

On February 20th and 21st Mickey's Cues & Brews at 7380 S. Eastern Ave. LV, NV 89123 held it's first 9-Ball bar table double elimination handicapped tournament played on diamond 7" pro cut pockets. The Player's Tournament drew 32 players with the players chart set to go. The format was a race to a numbered handicap. (Example: if an 8 played a 6 the 8 would have to win 8 games and the 6 would have to win 6 games).

Handicapped tournaments are hard to run with different players at different skill levels. For example; a player may be rated a 6 in the tournament and another player may be rated a 7. There is no control on who will match up in the tournament. Player A (the six) and player B (the seven) draw each other in the tourney, these two player's may play even but if the seven draws a different six he might have to give that player a game on the wire or even two games on the wire. So with that said handicapped tournaments are the hardest tournaments to run.

The balls were racked and with the crack of the break the race was on. The players are off and running and that is no lie. With the format race to your number there were a lot of great matches. The first round of play flew by like a drag racing car ripping up the track.

The second round of play was when matches got interesting. One match was long time Las Vegas player Mark Estes who help jump start pool in Las Vegas. Mark helped get a handicap system for players all over LV. It was Mark vs. Chad Bernard. Chad is a good person with a lot of game. Chad played a great match knowing he was going to have to play good to beat Mark. Mark racing to 10 and Chad racing to 8. Chad with his mild personality was like an animal. Chad was making great shot after shot and moved Mark to the one loss side early. Chad's next match wasn't going to get any easier. Chad would find himself playing Ricky White.

Another person that was rolling through the field was Joe Corpuz. Joe was like an avalanche sliding down a mountain taking out everything in its way. Joe defeated good players like John Hewitt, Wes Hughes, and Steve Stokes. But everyone knows that even the biggest avalanches will always come to a stop. Joe ran into one of the better players in town. That player would be Freddy Boggs. Joe would have to race to six and Freddy would have to race to 10.

Joe was no match for Freddy. As the tournament was well on its way the sun was setting and darkness was upon us. Freddy was kicking his game into over drive. This was the last match of the day for both players. Freddy would go on to defeat Joe and find himself in a great position to win the tournament.

On the top half of the bracket was a different story. Ray Skenador was the man to watch and to beat. Ray was knocking players out like taking candy from a baby with wins over Joe Massari, Marv (the snow plow) Rethman, and Chris McCreary.

Ray was climbing that mountain, to get to the top and to win that dough. But on the other side of the mountain was Ricky White. Ricky was great to watch with some big wins over players like Joe Kilimchak, Greg Ramser and Chad Bernard.

Ray Skenador would meet Ricky White at the top of that mountain. Ricky had control over the match and looked like he was going to beat Ray and move on to Play Freddy Boggs to get to the hot seat. Well that was what it looked like. Ray with a great game and playing with confidence stopped Ricky in his tracks. Ray made a great come back to knock Ricky off the top of the Mountain and move him to the one-loss side.

Ray and Freddy were the two players left on the winner's side. Freddy was too much for Ray. Freddy with his steady play and great knowledge of the game was going to be hard to beat. Ray played hard but fell a little short of his goal. He had one more chance since he was on the one-loss side waiting to get another crack at Freddy. Freddy was king of the hill and would have to wait to see who would emerge out of the clouds on the other side of the mountain.

On the one loss side the players to watch were Jason Bryan and Sebastian. Both players had losses early on the winner's side. These two players were going to have a tough road ahead of them. Jason was on the bottom half of the bracket and Sebastian on the top half of the bracket.

With Sebastian having a first round loss to Chris Thomas, he was going to have a long road ahead of him. Sebastian would blaze through the one-loss like a fire that was out of control defeating player after player. One of those players was Derrick Lorcher. Derrick went two and out in this tournament but with Derrick playing good this story could have had a different ending.

Sebastian (the fire ball) was winning his matches with a little luck and some great play. Some of the other players he took down were Sondra Friestad, Steve Stokes, Mark Estes and Ricky White.

On the bottom half it was all Jason. He played some of the best pool I have ever seen him play. What I mean about that is not about the run outs and the balls disappearing off the table like it was a magic trick. I'm talking about playing with heart and determination. With Jason's mental game on the same page as his playing game he was the man to beat.

Jason the (lumber jack) Bryan was chopping down the players like the ax men chop down trees on the Discovery channel. The coin toss was like his chain saw as soon as the coin hit the table so did the person he was playing. Jason was playing great defeating players like Jason Osborn, Wes Huges, Chris McCreary, Chad Bernard, and Joe Corpuz who pretty much got railroaded by Freddy and Jason.

Jason would now find himself playing Sebastian. Jason with a win over Sebastian would now play Ray Skenador to get back on the winners side and to get a chance to beat Freddy. Jason would defeat Ray and move on to play Freddy.

Jason would have to beat Freddy twice and that was going to be hard for anyone, even the lumber jack Jason Bryan. Jason made a couple of mistakes in the beginning of this match and Freddy would win the first Players Tournament at Mickey's. Congratulations to Freddy Boggs for his great play and victory in the Players Tournament.

I would like to thank all the players who played in the tournament and thank all the employees at Mickey's for all their support and hard work.

1 st place	Freddy Boggs	\$645.00
2 nd place	Jason Bryan	\$310.00
3 rd place	Ray Skenador	\$210.00
4 th place	Sebastian P	\$160.00
5 th place	Ricky White	\$125.00
6 th place	Joe Corpuz	\$125.00
7 th place	Chad Bernard	\$80.00
8 th place	Mark Estes	\$80.00

-The Pool Fly