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WPBA PACIFIC COAST CLASSIC THE COMMOTION BY THE OCEAN Day Three Begins

October 4th, 2008 – Lincoln, City OR at the Chinook Winds Casino

Day three saw the remaining 18 players in the one loss bracket shoot it out in two rounds of play to see who would match up against the top 8 in the winner's bracket. The noon rounds started off with Kim White versus Vivian Villarreal, Kelly Fisher versus Dawn Hopkins, Ewa Laurance versus Karen Corr, and Sarah Rousey versus Megan Minerich.

Vivian, Karen and Kelly jumped out to commanding leads in their respective matches, while Sarah Rousey & Megan Minerich started off 1-1. Sarah jumped out ahead to take the lead 3-1, but Megan fought back to tie up the match at 3 all. Meanwhile, Kim White seemed to struggle with each shot, while Dawn didn't seem to get many good opportunities as the match progressed.

Kelly kept rolling along and finished off the match easily with a 1/9 combination to move onto the Final 16, defeating Dawn Hopkins 9-3. Vivian also held firm, winning 9-4 and Kim White finished tied for 17th. Ewa Laurance proved no match for Karen Corr who won 9-3.

Meanwhile, Sarah and Megan were locked in a battle royale as each began to trade games. At 7-7, Sarah came to the table for the break, making a ball and looking to run out to reach the hill first. She instead was forced to play a safety but instead left a shot for Megan. Confidently striding around the layout, she pocketed each ball until she reached the 8 where she ended up with less than ideal shape. She missed the shot and Sarah reached the hill first. To add insult to injury, Sarah came to the table with the break advantage and snapped the 9 ball in to advance to the Final 16.

The 2pm rounds saw Melissa Little play against Xiaoting Pan, Helena Thornfeldt matching up versus Janet Atwell, Melissa Herndon playing Kim Shaw and an all Asia match-up between Yu Ram Cha and Kyoko Sone.

Janet Atwell took an early 4-1 lead versus Helena Thornfeldt. Xiaoting Pan jumped to a 5-0 lead before Melissa Little finally winning 2 games to pull within 3: Kim Shaw led Melissa Herndon 5-2 as Melissa couldn't seem to get a rhythm going and Yu Ram Cha extended her lead to 4-2 early on over Kyoko Sone.

Janet Atwell, Xiaoting Pan, Kim Shaw and Yu Ram Cha all continued to dominate their respective opponents as each extended their leads by 5, 6 and then 7 games. Yu Ram seemed the most relaxed, quietly pocketing ball after ball. Xiaoting was her usual focused self, Kim Shaw played steadily and Janet Atwell looked strong, after having received some massage therapy for her back.

Yu Ram Cha was the first in this round to finish her match, beating Kyoko Sone 9-1. Janet Atwell finished off Helena Thornfeldt by a stunning 9-1 victory, while Kim Shaw left no doubt as to her abilities by defeating Melissa Herndon 9-2. Xiaoting Pan moved on to the Final 16 after winning against Melissa Little 9-3.

Stay tuned for the draw!

(Later in the day...)

Our Final 16 match-ups –

5:30pm Round

Monica Webb vs. Janet Atwell
Allison Fisher vs. Sarah Rousey
Ga Young Kim vs. Vivian Villarreal
Gerda Hofstatter vs. Xiaoting Pan

7:30pm Round

Line Kjorsvik vs. Karen Corr
Iris Ranola vs. Kim Shaw
Anna Kostanian vs. Yu Ram Cha
Jeanette Lee vs. Kelly Fisher

The 5:30pm matches started in earnest as all the competitors were introduced by our master Emcee & Tournament Director, Steve Tipton.

Vivian won the lag, as did Xiaoting, Allison and Monica. Most anticipated a very fast match between Vivian and Ga Young but the first game turned into a safety battle on the 2 ball. All players were looking to get into their comfort zone but each took some time to do so. Vivian struck first out of all and won the first game.

Janet Atwell played with ease in her first rack against Monica Webb and ran out to take the first game of her match. Meanwhile, Gerda was deliberate in her first game versus Xiaoting Pan, pocketing 7 balls to draw first blood. Sarah Rousey looked to have no fear against Allison Fisher as she'd beaten her at the US Open and took the opening game.

Vivian looked to be rolling but in game 4, blew shape to the 6 ball, needing to use the bridge for a thin cut into the corner pocket. She pocketed it with aplomb and continued through the rack. Uncharacteristically, she missed a 9 ball cut and Ga Young had a game on the board but found herself down 1-3. That was the only game Ga Young would win for awhile as she soon found herself down 5 games after Vivian then played a great 1/9 combo in rack #7 to extend her lead 6-1. After what seemed to take only 5 minutes, Vivian reached the hill in a blowout out Ga Young, 8-1. Vivian scratched off the break in game 10 and Ga Young ran out but was still facing a mountain of a deficit which proved to be too much and Vivian won the match 9-3 and the first to advance to the Final Eight.

Monica Webb snookered herself behind the 8 ball in game 3: unable to see the 5 ball, she was forced to kick one long rail and although she did hit the 5, she left Janet with a long but makeable cut up the rail. Both players showed their nerves as they not only missed the 5 ball twice each but missed the 7 ball in succession as well. Janet finally had her opportunity and ran out, going up a game 2-1. Monica answered back by winning the next two games and took the lead in the match for the first time, up 3-2: Neither player was willing to let the other loose, and they traded games, ending up tied at 6 all. Monica proved the tougher of the two competitors though and pulled out the win, 9-7.

Gerda and Xiaoting were both playing slowly and deliberately, but Gerda took the lead 2-0. Neither player seemed able to get into a rhythm as each game took quite some time to play itself out. Xiaoting missed the 5 ball in game three deep in the pocket allowing Gerda to step up and run out for the 3 game lead. Gerda continued her run and extended the lead to 5-0. Xiaoting wouldn't give up so easily though and climbed back to within 3, down 2-5. Xiaoting continued to take advantage of Gerda's errors and soon took the lead at 8-6. Xiaoting didn't look back and won the match to advance into the final 8, leaving Gerda disappointed tied for 9th.

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Allison looked unsettled as she missed shape on the 7 in game 4, but Sarah in turn missed the 8 allowing Allison to tie up the match at 2 all. Thereafter, Allison seemed to find her groove and began putting racks together as Sarah watched on. Sarah finally stopped the momentum with a 9 ball on the break to get back within one game, 3-4. Allison smelled victory though and with sheer force of will, reached the hill: up 8-4. She finished out the match to advance in the tournament.

The 7:30pm matches began on time as all eight players entered the arena.

Line Kjorsvik, coming off of a strong 3rd place finish at the WPBA's Carolina Classic, had drawn Karen Corr who had made her way through the one loss side after losing her first round match. Their match knotted up early on at 2-2 with both players trading safeties. Karen stepped up her game and won the next two games, but Line answered back, eventually taking back the lead, 8-6. Karen missed the 5 ball in game 15 and Line looked like she would finish off the match but, she rattled the 7, allowing Karen back to the table to take the game and get within 1. Karen then tied it up hill-hill and had the break advantage. She missed the 5 ball in the final game but left Line with no easy shot. Line missed, leaving Karen to run the rack and steal the match from Line. Karen moved on to play Kim Shaw.

Kelly Fisher, who also lost her first round match, drew Jeanette Lee and came ready to play taking a very fast 7-0 lead. Nothing seemed to roll right for Jeanette as at every opportunity, either her cue ball would scratch or she'd snooker herself, and Kelly punished her for it by running out each time. Jeanette avoided the bagel, finally posting a game on the board but still facing a 6 game deficit. Kelly won the next game to reach the hill, but seemed to ease up a bit as Jeanette won the next 3 games, still down 8-4. The lead proved too much and Kelly finished off game 13 to advance into the final 8.

Iris Ranola and Kim Shaw matched up for the first time, with Kim taking a 3 game lead, up 4-1. Kim played solid pool, rarely offering up an opportunity for Iris to display the talent that has propelled the Pilipino Champion player into the U.S. spotlight. Iris wouldn't give up, but couldn't surmount the deficit, with Kim eventually going up 8-3.

Anna Kostanian and Yu Ram Cha, who are also playing against each other for the first time, traded games from the start. Both young players delighted the crowd with their solid play and talent. Anna remained calm and began running out every time she came to the table and soon had a 5-3 lead. But Yu Ram wasn't going to go away quietly, putting the pressure on Anna and staying calm to take the lead and reach the hill first, 8-6. Yu Ram finished off the match, winning 9-6.

While Line and Karen finished out their match, Steve Tipton introduced the 9:30pm rounds –

The Final 8:

Kelly Fisher vs. Yu Ram Cha
Vivian Villarreal vs. Xiaoting Pan
Allison Fisher vs. Monica Webb
Kim Shaw vs. Karen Corr

Kelly Fisher started off quickly as usual, taking a 2-0 lead but in game 3 missed the 7 ball. Yu Ram took advantage of Kelly's subsequent errors and tied the match up at 4 all, then ran out to take her first lead of the match. Unfortunately for Yu Ram, she scratched off a tough 6 ball cut into the side, allowing Kelly to run out and gain momentum. Kelly won the next 3 games to reach the hill. Yu Ram had an opportunity to run out in game 15 but missed the 5 ball. Kelly pocketed the tough corner pocket shot with perfect shape on the 6, and ran out to reach the first Semifinal spot. Congratulations go out to Yu Ram for a strong 5th place finish.

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Allison Fisher, looking steady, jumped out to a commanding 5-0 lead versus Monica Webb. Monica hung tough though and caught two games off the former #1 player, but missed the 6 ball in game 8. Surprisingly, Allison missed the 7 and Monica pulled to within 1 game, 4-5. Allison answered back by extending her lead to 2 in game 10. Monica wasn't about to let her momentum go and tied the match up at 6 all when Allison decided to take a break. Monica continued with her momentum shift after both returned from the break and took the lead for the first time in the match, 7-6. Allison tied the match back up at 7 all but Monica ran out in game 15 to reach the hill first and had the break advantage going into game 16. Monica pocketed a ball and ran out to advance into her first televised match of this year.

Xiaoting drew first blood, winning the first game, but she and Vivian traded games thereafter and the match knotted up at 3 all. Xiaoting proceeded to win the next three games as Vivian struggled with her shot-making, but you can never count Vivian out and she pulled to within one game, 6-7 and the break advantage going into game 14. Vivian handily ran out the rack and the score was now 7 all! Vivian continued her comeback run and reached the hill first, but Xiaoting answered back with a break and run to tie the match at hill-hill. Xiaoting had the break but failed to pocket the ball, putting the onus squarely on Vivian to run out and advance. Vivian methodically made each ball and defeated Xiaoting, 9-8.

Kim Shaw and Karen Corr's match got underway, and the two competitors who are very familiar with each other, showed neither was willing to let the score get away from them as they tied things up 2 all pretty quickly. Both played with care as they traded games, 3-3 then 5 all. The wheel's seemed to fall off of Kim's game as Karen took command of the match, winning the next four games to defeat Kim 9-5.

Note: If Karen Corr defeats Kelly Fisher in their Semifinal match and goes on to win the WPBA Pacific Coast Classic, she will tie with Kelly for the current 1st place ranking!