



2219 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd Suite 102, #287  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
Office: 615-859-9722 Fax: 619-659-2168

## WPBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS RACE TO THE FINISH LINE

### THE FINALS



Monica Webb

vs.



Kelly Fisher

**November 16, 2008 – Hollywood, Florida: The Seminole Hard Rock Casino & The Hard Rock Live**

It was England versus America as the #1 Ranked WPBA Professional, Kelly Fisher, matched up against top ranked Monica Webb. Monica has never been in finals, while Kelly was looking for her third Championships of this year. Having already secured the #1 ranking for years' end, Kelly wanted desperately to hold both Major Titles for '08.

With shouts of encouragement from the audience, both players stepped up for the lag, which Monica won. Although she broke solidly, she didn't pocket a ball and Kelly started her runout. The layout was less than ideal but Kelly calmly played good position from each shot to the next, sinking the 9 ball and taking the first game of the match.

Kelly broke in game two, but failed to pocket a ball. The cue ball settled less than 3" from the 1 ball (near the foot spot) and Monica debated her options. She finally chose to bank the ball into the corner pocket, making it and moving onto the 2. Showing that she was here to play, Monica didn't blink as she finished off the rack to tie the match up at 1 all.

With Rodeo rider Chance Smart watching on (who along with Vivian Villarreal is also sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Monica broke and made a ball. She was left with a thin slice on the 1 down the rail and overcut the shot. She was fortunate in that she didn't leave Kelly an open shot, who scrutinized it since hitting the 1 directly risked skimming the 6 which was so close to it. Instead she chose to kick one short rail. She did so, leaving Monica a one-pocket style cross bank the length of the table. She executed it perfectly, but missed the subsequent long shot on the 2 leaving Kelly an open shot. She ran out easily and went up 2-1 with the break. Kelly failed to make a ball, and Monica attempted a 1/9 carom shot. The 9 ball hung up in the pocket and the two played safe for a few shots before Monica blinked first and left Kelly with a tough but makeable 1/2/9 combo which she successfully executed to take a 2 game lead.

Monica broke the following rack and ran out, proving that her nerves were still steady and she wasn't about to give up. Kelly broke in game 6, but after making a ball, was forced to push out and a safety battle ensued on the 1 ball. Kelly blinked first and Monica was off to the races again, steadily running out the rack to tie the match at 3 all. Monica failed to pocket a ball on her break but didn't leave Kelly an open shot. Kelly sent the cue ball back up to the kitchen, leaving the one ball just off the bottom rail, forcing Monica to kick at it one rail. She applied English to the cue ball, hit the one beautifully and stuck the cue ball behind the 5. Kelly's kick attempt was no good and it gave Monica ball in hand and the

chance to take her first lead of the match if she could run this rack. Shooting the one ball up table since the 2 was blocking it down table, Monica lost her focus and missed! Kelly didn't have an open shot, instead leaving the 1 ball nearly behind the 7. Monica stepped up and made an incredible long, thin back-cut on the ball, but snookered herself behind the 3 ball for the 2. She did hit the ball, leaving Kelly no choice but to play safe again. Drifting the cue ball behind the 5, she left a 1 rail kick for Monica who missed it entirely and Kelly took ball in hand. Although Kelly had to force follow the cue off of the 6 ball, she had no problems with the run out and took the lead back, 4-3.

Kelly broke, made a ball and began running out the rack. She got a bit close to the 7 ball on the side rail just below the side pocket though and was forced to accept a bank shot on the 8 instead of forcing the tight 7 ball shot. She missed the bank shot, leaving Monica with a cut shot on the 8 which had come to rest just off the rail. She overcut it slightly to the crowd's chagrin, but left Kelly with a very thin cut into the corner. After someone in the crowd distracted her, she perhaps lost some focus as she pocketed the ball but came around 2 rails to scratch, and Monica made the 9 to tie the match up again at 4 all. Monica enjoyed the break advantage and although she made a ball, she was forced to try a safety which she executed poorly, leaving Kelly with an easy open shot. Kelly had not seemed to recover from the previous games' scratch and she missed shape on the 5 off of the four ball. Her kick-safe attempt failed, leaving Monica with an open shot and another opportunity to take her first lead. Successfully making the remaining balls, she smiled as the crowd cheered, taking the lead 5-4. Kelly broke, sank the 5 ball but was forced into a safety battle on the 1 ball. Both successfully hit the ball several times until Kelly blinked first, leaving Monica with an easy open shot to start a runout to reach the hill. Without a hint of nerves, she successfully pocketed the 8 balls on the table to reach the hill 6-4. Only needing one game to win the National Tour Championships, she went into game 11 with the break and the fate of the title in her own hands.

Monica broke and made a ball, and after sinking the 1 ball, left herself less than ideal on the 2 forcing her to play safe. Kelly looked at the result from all angles, kicking 2 rails coming at the two from behind. She succeeded in hitting the ball and left what seemed to be no option for Monica other than to play safe. Instead, to the crowd's delight, she played another one-pocket style cross bank into the corner pocket. Yelling "Come on baby!" she made a tough cut on the 3 and got perfect position on the 4 ball. With just 4 balls left on the table, she carefully negotiated each shot and finished the rack to take her first WPBA Title in her career.

With emotions running high, Monica cried freely as she thanked her sponsors, the WPBA Sponsors, the crowd, Jeanette Lee and Helena Thornfeldt. Seminole Tribe of Florida Councilman Michael Bowers presented four trophies, two 3/4<sup>th</sup> place finishes to Vivian Villarreal and Sarah Rousey, 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Kelly Fisher and 1<sup>st</sup> to Monica Webb.

The WPBA wraps up another successful season and we'd like to thank the following – Firstly for putting on a great event, The Seminole Hard Rock Casino & Resort and the Hard Rock Live, many thanks to Kevin Pickard and Phil Bowers of Seminole Sports Management for all their hard work. Many thanks go out to Gene Weaver, APA League Operator for the county for helping us with all our shot clock volunteers. Thanks to the WPBA Sponsors – Aramith Balls, The American Poolplayers Association, Brunswick Billiards, Cuetec Cues, Mueller Recreational, Iwan Simonis, Inc and Pooldawg.com.

The WPBA season has ended for 2008. Stay tuned for 2009! See you next year!