



THE 2008 WPBA US OPEN 9 BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



QUARTERFINALS #2

KAREN CORR VS. YU RAM CHA

By Anne Craig - WPBA



August 2, 2008: Riverwind Casino, Norman Oklahoma.

Quarterfinals #2 saw another newcomer, Yu Ram Cha, in only her 2nd WPBA Event face off versus the veteran Karen Corr. Yu Ram defeated Xiaoting Pan last night in a solid 9-4 match.

Karen won the lag and broke but missed a shot. Yu Ram ran out to the 7, she left herself very awkward on the 8, having to use the bridge to play a safety. Karen, in turn, played a safety by sending the 8 ball to the side rail and the cue to the opposing side rail. Karen missed a long rail bank shot, allowing Yu Ram an open shot to run out and take the opening game of the match.

Karen broke the next rack but came up dry. Yu Ram stepped up ready to run out and did so with confidence, pocketing the 9 to take a 2-0 lead. Game 3 saw Yu Ram's break fail her. Karen attempted a 1/5 combination which failed, leaving the 5 ball hanging in the corner pocket. As the crowd gasped, Yu Ram tried a safety but scratched in the side pocket offering ball in hand to Karen, who methodically began making each ball left on the table. The crowd applauded after she sank each ball, even when Karen left herself out of line on the 8 with a severe back cut. Karen didn't blink an eye, deftly cutting the ball but as when dominoes fall, she left herself a 2nd difficult back cut on the 9. This one didn't go down and Yu Ram had the duck to take a 3-0 lead with the break advantage in game 4. Sinking 2 balls on the break, Yu Ram had an open table starting with the 2 ball. Leaving herself stretched out over the 5 ball, Yu Ram missed allowing Karen back to the table to finally get on the board.

Karen continued her run by winning game 5 and closing within 1, but game 5 saw several safety battles, with some amazing kick shots being executed. After being hooked behind the 9 for the 4 ball, Karen attempted a kick/carom into the side but hung the ball, and Yu Ram ran out easily to extend her lead back to 2 games, 4-2. Karen had the break and pocketed a ball but was forced to push out. After a back and forth, Karen tried a return safety but was unsuccessful allowing Yu Ram an open shot. The table layout wasn't easy and Yu Ram had to carefully navigate her way around but showed her mental toughness, not flinching at all as she pocketed each ball. One by one they fell and Yu Ram increased her lead to 3. Yu Ram broke so hard that her cue ball flew off the table, giving Karen ball in hand and the runout.

Karen broke in game 8, made a ball but failed to make the 1 ball. Yu Ram and Karen traded off safety shots on the 2 ball until Yu Ram gained the advantage, making the 2 and continuing on from there. Yu Ram played beautiful position play on this especially difficult layout and reached the hill needing only 1 game out of 4 to win the match.

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Yu Ram's break came up empty and Karen had an open table layout. Uncharacteristically, she gained poor position on the 2 ball, going for the flyer bank shot instead of a safety which she missed. Luckily for her, she left Yu Ram behind a ball and Yu Ram jumped the cue ball and hit the 2 but didn't leave Karen an open pocket. Another safety battle ensued, and even though Karen made a legal hit, she scratched, giving Yu Ram ball in hand. After making the 2, Yu Ram lost focus and missed the 3 ball allowing Karen an open shot. Unbelievably, Karen missed that shot as well! Back and forth the two went, with neither one wanting to take control for several tries at the 3. You could see the look of frustration in Karen's face on the big screen TV's that Riverwind has set up here. Yu Ram's feelings weren't hidden any better as she blinked first, and Karen finally sank the 3 ball to begin running out the rack finishing off the 9 in the corner.

With the score 6-4, Karen stepped up to the table with the break and pocketed 2 balls. She immediately had to try a safety on the 1 but was unsuccessful, leaving Yu Ram with a shot, albeit an awkward one which she missed. Karen, surprising even herself, missed as well. Another safety battle was underway as the two players parried in a chess match of wills. Yu Ram scratched after a long side rail kick down-table and Karen took ball in hand, proceeding to run out. She stumped even herself when she came up short on shape for the 7. Facing a tough cut and position play, Karen stepped up and fired the 7 in but the cue ball came back and hit the 9, stopping it short of better position for the 8 on the rail. Staying calm, she made a beautiful down the rail cut shot with position on the 9 and got herself back to within one game, 6-5. Karen was wishing she had the break advantage but Yu Ram stepped up and fired at the rack. All that power got her nowhere and she failed to pocket a ball. Karen had no open shot though and had to push out but Yu Ram handed back the option and Karen gently slid the cue ball off the 1 leaving Yu Ram a cut into the side. Yu Ram executed the shot perfectly, coming around 3 rails and giving herself a chance for a 2/9 combination. Calmly she lined it up, and made the shot to defeat Karen Corr 7-5!