

SCHAEFER PLANS TO KEEP WITHIN HIS CUE SPHERE

Prefers All Balk Line and No 3 Cushions.

Three cushion billiards is not likely to have Jake Schaefer in the field seeking championship honors. The world's balkline champion, who has returned to Chicago after a vacation in the far west, says balkline is the only style of billiards in which he is really interested and that he intends to do all he can to revive this delicate style of billiards and to help balkline regain the high place it occupied a few years ago.

There is no denying that three cushion billiards has made headway during the last five years and in the same period balkline has suffered a slump. This decline, according to Schaefer, has been due to a lack of championship tournaments and challenge matches.

Why Balkline Declines.

When Willie Hoppe deserted balkline for three cushions three cushions gained in popularity and balkline declined in interest. The balkline champion believes it would have been all right for Hoppe to engage in a few matches at three cushions, then return to balkline, but devoting most of his time during the last five years to the angle game has developed three cushions and injured the style of billiards which brought Hoppe international fame and much money.

"I know I have more than an even chance against any three cushionist in the game," Schaefer said, "but I like balkline. I feel it should be encouraged. I believe that if I went over to three cushions my move would do irreparable damage to balkline billiards."

"I am not against three cushion billiards. I am for any kind of billiards that will stimulate interest in the cue game. There is a possibility that if conditions are right I may accept that challenge of Johnny Layton for a special match. Again I may meet Hoppe in a special match first. But I want to make it clear that for the present there is no chance for me to engage in any public three cushion matches."

Returns to Billiards Sept. 1.

Schaefer disclosed he had not handled a cue for the last two months and that he intended to return to billiards on Sept. 1 for the beginning of the most active campaign in his career. Schaefer spends most of his time on the links and he plays golf with the same uncanny skill that he does billiards.

"I am ready to defend my balkline title any time the National Billiard association calls upon me," said Schaefer. "If the association holds only an American tournament this season I am ready to go to Europe to meet the leading players in special matches. But I am hopeful a world's tourney will be held, and I have assurances that the European stars will be invited to compete in the international championship here."

Schaefer already is arranging a tour which will open about Sept. 15 and will keep him busy until the time for the world's championship. There also is a chance that Schaefer will oppose Welker Cochran, runner up for the crown in the last championship, in a special match. Hoppe also is expected to be asked to meet Schaefer in a special match. And there still are many billiardists who would like to see Young Jake match his skill against both Layton and Hoppe at three cushions.