

VINNIE & THE YOUTES - 2010 APA NAT'L CHAMPIONSHIPS @ THE RIV

September 1, 2010 ~ by Gary Frerking



Although some spectators at the 2010 APA Team Nationals might still be wondering what a "Youte" is, few if any doubt whether Las Vegas' Vinnie & the Youtes had their game on in the **8-ball Open Division**. Starting with an ominous-sounding team named "Doom" from South Carolina, the Youtes worked their way up through the winner's side of the bracket, defeating opponents one-by-one as the initial field of 732 teams narrowed to 16 with the Youtes still in the hunt Friday evening.

After posing for their Sweet Sixteen pictures the Youtes got back to business taking on "Deep Pockets" from Kansas, quickly jumping to a 2-0 lead... but Deep Pockets battled their way back to tie up the match at 2-

2. **Shawn Robison** (5) got the call for the Youtes to break the tie in sudden death and Deep Pockets put up a 6. The Deep Pockets player won the lag and nearly ended the match on the break as the 8-ball kicked out of the rack back towards one of the head corner pockets. The resulting 8-ball 'hanger' (shown in the near corner pocket in the picture (#863)) later proved fatal to the Youtes as Shawn nudged it in early near the end of a nice run. A heartbreaking loss for sure, but Vinnie and the Youtes finished the tournament in an extremely respectable 9th place overall (\$3,500) and did Las Vegas APA proud!

see photo gallery >>