



THE 2009 WPBA PACIFIC COAST CLASSIC

SEMIFINALS #1

Story & Photos by Anne Craig – WPBA



Jasmin Ouschan

vs.



Allison Fisher

October 18th, 2009: Lincoln City, OR

Allison Fisher, arguably the greatest female player of our era or any era for that fact, hasn't hoisted a WPBA Title trophy since last year at the WPBA Great Lakes Classic. Meanwhile, Jasmin Ouschan was looking for the opportunity to win her 2nd WPBA event this season. Both competitors come into this first Semi Final match undefeated and the crowd knew it was watching something special with these players separated by a generation of play.

Jasmin won the lag as the crowd got ready for what they anticipated would be a great match. She pocketed a ball on her break but was forced to push out with no shot on the 1 ball. Allison began a safety battle on the elusive ball. After several rally's, Jasmin finally blinked first giving Allison ball in hand and an open layout for the opportunity to draw first blood in this match. She ran her way to the 7 ball, with good position to draw off the side rail for the 8 but overcut it as it jawed out of the pocket. She left Jasmin with no choice but to play safe, leaving both balls the full length of the table apart. Allison went for the cut shot but the 7 rattled and Jasmin ran out to take the first game, 1-0.

Game two saw Allison break and starting several safety exchanges on both the one and the two ball. In the end, Jasmin finally left Allison an open shot and Allison posted a beautiful run out to take the second game to tie it up at 1 all. Jasmin broke but failed to pocket a ball and Allison stepped up with yet another open layout. She missed a slice on the 3 ball up the rail, leaving Jasmin easy shape. But as the crowd gasped, Jasmin overcut the shot, trying to cheat the pocket a bit and Allison knew she was fortunate to be back at the table again. She ran out to the 4 and made a great 4/9 combination to win game 3, up 2-1.

Allison broke in game 4, and made 2 balls on the break but nearly scratched in the corner pocket. She was forced to push out leaving Jasmin no open pocket for the 2 ball and she chose to give Allison back the option. Allison responded by playing safe, thus starting yet another safety battle. Allison blinked first giving Jasmin an open shot to begin a run out. She lost her cue ball though after sinking the 3 and instead of coming around the 9, she ran into it leaving herself a more awkward cut shot on the 4. Without a second thought, she cut the 3, came up table and off the rail for shape on the 5 and continued on her way to the 9 and we were tied at 2 all.

Jasmin broke in game 5, pocketing two balls and nearly making the 9 which ended up in line with the 5 ball for a combination. She had no open pocket for the 3, up table, so instead she played the two-way shot, banking the 3 and sending the cue ball up table, hitting the 5 which in turn sent the 9 into the pocket; What a great shot!

With the score 3-2, Allison broke in game 6 and with the crowd cheering, the 9 headed for the corner pocket, getting some extra help from the 7 ball! We were tied again at 3 all. It was Jasmin's break again, but this time the 9 stayed put on the spot. Jasmin made a ball but was forced to push out, and thinking about what she wanted to do, was forced to take her extension. Allison took the option, playing safe and the chess game was on. Allison blinked first and Jasmin took advantage by running out to take back the one game lead, up 4-3. Allison broke and nearly made the 9 again, but was forced to play safe. After a short exchange on the 2, Jasmin earned an open shot on the ball, sinking it and continued to the 3 ball, which was in line with the 9 and she went for it, making a great 3/9 combination. Allison chose to take a break at this stage with the score at 5-3.

Jasmin had the break advantage in game 9 but failed to pocket a ball. Allison ran to the 3 but ended up snookering her cue ball behind the 9, forcing her to kick one rail and try to pocket the 3 in the side. Although she hit the ball, she left an easy shot for Jasmin. She played beautiful shape from the 4 to the 5 ball, drawing one rail nearly the full length of the table for the 5 that was laying near the bottom rail. She finished out the rack, reaching the hill, up 6-3.

Game 10 saw Allison break, but she failed to make a ball. Having no other option, Jasmin pushed out leaving Allison with a bank shot that she sank dead center of the side pocket. The crowd stood in unison as Allison ran out and sank the 9 and win her 4th game of the match. We were now at 6-4, with Jasmin on the hill and with the break. The cue ball jumped straight up as it hit the rack but nothing dropped, allowing Allison the opportunity to get back to within one game. She smartly pocketed the 3 ball, but the four ball ran away from her a bit, leaving her a touchy cut shot into the side pocket. She overcut it slightly, leaving a sitting duck for Jasmin to take this match and move into her second Finals of this season. She pocketed the 9 ball and the final score was 7-4. Allison finishes tied for 3rd.