



# The Illinois Billiard Club

*"The Country Club of Pool and Billiards"*

1975 - 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2003

## "Our nations greatest wealth, The American Family"

By Jim Parker

*While America is the richest, most generous and powerful nation in the world it does not go without its faults and problems. All too many people fail to vote and thus weaken our democracy. There is still too much poverty in a land of plenty. There's far too many of us still without affordable and proper medical care. Our educational system is hardly the pride of a 21st century society. And as opposed to leading the world away from war in our efforts to establish eternal peace throughout our planet, today, to abolish tyranny and threat of global terrorism, we've launched one.*

*Yet none of these things are without their solutions. Today, these solutions like the future and strength of our country lies in the very place it has always been. Within the hands and hearts of those we call, the American family. The individual groups of humankind that have through love and evolution been the centerpiece of our American society since the 18th century, and our ancestors firing of the first canon to gain our nations independence.*

*The ever-present and luminous impact experienced from this division of our society is seen within every phase of our American culture. From agriculture to zoology, from sports to science, and from social struggles to even the quicksilver in our economic thermometer, these are the people that have given the most, yet for some reason and know only to them, ask for the least.*

In sports, by participation in family inner-activities the American family exemplifies the deep-rooted connection between childhood interests and endeavors, to the end result of a young person attaining superior status throughout endless varieties of life's objectives. Whether family participation in games rated as national sports, as tennis, golf, basketball and the like, or simply table and board games as billiards and chess, is of little or no importance. What is important is simply a families sharing and enjoying quality time

together that ultimately builds a child's wholesome character, and an adults loving and lifetime relationship as a family united.

Requiring both physical and mental aptitudes the game of billiards (all cue games) is suited to an enormous range of our society, with no division greater than the American family itself. Yet for over a hundred years the billiard industry continually fails to responsibly service publicly this division of our society. When issues to begin doing so are prompted by concerned individuals, the industry has been known to involve itself in various forms of what are referred to as youth programs. Programs that for some six generations continually fail by lack of sound organization and unsound concepts.

Knowledge and determination are the parents of success. To a large extent conventional youth programs within the billiard industry are and have been lacking essential human considerations. With none greater or of more lasting importance than incorporating time proven facts regarding social evolution. As demonstrated in all branches of successful activities designed to benefit young Americans, parents and family involvement has for generations been proven essential. From the adventurous Boy Scouts of America, to baseballs character building Little-Leagues. From the arts and crafts of our nations Girl Scouts, to both ethnic and American, art, music and dance groups. All teaching, while at the same time offering young Americans an opportunity to develop usable and practical skills that inevitably help build a solid foundation for promising futures.

As an industry that publicly has never proven itself as little more than a tavern pastime, the public side of billiards lacks incentive and grounds for mass organized involvement of parents with deep concern for their children's future. Therefore, it is unlikely successful public youth programs shall ever come to pass until this industry first successfully services in its entirety our nations greatest wealth, the American

family. By seeking this direction, through the test of time billiards might, just might, first prove itself as more than simply a tavern and pool hall pastime, and simultaneously build confidence and promising relationships with both parents and young Americans. Today, simply offering prizes and awards as incentives to encourage youth program participation is an incomplete gesture in contrast to offering what our nations youth are rightfully deserving, family unity and promising futures.

When the billiard industry matures to the point of understanding and pursuing those two precious objectives, then and only then, would this game ever be considered seriously as a wholesome and viable part of our nations most valued and time-honored activities of social and competitive benefit.

*The Illinois Billiard Club is the oldest, self-owned, operated and prestigious private billiard club in the United States. Complete with an adjoining hundred-seat banquet room. The club was founded for the preservation and promotion of the elegant, historical, professional and social side of billiards. The IBC is not a pool-room, barroom or any other form of public place of amusement. Yet by its design, popularizes the game of billiards to all positive sides of society. Further information can be found either by writing to: The Illinois Billiard Club / 8446 Archer Avenue / Willow Springs, IL 60480. Or by visiting: [www.IllinoisBilliardClub.com](http://www.IllinoisBilliardClub.com).*

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**Pictured to the left is Mika Immonen winner of the 2002 Derby City Classic. Mika won the Derby City Classic using a Capone Custom Cue.**

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