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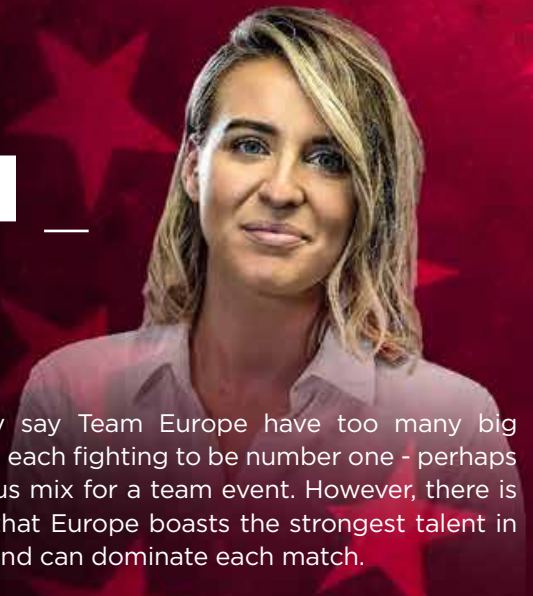


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WELCOME FROM EMILY FRAZER



A very warm hello and virtual welcome to the 27th edition of the partypoker Mosconi Cup, live from the Ricoh Arena in Coventry, UK.

Whilst you will be all reading this from the comfort of your own home (or office desk if you are tuning in on the sly) - this year's Mosconi Cup will certainly be a memorable one.

After an eight-year losing streak, Team USA have shocked and excited fans with back-to-back wins in 2018 and 2019 and the question on everyone's lips is - can USA 3-peat?

However, the continents are divided. Many people have Europe as favourites while saying USA have made a risky move in mixing their winning team up with rookie Chris Robinson replacing Tyler Styer. But you cannot write off the debutant Robinson, who has voiced he is prepared and ready to show everyone who's boss.

The withdrawal of Justin Bergman, who tested positive for Covid-19 shortly before his scheduled departure, is a huge blow for the American team but he is replaced by Corey Deuel, who holds multiple titles and is a genius of the game.

USA also welcome back the dynamic duo of Woodward and heart of the team Billy Thorpe. Woodward's calm, relaxed-yet-raw attitude and incredible talent has propelled USA to victory the past two years. He is a player who wants to play the pressure matches; the making of a champion! Billy won a vital match against Shaw on the final day last year and we can always expect excitement from the Banks King - mullet 'n' all!

Captain Jeremy Jones was Vice Coach the last two years and has stepped into the big shoes with his experience and expert knowledge in the game and has the assistance of new Vice-Captain Joey Gray. JJ may be known as Mr Nice Guy, but he is determined and fully focused on winning this year - I cannot wait to see how he drives the team.

Alex Lely is back with a vengeance to lead Team Europe having previously captained the team in 2008 and 2009. He has been serving strict team rules and leading weekly Zoom calls during lockdown.

Some may say Team Europe have too many big characters, each fighting to be number one - perhaps a dangerous mix for a team event. However, there is no doubt that Europe boasts the strongest talent in the sport and can dominate each match.

Albin Ouschan is back and the silent assassin is ready to take on the likes of SVB and Woodward; with Ouschan alongside Killer Filler and fan-favourite Jayson Shaw, perhaps this really could be Europe's best of the best.

Eklent Kaci has proven he is a potential future World Champion, but the shot clock can nerve him and he has struggled in doubles matches in the last two years.

Talking of big characters, the reigning World Champion Fedor Gorst was the first member of Team Europe. Fedor is solid, poised, and deadly to any opponent.

Despite a tremendously difficult year for all, we are thrilled to be staging the partypoker Mosconi Cup. It may be different to what we had initially planned but I can guarantee it will be memorable for many years to come!

We miss you, but it won't be long till you can be back in the arena with us. This year will be an unbelievable experience, whether you are watching on your TV or tablet you can still be here virtually - this will be too close to call! Sit back, relax, enjoy and watch the fireworks.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank partypoker, Predator, Kamui, Rasson, Aramith, Simonis, UTG, Sky Sports, DAZN, the WPA and Ricoh Arena for their continued support of this prestigious event.

Emily

Programme Editor: Nick Teale

Programme Design: Freeze Creative Group

Photographs: JP Parmentier and Vincent Rochefort

Master of Ceremonies: Radzi Chinyanganya

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FORMAT

BREAK RULES

The following conditions on the break shot will apply in all matches at the partypoker Mosconi Cup:

1. The balls will be racked with the 1-ball resting on the spot.
2. The balls initially won't be tapped and will be hand racked by the referee into a wooden rack. Depending on circumstances, there may be scope to subsequently tap some balls.
3. Players will not be permitted to inspect the rack and cannot ask for the balls to be re-racked, re-positioned or moved.

SHOT CLOCK RULES

Each player has up to 30 seconds to complete each shot. The clock will start when the last moving ball on the table comes to rest. Failure to play a shot in the allocated time will result in loss of visit and cue ball in hand to the incoming player.

After the break shot, a player can take a maximum

of 60 seconds to appraise the table. The clock will start after the completion of the first shot in open play.

Each Player (singles) or team (doubles) is allowed one 30-second extension per rack. This can be called at any time within the initial 30 seconds.

PRIZE MONEY

WINNERS: **\$30,000** PER PLAYER | RUNNERS-UP: **\$15,000** PER PLAYER
TOTAL: **\$225,000**



Referees: John Leyman, Marcel Eckardt and Viv Ruscoe



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MATCH SCHEDULE

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1

- Match 1** Team match (all 5 to play)
- Match 2** Doubles match
- Match 3** Singles match
- Match 4** Doubles match (All players to have played once in matches 2 - 4)
- Match 5** Singles match (Cannot be the same player as Match 3)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2

- Match 6** Fans' Choice Singles match (public poll)
- Match 7** Doubles match
- Match 8** Singles match (Cannot be the same player as Match 3 and 5)
- Match 9** Doubles match (All players to have played once in matches 7 - 9)
- Match 10** Singles match (Cannot be the same player as Matches 3, 5 and 8)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3

- Match 11** Doubles match
- Match 12** Singles match (Must be the player who did not play in Matches 3, 5, 8 & 10)
- Match 13** Doubles match
- Match 14** Singles match
- Match 15** Doubles match (All players to have played once in matches 13 - 15)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4

- Match 16** Singles match
- Match 17** Singles match
- Match 18** Singles match
- Match 19** Singles Match
- Match 20** Singles match (All players to have played once in matches 16 - 20)
- Match 21** Singles Match (Captains pick after Match 20)

A maximum of five matches will be played on each of the first three days. The tournament will continue until one team has reached 11 points.

Please note, the Captain may not use the same pair twice. There are seven doubles matches and a possible 10 pairings.

There is a 30 second shot clock in operation at all times.



JEREMY JONES & JOEY GRAY

Team USA legend Jeremy Jones steps up to the Captaincy role this year, joined by Joey Gray as they look to lead America to a three-peat.

Jones was Vice-Captain over the last two years as USA first regained the Cup in 2018, and then retained it on Thanksgiving in Las Vegas last year.

The Texan represented America seven times as a player at the Mosconi Cup, lifting the trophy on five of those occasions. He takes over as Captain this year, and has selected Oklahoma-based coach Gray as his Vice-Captain.

Jones is confident Team USA has a winning formula and their bond as a team will help them make it three in a row, despite a difficult year with limited tournament play and a last minute change, with Corey Deuel replacing Justin Bergman after the latter tested positive for Covid-19.

"After the last couple of years I think me and the guys realise it's about creating confidence, comfort and knowing our team has each other's back," said Jones. "Along with serious training, that is what makes a winning team."

"So this next year will be much more of that and we will not be standing still at all. We are professionals and a high standard is required and expected and our guys know this. They have learned to respect this while loving the challenge; that's called heart!"

"We haven't been together for the last few weeks before the Cup, usually at this time of year we would try to be together, but otherwise each one of the guys is hitting a lot of balls. As far as everything is concerned, I'm very happy with the way the guys are motivated."

"It doesn't take long for pool players to befriend each

other. They all get along well and the last couple of years has built those relationships. One thing that in my career, my biggest attribute was being a calm person in heavy situations. I never labelled myself one of the most talented players but these players have talent through the roof. Over the last couple of years, there were some technical things I helped with but one of the biggest things was helping to calm them down in the situations. Getting the guys in that moment will be what leads to a three-peat this year.

"For my Vice-Captain, I thought of many worthy names for many reasons, but Joey Gray was the first and last one to enter my mind. Joey is a great player, great dude and very involved in improving pool.

"I have known Joey since he was a young man. Our relationship has gotten stronger this year and I think it will grow from here."

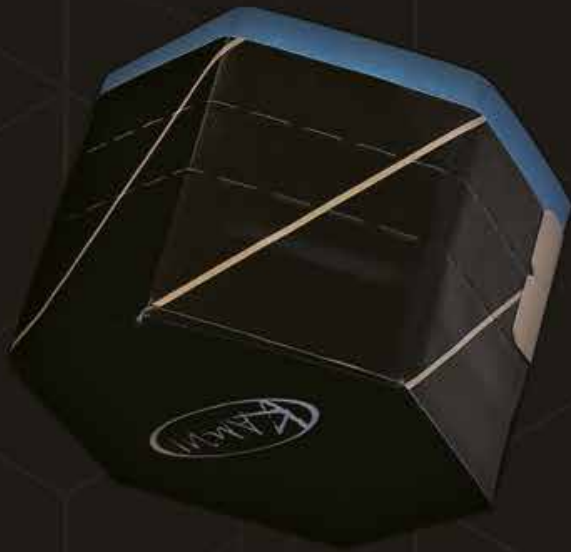
Gray added: "I was floored when I was asked to participate as Vice-Captain. Words could not explain. It was probably the best phone call I have ever received. I will never forget the moment I was asked. I always give 100 percent to what I put my mind to and this will be my life's biggest goal. To represent Team USA as Vice-Captain is a dream come true.

"AFTER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS
I THINK ME AND THE GUYS REALISE
IT'S ABOUT CREATING CONFIDENCE,
COMFORT AND KNOWING OUR TEAM
HAS EACH OTHER'S BACK"

"There have been a few events where the guys have been able to get themselves in the grease and be put under pressure and fortunately for me and Jeremy we were able to see how they responded playing some really tough competition. Over the last year, you can practice all you want, but you can't replicate that pressure. We really got a good chance to see some of that.

"The private sessions that we did, the one-on-ones, were very special for us. We didn't think we would be able to do any of that and we worked around the situation and it worked out well."





ROKU 6



— SHANE VAN BOENING —

Shane van Boening says a better team dynamic was key to helping USA holt an eight-year losing streak at the partypoker Mosconi Cup and is hoping for the chance to re-ignite his rivalry with Joshua Filler at this year's event.

Van Boening put years of Mosconi heartache behind him when he sunk the winning combo at Alexandra Palace two years ago. Last year the team secured a famous repeat in Las Vegas, although a rivalry emerged with Filler, who declared 'I'm the king now' after twice beating Van Boening. The five-time US Open Champion has a huge amount of respect for the German but is hoping to get his revenge in Coventry.

"Filler is a very talented player, very fearless player, and he is probably one of the best Mosconi Cup players I have seen but by losing against him, you learn every time and I am going to be ready for him if I play him," said Van Boening. "He is a different animal, a very talented pool player and one of the toughest I have ever played. I am hoping I get to play him again and maybe I will get my revenge."

"Defending the partypoker Mosconi Cup in Las Vegas last year was probably the best Mosconi Cup I have ever played. We had a great team chemistry, the coaches did a good job, and it worked out pretty well. The guys that I play with, I feel more comfortable. We have a lot of fun together and that is what it is all about; making memories together and winning the Mosconi Cup"

"If we can do the same things we did in the last two years, there won't be any problems. Europe are going to have a hard time competing with us for sure."

"Other the past few years, we lost eight years in a row and then we got Johan on the team. It is a learning experience that you have to go out there

and be more comfortable, believe in yourself, and I learned a lot with Johan. It was a great experience that Johan was the coach and now that Jeremy has been on board in the last two years we have won the Mosconi Cup together.

"Jeremy is a good coach, he knows everything about the Mosconi Cup and has been with us the last couple of years. I think he is going to be a very good Captain for us."

As well as Jones stepping from vice-captain to the top job, USA are welcoming rookie Chris Robinson onto the team. In the build up to this year's event, Van Boening has taken the newcomer under his wing and is confident the young Californian can make his mark at the partypoker Mosconi Cup.

"Chris has been texting me and asking for advice and I've been helping him," said the South Dakota Kid. "I hope he has been working really hard and taking my advice seriously and I think he should do well this year."

"Anybody can come in, especially the young players, because they are young and talented, if they can pocket the balls then that is all that matters. I will make sure Chris is on the right track before he plays his matches and hopefully he can perform well."

PROFILE

Age: 37

From: South Dakota

Nickname: The South Dakota Kid

Instagram: @shanevanboening

partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: 13

partypoker Mosconi Cup Wins: 3

partypoker Matches Played: 81

partypoker Matches Won: 36



COREY DEUEL

Corey Deuel will make his 11th partypoker Mosconi Cup appearance at Ricoh Arena, Coventry, and captain Jeremy Jones is hoping the Prince of Pool's experience can help Team USA to a three-peat.

Deuel received a late call up to the team after Justin Bergman tested positive for Covid-19 before departing America for England. Deuel, though, had trained with Jones and Vice-Captain Joey Gray in Texas over the summer and had been nominated as first reserve since the team was selected in September.

The former US Open Champion has now been called upon by his Captain, who played alongside Deuel in three Mosconi Cups from 2000-2002.

PROFILE

Age: 43
From: California
Nickname: The Prince of Pool
Instagram: @deuelcorey
partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: 10
partypoker Mosconi Cup Wins: 3
partypoker Matches Played: 52
partypoker Matches Won: 28

"It wasn't an easy decision but the way things went down with Chris being selected fifth and being a rookie, we felt like maybe if we needed a player to come in as an alternate we wanted a little more experience," said Jones.

"Not to say that Tyler doesn't have two years' experience, but Corey has got 10 Mosconi Cups, and I think Corey is playing really well. When we talk about somebody coming in and filling shoes, we felt that experience was the way to go."

Deuel was a regular for Team USA in the noughties. He made his debut in 2000 and played the following two cups before missing out in 2003. He returned to the side in 2006, playing in 2007 and again in 2009 and 2010.

Into the next decade he was recalled by Mark Wilson to join Team USA in Blackpool in 2014 and kept his place the following year. He was again recalled in 2018, this time by Johan Ruijsink, but struggled in his singles matches, losing to Albin Ouschan and Niels Feijen.

However, captain Jones is confident that Deuel's current form and wealth of experience makes him the right man to join Team USA at short notice in this unique situation.



— SKYLER WOODWARD —

Two-time partypoker Mosconi Cup MVP Skyler Woodward is already halfway to matching Niels Feijen's all-time record and is hoping his positive mindset can help the team through any adversity they face.

Woodward was crowned MVP in each of the last two years and has his eyes set on beating Dutchman Feijen's record of four, although says winning the Cup with the team remains the number one goal. The Kentucky Kid believes the short race-to-five matches at the event are an advantage to USA, with American players brought up on quicker races.

"This is the greatest pool event of the year and just to make the team and represent my country is an amazing feeling," said Woodward.

"The first win, two years ago in London, it felt like the best win of my life. Winning it twice was sweet, but now if we can win it three times would be great. I have played five times and lost the first three and you wonder if we will ever win again, so winning that first one was the best feeling.

"To win the Cup is big enough but to be MVP and know I have helped the team as much as possible, that makes me feel even better. If I get it three times, then I'll be trying to break Niels Feijen's record of four. But just to win the Cup would be great.

"I feel the pressure, for sure, and I am as nervous as anybody out there, but I love it. When the fans are yelling it pumps me up and I just take a couple of deep breathes to come back down and finish what I am doing.

"I like the pressure and I like it to be on me. I love the

pressure, I have done since I was a kid, it's why I like pool so much.

"There will still be pressure, just no fans to pump you up. That might be a downfall for some and it might help others. I don't think it will be too different; just play pool.

"I have always pushed myself to stay positive; if I make a mistake, I just laugh it off to let it go and stay positive. If anybody is down, I will push them to stay positive. We were down 4-1 in a doubles match and I said to Tyler, they won four in a row so why can't we? Then we won four in a row to win the match.

"The Europeans are built for long races but this is a race to five, which is what we were raised doing. That's an advantage to us and I think we jell better as a team. We jell better and can be better doubles partners. Team Europe is too stacked; there are so many top guys that they are all fighting to say they are the best and the leader. They are also capable of going out there and never missing a ball as good as they are, but we will see what happens."

PROFILE

Age: 27
From: Kentucky
Nickname: The Kentucky Kid
Instagram: @officialskywoodward
partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: 5
partypoker Mosconi Cup Wins: 2
partypoker Matches Played: 30
partypoker Matches Won: 15

The Official Table of

MOSCONI CUP XXVII

OX

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BILLY THORPE

Billy Thorpe believes Team USA's brotherly bond will help them achieve a three-peat over Team Europe, and the Ohio man is expecting a more tense atmosphere between players at the table this year.

Thorpe is making his fourth appearance in American red in Coventry and believes one effect of not having the usual 3,000-strong crowd is that players will be staring each other down more than they usually would.

As in many industries, the Covid-19 pandemic has stripped professional pool players of their work, but Thorpe is grateful to see the partypoker Mosconi Cup go ahead, albeit without fans.

"It sucks the way everything went down this year, but at least we have the biggest tournament, the one we all drive for all year," said Thorpe. "I am super stoked and excited to be able to come back out there and compete again; I can't wait.

"Not having a crowd won't affect me. It will be awkward for every one of us, including Europe. I am just going to be staring them down, I know they will be staring me down. Of course, we will still show our emotions but I feel like it will be a little awkward and a lot of eyeing each other.

"At the Mosconi Cup when somebody makes a great shot, or when you're hooked and you kick a ball in or make a bank or a combo or anything exciting like that, you just want to go nuts and express your feelings to the crowd. We're still going to be pumped up and show our emotions.

"I think going down and working with Jeremy and Joey for those couple of days I went down there has

helped me tremendously and I am pretty sure the other players will say the same thing. We had one event we went to in Texas and bonded and hung out and had a good time. I think we bond better than Team Europe so I think we have an edge there.

"They can do all the Zoom calls they want to do; it isn't going to help them bond better - it works but it only goes so far. I think we are bonded better than them no matter how many zoom calls they have done.

"We are like brothers. We see each other a lot more and I think we bond better than Team Europe. They are a strong team and like everybody is saying they are better on paper, but it doesn't matter in a race-to-five.

"It doesn't matter if you have World champions on your team or not, it matters how you guys feed off each other and help each other to get out there and bring the best out of each other.

"The more World champions they have, the better for us - it's just going to make us play even better. I feel like we are going to come out there strong."

PROFILE

Age: 24
From: Ohio
Nickname: Thorpedo
Instagram: @billy__thorpe
partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: 3
partypoker Mosconi Cup Wins: 2
partypoker Matches Played: 16
partypoker Matches Won: 7

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CHRIS ROBINSON

After three years of hard work as part of the Team USA setup, Chris Robinson makes his partypoker Mosconi Cup debut this week as he moves one step closer to his career goal of lifting the famous trophy.

The 22-year-old Californian started the year on a high when he came fifth at the Diamond Las Vegas Open, one of the highest finishing American players. That proved to be the final event before the Covid-19 shutdown, however, denying Robinson a chance to push on in a run of major international events originally scheduled for the spring.

With no tournaments taking place, Captain Jeremy Jones invited players he was considering for the team to his Texas home for private training over the summer. Robinson, who had also worked alongside Johan Ruijsink as a Team USA contender in 2018 and 2019, left an impression on the Captain that helped earn him his place on the team.

"I felt like I left my best game on the table when I was training with Jeremy and that is the best you can do," said Robinson. "I think I have evolved as a player and probably improved more over the last few months than I have in quite a while.

"When Jeremy called to tell me I was on the team, I was driving from a pool hall to where I was staying. I was kind of expecting it to be one of those calls the same as the two calls I've had in the past two years, where I still have stuff to work on and next year would be the year I'm shooting at. When Jeremy said I'd made it, I didn't really know how to react.

"My career goal was to win a Mosconi Cup. This is setting into reality but just because I made it, we haven't won yet, so I need to do my part, keep getting better, and it's all part of the process.

"I played very well in the Diamond Las Vegas Open in the spring and qualified for the World 10-Ball, which is something I always wanted to qualify for. I don't get invited to the bigger events so I never really went but pool has been my life, I have been 100% for the last four or five years, and I am pleased to have this opportunity.

"There are some things you have to consider [playing in the TV arena] but at the end of the day it is playing pool and that is what our job is. I will go out there and do my best, I will be as ready as I can be, I have been practicing my weak points. You don't really know what to expect until you're out there.

"A lot of my life in pool I have been upsetting people in matches, I have beaten a lot of the top players, so just watch and see what happens. I am looking forward to it."

PROFILE

Age: 22

From: California

Instagram: @chrisrobinsonpool

partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: Debut

A photograph of two men, Alex Lely and Karl Boyes, standing in front of a blurred background of stadium seating. Alex Lely, on the left, is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved button-down shirt and holding a microphone. Karl Boyes, on the right, is wearing a dark jacket over a dark t-shirt and also holding a microphone. Both microphones have the 'matchroom multisport' logo. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle containing the title.

ALEX LELY & KARL BOYES

Alex Lely is relishing the task of leading Team Europe to regaining the partypoker Mosconi Cup as he returns to captain his continent for the first time since 2009.

The Dutchman says the event has grown at such a rate over the last decade that it would be like comparing Major League to Minor League Baseball when looking back to his last spell as Captain.

Lely, one of the world's leading coaches and an experienced broadcaster, will be partnered by Vice-Captain Karl Boyes, the former World 8-Ball Champion who won four Mosconi Cups as a player.

"It is a big honour to be the Captain," said Lely. "It has been ten years since I was last the Captain and that is a long time in the context of the Mosconi Cup. It is like comparing Minor League and Major League Baseball. It has grown to be so big in that time and it is getting better every year. It has grown in prestige and visibility around the world so the meaning of it all has become way bigger. With USA winning it the last two years, the Mosconi Cup has sparks once again.

"This year, with Covid, it will be strange. We don't

know really what to expect or what the experience will be playing without an audience but, because of Covid, we have been able to prepare a lot, even though it is all online, it is still a lot of time because the guys haven't been so busy travelling the world from tournament to tournament.

"It is not ideal to have an online meeting but we did meet and work a lot, more than we would have done without Covid.

"Preparation is done, all has been said, all has been asked. In the days before we travel I have some one-on-one sessions but now it is mainly up to the players, who are so experienced at getting themselves ready for big championships, so it is mainly up to them to get themselves ready now.

"We have cooked the pot and we will now stir and flavour it in the last four days when we are together. The main ingredients are all there. It is good to be able to do a finishing touch and the advantage of the bubble is I will have the players' full attention because there is not a lot else to do. It will be good being together, stress will be relieved of actually making it inside the bubble and once we are in we can be fully focussed on the tournament.

"I didn't know Karl that well but now I think we complement each other well, he is great, great value, socially and tactically, strategically and it is very nice to have such a knowledgeable guy next to me who I can spar with about ideas and considerations."

Vice-Captain Boyes has been part of the broadcast team at the last two partypoker Mosconi Cups, and believes he has spotted some ways Europe can improve on their last two performances and regain the Cup they won for eight consecutive years from 2010.

The Englishman, who last played in the Mosconi Cup in 2015, says he and Lely have proved to be a great partnership and is hoping he'll be lifting the trophy for a fifth time come December 4.

"If Covid and lockdown hadn't have come, chances are we wouldn't have spoken to the lads as much as we have done," said Boyes. "We were planning on going somewhere for a week and having a challenge match and maybe work together at another tournament, but that would be it.

"Because of Covid we have all been on Zoom, all been playing on Zoom. Alex is a student of the game and has so much knowledge. I have learnt so much from what he has been doing and the things he has brought to the Zoom calls.

"We have done two to three hour practice sessions and the other times been chatting, we've done quizzes and the losers have to serve us at the Mosconi Cup in a dickie bow - I think that was Kaci and Fedor, they were shocking! It was all about pool and Filler was phenomenal, he nailed every question.

"The last two week we have been dialling in on who has certain strengths and things like that. When Alex

"WE DON'T KNOW REALLY WHAT TO EXPECT OR WHAT THE EXPERIENCE WILL BE PLAYING WITHOUT AN AUDIENCE BUT, BECAUSE OF COVID, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PREPARE A LOT"

has asked me what I think about something, I have told him and that is his thought process too. We have been so much on the same page, even going back to when we both found out we were Captain and Vice.

"It has been a tough year for pool players because they haven't been able to showcase their skills and play their way into the team. That meant we had to pick four wildcards and we were on the same page with that.

"The last couple of years I've seen a few things which we can improve on. I think the doubles needs to be worked on more where certain points have been lost because maybe the pairings haven't been quite right. Certainly, last year Johan worked the schedule well and Shane van Boening and Skyler Woodward played more times than say, Joshua Filler and Jayson Shaw.

"Marcus was on his own as Captain and it's such a big task. Sometimes you might miss something and Marcus had the world on his shoulders. He had five years, a good run, but things have to end and who knows he will probably be captain again one day."



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JAYSON SHAW

Jayson Shaw has warned Team USA that playing the partypoker Mosconi Cup behind closed doors might make him better than ever.

The Scot is always pumped for the partypoker Mosconi Cup but says the excitement of walking on in front of 3,000 fans means it takes him a couple of racks to settle down.

Shaw is making his fifth appearance on the Team and is confident that this year Europe has the right mix of talent; with 'best player' Albin Ouschan returning, and World Champion Fedor Gorst making his debut.

"This will be my fifth time, so I have a lot of experience in the team," said Shaw. "I think this year with the four wildcards it is going to be a little bit different for Team Europe. Not saying we weren't strong in the last couple of years, but I think with the wildcard picks for the captains it is going to be much stronger than it has been.

"I am so happy that Albin is back in the team. I feel that Albin is a big asset to the team. In my eyes, when he plays he has been the best player. He is solid under pressure, he is a good doubles partner, doesn't really show any emotions. Then you have Fedor who is so young but so talented. He has got something about him where he looks like he has been around for way more years.

"I talk to Fedor a lot on Facebook. He always asks me stuff about tournaments and other things and when he missed out last year I told him to keep doing what he is doing, practice hard and keep going to those

tournaments because you will win something big soon, and then he went and won the World 9-Ball. He is going to be good; I think he is going to play well and I think he will gel well with the rest of the team.

"I will still be doing what I do every year, fans or no fans. I will be showing all of my emotions like I normally do and I think there will still be a lot of pressure because instead of it being loud and noisy, it will be real quote and there will be pressure there.

"With no crowd if I am really in the zone, then that is another problem for Team USA. I get distracted a bit when the fans are there. With fans, by the time I get to the table I am so pumped that it maybe affects me a little bit because I'm not settled down in the first couple of racks; I am still all jittery from coming down the stairs. If I come out and I'm calm and relaxed then I will probably perform better than I have been. I have played good but I haven't played by best at the Mosconi and this might be the year you see it."

PROFILE

Age: 32

From: Scotland

Nickname: Eagle Eye

Instagram: @jaysonshawofficial

partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: 4

partypoker Mosconi Cup Wins: 2

partypoker Matches Played: 24

partypoker Matches Won: 14



ALBIN OUSCHAN

Albin Ouschan believes this might be the strongest Team Europe ever, with Alex Lely bringing together the perfect mix of 'fire, fire and twice ice'.

Ouschan missed out on a spot at last year's event with then-Captain Marcus Chamat opting for the experience of Niels Feijen instead. That decision caused much debate both online and at the event itself but Ouschan is back in European blue this year and is hoping to help his team land their first Cup since 2017.

"It is an incredible feeling to be back on the team," said Ouschan. "It is one of the nicest things when you get a call from the Captain to say that you are in. This year has been tough, but I knew I probably had a better chance if there were four or five wildcards."

"It will for sure be one of the youngest European teams we have had but if you look at the names, I think it is the strongest we have had. We have very big shooters. With Jayson and Joshua we have two

incredible left-handed players and Joshua for me is the most talented player we have right now. Fedor is probably as calm as me at the table, so it is fire, fire and twice ice. Then we have Kaci who is an incredible player too.

"It is hard for me to talk about last year because it was a very tough time for me after it was announced that Niels was in the team and I didn't make it. I watched it every day and it was even tougher then but I think the toughest part of it is to get the call to say you are not in. It took me two days to really get over it. Europe played well but America played better and the result was fair.

"Alex and Karl are a great team. I played with Karl in my first Mosconi; we actually played doubles together. He is a very funny guy and he knows what it is all about at the Mosconi Cup. He was probably one of the best players.

"For USA to have had some practice sessions one-on-one is something different from being on your own for six or seven months, but we have four days before the Mosconi Cup to be together and to get back into the shape of match play. We will use those days to be ready for December 1.

"The Mosconi Cup always has pressure; it doesn't matter if you are the favourite on paper or not. Everybody who has played it knows how tough it is to play, it doesn't matter if you are a World champion or not. The pressure is on both teams; we are hunting them because they won twice in a row."

PROFILE

Age: 30

From: Austria

Instagram: @albinouschanofficial

partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: 3

partypoker Mosconi Cup Wins: 2

partypoker Matches Played: 17

partypoker Matches Won: 13



JOSHUA FILLER

Joshua Filler is looking to reignite his partypoker Mosconi Cup rivalry with Shane van Boening – but also has his eyes on avenging last year's defeat to Skyler Woodward.

Filler beat Van Boening 5-1 and 5-0 in Las Vegas last year but lost on the final day to Woodward, a match which saw USA crowned champions. After beating Van Boening for a second time, Filler declared 'I'm The King Now' and the German is eager to face the South Dakota Kid again this year.

"It is amazing, just from thinking about the Mosconi Cup I have goosebumps everywhere," said Filler of the event. "I am so glad that Alex picked me and I am back on the team.

"When I reflect on last year, I think in the singles we did pretty well but in the doubles we messed up. I think we have to practice on the doubles and if we can fix that, we will be the favourites again.

"When I played Van Boening, it was amazing. He missed easy balls and I took my chances and I beat him twice. They were big moments for me and that was the big highlight from last year's Cup. If I want to play somebody then of course it is Shane, the No.1 from the USA - I started the game and I will end the game. But the No.1 in the Mosconi Cup is Skyler right now and I can't wait to play him again.

"When I lost to Skyler, he played amazing and didn't make any mistakes. I was crying in the arena because I was so disappointed to lose. But I am so happy to be back and helping the team out and I hope we can get the Cup back.

"You only get better when you lose. If you play perfect, you can't learn anything. I watched the

match back a couple of times and learnt a lot about the match, also about my mindset.

"Last year we had tournaments but as individuals, nothing as a team until we went to LA a week before the Mosconi Cup. You actually need weeks to have the understanding of every player and to have a bond. This year, we started months before the Mosconi Cup and we are more like a team now.

"I haven't played any Mosconi Cups without a crowd so I don't know what it will be like but a crowd can also affect your game and distract you. It could help that nobody is there because you can focus more on the game. It will be different, of course, but it won't be an issue for my game; I can still deliver my 100% game.

"Everybody is saying we are the favourites but in the last two years USA have shown that they are the favourites because they act more like a team.

"It is a race to five, they are all great players, but our role is to play our best. Of course, sometimes you plan 100% but you can still lose in pool. We will prepare ourselves to be the best."

PROFILE

Age: 23

From: Germany

Nickname: Killer Filler

Instagram: @killerfillers

partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: 2

partypoker Mosconi Cup Wins: 1

partypoker Matches Played: 12

partypoker Matches Won: 8



EKLENT KACI

Eklent Kaci is looking to build on his strong partypoker Mosconi Cup singles record by bolstering his doubles performance this year. Achieving that would make him a complete partypoker Mosconi Cup player; an ominous sign for Team USA.

Kaci became the youngest player to ever appear at the partypoker Mosconi Cup when he debuted in London two years ago and once he settled into the event's unique environment he showed why he's already been a World No.1.

Last year he was undefeated in singles, looking confident at the table as he twice beat Tyler Styer. However, Kaci has been involved in just one winning pairing in six doubles matches played over the last two years and the Albanian has been working with Captain Alex Lely and the rest of the team to try and improve on this.

"The Mosconi Cup is the biggest goal of the year, for myself and I think all of the players. It is a great event and if you have played in it, you know it," said

Kaci. "I am very happy that the captain picked me. We are a really strong team and we are ready to take the trophy back.

"My first Mosconi Cup, it was hard to play in the middle of 3,000 people and the pressure is much higher than any other tournament. Last year, I was very happy with my performance, I played quite well, I was comfortable at the table, but there were a few small things which made us lose in the end but we know what we did wrong and we are ready to do it in the right way.

"Me, personally, I don't spend much time playing doubles because in Albania there are not many players. I practice most of the time by myself while Albin, Joshua, they play doubles in Germany in the Bundesliga. Albin is a very good doubles player; we have seen the results of him and Mario at the World Cup. It is all about the communication and, of course, you must be well prepared. We are all good players, we don't even need to say where we want the position, we all understand each other.

"My doubles record, I have lost more than I have won, so I have been working and playing doubles with the shot clock. It has been working very well. We have practiced a lot on zoom with the team and have worked on the psychology and communication, Alex has done a great job with Karl and I am really liking the preparation. It feels like we are 100% in.

"Alex is very smart, has a lot of knowledge of the game, is a champion, he has played the Mosconi Cup, Karl also. They know exactly what it is; it is different and you know that when you have played the Mosconi Cup."

PROFILE

Age: 21
From: Albania
Nickname: Golden Eagle of Albania
Instagram: @eklent.kaci
partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: 2
partypoker Mosconi Cup Wins: 0
partypoker Matches Played: 12
partypoker Matches Won: 5



FEDOR GORST

Having come agonisingly close to making the team 12 months ago, World Champion Fedor Gorst finally makes his partypoker Mosconi Cup debut this year.

The 20-year-old fell just short of qualifying for the 2019 team but responded by winning the World Championship last December, beating Chang Jung-Lin in the final having already knocked out Ko Ping-Chung and Ko Pin-Yi.

He picked up another title at the Athens Open in January before the Covid-19 pandemic struck, leaving Gorst in the form of his life but unable to compete. However, he used his time productively before being re-united with Alex Lely when it was confirmed he would play in this year's Cup.

"I was very happy when I got the call from Alex," said Gorst. "I was thinking that I deserved to be on the team this year, not only because I won the World title but because I feel that I have progressed as well."

"It is every player's dream to be a part of the Mosconi Cup. Last year I tried very hard to be on the team and played all the qualification events. I missed one Euro Tour because I had a virus and I lost the very last match against Alex Kazakis to be on the team."

"Honestly, [this year] was kind of a nightmare. I was World Champion and won another event in Greece at the start of the year. I was playing well and feeling that my game was consistent, better than ever, and then the virus happened. During the quarantine time I was learning the mental part of the game, the theoretical part of the game, and also trying to give online courses for some coaching."

"I really don't know what it is like to play the Mosconi Cup. I am sure there will be pressure because it is my

debut but without fans it will perhaps be a bit easier to adapt. I don't know what it is like with fans, but none of the players know what it will be like without fans. The event is exciting no matter what.

"On Team Europe we have seen Joshua and Albin perform well as rookies, which proves it doesn't really matter if you are a rookie or an experienced Mosconi Cup player. You can still shoot your best pool and show your highest level."

"We have practiced with Alex; I spoke a lot with him before he was the captain and we had worked together in the Netherlands before. I have always respected him as a coach, he has a lot of knowledge and is a good coach. I really like the way our team looks."

"We tried to create something on zoom, we tried to play doubles and communicate together, but we will work on everything once we are in the UK, that is where we will do the main preparation."

"I trained with Kristina Tkach before travelling to London. I have been playing some local tournaments in Russia, some online tournaments as well, plus I have been practising the same amount as I was before the pandemic, so I don't think it will effect anything."

PROFILE

Age: 20
From: Russia
Nickname: Ghost
Instagram: @gorstyanich
partypoker Mosconi Cup Appearances: Debut



EVENT HISTORY

2019	USA 11-8 Europe (Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas)
2018	USA 11-9 Europe (Alexandra Palace, London)
2017	Europe 11-4 USA (Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas)
2016	Europe 11-3 USA (Alexandra Palace, London)
2015	Europe 11-7 USA (Tropicana, Las Vegas)
2014	Europe 11-5 USA (Tower Circus, Blackpool, England)
2013	Europe 11-2 USA (Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas)
2012	Europe 11-9 USA (York Hall, Bethnal Green, London)
2011	Europe 11-7 USA (MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas)
2010	Europe 11-8 USA (York Hall, Bethnal Green, London)
2009	USA 11-7 Europe (MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas)
2008	Europe 11-5 USA (Hilton Hotel, Valletta, Malta)
2007	Europe 11-8 USA (MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas)
2006	USA 12-12 Europe (Cruise Terminal, Rotterdam, Holland)
2005	USA 11-6 Europe (MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas)
2004	USA 12-9 Europe (Hotel Zuiderduin, Egmond aan Zee, Holland)
2003	USA 11-9 Europe (MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas)
2002	Europe 12-9 USA (York Hall, Bethnal Green, London)
2001	USA 12-1 Europe (York Hall, Bethnal Green, London)
2000	USA 12-9 Europe (York Hall, Bethnal Green, London)
1999	USA 12-7 Europe (York Hall, Bethnal Green, London)
1998	USA 13-9 Europe (York Hall, Bethnal Green, London)
1997	USA 13-8 Europe (York Hall, Bethnal Green)
1996	USA 15-13 Europe (Goresbrook Centre, Dagenham)
1995	Europe 16-15 USA (Festival Hall, Basildon, England)
1994	USA 16-12 Europe (Rollerbowl, Romford, England)

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