



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Young players prove talented during 40<sup>th</sup> BCAPL National Championships

*CueSports International, Henderson, NV (July 27, 2016)*

Billiards' future stars were on display at the 40<sup>th</sup> BCAPL National Championships, where youth players bested more experienced colleagues to take home some of the top prizes during the BCAPL Singles & Doubles divisions during the first week of play at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

Taylor Hansen, 17, of Mankato, Minn. and her brother, Tristan, 13, were the talk of the tournament within the first few days when the siblings upset seasoned veterans in match after match to win the 8-Ball Scotch Doubles Platinum Division.

"It was the first time they have played together," said Jana Hansen, the Hansens' mother. "We were worried about how they would get along."

But Team Hansen kept it all business, playing with maturity and sportsmanship through the small but talented 12-team bracket. They lost their first match (3-5) to Cindy Sliva and Eddie Mataya, of Tacoma, Wash., regrouped, and fought their way back through the loser's bracket. The Hansens had wins over Sara Miller and Tres Kane III, of Glendale, Ariz.; Kelly Isaac and Brandon Hallett of Holland, Ohio; Gina Kim-Lipsky and Steve Lipsky of Secaucus, New Jersey; and Bernie Store and Ben Sutherland of Phoenix, Ariz. In the semi-finals, the Hansens faced Silva and Mataya again, beating them 4-1 to ensure their spot in the finals against Betty and Bob Lea of Conyers, Ga.

The Hansens beat the Leas by a score of five to three in the first match, forcing a second match, which ended with the same result. The Hansens took home the first trophies of the tournament, but it wasn't the last.

Taylor Hansen, who will be a senior when she starts high school this fall, went undefeated through the Women's 8-Ball Platinum Division — the highest level women's division in the tournament — stopping seasoned veteran Vivian "The Texas Tornado" Villarreal in her tracks by beating her 6-2 in the hot seat match.

Villarreal beat 16-year-old April Larson, another young pool phenom from Bloomington, Minn. to meet Hansen in the finals. Once again, Hansen's consistent shot making and thoughtful safety play proved too much for Villarreal and Hansen beat the seasoned professional 6-3 to earn the Women's 8-Ball Platinum Champion title.

Villarreal, who won the Women's 9-Ball Platinum Division, took second with Larson settling for third.

Also 16, Michelle Jiang, of Harvard, Mass., went undefeated through the 115-player Women's 8-Ball Gold Division.

Jiang, who has been playing for just four years, also went undefeated in the tournament with wins over: Mary Almy; Jessica Derezinski, Helen Wragg; Julie Madlener; Eugenia Gyftopoulos; Chandra Campion and Anna Tulauan, before beating Gyftopoulos again in the finals to earn the title of champion.

Other champions crowned during the 8-ball singles and scotch doubles divisions were: Lukas Fracasso-Verner, Wallingford, Conn., Junior 9-Ball Challenge; Jaynard Orque, San Jose, Calif., Mixed 8-Ball Singles Platinum; Russell Cearley, Springfield, Ore., Mixed 8-Ball Singles Gold; Noah Vogelman, Brooklyn, N.Y., Mixed 8-Ball Singles Silver; Ron Mason, Maspeth, N.Y., Mixed 8-Ball Singles Bronze; Dave Kartner, Mixed 8-Ball Senior Singles Gold, Port Saint Lucie, Fla.; Revelina Um, San Leandro, Calif., Women's 8-Ball Singles Silver; Evelyn Hazlett, Fremont, Calif., Women's 8-Ball Singles Bronze; Kathryn Christiansen, Tucson, Ariz., Women's 8-Ball Senior Singles Platinum Division; Dee Strack, Monticello, Ill., Women's 8-Ball Senior Singles Gold Division; Maria Juana, Sun Prairie, Wis. and Ong Vang, Milwaukee, Wis.; Revelina Um, San Leandro, Calif. & Rich Kaeser.

The BCAPL team divisions are now underway.

The 40<sup>th</sup> BCAPL National Championships started July 20 at The Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino and resume through July 30. The event features more than 5,000 amateur players representing 47 states, nine Canadian provinces and 11 countries, competing in approximately 40 divisions, on 300 Diamond pool tables. The annual tournament also includes about 50 exhibitors.

The Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino is the official host venue. Other sponsors include Viking, Kamui, Omega Billiards, Cyclop, Diamond, Simonis, and Predator.

For more information, photos, or to set up interviews, contact Mary Coffman, CSI Marketing Manager at 509-308-9814 (cell); or by email at [maryc@playsipool.com](mailto:maryc@playsipool.com).

*CSI is the parent company of the BCA Pool League and the USA Pool League. CSI also produces independent events like the US Bar Table Championships, US Open 10-Ball Championship, US Open 8-Ball Championship, and much more. For more information, visit [www.playsipool.com](http://www.playsipool.com) or call CSI at 702-719-POOL.*

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