



THE 2008 WPBA US OPEN 9 BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ALLISON FISHER KNOCKED OUT IN A 1-2 PUNCH
GA YOUNG KIM ELIMINATED FINISHING TIED FOR 9TH
XIAOTING PAN ALSO KNOCKED OUT TIED FOR 9TH

A NEW PLAYER WILL MOVE INTO THE #1 SPOT



By Anne Craig - WPBA

August 1, 2008 – Norman, Oklahoma: Allison Fisher, long time #1 ranked player in the world and with tens of Championships Titles, will not be defending her title as she'd hoped after being delivered a double knockout by Philippine player Iris Ranola and WPBA Top 40 Pro Sarah Rousey.

After Allison lost her 1st round match versus Iris Ranola, she came back at an unfamiliar hour at 10:00am this morning to play Sarah Rousey, who'd also lost her first round match. The score progression went 2-2, 5-4 (Allison's lead) . Sarah wouldn't go away. At 8-7 Allison, Allison broke, made a ball but missed a tougher 2 ball cut and Sarah ran out for the hill-hill thriller. Sarah broke, made 2 balls and ran out to win the match and send the #1 Ranked player in the world reeling. Allison Fisher will lose her #1 ranking as only 2500 points had separated her and the three ladies tied for 2nd place, Karen Corr, Ga Young Kim and Xiaoting Pan. In addition, there were 3 other players coming into this event within 4000 points and at the US Open, the point values are increased by an extra 50%, first place receives 7500 points! This is the first time since Allison Fisher joined the WPBA that she has been eliminated 1-2.

Ga Young Kim faced Julie Kelly in the 3rd round winner's bracket match versus former World 9 Ball Champion, Julie Kelly. Julie jumped out to a 4-1 lead and never looked back, defeating Ga Young 9-6. Afterwards, Ga Young said that she played poorly and couldn't seem to get her rhythm going. She advanced to the final 16 and the redraw and faced Iris Ranola. The match stayed close the whole way, with the players ending up at hill-hill and Iris' break. Iris got down on the cue ball, struck the rack and snapped the 9 in to send Ga Young Kim home! Iris had defeated Helena Thornfeldt in the previous round and may steal the nickname "The Giant Killer" from Sarah Rousey at this rate.

Xiaoting Pan was looking strong and had moved into the final 16 after defeating Jeanette Lee 9-3 in their 3rd round match. She then faced new WPBA Non Exempt player Yu Ram Cha: The US Open is only Yu Ram's 2nd WPBA tournament. Xiaoting appeared to have her game under control until the score was tied at 4all. Yu Ram then took the initiative and won 5 consecutive unanswered games to win the match 9-4 and send another top gun home.

This is an unprecedented occurrence for a WPBA tournament, to have 3 of the top 4 ranked players coming into an event knocked out before the Final 8.

(Cont'd)

Other matches of note:

Jasmin Ouschan and Kelly Fisher had a tough head to head hill-hill fight, with Jasmin emerging victorious. Sarah Rousey saw her tournament end at the hands (and stick) of Tiffany Nelson hill-hill. In speaking with Sarah after the match, she exclaimed in frustration "I missed about five 8 balls!" She can take comfort in knowing she defeated the former #1 ranked player in the world. Kelly Fisher went on to defeat Julie Kelly in a romp 9-1. Sarah Ellerby, Jeanette Lee and Karen Corr all advanced with ease into the Final 8. Another great story is Pam Cimorelli (Treadway). In her first tournament this year she's played well and had made her way under the radar to the Final 8. She defeated Laura Smith in the first round but subsequently lost to Sarah Ellerby. Since then she's stormed through the one loss side with wins over Candi Rego, Vicki Paski, Susan Williams before defeating Kim Shaw in the Final 16 round late Friday night. This, along with Iris Ranola and Yu Ram Cha, marks her first time in the TV rounds.

The matches for today are as follows –

Quarterfinals #1 starts at 1:00pm CST – Sarah Ellerby vs. Iris Ranola

Quarterfinals #2 starts scheduled for 3:00pm CST – Karen Corr vs. Yu Ram Cha

Quarterfinals #3 scheduled for 5:00pm CST – Jeanette Lee vs. Pam Cimorelli

Quarterfinals #4 scheduled for 7:00pm CST – Vivian Villarreal vs. Kelly Fisher

Stay tuned!