

The American Cueist

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Cue-Maker Discovery: Keith Josey of *Josey Custom Cues*

Sometimes, they say, you can't see the forest for the trees or the nose in front of your face. So it was for me when it came to Keith Josey. Though I was around Keith on several occasions, it was a long time before I understood the talent and dedication of this fine young cue builder.

I first remember Keith from Baker's Billiards in Tampa, Florida, where he was learning the art of cue building from Wayne Gunn, one of the country's premier builders. Wayne, who studied under the legendary Rocky Tillis, immediately recognized Keith's talent and was more than happy to offer his help and guidance.

Keith started out in Savannah, Georgia as a cue repairman, simply because there was no one else around to handle repairs for local pool players. The perfectionist in Keith

eventually led him to seek out Wayne, and, as his work steadily improved, his enjoyment and dedication grew stronger. Keith also credits another great cue maker - - Dale Perry of DP Cues in Jacksonville, Florida -- with playing a major role in helping him develop his skills.

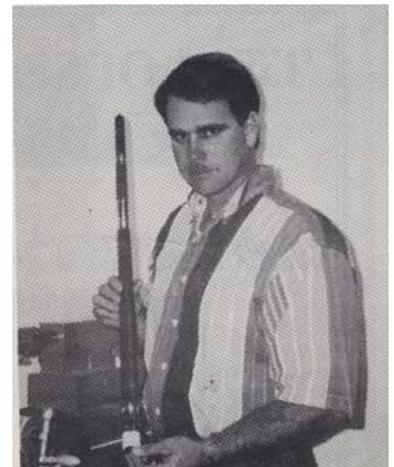
Incidentally, I endorse Dale's cues, which I first saw at the BCA Trade Show in Nashville some years back. While walking through the aisles examining the cues of dozens of builders, I picked up a DP and haven't put it down since. Keith has, indeed, learned from the best.

My first actual contact with a Josey Cue came through Keith's brother-in-law, John Hill, who was then playing in the Tampa area. Unfortunately, the first cue Keith built for John again escaped my attention, as it was sto-

len before I ever got a chance to examine it.

John happened to be hanging around with my son when the replacement cue arrived, and Small Goose was crazy about it. This time, I was persuaded to hit a few balls with the cue. After I had tested the cue, I laid it back on the table and started toward the counter, when it suddenly hit me how good the cue had felt. Only then did I realize Keith's potential.

It wasn't long before my son decided he couldn't rest until he owned a Josey Cue. The cue shown here is the result. This cue is a true work of art and hits and plays as good as any cue around. Most impressive is the fact that the cue was built exactly to the specifications requested. My son ordered the cue without impact rings on the wood-to-wood joint, and Keith complied



without question. Not only were all the measurements precisely as ordered, the weight and balance perfectly met our expectations. In addition, the unique ferrule, made from a cue ball, provided the exact hit Small Goose had hoped for.

Keith crafts each Josey Cue by hand from start to finish, with uncanny attention to detail. It makes no difference if the order is for a Sneaky Pete or an elaborate \$1,200 model, Keith builds every cue with the same devotion to detail and perfection. In this sense, each cue he delivers becomes an extension of himself.

At a recent cue show in Baltimore, Keith received high praise from his peers for his expertise in cue building. This experience, coupled with his love for the art of cue construction, reinforced Keith's dedication to becoming one of the world's great cue makers.

Keith's unique philosophy not only includes great attention to the desires of his customers, it demands a constant effort to build the best cue possible in any price range. His willingness to discuss every detail with the customer goes beyond that of many other cue builders, and because he never wants a Josey Cue to be seen as less than perfect, Keith stands behind every cue he builds.

If you are interested in discussing your cue needs, or even if you only want to ask a few questions, Keith welcomes all inquiries, and will be happy to hear from you. You can write or call him at the address or phone number above.

