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WPBA PACIFIC COAST CLASSIC THE COMMOTION BY THE OCEAN

Semi Final #1



Monica Webb

vs.



Vivian Villarreal

October 5th, 2008 – Lincoln, City OR at the Chinook Winds Casino

The final day here at the 2008 WPBA Pacific Coast Classic got underway starting with our first Semifinals at 1:00pm Pacific time. For the first time in a long time, two American players faced off in a semifinal match, both looking for their first win this year on tour. For Vivian, it's been since the 1998 Brunswick Billiards New York Classic. For Monica, she's yet to capture a WPBA Classic Title.

Vivian won the lag, broke and pocketed a ball. She stepped up ready to run out but missed the 3 ball in the side pocket and Monica leapt at the chance to win the first game of the match. Confidently she pocketed the rest of the rack and looked to the 2nd game of the match with the break advantage. After pocketing a ball, Monica was forced to play safe and both competitors played hide & seek with the 1 ball. Vivian was finally left with an open shot but the crowd gasped as she missed the ball. Fortunately she didn't leave an open shot as Monica was forced to kick at it one short rail. She almost made the ball into the side pocket, as Vivian stepped back up to take control of the rack. As Vivian was getting ready to strike the cue ball into the 9, an audience members' cell phone ringer went off and Vivian had the presence of mind to get up and wait patiently as the offender turned off the phone. She steadied her nerves and pocketed the ball to tie the match up at 1 all.

Vivian broke and had to push out, but Monica gave Vivian the option back and Vivian missed the 1 ball and nearly scratched. Monica missed the long, tough 1 ball shot and Vivian was able to pocket the ball to continue on in the rack. As she was ready to line up the shot on the 6 ball, another cell phone went off (or perhaps the same one?) and Vivian, quite angrily declared "Why is it always when I'm ready to hit the ball your phone goes off?" She kept her cool though and ran out to win game 3.

Monica had the break advantage going into game 4 and pocketed the 1. After making the two ball, she jawed the 3 and Vivian quickly took charge of this rack, moving around the table comfortably and ran out to take a two game lead, 3-1 and go into the next game with the break. Vivian needed to push out and Monica snookered Vivian behind the 3/7/9 up table. Kicking one rail, she nearly caromed the 1 off of the 6 but left Monica a viable shot which she made. Coming around table 2 rails, the cue ball rested on the bottom rail under the 2 and Monica went for a two way shot on the 2 ball, lining up for the 2/9 combination and snookering the cue ball squarely behind the 6.

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Vivian kicked one rail and struck the 2 successfully but scratched as she jumped up and down in frustration. Monica took ball in hand and began running out the remaining 7 balls. One by one she did just that and game 5 went to the Georgia resident, still down 2-3.

Monica enjoyed the break advantage but scratched into the side pocket. The table layout was open for Vivian to extend her lead back to two games. Making the 1 ball into the corner pocket, she positioned herself perfectly for the 2, then the 3 and so on, matter-of-factly working her way around the table in short order and the score was 4-2. In game 7 with the break, Vivian returned the favor to Monica by scratching: the table layout wasn't as open for her though as Monica judged the ball layout and how best to run out. Instead, Monica played a safety on the 3 ball. Both players maneuvered several times with the touchy object ball until Vivian was forced to kick 2 rails and left Monica an open shot. After pocketing the 3, she came up a touch short on the 4, leaving herself even shorter on the 5 ball, forcing her back into safety mode. Vivian once again faced a kick shot, one short rail towards the side pocket and while she struck the ball, she left Monica a wide open shot once again. Her position off of the 5 to the 6 left her stretched out and instead of using the bridge, she chose to try to draw the ball completely stretched up and came up short on the 7, leaving her to play safe once again. As Vivian quietly stated "Aye ya yay!" playing a re-safe. Monica turned around and left Vivian with a jump shot over the 9 and she almost made the 7 then almost made the 8 after the 7 hit it. The cue ball drifted down almost on top of the 9 leaving Monica to shoot over the ball. She pocketed the 7 and had a long but fairly routine 8 ball, and after making it, allowed her cue ball to ticky-tack into the 9. She shot the ball into the side pocket and she was back to within one game, 3-4.

Monica went into game 8 with the break but failed to pocket a ball. Vivian pushed out by making the 2/9 combination that was sitting there and Monica gave Vivian the option back. The one ball was up-table on the rail and Vivian played a safety by thinning it and sending the cue ball back where it started from. Both players went back and forth with the tricky object ball, neither giving the other an open opportunity until Monica nearly scratched. Vivian made the one ball but had to look ahead to the 5 which was tied up with the 8. She played position for the 4 ball into the corner and missed the 4 trying to break out the other two balls. The cue ball stopped in front of the 8 and Monica couldn't capitalize on the nearly straight in shot, allowing Vivian another chance back at the table with a tough but makeable shot which she pocketed easily. She continued her way around the layout, making the 6, 7, 8 and 9 quickly to regain the 2 game lead, 5-3.

Monica brought the match score back to within two after winning game 9 and went into game 10 with the break advantage but the game turned into another safety battle between the two players. The 5 ball was the tricky ball but Monica blinked first, after she missed it in the corner pocket. Vivian pocketed the ball and ran out to get to the hill, up 6-4.

Vivian broke but didn't pocket a ball and Monica was left with a tough 1 ball shot and tough position to the two ball. While she made the one, the two didn't cooperate leaving Vivian the chance to run out to advance to the finals. Making her way around the layout, she drew her ball too much off the 5 to the 6 but being the consummate shot maker, made the 6 and regained position to the 7, running out the 8 and 9 to advance into the finals! Monica Webb finishes tied for 3rd.