

Diablo Valley Pool League

Hi every one, there is a time to practice your favorite game pool. There is a time to compete and give it your best on an event; and there is a time to take a minute to recognize those women from our DVPL, that have taken their game, one more notch above the average player. It takes commitment, discipline and the simple desire to want to be the best, to control the cue ball, to run racks and take the winning game for your team. Two of our veterans, 'graduated' this year and one became a master player at the BCA while the other one took 1st of the Senior category at ACS national tournaments in las Vegas, this past may.

They are Darla Decker and Shawn Modelo.



DARLA DECKER



SHAWN MODELLO

Darla Decker played strong and is now a Master Player by placing third this past May in the Senior Category of BCA (\$1200). She is very excited about her placement but very humble about the reality of the upcoming competition with her new title. Darla practices 30 minutes daily, reads books about pool, but admits that isn't enough to compete at a Master level at BCA Nationals. She is hoping to compete at ACS next year to experience a smaller tournament format.

She was first introduced to pool by a friend in 2002 who she thanks greatly. She was invited to join DVPL in 2003 by a league member and has been with that team since. It is on that team that she learned a great deal about defense from the Captain Annette Wood. She has the motto of watch, listen, learn, and then practice.

When did you Join DVPL?

2003-2004

What do you like the best of participating on women's league?

I enjoy the competition and socializing aspects the most. I also have enjoyed the special connection I've had with the teammates I've played with over the years. They are all great and all helped my game immensely.



Plans for the future?

I hope to play in the ACS tournament next year and hope to place in the top 3 positions then. I am also interested in playing more 9 ball to see where that leads.

Are you happy to have become a master player?

Absolutely!

What does it mean to you?

Being a master's level player is a great honor and something I wasn't expecting. The downside is that I can only play in master level events nationally for BCA (except for teams) and I feel my game has a long way to go before I can compete in those.

Do you drill?

Yes, I practice every day for at least 20-30 minutes, right after dinner usually.

Do you take lessons?

I've taken lessons from several people and always learn from them.

How often?

Several times a year...

Describe your best moment of your pool career.

Actually there are three great moments for me. The first one was about 3 years ago when our team came in the 13-16 place finish in the money at the nationals in Vegas. I was really happy for all of us and proud to be on that team. The two other times were this past year at the BCA tournament. I had an amazing run in singles which really was THE highlight of all of my playing. My Dad was there to support me and share in my victories so that made it really special.

Any suggestions to the upcoming players?

1) Practice as much as you can, trying new things out regularly

2) Play others that are better than you, especially those that are willing to share what they know.

3) Read some of the great pool books out there; my favorites so far are "Point the Way" by the Monk and "The 99 Critical Shots of Pool" which I am reading now and love it!

3) Above all else, make new friends and have FUN!

Shawn Modelo began playing pool in 1995 and joined DVPL in 1998 and loves the competition and the overall love of the game that is shared in the women's league. She credits her great skills to her father VJ (Pops) whom is also her scotch doubles partner and placed 3rd at ACS, and to her husband Jeff who gives her pointers and also encourages her to compete because she loves it.



She drills a few times a week and shoots in league 3 times a week. She doesn't practice daily but when she does it is for hours. She is the type of player that uses her drive for competition and the love of the game to carry her thru tough matches; which makes her a dangerous player to everyone.

Shawn had a thrilling final match in the ACS Nationals to become the 2010 ACS Senior Champion (\$1000 plus trophy). She performed superbly to come from the cat seat and to take the bird. She had to defeat her opponent in two races to four. She dominated the first match and the second match wasn't so one sided. Shawn held strong when she was frustrated by a trapped eight ball which eventually led to a stale mate match. Her mental strength and her skill carried her thru. Shawn also placed on the B CA Nationals taking 17th -24th place for \$175

Did you ever aspire of participating on any National tournament and placing?

Not in the beginning but as my game has improved I've put myself out there to play and win.

Do you drill?

I do practice some shots but I don't drill as diligently as I should

Do you take lessons?

I have been fortunate to have my Pop and Husband coach me but I've been able to listen to what other players have to say about the game and try and incorporate that knowledge to my game. I like talking about the game.

How often?

I take a lesson every time I play a competitive game

Describe your best moment of your pool career.

Sheer satisfaction. Knowing what I wanted to do, executing and finishing the game.

Knowing I played well.

Any suggestions to the upcoming players?

Practice.Practice.Practice