

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.

Thumbs Up (and Out From Under)

Players, when you are watching a bar table amateur tournament one of the biggest flaws you will notice while observing is that almost all amateur players use an incorrect bridge when shooting off the rail (when the cue ball is 3 to 10 inches from the rail and the hand must be on the rail instead of on the slate bed). The amateur will often have his thumb under the cue.

Now watch a pro. A professional will never put his thumb on the rail below the cuestick. Yet many amateurs, even recognizing this, refuse to develop a correct rail bridge. "It is much too uncomfortable" they say. It may feel uncomfortable for awhile but two or three shots is not enough to say "I can't". Practice sliding the cue over the rail instead of the thumb for forty or fifty shots until you can feel comfortable with it.

Why? Because you will never, never be able to become accurate in shooting shots off the rail if that back hand is elevated and the cue tip is pointed down. Doing this only causes you to aim at the cloth in front of the object ball instead of directly at the object ball itself.

Editor's Note

Jerry Briesath, the Pool & Billiard Magazine Contributing Instructional Editor has recently recieved media acclaim as a top pool instructor in several articles regarding his qualifications in playing instruction in the April 1985 issue of the Billiard Digest. Congratulations Jerry!