

HOPPE REGAINS HIS WORLD'S 18.2 TITLE

Defeats Schaefer in Deciding Game of Championship Tour- ney by Score of 500 to 283.

WINS FIVE STRAIGHT GAMES

Doors of Hotel Pennsylvania Ballroom Are Closed as Crowd Clamors for Admission.

CONTI DOWNS HOREMANS

Second Place Tie Decided by Grand Averages, Schaefer, Conti and Horemans Finishing as Named.

Willie Hoppe regained the world's 18.2 professional balkline billiard championship by defeating Jake Schaefer who won the title last year, in the fifteenth and final game of the international tournament at the Hotel Pennsylvania last night. The score was 500 to 283.

The winner averaged 41 8-12 and the loser 23 7-12. Hoppe's high runs were 188 and 106, the latter being the unfinished cluster with which he ran out the game. Schaefer's best innings produced drives of 90 and 68. Hoppe went through the tournament without losing a game. He won five in a row, defeating Edouard Horemans of Belgium, Welker Cochran of San Francisco, Roger Conti of France, Erich Hagenlacher of Germany and Jake Schaefer of Chicago, in that order.

The defeat was Schaefer's second, he previously having lost to Horemans. It dropped him into a tie with Horemans and Conti for second, third and fourth places. This tie was decided by the grand averages. On this system Schaefer will get second money, \$1,500, with a grand average of 30 6-68; Conti third, \$1,000, with 30 1-65, and Horemans fourth, \$750, with 28 8-69. Cochran will receive fifth prize, \$250. He won one and lost four games. Hagenlacher was last, losing all five of his games. Hoppe's grand average, 37 13-66, was much the best.

The recrowning of Hoppe was the occasion for the wildest scene that ever has attended a billiard match in the history of the sport. As soon as Willie had scored the final point of his unfinished run of 106, immediately following a string of 188, the crowd rushed pell-mell to the table side, raucously cheering and bawling for a chance to shake the champion's hand. Some of the more enthusiastic tried to lift him to their shoulders and carry him from the grand ballroom. It required a cordon of attendants and his closest friends to restrain them.

Big Purse for Hoppe.

Besides winning the title and the \$1,000 diamond medal, Hoppe will get a cash prize of \$3,000 and 43 per cent. of the net gate receipts. Schaefer will get 23 per cent. of the receipts, in addition to the \$1,500; Conti, 15 per cent. and \$1,000; Horemans, 12 per cent. and \$750; Cochran, 4 per cent. and \$250, while Hagenlacher is left out in the cold.

In defeating Schaefer and regaining the title he lost in the tournament at Chicago a year ago Hoppe played some of the best billiards he has shown in recent years. After starting slowly and apparently on the verge of defeat, he unlimbered his stroke and completed the game with runs of 188 and 106 in the eleventh and twelfth innings. Up to that time he had averaged but a fraction more than 20 for ten innings.

After the tournament Willie Hoppe denied the current report that he intended to retire immediately. "I intend to defend the title throughout the season. I will not make any further announcement than that until next Autumn."

Never in the annals of billiards has there been such a crowd out for a championship game. More than an hour before time for the match to begin it was estimated that upward of 2,000 persons were assembled in the lobby leading to the ballroom stairs and elevators and speculators were asking as high as \$18 for a single \$3 ticket.

The seating capacity of the room, 1,000, was soon taxed and still the crowd gathered outside, clamoring for admittance. It required extra plain clothes men to guard the doors, for several attempts were made to rush them. When it was finally necessary to close the doors there were fully 3,000 persons outside and at least 2,000 filling every seat and every inch of standing room inside.

Schaefer won the bank and selected the white ball. He made the opening shot and ran two more, but missed on a two-cushion affair, that let the balls spread. Hoppe failed to count, he also left a bad setting for Schaefer. Jake missed and Hoppe had to make a three-cushion shot. He gathered them in the upper right hand corner and started a run.

Hoppe Makes Run of 111.

Hoppe's stroke during the cluster was all that could be desired. He had excellent control of the balls. Before he missed a short spread-draw he had counted 111—a dash of beautiful balkline. Not once during the run did Willie have to resort to the massé. He kept the ivories in front of his cue ball almost all the time.

Not until his thirty-fifth shot did Hoppe make a drive. Then he began to work the balls toward the lower end of the table. His forty-sixth was another drive and then he began tickling them for nineteen counts. Then another drive gained better position for him.

The former champion seemed able to control the balls with little effort. He played equally well with both hands, selecting his shots with little hesitation. Throughout the run Hoppe nursed the balls all around the table. He was seldom in trouble and made only thirteen drives in all.

The balls were spread when Schaefer stepped up for his third inning. After counting 21 he failed on a one-cushion shot. The spheres were too far apart for Hoppe to count.

A cluster of 45 put Schaefer back in the game, giving him a total of 69 against Hoppe's 111. While engaged in making these points Jake resorted to open play entirely. He seldom had the balls together and eventually missed on a comparatively easy massé.

Hoppe followed with 15. While he was fiddling on his thirteenth shot, the first sign of nervousness he had shown, some one in the crowd laughed and the disturbance seemed to upset him. He missed a long one-cushion shot.

In the fifth inning Schaefer got 3 and Hoppe 1. The score then stood 127 to 72 in Hoppe's favor.

Schaefer was himself in the sixth inning. Whereas he had previously seemed somewhat nervous, he now was comparatively calm. He ran 90 before he missed a one-cushion shot with reverse English. He was clever billiards of the Schaefer brand—close play, marked by some fine massé shots. When driving, his judgment of speed left little to be desired, and his ability to hold the balls on the line stood him in good stead.

Both played safely for a spell, each refusing to take any unnecessary chances. Schaefer twice failed to count, while Hoppe missed in his sixth inning, but made 18 in the seventh, a long draw stopping him. Hoppe could not score in the eighth. Jake made 20 in his ninth, and Hoppe came back with 21 in his half of the round. In none of these sessions, however, was there any real playing. It was in the ninth that Hoppe made his first massé of the game. This was on his sixth shot. On his eighteenth he made another. Previously he had repeatedly dodged them.

The monotonous was interrupted when

Schaefer again broke loose for a protracted turn at the table in the tenth, making 63. He scored quickly once he was under way, employing the line nurse again. A one-cushion shot stopped him. Hoppe retaliated with 40, but a time kiss out of the corner when all the balls were lined up on the head cushion failed. The score at the end of this session, the tenth, was 250 to 206 in Schaefer's favor.

Hoppe Takes Lead With 188.

An 8 was Schaefer's share in the eleventh. Then Hoppe, breaking out into a rash of billiards, played like the Hoppe of former years. Facing a deficit of 52 points the New Yorker cut loose a slashing attack that was featured by rapid scoring and the ease with which he made all shots. As is usual when Willie is in stroke, his second-ball playing for position was little short of miraculous.

He kept scoring with the precision of a well-oiled machine. It was by far the best billiards Hoppe had shown since he ran 192 against Welker Cochran in the second game Willie played in the tourney. He nursed and drove the balls with equal delicacy and positiveness, and there was little hesitance in his playing. He ran 188 before he missed on a three-inch dead ball drive, failing to score on the second object ball. When he had completed his inning the score was 394 to 258 in Hoppe's favor.

Hoppe found the balls spread when he stepped to the table, but soon was working on the line. Clever nursing was interspersed with drives, but when the balls came to rest a derby hat ordinarily could have covered them. A feature of the run was the fact that three times he made massés, the only times the balls were in such position as to demand that style of stroke.

On his sixty-seventh shot the balls were spread the width of the table on the top rail. He made the point with a very clever left-handed draw along the cushion. At 90 they became frozen, and Willie ordered them spotted. He counted. They were spread at 135, and from there until 140 he was compelled to drive for position, finally gathering them with a one-cushion shot. From that time until he missed it was mostly line nursing.

As Hoppe left the table the record gallery burst into cheers and applause. For fully five minutes one of the noisiest demonstrations ever heard at a billiard match kept Schaefer waiting for his turn. He made 25, finally blowing an easy one-cushion shot.

As Hoppe stepped up for his twelfth he found the balls in perfect position in the lower left hand corner and launched another drive and ran out with 108.

The score by innings:
Hoppe—0 111 0 15 1 0 18 0 21 40 188 106.
Total, 500; average, 41 8-12; high run, 188.
Schaefer—3 0 21 45 3 90 0 0 20 68 8 23.
Total, 283; average, 23 7-12; high run, 90.

All chance of a three-handed tie for first place in the tournament was dissipated in the afternoon game, when Roger Conti, the champion of France, defeated Edouard Horemans, the champion of Belgium, by a score of 500 to 303.

Best First Inning of Tourney.

Horemans won the bank, but blew the opening shot by several inches. He left the balls spread almost the width of the table on the head rail. Conti made six open drives before he got them together in the upper right-hand corner. Before he was kissed out of a point with the ivories in perfect position, he ran 139. It was the largest cluster made in the first inning of any match in the tourney. The best previous mark was made by Schaefer in his contest with Cochran, when he collected 73.

He made the run in less than a half hour. It was beautiful balkline. Most of the time he held the balls on the line at the head of the table, playing the American system of gradually working the cue ball through the two other balls and then driving one of them to the nearest rail, the second ball acting as a bunker when the first rolled back. It was by far the most delicate billiards he had played up to that time, although in his game with Hagenlacher he made a run of 204.

On his seventy-fifth shot the spheres got away from him, but he was very accurate in his shooting and he gathered them again on his seventy-ninth. On his 107th his cue ball was frozen to the white ball and was in the middle of a line-up. He squeezed out of the difficult position by a massé. While on the drive Roger made ten massés, three of which were made in succession on his seventy-second, seventy-third and seventy-fourth strokes.

When Conti missed he left the balls closely bunched and Horemans got 33 before falling down on a simple draw. Conti countered with 27, but for two innings thereafter the playing slowed down and the Belgian collected 3 points, while his opponent made 12.

In the fifth Horemans clobbered his way to 72 and was in a fair way to overtake Conti, but the pellets lined up in mid-table and he failed to count on a massé by a hair. The run consisted more of ball-to-ball carooms than anything else. As usual, when the Belgian is engaged in a drive, massés are numerous. They formed the foundation of his work.

Conti followed with a bundle of 47. He also missed on a massé. The balls lined up on the top cushion, with the cue ball on the outside. He tried to drive around the first objective ball, but failed. The score then was 225 to 108 in Conti's favor.

Conti's Game Falls Off.

Conti's game fell off badly, and he counted only 14 buttons in the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth frames. There was nothing brilliant about Horemans's playing, but he managed to gain a little on the Frenchman, making 1 in the sixth, 4 in the seventh, 35 in the eighth and 12 in the ninth. This made the score 239 to 160, with Conti still in the van.

Horemans crept still closer on his tenth chance. He collected 45 and again was checked on a massé. Open playing predominated and the Belgian was unable to gather the balls in his favorite place, the centre of the table. Conti benefitted to the extent of 16 and then, with the balls on the top rail, he putted up short by punching his cue ball on a draw shot. His rival did nothing and Roger got 8 more. Horemans profited to the extent of 6, but Conti pulled into a fair-sized lead by making 43 in his half of the same inning, the twelfth.

Some poor billiards was injected, the Belgian making two sets of 4 in the thirteenth and fourteenth and Conti got 1 in the thirteenth. It was in the fourteenth that the Frenchman once more found his stroke and made 42 before he finished this, failing on a two-cushion drive that was intended as a gather shot.

Horemans did some real cueing in the fifteenth. He collected 84 by clever sticking. It was chiefly the rail nurse that enabled him to make the spurt that carried him to within 46 markers of his opponent. He made some extremely difficult massés, principally because of his desire to avoid cueing with his right hand. But finally the balls were in such a position near the long rail at the foot of the table that he had to use his right hand and he missed a cushion draw shot. He left the balls in good position.

Conti followed by contributing some of the prettiest balkline of the tournament, running out the game with his cluster of 151.

The score by innings:
Conti—139 27 11 1 47 3 1 0 10 16 8 43 1 42—151—500
Average—33 6-15. High run—151.
Horemans—0 83 1 2 72 1 4 35 12 45 0 6 4 4 84—303
Average—20 8-15 High run—84.