

AMY ENCINIAS TAKES 2ND PLACE IN APA NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 5, 2010 ~ by Amy Encinias



Renee Lyle, APA President and **Amy Encinias**, 2nd Place - \$9,000.00 (Red Tier - SL 5)
2010 APA National Singles Championships April 28-May 1st, 2010 at The Riviera



Ok....so I'm feeling really obnoxious putting a picture of myself on my own website....but it is quite an achievement for me. I NEVER expected to win a match in the APA Singles Nationals in the '5's only' bracket this past weekend and I am still seriously shocked at my finish. I lost my very first match to Bryan Bateman from Richmond, VA (who is hands down the nicest, most pleasant opponent I have ever met and he should have received the sportsmanship award). After 9 long matches, four of them going hill-hill, 2 days later and very little sleep, I found myself in the finals. I felt I was still shooting well at that point, but the

ability to make the 8-ball seemed to have escaped me.

My favorite match was in the 2nd day of the tournament, Friday the 30th at 9:30 am. Race to 4. Game 1 - I won. Game 2 - I made a mistake and it cost me the game, he won. Game 3 - I missed the 8-ball so bad, it came around 2 rails and went in another pocket. Game 4 - I made the 8-ball in early and put my opponent on the hill!! 3-1. Not pretty. Then I won 3 games in a row to win the match.

The only time I had ever played pool was a couple times a year out with friends, until I met Rob, who made me play on his APA team in Spring 2006 where I started as a skill level 2. Yesterday Rob said, "That's just great. You've made more money in 3 days than I've spent on APA dues for the past 10 years."

Now here's my Academy Award speech...THANK YOU SO MUCH to Greg Kuhl for everything you have taught and continue to teach me, Nicole for being there every minute of the way and helping me maintain my stress levels, Rob for inspiration, Tim & Bob for taking great photos, Lisa for making it possible for me to just stay focused on the tournament, Scott & Tina, Jeremy, Sharon & Hank, Marvin & Ursula, Bob Graeser, Benny, Carlo, Norbie, Gerald, Lucy, Chris Madden, Chris Erickson and Gary Frerking for being there with so much support. And THANK YOU to all who sent the 'good luck' and 'congratulations' texts!

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. No, you can't just buy your entry into APA Nationals like you do in BCAPL. I won a local qualifier in 2009 as a skill level 4. Then I had to travel to Tucson, AZ in Fall of 2009 to compete in a Regional Qualifier in which I lost my 1st match and came all the way around from the loser's side and won the final match. This earned me the spot to compete in APA Singles Nationals at the Riviera in April 2010. In February 2010, I moved up to a skill level 5 and thus had to compete in the 5's bracket at Nationals.
2. It's not women only. APA brackets are determined by skill level. In 8-ball there is the Blue Tier (SL 2 & 3's), Yellow Tier (SL 4's only), Red Tier (SL 5's only) and Purple Tier (SL 6 & 7's).
3. 1st Place paid \$15,000.00

see photos >>