

# SCHAEFER'S TROPHY RETURNED TO WIDOW

## Silver Prize Won by "The Wizard" in 1879 Goes to Join Son's Championship Medal.

Memories of another era in billiards were brought back last week—memories of the time when Jake Schaefer, "The Wizard," ruled the world of balkline billiards, just as his son does at this time. They were revived when the Brunswick - Balke - Collender Company returned to Mrs. Jacob Schaefer, widow of the one-time king, the big silver trophy which was won by Schaefer in the international tournament held in Cooper Institute, New York City, in January and February, 1879. The trophy was sent to the B. B. C. Co. some twenty years ago and has reposed in the vaults of its warehouse ever since.

This trophy will now be placed alongside the diamond medal which young Jake won when he captured the international 18.2 balkline tournament last November in Chicago and successfully defended in subsequent challenge matches against Willie Hoppe and Welker Cochran. The two trophies tell the story of the reign of one family in billiards for a great many years. This reign was interrupted when Willie Hoppe ascended the throne and held it against all pretenders for sixteen seasons.

The present champion's father was one of the greatest players of all time. In fact, it was Jake "The Wizard" who laid the foundation and much of the superstructure that feature the style of play in balkline billiards today. He traveled a great deal. England knew him well. France did, too, and there is not a big city in this country that he did not visit. Many of the smaller ones, away out in the sticks, were invaded by him. During his wanderings Schaefer won many prizes. Often he gave them away to admiring friends. But there was one that he cherished above all others. That is the trophy that has just been shipped to Mrs. Schaefer.

The uncovering of the trophy after all these years recalls the names of those who took part in that memorable event. Besides Jake Schaefer, there were George F. Slosson, William Sexton, Maurice Daly, Albert Garnier, Thomas J. Gallagher, A. P. Rudolphe and Rudolph Heiser. Those are names to conjure with. Three of those players still occupy a prominent place in billiards. Maurice Daly is proprietor of one of New York's billiard academies. George Slosson has a room in Boston and Thomas Gallagher is one of the leading instructors and authorities on the game. Jake Schaefer, father of the present world's champion at 18.2, died in Denver on March 8, 1910.

A movement has been started by some of the leading pocket billiard players of the country by which they hope to establish a national annual championship tournament to be played with composition balls instead of the regulation ivory balls which heretofore have been used in titular competitions. They have advanced a sound argument in favor of such an event. They contend that the great majority of the pocket billiard players of the country never get a chance to use ivory balls except when competing in championship matches and the difference is so great that these players are thrown completely out of stroke and are unable to do themselves justice.

The national championship matches are played with ivory balls of  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches on a 5 by 10 table. Composition balls measure  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The majority of the players of the country are compelled to use composition balls throughout the year because they cannot afford to have a set of ivory balls of their own, and none but leading rooms can afford to carry sets of ivory balls. The result in the past has been that many players who have shown great proficiency with composition balls have played like novices in championship competition.

These players do not wish to do away with ivory balls altogether. They seek merely to have a championship of their own. In other words, they would have an ivory ball championship and a composition ball championship. In advancing this argument they point to the fact that in tennis there is a clay court championship and turf court championship.

Unless some billiard promoter in this city will give a guarantee in excess of any that has yet been offered for a championship pocket billiard match, Ralph Greeleaf will defend his title against Bennie Allen, former champion and present challenger, in Kansas City in October. Allen and his partner, Johnny Kling, former star catcher of the famous old Chicago Cubs, want the match to be played in their academy in Kansas City, and they have made a big offer to Greeleaf to go there to defend his crown. The match is scheduled to be played in September, but both players seem anxious to defer it until October, when the weather is cooler, and it is expected that the governing authorities will grant the necessary sanction for a postponement until that time.

According to advices just received from Chicago, Pierre Maupome, who was the next in line to challenge Johnny Layton for the national three-cushion championship, has withdrawn his challenge. Hugh Heal of Toledo, who automatically becomes the next challenger, has not challenged, and Charles (Cowboy) Weston, who is now located in Virginia, Minn., has announced his intention of challenging.

Jake Schaefer and Welker Cochran, two of the keenest rivals balkline billiards has ever known, are spending the Summer on the Pacific Coast. Most of their time has been spent on San Francisco Bay.

Edouard Horemans, the Belgian champion of Europe, has been touring Canada giving exhibitions. Reports received here state that the venture has been a big financial success. It seems that Horemans has hypnotized the Canadians with his wonderful massé shots.