

Learn the fine art of hitting the cue ball

Position play and cue ball speed are directly related to the use of stroke. Without the mastery of stroke, you will not become a good position player.

The stroke determines the track line of the cue ball. The stroke determines the distance the cue ball will travel. In order to become a good position player you must be a master at the second stage of pocket billiards.

I have seen player after player come to my tournaments and wrestle with English to gain position on their next shot. If they are in dead stroke, they do well. But if they are off with their game, they are out before they get started. English depends upon so many variables that sooner or later, something is going to go wrong.

Â· You depend on how you feel.

Â· You depend on the condition of your tip.

Â· You depend on the quality of the chalk.

Â· You depend on how much spin you put on the ball.

You have to allow for squirt on the cue ball and throw on the object ball. There are so many reasons we can miss by using spin, it is a wonder we are able to make a shot at all.

The idea that we can pocket a ball by using one cue tip low right and a lot of spin is a direct testament on how much talent we have. Think about how much easier it would be if we could handle the same shot and position the cue ball with center ball and a stroke. We need to get away from excessive spin.

The lost art of the stroke is beginning to make a comeback. I have been writing about this for years. Still, I watch the pros put spin on just about every shot. That is because they are learning this game from each other. When you learn to use your stroke to both pocket a ball, and gain position on your next ball, you will then become a master player.

I will look for you in the finals.

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