

# COACH'S CORNER



JERRY BRIESATH, a member of the BCA Board and Chairman of the BCA Rules Committee, is known nationwide as one of the sports best instructors. The Billiard Congress of America's instruction video tape "Consistency is the Name of the Game" is featuring Briesath along with World Champion, Nick Varner.

## Let's Take it From the Top!

The first thing I try to explain and drill into my players is "THEY CANNOT CONTROL THE BALLS ON THE GREEN FELT". You can only control them indirectly. A player's control must be centered around his physical self, how well he or she physically maneuvers a cue stick is a mark of good control.

You can immediately see a difference between a pro and an amateur physically. First, the amateur will bend over the shot to begin his aim and shoot. He is probably only 10% sure of his aim when he bends over. The pro will decide where he is aiming before he bends over. As he does, his eyes glance at the object ball and his chin is already in a direct line with the shot as his cue sets up directly in line behind the cue ball. At this point he is already 90% done with his aiming.

This part of the game, before the ball is hit, is extremely important. Take the time needed to review your pre-hit game and put yourself in control.

You will soon learn it is a big help in developing consistency. Anybody can learn to make a ball. To do so smoothly and with a degree of consistency is a mark of a professional. A big help is to develop a physical sequence that you will follow each time prior to hitting the ball.

### EXAMPLE:

Take two or three warm up strokes, hesitate, STOP and check your aim to see where the cue is pointing relax, take two more warm up strokes, STOP, recheck your aim, don't shoot unless you are sure. Now you can draw the cue back carefully and shoot. You will always follow through 3 to 7 inches depending on the power of the stroke required. Always remember to make this final hesitation

before the hit -see where the "cue" is going, visualize it, pinpoint it and execute.

### PRACTICE TIP

Tried and True: Jerry gave me an excellent exercise using the best free teaching device in your local room. Shoot all your shots starting with the cue ball on the head spot. Assuming center ball hit on every shot, watch where the tip of the cue stick ends up in relation to that spot. If you are executing the shot properly, the tip of your cue should always end up four to seven inches dead center over the headspot. This drill will force you to follow through creating a smooth, flowing stroke, without jerking or drawing back. I know it's worked for me! - The Editor