

## **Winter Storms through Dunlop Barrie Ontario, but Denise "Da Bomb" Belanger clears it up with a win!**

On March 8/9, 2008, the Tiger Canadian Women's Pool Tour kicked off the season's first stop at Dunlop Billiards in Barrie, Ontario. Despite the harsh winter storm on Friday and Saturday, 17 awesome women players from Ontario and the U.S. still traveled to Barrie with their eyes on the \$1,000.00 added including the 2008 Great Lakes Classic WPBA Qualifier, sponsored by TableSports Canada, Tiger Products and Dunlop Billiards. "The weather was so bad and there was so much snow, I couldn't see my car in Dunlop's parking lot. I am honored to have these ladies come out and play in the tour. Thank you, to all the players who came out and supported the tour!" Carolina Fernandez, CEO. After two days of solid playing, Denise "Da Bomb" Belanger sweeps the field undefeated, claiming the top position in the first stop!

On Sunday, saw the returning six players: Denise Belanger, Tina Meraglio, Leanne Amable, Darlene Gardiner, Maureen Seto, and Naomi Williams, the returning CWPT champion. Belanger, just back in the pool scene, breezed through her first three opponents, and then drilled Meraglio (7-2) in the hot seat match on Sunday. In the one-loss bracket, the field grew smaller as Williams defeated Amable (7-2) and Gardiner (7-2), who had defeated Seto (7-2) in the quarter finals.

In the B-side final, Meraglio, who traveled all the way from Ohio for the action, is matched up against Williams. "I do not mind traveling to any of the tournaments because I really enjoyed playing the Tiger CWPT tour." said Tina Meraglio. Meraglio is on fire and jumps out to a quick lead with a score of 4 -1. Williams doesn't back down and knots the score 4 -4. Meraglio was able to keep control and regains the lead with a score of 6- 4 which puts her on the hill. In this alternating break format, it is Williams' turn to break. She breaks her almighty thunder break and sinks the 2-ball. However, the cue ball lands a tough shot for the 1-ball and Williams decides to play safe. Meraglio kicks at the 1-ball and pockets it in the corner. She then runs up to the 6-ball and hooks the cue ball behind the 9. Williams brings out her jump cue stick and takes the shot. The 6-ball rattles at the corner. It was indeed a close shot! Now spectators are anxious to see if Meraglio will run out in the game. In this round, Meraglio had other plans and decided to play safe by sending the cue ball once again behind the 9-ball. The patience and strategy pays off and Williams misses the kick shot. Meraglio cleans the table up. With a 7-4 score, Williams settles for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Meraglio wins to get back to the winners side of the tournament.

(continued)

In the final hot seat match, Meraglio is back and getting her revenge on Belanger as she leads the score 4 – 1 after the 5<sup>th</sup> rack. Belanger, a veteran Canadian player, struggled during her match as she missed some key shots that cost her some games. Will it be over? In this match, the odds are tough but Belanger sends a bomb on the table with run outs and kick safety shots in the 10<sup>th</sup> rack, which brings her back into the game with a leading score 6-4. In the 11<sup>th</sup> frame, Meraglio plays a perfect safety leading the cue ball on the opposite side of the table. Belanger checks the shot. She decides to go big or go home! She cuts the 8-ball in corner pocket and made perfect shape for an easy 9-ball in the corner. With a 7-4 score, Meraglio settles for 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Belanger wins the 2008 Great Lakes Classic WPBA Qualifier.



Denise Belanger lining up a shot



Tina Meraglio & Denise Belanger

- 1<sup>st</sup> Denise Belanger - \$150 + WPBA Qualifier
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tina Meraglio - \$290.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Naomi Williams \$175.00
- 4<sup>th</sup> Darlene Gardiner \$90.00
- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Leanne Amable/Maureen Seto \$60.00 each