

# SEVEN BILLIARDISTS IN WORLD'S TOURNEY

**Entries Are Announced for  
18.2 Balkline Championship  
Event at Chicago.**

## FOREIGN STARS ON HAND

**Presence of Horemans and Conti  
Lends International Aspect to  
Battle for Hoppe's Crown.**

The entries for the world's championship balkline billiard tournament to be held in Chicago Nov. 14 to 19 inclusive were yesterday announced by the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company. Instead of limiting the entrants to six, as was originally planned, it was decided to permit seven players to compete, and in this way include all of the outstanding players in the quest for the crown that Wille Hoppe has worn for sixteen years. The names of the players entered in the tourney follow: Wille Hoppe of New York, world's champion; Jake Schaefer, Chicago; Welker Cochran, San Francisco; Edouard Horemans of Belgium, champion of Europe; Roger Conti of Paris, champion of France; Ora Morningstar, San Diego, Cal., and George Sutton of Chicago, former champion.

Of all the players who have been hovering within the championship spotlight in recent years Koji Yamada of Japan alone is not found among the entries. He has had several tries at the national title in tournaments during recent years and can scarcely be rated in the same class with those who this year will contest Hoppe's right to continue as custodian of the crown.

Play will be at 18.2 balkline, and the ultimate winner of the tournament will hereafter be subject to challenge. Preference in the matter of challenges will be given according to the position in which the various players finish in the tournament. In other words, the player who finishes second will be given first chance in a match, with the title as the stake, providing, of course, he challenges for the title. All challenge matches will involve a money stake of \$1,000. At the time the challenge is filed it must be accompanied by \$500 and the remaining \$500 must be posted not later than twenty days prior to the match. The rules further provide that the champion will not be required to defend his title prior to March 15, and he may name any date between March 15 and April 1, this leeway of fifteen days being allowed to insure the securing of a suitable hall for the match.

### Subject to Challenge.

The winner of the first challenge match, in case of any challenge then pending, will be required to play the next match not later than thirty days after the first match, but has the option of selecting any date between twenty and thirty days following the first match. The holder of the emblem cannot be called upon to defend his title in any match games from May 1 to Nov. 1.

The entries for the tournament closed on last Saturday, but it required considerable time and thought to limit the number of starters to seven. In making the selection it is evident that those in charge of the affair made the best selection possible, and there is every reason to believe that the tournament in Chicago will be productive of some of the best balkline billiards that has been witnessed in this country for a long time.

In the first place, it is the first time in many pallid moons that it has been a world's championship affair instead of simply a national championship test. For years Yamada has been the only foreigner to compete in these tournaments, but this year Horemans and Conti are among the entrants, lending a decidedly welcome international flavor to the battle for leading cue honors.

Horemans first came to this country last season, and his playing in exhibitions during his stay here proved that the advance notices about his prowess were not exaggerated. He proved one of the most capable cue wielders this country has seen in a long time. This season he is playing at the top of his form, as his recent exhibitions against Koji Yamada have proved. He has already made some surprising runs and averages. Notable among these was his running out of a 400-point block from the spot against Yamada. Last season, in an exhibition at 18.2 balkline, he made a high run of 701, and his grand average for all of his games while in this country was better than 50.

### Conti Dark Horse.

Conti is pretty much of an unknown quantity. He is only twenty years old and has been playing professional billiards for little more than two years. His work in the Olympia Academy in Paris was so impressive that it attracted widespread interest and he was invited to compete in the coming tourney. He has made averages of 80 in 400-point games and among his high runs is one of 536 in an 1,800-point match. He was born in Toulouse, France, the birthplace of that other famous French player Maurice Vignaux. He arrived in this country early this month and has been diligently practicing in private ever since.

Hoppe, too, is playing exceptional billiards. He is in excellent stroke but does not expect to reach the top of his form until a week before the tournament. He refrained from playing throughout the Summer, but he is rapidly attaining his best, and there is not the slightest doubt that he will enter the tournament in the Windy City primed to play at top speed in defense of the title.

Jake Schaefer has been seen in an exhibition here, and, during his handicap joust with Albert Cutler, Jake showed that he is playing much faster billiards than ever before in his career.

To a great extent billiard circles in this city anticipated the entrants in the tournament and yesterday afternoon several Broadway betting commissioners reported some activity in this respect. In one instance a regular book had been made. The following odds were quoted:

Player.	Odds.	first.	second.	third.
Hoppe .....	1 to 2	out	out	out
Schaefer .....	8 to 1	9 to 10	out	out
Horemans .....	4 to 1	even	1 to 3	1 to 3
Cochran .....	4 to 1	even	1 to 3	1 to 3
Morningstar .....	6 to 1	2 to 1	even	even
Conti .....	10 to 1	4 to 1	2 to 1	2 to 1
Sutton .....	10 to 1	4 to 1	2 to 1	2 to 1