

On July 4th and 5th the John Ervolino Memorial Tournament was held at Mickey's Cues & Brews 7380 S. Eastern Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89123.

I held the tournament in memory of a great pool player and a good friend who taught me not only how to play physically but mentally as well. Those of you that knew Johnny would probably describe him as a raspy voiced man with a New York accent who smoked Pall Mall non-filter cigarettes like a chimney. People would also say that he could play straight pool and one pocket with the best players during his time. With a cigarette hanging out of his mouth and smoke in his eye I would see him run rack after rack in straight pool. Most people knew him as a pool player and nice guy. I had the chance to live with him for a few months. He was a great man with a deep love for his family and friends. Johnny had some regrets, but don't we all. He also had great accomplishments winning many top events in billiards. He also was known to play for money. Johnny had enough action stories to write three books. He will always be remembered as a great player in the history of billiards.

The balls were racked, the lights were on, the players were ready; with 22 in the field the showdown was about to begin.

In the first round Joe Alvarez defeated Trin Lue, a young player from California with a great love for the game. Joe found himself now playing another young player from California, Curtis Johnson. Curtis has a great break with good cue ball control. Curtis had a big lead on Joe early in the match, with a race to eight Joe looked like he was barbecued. Curtis got a little out of shape and missed. With the window open Joe stepped up to the table and won game after game bringing the set to hill hill. In the last game Joe was running the table. He missed on the eight ball and Curtis moved ahead.

Another good match was yet another California kid, Josh Ulrich playing James Milasso. James is a local with a good game but Josh was way too strong and defeated James. Next Josh played another local, Bill Stock. Bill played solid through the match and knocked Josh to the one loss side.

Bill moved on and found himself playing another local and well known player, Walter Glass. Walter was playing strong and Bill just couldn't get it rolling. With a victory over Bill, Walter found himself playing for the Hot Seat.

Another great player was a young kid from Canada, John Morra. John played great pool with a lead in every match he played. John moved through the field like an avalanche down a mountain taking everything in his path and there was nothing anyone could do to stop him. With victories over Tre Baker, Rich Burns and Justin Whitehead, he was now matched up with Walter Glass playing to be the King of the Hill.

John had a lead on Walter. John was out breaking the field and nothing was different in this match. Walter was watching his break and got a game under his belt and took advantage. Walter started breaking the balls good and was pulling himself back into the match. For the first time in the tournament, someone was putting a little heat on Morra.

Walter with another great break and a good look at the table missed a shot on the one ball that hung up on that shelf of the Diamond table.

John was back at the table and for Walter, this was not good. John finished up that game and took over the match from there, moving Walter over to the one loss side. Walter had a chance to get another crack at Morra, but he would have to get by Rich Burns. Rich who was put on the one loss side by John earlier in the tournament was also trying to get a crack at playing John again.

Rich and Walter went back and forth. Rich, with his steady play and solid breaks was able to out run Walter and mover on to play John Morra.

In the finals, the race goes up to a race to eleven. If Rich wins he will have to beat John again in a race to eight.

With a true double elimination, John was looking good. Watching John play was like watching a crane operator. With a slow but steady hand, never moving too fast or too slow, never missing a ball he should make and never getting out of shape. John was too much for Rich on this day.

John went on to claim victory and take first place in the first John Ervolino Memorial Tournament held at Mickey's. I thought it was cool that John Morra won the first Ervolino memorial tournament because they both have the same first name, too bad Morra is from Canada and not New York!

Congratulations to John Morra and thanks to all the players who participated including Ashea Erdahl, Frank Tran, Randy Chugg and Steve Wilson. Thanks for your support. Without you there wouldn't be a tournament. See you at the next tournament.

Visit us at www.mickeyscues.com and check out our calendar for upcoming tournaments during 2009.

-The Pool Fly

1 st Place - John Morra -	\$800.00
2 nd Place - Rich Burns -	\$350.00
3 rd Place - Walter Glass -	\$250.00
4 th Place - Justin Whitehead -	\$150.00
5 th Place - Jose Alvarez -	\$105.00
6 th Place - Bill Stock -	\$105.00