)	37 (43)	33 (28)
14	Charlie Williams	371	25 (24)	4 (82)	25 (29)	37 (39)	7 (85)	65 (17)
15	Thomas Engert	367	-	33 (26)	1 (134)	-	7 (85)	-
16	Franc. Bustamante	355	-	-	-	7 (78)	7 (85)	-
17	Marlon Manalo	353	-	-	-	2 (204)	61 (22)	-
18	John Schmidt	352	-	25 (31)	-	37 (39)	61 (22)	1 (154)
19	Jose Parica	338	5 (56)	5 (72)	-	121 (0)	19 (57)	49 (22)
20	Niels Feijen	334	-	17 (36)	-	19 (53)	7 (85)	-
21	Darren Appleton	317	-	-	-	7 (78)	19 (57)	5 (77)
	Robb Saez	317	3 (80)	33 (26)	25 (29)	121 (0)	-	5 (77)
23	Marcus Chamat	312	-	25 (31)	9 (48)	7 (78)	-	17 (39)
24	Fabio Petroni	311	17 (28)	13 (41)	9 (58)	61 (20)	19 (57)	65 (17)



UPA SEEDING RANKS

(UPDATED AFTER U.S. OPEN, OCTOBER 2007)

1. COREY DEUEL 465
2. JOHNNY ARCHER 440
3. MIKA IMMONEN 410
4. SHANE VAN BOENING 365
5. MIKE DAVIS 350
6. RODNEY MORRIS 332
7. RALF SOUQUET 315
8. ROB SAEZ 295
9. RONNIE WISEMAN 287
10. SHAWN PUTNAM 275
11. DENNIS ORCOLLO 275
12. FABIO PETRONI 267
13. JOHN SCHMIDT 267
14. THORSTEN HOHMAN 265
15. FRANCISCO BUSTAMENTE 260
16. CHARLES BRYANT 250

for as many as 240 shots (each player submitted 30 unique shots by a summer deadline), Pelinga won in large part to his work on that sudden-death tiebreaker.

In the opening match, Pelinga and American Matt MacPhail were tied after the first 20 shots. In the do-or-die situation, Pelinga executed the eight-rail kick beautifully, ending "No Fail" McPhail's first-round upset bid. Pelinga's second-round match against two-time Trick Shot Magic runner-up Nick Nikolaidis went the same route.

Again, Pelinga advanced due to the perfect combination of power and finesse, dropping the cue ball on the face of the C-note to move into the final.

Facing Tom Rossman in the final, Pelinga was convinced that a second Trick Shot Magic title was his for the taking. Not that he underestimated his opponent; he simply understood how to attack and what shots to attempt.

"I know Tom Rossman, I know his

capability around the table," Pelinga said, noting that both men have a long history in the trick-shot business. "I knew what I had to do to beat him."

Pelinga emphasized his power stroke in the final. He drew a standing ovation when he executed an incredibly tough full-table massé; even Hall-of-Famer Massey jumped out of his seat to applaud his long-time rival.

"With my job, I can see what's behind anybody's smiles and greetings," Pel-



Pelinga won his second title in Las Vegas.



TOP FINISHERS

U.S. OPEN 9-BALL CHAMP.

CHESAPEAKE, VA. + OCT. 14-20

1. Shane Van Boening \$50,000; 2. Ronnie Alcano \$20,000; 3. Tomoko Mekari \$10,000; 4. Ralf Souquet \$5,000; 5. (tie) Ramil Gallego, Louis Ulrich \$3,500; 7. (tie) Corey Deuel, Dennis Orcollo \$3,000; 9. (tie) Jose Parica, Larry Nevel, Niels Feijen, James Walden \$2,500; 13. (tie) Efrén Reyes, Warren Kiamco, Johnny Archer, Mika Immonen \$2,000; 17. (tie) Ronnie Wiseman, Scott Rabon, Tony Robles, Allen Hopkins, Mike Davis, Tyler Edey, John Morra, Naoyuki Oi \$1,500; 25. (tie) Marcus Chamat, Lee Chenman, Tony Crosby, Francisco Bustamante, Rodney Morris, Raj Hundal, Gabe Owen, Ernesto Dominguez \$1,250.

VIKING SOUTHERN CLASSIC

ATLANTA, GA. + OCT. 20-28

10-Ball: 1. John Schmidt \$5,500; 2. Shawn Putnam \$3,440; 3. Ignacio Chavez \$2,100; 4. Kim Davenport \$1,400; 5. (tie) Shannon Daluton, Louis Ulrich \$900; 7. (tie) Rafael Martinez, Gabe Owen \$600.

One-Pocket: 1. Larry Nevel \$3,150; 2. Sylvester Ochoa \$2,100; 3. Shawn Putnam \$1,300; 4. Rafael Martinez \$930; 5. (tie) Kim Bennett, Benny Conway Jr. \$600.

8-Ball: 1. Ignacio Chavez \$3,200; 2. Louis Ulrich \$1,800; 3. Clint McCullough \$1,150; 4. Stevie Moore \$650; 5. (tie) Chuck Dorsett, John Schmidt \$430.

Amateur 9-Ball: 1. Matt Reed \$2,410; 2. Henry Cofer \$1,600; 3. John Thibodaux \$1,200; 4. Duane Davis \$800; 5. (tie) Robert Smith, Rodney Holland \$520.

WPBA MIDWEST CLASSIC

LAS VEGAS, NEV. + OCT. 3-7

1. Karen Corr; 2. Allison Fisher; 3. (tie) Ga Young Kim, Sarah Ellerby; 5. (tie) Monica Webb, Xiaoting Pan, Rachel Abbink, Kelly Fisher; 9. (tie) Jasmin Ouschan, Dawn Hopkins, Joanne Ashton, Helena Thornfeldt, Anna Kostanian, Jeanette Lee, Gerda Hofstatter, Vivian Villarreal.

CAROLINA OPEN

GOLDSBORO, N.C. + OCT. 2-7

9-Ball: 1. Shannon Daulton \$3,100; 2. Robb Saez \$2,000; 3. Mike Davis \$1,400; 4. Gabe Owen \$1,000; 5. (tie) Louis Ulrich, Robert Ray \$700; 7. (tie) Chuck Altomare, Johnny Archer \$500; 9. (tie) Branden Ashcraft, Shaun Wilkie, Josh Roberts, Craig Wolfe \$400.

One-Pocket: 1. Earl Strickland \$1,850; 2. Larry Nevel \$1,250; 3. Richie Richeson \$900; 4. Sparky Ferrell \$600; 5. (tie) Louis Ulrich, Scott Rabon \$500.

TRICK SHOT MAGIC

LAS VEGAS, NEV. + OCT. 3-4

1. Stefano Pelinga \$30,000; 2. Tom Rossman \$8,000; 3. (tie) Sal Conti, Nick Nicolaidis \$3,000; 5. (tie) Matt MacPhail, Andy Segal, Sebastian Giumelli, Mike Massey \$1,500.

Speed Pool Challenge: 1. Bobby McGrath, \$50,000.

WORLD POOL CHMPS. NOVEMBER 2006 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 1.27 PLACE (POINTS)	ENJOYPOOL.COM OPEN MAY 2007 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 1.02 PLACE (POINTS)	PREDATOR 10-BALL MAY 2007 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 1.01 PLACE (POINTS)	U.S. OPEN 9-BALL OCTOBER 2007 TOURNAMENT FACTOR: 1.20 PLACE (POINTS)
33 (29)	1 (143)	3 (91)	7 (72)
2 (152)	33 (26)	9 (45)	4 (96)
65 (19)	5 (71)	17 (35)	13 (48)
17 (41)	-	-	13 (48)
33 (29)	33 (26)	49 (20)	33 (30)
65 (19)	25 (31)	-	25 (36)
1 (178)	-	-	2 (144)
33 (29)	33 (26)	-	7 (72)
-	2 (122)	1 (141)	1 (168)
33 (29)	9 (51)	-	13 (48)
5 (83)	-	-	33 (30)
-	25 (31)	-	25 (36)
97 (0)	3 (102)	17 (35)	17 (42)
33 (29)	17 (36)	25 (30)	97 (0)
17 (41)	17 (36)	9 (45)	-
33 (29)	7 (61)	5 (66)	25 (36)
17 (41)	9 (51)	17 (35)	-
-	4 (82)	-	49 (24)
97 (0)	5 (71)	-	9 (60)
65 (19)	17 (36)	9 (45)	9 (60)
65 (19)	13 (41)	9 (45)	-
65 (19)	33 (26)	25 (30)	33 (30)
33 (29)	25 (31)	49 (20)	25 (36)
33 (29)	13 (41)	25 (30)	97 (0)

inga said, referring to his career as a police officer in Italy. "Mike is always genuinely happy for me, and that works backwards of course."

The two competitors are now colleagues, as the only men to win the Trick Shot Magic title multiple times.

"If you win once, everybody says that can happen by chance," Pelinga said. "But if you win twice, nobody can say that anymore."

In the International Speed Pool Competition, Bobby McGrath Jr., an unheralded rookie from Washington, Ill., topped the two best speed-pool players in the world to win the \$50,000 winner-take-all top prize. Although McGrath won this year's VNEA Speed



McGrath fired his way to \$50K.

Pool title, he carried the lightest resume in the final four.

Each match consisted of two sets, each player clearing six racks in a straight-pool set then six 8-ball racks in the second set, with a sudden-death tiebreaker of one rack per player.

In his semifinal match with Luc Salvas, McGrath tied the reigning champion at one set apiece — a feat that included McGrath's dazzling 6:31 time in the first set. McGrath edged Salvas in the sudden-death round by a mere two seconds, 1:07 to 1:09.

Dave Pearson, the most-well known speed-pool specialist and world-record holder, faced McGrath in the final. Unknown no more, McGrath took both sets, winning the first set 7:08 to 7:22 and the second 9:01 to 9:17.