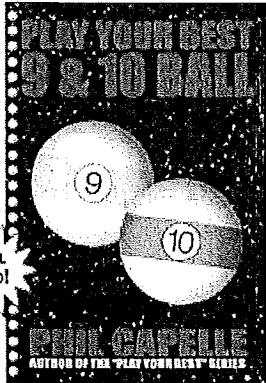


Newest Books and DVDs!

By Tom Shaw

Phil Capelle's pool instruction books are consistently excellent. So why would he spend more than a year researching, analyzing, and revising the best book on 9-Ball already in print?



For some pretty solid reasons, actually.

The revised book now includes over 100 new pages on 10-Ball, a game growing in popularity, including stats

on more than 400 pro matches. It has 121 new diagrams (total: 550+), news stats and analysis of run outs, new formatting: spiral bound for easy use at the table and easy to find key points in bold type, 70 runs by pro players that you can practice, and fascinating new info on the break.

On top of all that Capelle re-wrote much of the book to make it more useful, easier to read – and he took the opportunity to include a lot of new instructional revelations.

It's now called **Play Your Best 9 & 10 Ball** (544 pages, Billiardspress.com.)

If you own this book I can't imagine you being taken off guard by any situation at the table.

And if you put the shots, tips, insights, and knowledge in the book to use on a practice table and in your matches you'll up the level of your play by a huge amount.

Amateur to well-seasoned pro, everyone benefits from the huge amount of intelligent and expert work that has gone into this modern classic.

Phil Capelle's new **Play Your Best 9 & 10 Ball** gives you a lot of bang for the buck, and you'll use it for the rest of your life, over and over. You have to have it.

No pool player is more entertaining than **Earl Strickland**. You never know what he's going to say or do. So when photographer/author Diana Hoppe got Earl to sit down

and tell some pool war stories we had to figure we were in for a real treat.

Earl The Pearl's Road Stories was a fascinating and hilarious DVD, and now Hoppe has released Volume 2 (dianahoppe.com). Along with the great stories (from his first road trip as a kid, to almost the present day) there's a rare trove of photos. It's easy to understand why seasoned players underestimated the adolescent, the teen, and then the young country guy; he looked innocent and unpolished. It was only when he got down over a ball that people realized they were looking at a whole different person.

From the dead-eyed shooter who didn't wear shoes in the summer, all the way to the Mosconi Cup, Earl spins tales that



will entertain the daylights out of you.

This is as "behind the scenes" as you can get; the true adventures of a life playing pool on the road.

Hoppe also produced the Road Scholars, a round table of pool legends telling their road stories. Now she's releasing a second volume of that event as well. Great fun! Some of these giants are no longer with us, and they tell tales never heard in public before. You can tell they loved getting together with their peers, and sharing the thrills with viewers.

Classic and very rare stuff! Check out the web site for details on all the DVDs.

The Hustler was a book about character, and **The Color of Money** a book about generations. But both books were also about deception and truth, and drew from the framework of pool.

The mystery genre slides perfectly into this

structure, because an unexpected death is often centered on deception, uncovering truth, and character. J.J.Partridge, in "**Scratched - An Algy Temple Mystery** (Koehler Books) weaves a solid mystery story, pool, and all the complexities of the real world. University-Town politics, wedding plans, cultural behavior from the Italian community in America and Italy, legal and financial manipulations, a possible forgery, a brush with the biggest crime organization in Europe, and a twist of revealed motives and actions that will keep you up as late as it takes to finish the story.

Scratched is a fascinating read, and not just for the mystery, the characters and the slices of pool life. It brings a big palette to the page, with people from the high and low life both here and in Italy, and machinations both clever and foolish. Half the time I forgot about the money and just enjoyed picking up the legal and cultural insights as I read.

Pool is not presented in as crispy clean a setting as I might have liked, but it wasn't in **The Hustler** or **The Color of Money** either, and I enjoyed them. And now that I've been introduced to Partridge and Temple II makes me want to check out their two earlier books, both with pool related titles and covers. You'll want to do the same. This is a good read, doubly so for someone who has an interest in the sport.

