

The 13th annual Jay Swanson Memorial Tournament was held at Hollywood Billiards located at 5750 Hollywood Blvd. Hollywood, CA 90028 Ph: 323.465.0115.

Hollywood Billiards is a nice billiard room with a great atmosphere. The spacious billiard room has close to forty Brunswick Gold Crown III's. Hollywood Billiards has an upstairs and a downstairs with an open area so you can get an overview of tables below. The lower level of the room has about twenty tables with very tight pockets. The upper level has close to twenty tables with larger drop pockets.

The Swany drew close to two hundred players ranging from all skill levels and ages. This is a great tournament with a cheap buy-in at \$65.00 or \$70.00 the day of the event. The tournament pays down sixty four spots with the top prize pay out of \$2500. Second place \$1500 and third place \$1000. Even though winning the prize money won't change someone's life, the tournament still attracts great players like Jose Parica, Mitch Ellerman, Oscar and Ernesto Dominguez, Max Eberle, Scott Frost, Justin Bergman, Louie Ulrich, Cory Harper and not to forget Dave Hemma, last year's runner up to Johnny Archer.

With almost two hundred players in the tournament the first day is something to see. If you want to be a tournament player get ready for a mental and physical drain. Staying on the winner's side is key, although easier said than done depending on your skill level, confidence, your opponent, and not to mention your luck.

The Swany is a hard tournament to cover with great players and matches going on all over the place. I was keyed on a few players and their matches. Max Eberle, the house pro at Hollywood Billiards was one of the guys as he steamed through his first couple of matches like a warrior with his cue stick as his sword. Max then ran into Scott the Freezer Frost. They don't call him the Freezer for no reason. Flat out this man can play pool. Max started out playing well with a little lead on Scott and with a short race anything could happen. Max was on the hill and playing with confidence, but in a flash Scott makes a combo on the nine. Now Scott snaps the nine on the break and follows it up with a break and run. He's now right back in the match. Scott breaks and ends up with a hard shot. He missed and gave Mad Max ball in hand. Max ran out to put Scott on the one loss side. With a win over Scott and playing with confidence Max looked like he might win the whole thing. Max fell short of his goal losing to Mitch Ellerman and Jose Parica taking seventh in a great tournament.

Another player that was defeating player after player is another Arizona kid named Mitch Ellerman. Mitch moved through the bracket like a Great White shark cruising in the waters below. With his break working and hitting dead center of the pocket no matter what shot it was. The Arizona kid looked like an animal and it was going to be tough to beat him. Mitch proved it by securing the hot seat. Mitch waited to see how the next gun slinger would be.

That person on the one loss side was Oscar Dominguez. As Oscar defeated great player after player. With his Hurricane break and shot making ability. This is what the Swany

is all about. As Oscar, the local's favorite, moved from the one loss side to meet up with the Arizona kid, Mitch Ellerman.

The Swany turned out to be the Super Bowl of pool. Mitch Ellerman vs. Oscar Dominguez. This was a great match with two young men that are great for the game of pool. No deals no splits, let's play some pool and may the best gladiator survive.

Mitch was the first to break. He took an early lead. Oscar came right back with lefts and rights, like Sugar Ray Leonard in his prime. This was a battle as Oscar would catch up and Mitch would counter back and pull ahead. Mitch was like a rock as he stroked the balls in and reached the top of the hill first with Mitch on the hill. Oscar was down but not out. Oscar fell short this time getting defeated 11 – 8 in the final match.

Mitch is playing good and will defend his 8-Ball Championship at the Sands Regency in Reno, NV tournament February 23 – March 1. Good luck to all the players, see you there.

Special thanks to all the sponsors and helpers – Mark Griffin, Bill Stock, Jay Helfert, Mark Estes and the staff at Hollywood Billiards.

-The Pool Fly