

## Remember

You know, I've been playing pool now for over 70 years. My best guess is that I've pocketed near 1 million balls by now. And in all of those shots I remember 2 shots the most. One was pure luck and the other was skill (sort of). There are some others, but those 2 really stand out. I suppose, if I try hard enough, I could come up with some epic misses, but I refuse to go there. I know that you learn by your mistakes, but I prefer to keep it positive.

One habit that I have, on my way home, is to review how I played a match. I go through the good and bad shots considering what was significant about them. Without exception, I then disregard the bad ones and go directly to the good ones. I sort out the best shot(s) and focus on the feeling of making that shot. Generally, it's not normally a particularly difficult shot, just a good shot that I'm proud of. To use a quote from my friend Andy "sometimes a great shot is nothing more than a good shot but can make your entire game". I like that.

In my younger years, I competed pretty hard. I won a lot of matches and a lot of leagues. I was not pleasant to play with and never complimented anyone on a good shot. My focus was on winning and playing that "nail in the coffin" shot that broke my opponent's spirit. Nowadays I've resigned myself to being a lot more civil and respectful. Walking away from a match today is much more peaceful. I'm satisfied with the fact that competing is important, but in the end it's only a game to have fun.

While we're on courtesies, let's review some Pool Room etiquettes:

1. When your opponent is shooting –
  - a. Sit still and watch
  - b. Don't talk to him, on your phone or to anyone
  - c. Turn your ringer off
2. When it's your turn to shoot –
  - a. You can have a short conversation with your opponent
  - b. Take a short bathroom or smoke break (1 per hour)
  - c. Keep the play moving
3. Just being in the pool room –
  - a. No yelling, loud talking or disruptions
    - Pretend like you're in the church of the "Holey Pocket"
  - b. Don't stand or walk in front of someone that is shooting

Now back to my point. Way too many of the shots that I have missed in my life, have caused me not only to lose my turn, but to lose the game or match or championship. If I spent all of my time fretting about them, I'd be dead by now. What a miserable way to go. Life should not be that kind of "downer". Consider the shots you've made. The good ones, the lucky ones, the crazy ones, the ones that surprised you. Now that's something to remember.

Make and keep good memories

I hope this is helpful,

Mike Ezyk