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**WPBA SAN DIEGO CLASSIC**  
**THE BEST OF THE WEST**  
**Semi Final #2**



**Gerda Hofstatter**

vs.



**Ga Young Kim**

**April 5th, 2009 – Alpine, CA at the Viejas Casino**

Welcome to Semifinal #2 and its' 3:00pm at the Viejas Casino. Gerda Hofstatter, looking to win the event she was runner-up in last year and her first WPBA title since 2000, matched up against Ga Young Kim, who hasn't won an event since the Carolina Classic in 2007. Each competitor knew they'd be facing a tough opponent in the Finals, Monica Webb who'd just tromped Jeanette Lee, 7-1.

Although Ga Young won the lag, she failed to pocket a ball off her break and Gerda stepped up to begin their match. She played a safety on the 2 ball, but Ga Young brought out her trusty jump cue and pocketed the ball off a carom from the 3 with position for it to boot. When Ga Young get's rolling, she's nearly impossible to stop and she worked her way around the table layout till she hooked herself on the 8 behind the 9. Without batting an eye, she kicked at the 8 one rail and made it into the side pocket dead center, made the 9 and took the first game of the match.

Gerda came up empty on her break, but Ga Young was forced to play safety on the 3 ball, with the result being the cue ball locked up behind the 4. Gerda had no choice but to play an odd angled 3 rail kick, which she missed, giving Ga Young ball in hand. Ga Young made a strange choice, playing the difficult 3/9 combination instead of choosing to run out. She missed the combo, giving Gerda another opportunity to come to the table. The layout wasn't easy, but Gerda displayed beautiful touch as she picked her way through the rack to tie up the match at 1 all.

Ga Young once again didn't make a ball on the break as Steve Tipton wryly commented to me "3, zero, the rack" and Gerda only had a choice of barely nicking the 1, giving Ga Young a long 1/9 combination. She just missed it and Gerda came back to the Brunswick Gold Crown V with a one rail kick similar to the one that Ga Young made on the 8 earlier and sank it just as easily as if to say "Anything you can do, I can do better". She wasn't rewarded for it and had no open pocket for the 2, instead attempting a safety that was poorly executed. Ga Young missed the tough shot and with a little luck on her side, left Gerda snookered. Ga Young received ball in hand after Gerda missed the 2, making it and breaking the 4 away from the 7 that was tied up together. Running out to the 6, she missed the ball and the two went back and forth until Ga Young took command, running out to go up 2-1.

(Cont'd)

For the fourth time in a row, no balls dropped on the break as Gerda walked away frustrated. Ga Young was forced to play safety but Gerda stepped up and made a phenomenal shot on the 1 into the far corner pocket. She had no open shot on the 2 which was in the middle of the end rail, but left an opening for Ga Young to make the ball after a safety, smiling wryly to herself at the bad result. Ga Young stepped up and made short work of the rack in her usual fluid style to take a 2 game lead, 3-1.

Ga Young had the break advantage and finally a ball dropped, but she had no open pocket so instead played a safety, leaving a Gerda the choice of a jump shot or a kick. Gerda opted for the 1 rail kick off the side rail, and although she hit the 1, she left it wide open for Ga Young to make a 1/5 combination (the 5 was sitting waiting by the pocket). Ga Young missed the shot, leaving Gerda with a side pocket cut but the ball refused to drop, hitting the point and rolling away. Ga Young, jacked up over the 2 ball, sunk the 1 dead center pocket, to the 2 ball and onward. She made straight in shape on the 3, which forced her to cheat the pocket which she missed. Gerda had no open pocket for the 4, trying a 4/5 slice combination that missed. The 5 came to rest next to the 9 ball, but the combination was not dead in and Ga Young overcut it. This game proved to be the trickiest for both competitors but in the end Gerda got an open shot and ran out, sinking the 8/9 combo that sat there by the corner pocket. She was now back to within one game, 2-3 as the crowd changed "Gerda, Gerda, Gerda!".

Gerda enjoyed the break and nearly sank the 9, but in the end nothing fell, allowing Ga Young a simple, open layout that she quickly ran through, taking back the 2 game lead with a 7/9 combination.

Ga Young broke, didn't make anything but Gerda passed on the 1 ball, so Ga Young came back to the table and made a great shot to pocket the 1 ball. The layout was a bit tricky, with narrow lanes for shots but she navigated each shot with a lovely touch, making every shot look easy until she lost focus on the 5 ball, jawing it in the pocket attempting shape for the 6. Gerda was forced to play a safe but the result wasn't what she expected and Ga Young had a makeable, albeit difficult side pocket shot. She failed to make the ball, with Gerda facing a bank shot back into the corner pocket. She sank the shot with great position for the 6 and subsequent balls to get back to within one game again, down 3-4.

Gerda broke but once again didn't make a ball (sense a trend here?) and Ga Young played a great safety. Gerda jumped the cue ball, and ended up snookering Ga Young half a ball. Ga Young brought out her jump cue and made a great jump/long rail bank shot on the 1, following that up by a 2/9 combination to go up 5-3.

Ga Young successfully pocketed not one but two balls on the break, and looked to have an easy layout but frankly, blew shape from the 5 to the 6. The cue ball ended up parallel with the 6 which lay on the end rail. Ga Young successfully played a safe, leaving Gerda with a jump shot that she not only hit, but sent the 6 down table to sit in front of the 9. Ga Young easily made the 6/9 combo BUT to everyone's amazement, let her cue ball loose and it came back down-table to scratch in the corner pocket. The crowd erupted in "oooh nooo!" in unison as Gerda stepped up with ball in hand. She ran the 4 balls that negated the two game swing pulling back within one, down 4-5.

Gerda pocketed a ball on the break in game 10, wanting to take advantage of the gift that Ga Young had offered up. With someone in the crowd yelling "C'mon Gerda, break and run!", Gerda seemed ready to oblige the request, methodically picking her way through the rack. She left herself awkward on the 8 but sank it easily, making the 9 with a smile on her face to tie up the match at 5 all.

Ga Young would come to game 11 with the break and the 6 ball went down in the corner pocket while the rest of the balls splayed out nicely for her. She would look to answer Gerda's break and run with one of her own and although she didn't get the perfect shape on the 9 she wanted, she made the ball to reach the hill first, 6-5. But Gerda would come to the table with the break. Unfortunately, she scratched giving Ga Young ball in hand. The key shot for this rack was the 3, which was blocked from the corner pocket by the 4. She played great position from the 2 to the 3 in the opposite corner pocket and only 6 balls stood between her and the final match. Ga Young calmed her nerves and ran out to win 7-5 and a chance to win her first event since 2007.