



THE 2008 WPBA US OPEN 9 BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



QUARTERFINALS #3

JEANETTE LEE VS. PAM CIMARELLI

By Anne Craig - WPBA



August 2, 2008: Riverwind Casino, Norman Oklahoma.

Quarterfinals #3 saw yet a 3rd fresh face to the TV rounds, Pamela Cimarelli (nee Treadway). Pam made her way quietly into the Final 8, playing under the radar while Iris Ranola and Yu Ra Cha stole all the thunder so to speak. Don't let her quiet demeanor fool you though; she's a tough competitor at age 21. After losing her 2nd round match to Sarah Ellerby, Pam defeated 4 consecutive players to reach this point versus the always popular and competitive Jeanette Lee.

Jeanette won the lag and stepped up to the table. Breaking she made a ball and proceeded to run out with her usual aplomb. With a cry of anguish after she realized she'd missed the 8, Pam stepped up for her first shot in front of the TV cameras and calmly made the 8 & 9 to take the opening game. She now had the break advantage and prepared for her first break of the match. To her chagrin, she failed to pocket a ball and Jeanette, hair now up in a pony tail, made the 1 and played safe on the 2. Pam went for a 2 rail kick but didn't hit the ball giving Jeanette ball in hand. All fun and games went out the window as she determinedly began to run out again. One by one she pocketed each ball and tied the match up 1 all.

Jeanette broke and didn't make a ball, and a safety battle began on the 1. Pam made a great kick shot to allow the battle to continue on unabated for at least 4 shots for each player. Again and again each player tried to snooker the other. Pam brought out her jump cue when Jeanette hooked her behind the 9 and she nearly made the 1. Jeanette growled in frustration since the resulting lie yielded no open pocket, Jeanette's safety proved less than stellar and Pam made a great shot on the 1 but left the 2 ball hanging in the pocket! Jeanette began her runout but nearly scratched after making the 3 in the side. The cue ball was sitting deep in the pocket for a straight in shot on the 5 which she made and she had another very long shot on the 6. She rattled the ball and left Pam with an out. With focus Pam ran out, steadying her nerves with a thin cut shot on the 9 to take a 2-1 lead and had the break next.

Pam pocketed 3 balls on the break and had a long cut shot on the 1 and missed it but left Jeanette head-on with the 1 ball on the rail. Jeanette attempted a safe and although not an easy shot, left Pam with several options to pocket the ball. She chose the more difficult shot and missed but forced Jeanette to try a safety which was unsuccessful. Pam

made a great shot on the 1, running to the 5 ball and making a great 5/9 combo to go up 3-1. Jeanette made 2 balls on the break but had to play a safe. Pam fouled and gave Jeanette ball in hand and an easy layout. Jeanette left herself a tough cut on the 6 into the side and missed it! Pam stepped up to shoot, looking steady as she made the 6, 7, 8. Leaving herself a long, straight in 9 ball shot, her nerves betrayed her as she rattled the ball but didn't leave Jeanette a gimme. Jeanette failed to execute the shot she wanted and Pam finished off the game taking a 4-1 lead. With the break on her side, Pam didn't make a ball but left a difficult layout for Jeanette who stepped up and started picking the rack apart. Mumbling to herself "what a mess, what a mess", Jeanette made the 3 and looked to a 3 ball combination – 4/6/7 which she missed. Pam now had an opportunity to take a 4 game lead but missed the 5 ball on her way. Jeanette wasn't going to miss again and confidently made the remaining balls to narrow Pam's lead to 2 games. With it being Jeanette's break, it looked like the match would tighten up even more, but Jeanette didn't make a ball and left the 9 ball close to the corner pocket and a makeable shot on the 1. Pam began shooting but started off on the wrong foot leaving herself awkward on the 2 ball. She tried to thin the 2 and bring the cue ball down to hit the 7/9 but was unsuccessful. Jeanette played a great safety and Pam missed the 2 altogether, giving Jeanette ball in hand. One could cite the fear of flying syndrome as Pam seemed to be making poor shot selections. Jeanette made a great run out to pull within one game, down 4-3.

Pam came up dry on the break in game 8 but left Jeanette no open shot and forcing her to push out. Playing smart, she pushed to a near hook but just leaving enough of the 1 to be enticing. Pam snookered about half the cue ball behind the 5 sending the 1 up-table. You could see Pam's body language change from quiet confidence to dismay as she's realized she's let a 3 game lead nearly slip away. Jeanette re-snookered Pam, locking the cue ball directly behind the 3. Pam chose to cluster the 4 near the 2 and 8 balls and give Jeanette ball in hand. Jeanette started loosening up perhaps as a direct result of knowing that the top 4 players coming into this event are gone and she feels she has a great chance to win this year's Open. Just when you thought she had it all under control, she misses the 5 ball, but kicks the 9 in the side instead. As you watch the look on Pam's face of utter disgust, Jeanette's look was equal parts embarrassed and happy as the match is now tied.

Jeanette had the break but scratched and Pam knew she had to refocus her energy back into the match. She ran out to the 4 but missed shape and tried a hard cross bank, almost making the 9 ball and letting Jeanette make a 4/9 combination to take her first lead of the match. Pam broke and although she made a ball, the shooting changed hands several times until Jeanette was offered an open shot on the 1, when she proceeded to run out. To the crowd's amazement, Jeanette missed an easy 2 ball going for position on the 3 and left Pam a tough cut into the side which she missed after Steve called 10 seconds on the shot clock. Jeanette missed her opportunity on the 2 and left Pam with a long almost straight in shot. No one seemed to want to pocket the 2 as both players went back and forth until Pam blinked first and Jeanette finally sank it and ran out to reach the hill first, 6-4.

It was Jeanette's break as she yelled out to Allison Fisher "I want it so bad I can taste it. It's kind of nice having you watch me for a change instead of me watching you!". Jeanette pocketed a ball on the break but didn't have a shot on the 1. Pam came to the table looking to play a safety which she successfully executed, leaving Jeanette with a simple masse shot. Nearly pocketing the 1 off of the 8, Jeanette came up dry and Pam looked to collect herself to stay in the match. She was forced to play a safety on the 3 and another chess game began. Jeanette snookered Pam tightly behind the 6, giving herself ball in hand after Pam failed to hit the 3. Jeanette then snuggled the cue ball right up against the 9, leaving Pam no other option but to try a 2 rail flyer into the 3. She actually made the ball but came off of the 3 and scratched! The crowd applauded in appreciation but ultimately Pam sat down dejected as Jeanette took ball in hand with 5 balls left between her and the Semifinals.

Jeanette ran out and she advances into the Semi's