



Born in Minersville, PA, he never could resist knocking the balls around one of the pool tables in his father's recreation room. By the age of 11, Balsis was playing exhibitions against pros like Andrew Ponzi and Erwin Rudolph. He won junior titles four consecutive years. Balsis left the game and it wasn't until 1944 that as a boat machinist in the Coast Guard, he won his next title; Armed Services Champ. In 1964 returned to competitive pool. Between 1965 and 1975, Balsis competed in the finals of the U.S. Open five times, winning twice in 1968 and 1974. He won the prestigious Billiard Room Proprietors Association tournament in 1965 and then won the World All Around championship in Johnston City, IL, in 1966. He won the Jansco brothers Stardust Open All Around title back to back in 1968 and 1969.