

MAKE PRACTICE SESSIONS COUNT-PART FOUR

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The Stun Shot

The stun shot is executed by forcing the cueball to go farther than it naturally wants to go. This is accomplished by slamming the cueball into the object ball when the shot is practically straight-in. On this shot, you must make sure of your aim, because if you are off slightly the object ball will rattle the pocket. I like to tighten my grip up a little bit when executing this shot and keep my wrist locked (one of the exceptions). You can also use english to help the cueball along, but cue close to center or the shot will become a lot harder to aim. If the shot is straight on or close to straight on, you can execute what is called a stun shot force follow. Cue close to the center but hit the cueball slightly above center and, with a forceful stroke, the cue ball will stop then inch forward a little bit. Stun shots become even more valuable when you are playing on a table that is not level, but they are still vital on a good table. Practice this shot often to get the feel of it.

I might mention here that the scoot shot, the kill shot, the spinning english shot and the slip stroke are also tools that you can use to overcome a table that rolls badly. That little extra push makes the cueball get to its target before it has a chance to roll off. It's also a good idea to check each table for table roll before playing a match on it. One nice thing about Las Vegas is that it is a pool lover's town, so most of the tables used in league play are in excellent condition.

SPEAKING OF LEAGUE PLAY....

When I was playing in the leagues, I always arrived early and played on the game table. I did this because I always wanted to perform my best while people were watching (it didn't always turn out that way, but for the most part, it was worth it). I realize that this is not always possible, given our busy schedules, but I believe it's the best way to go. You should feel a little burden to do well for your team also. It's also good for a team to practice together and discuss shots and techniques. That's the way it is done in just about every other sport. There is a good reason for it. Better players can help their teammates elevate their games. Just remember that the game is fun, so keep the practice sessions constructive, productive and.....FUN.