

# SLOSSON THE BETTER MAN

HE BEAT SCHAEFER AT BILLIARDS  
MORE THAN TWO TO ONE.

THE GAME GENERALLY UNINTERESTING  
THROUGH LACK OF COMPETITION—  
ONE BIG RUN BY THE WINNER VARI-  
ED THE MONOTONY.

Jacob Schaefer, the famous billiardist, known all over the billiard-playing world as "the Wizard," suffered the worst defeat of his life last night in a match game with George Slosson, "the Student." In a fourteen-inch balk line game, 800 points up, he was beaten by 408 points.

The match was played in Chickering Hall. It has been looked forward to for months by lovers of billiards. Schaefer and Slosson are beyond question the greatest exponents of the balk-line game in this country. In fact, there are none others who can play them an interesting game. They have battled together for years. Victories have been about evenly divided. Schaefer, however, holds the championship trophy, won at the last championship tournament played in this city, and he easily beat Slosson in a match game since the tournament by 191 points in an 800-point game.

Nearly everybody believed that Schaefer would win the match last night and the average of betting was as good as 100 to 75 in that direction. A great deal of money was won and lost on the result. It was not so sure a thing, however, that every billiard player in and around this city, and many from other cities, did not want to witness the contest, which was for \$500 a side and the door receipts, which easily footed up \$3,000.

Chickering Hall was jammed to the doors by those who went to see the game. No seats could be obtained after 6 o'clock last evening. It was a very mixed gathering that filled the hall. There were prominent professional men rubbing elbows with prominent sporting men; prominent merchants sitting alongside obscure clerks, and there was a large representation of full-dressed clubmen. There were a hundred or more women in the audience.

Schaefer's overwhelming defeat can hardly be explained. During the three hours and forty-five minutes that he was playing nobody could have believed him to be the man whose manipulations of the billiard balls have been the wonder of all billiard players, and whose dash and brilliancy in playing had earned him the title of "The Wizard."

Schaefer is said to be a man without nerves, but if he was not nervous during this game, then the evidence of the eyes amounts to nothing. He had hard luck from start to finish. A dozen brilliant shots would fall to place the balls in an advantageous position for him, where Slosson would accomplish that result with two or three shots. Schaefer certainly lost his nerve before the game had been in progress an hour.

His opponent did not play by any means a remarkable game, yet it was a strong game for him. Schaefer, playing as Schaefer has played, however, should have won the contest without difficulty. Slosson's average was only 22 2-9. Schaefer has averaged far better than that over and over again and not been credited with playing an exceptional game. Slosson's highest run was but 173 points, but Schaefer, who holds the world's record of 230 points, could not make a run of 50.

Slosson was the first of the champions to enter the hall. The crowd gave him a cordial greeting.

"I never felt better in my life," said he in answer to the crowd that wanted to shake hands with him. "If feelings have anything to do with it, I'll win."

Schaefer entered the hall just at 8 o'clock with his wife and child. His admirers gave him a rousing cheer, and he assured those who asked him that he was in the finest form and would play the game of his life.

It was just 8:15 when the two men went to the lower end of the table, cues in hand. Referee Kavanagh gave them the balls. Slosson won the scratch, Schaefer apparently not trying to do so. Slosson took the white ball. He went to work in a way that showed that he "had his stroke." Twenty-four points he piled up, and then slipped up on an easy cushion shot.

Schaefer went to the table with a smile. Playing with the dash characteristic of all his games, he counted up to 20. Then he miscued on an easy shot. The crowd groaned.

Up to 49 Slosson made the scorer count in his second play, running the balls all over the table. Then he made a hair miss from the cushion. Schaefer made 11 and had the balls just where he wanted them, when he missed from the cushion. Slosson missed the first shot of his third inning and Schaefer ran but 15.

Slosson ran 14 in the fourth inning and Schaefer started in with a cushion-bank shot that brought him a cheer. Then he got the balls straddling the line in the corner and held them there until he ran 44 points, missing on an easy fluke. This left the score 90 to 87 in Schaefer's favor.

Slosson made 25 points in the fifth through some very clever gathers. Poor Schaefer made but 1 and then missed an easy cushion carom. Neither man was doing the work that he was capable of doing, and Schaefer in particular displayed a nervousness anything but reassuring. At the end of the fifth inning Slosson's average was over 22 and Schaefer's less than 18.

From this point Schaefer began to slide down hill and Slosson to forge ahead. In the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth innings Schaefer made 8-2-0-0, and in the tenth inning he made 16. Slosson, during these innings, did nothing to boast of, but he succeeded in advancing from the fifth through the tenth by making runs of 1-12-34-0-0. This made the score at the end of the tenth inning 159 to 117 in Slosson's favor. The averages were bad, but better things were coming from one player at least.

Schaefer's hard luck stuck to him, and his nerve was fast leaving. In the eleventh inning he could make but 13 points, and from then until the end of the sixteenth he made but 2 more points. He simply could not count. Skill had left his hand and luck was against him. At the end of sixteen innings there were but 132 buttons on his string.

As Schaefer's game grew poorer Slosson's improved. From the tenth through the sixteenth inning he ran 26-0-25-8-60-58. This made his total 336 against 132, and his average 21 against about 8.

Schaefer seemingly could not pull himself together, and the balls would not run for him. He dabbled along with 17-15-0-1-10-2-11-23 to his score to the twenty-fifth inning, when he rallied a bit and ran 48. This made his total string then but 259 points, an average of but about 10 points.

But Slosson had received a stimulus from his lead that gave him full confidence. He played cautiously, yet with a brilliancy more to be looked for in his opponent. No shots seemed to be too hard for him to try and to make. In the seventeenth inning he made 14, then 29, 28, 23, 2, 12, 2. Then he started in on the twenty-fourth inning.

The balls rolled well for him, and he got them astride of the line. Almost before the audience had realized what he was doing he had run 50 points. There was a cheer. Slosson did not mind it, but kept on working the balls back and forth over the balk line. The scorer called the 75 points and there was another cheer. Slosson still had the balls on the line. He ticked off 100 points, all the time holding the balls as though they were magnetized. There was tremendous excitement when the one hundredth point was made.

He kept right on. The balls got away from him, but he brought them back to the corner with a beautiful draw from the cushion and soon the scorer had called 125 points. Slosson's friends were wild with joy, but they quieted down. From 125 to 150 he did not hold the balls as well as he had previously, but he had them together when he reached that point, and there was another cheer. The silence that followed it was almost oppressive, and was broken only by suppressed "ahs" and "ahs" as "the student" kept piling up the points. He went to 170, to 171, to 172, to 173, and then missed on an easy draw shot. He got a great ovation for the performance, though, which lasted for several minutes.

The game was as good as won. The score was 618 to 188 in favor of Slosson, and there was not a chance in a hundred that Schaefer could overcome the lead, especially in the bad form that he was playing in. It was plain to see that he was discouraged. He offset the run of 173 with but 23 points, but in the twenty-fifth inning he made 48 against Slosson's 0.

It was no use, however; the game was lost to him. Several times he went to the table with something like his old-time dash, and started in in a way that led to the hope that he was about to get into one of his phenomenal runs, but things would not go his way. In fact, after the twenty-fifth inning, he played so poorly that the audience began to thin out and even Slosson played loosely, or as loosely as he ever plays. Slosson made his eight hundredth point in the thirty-sixth inning, when Schaefer had made but 392.

Slosson's average was 22 2-9; Schaefer's was 11 1-5. The record average by Vignaux is 75 in 800 points, fourteen-inch balk-line game. The record high run of fourteen-inch balk-line game is 230 by Schaefer. Highest run in game by Slosson was 173; Schaefer's highest run was 48.