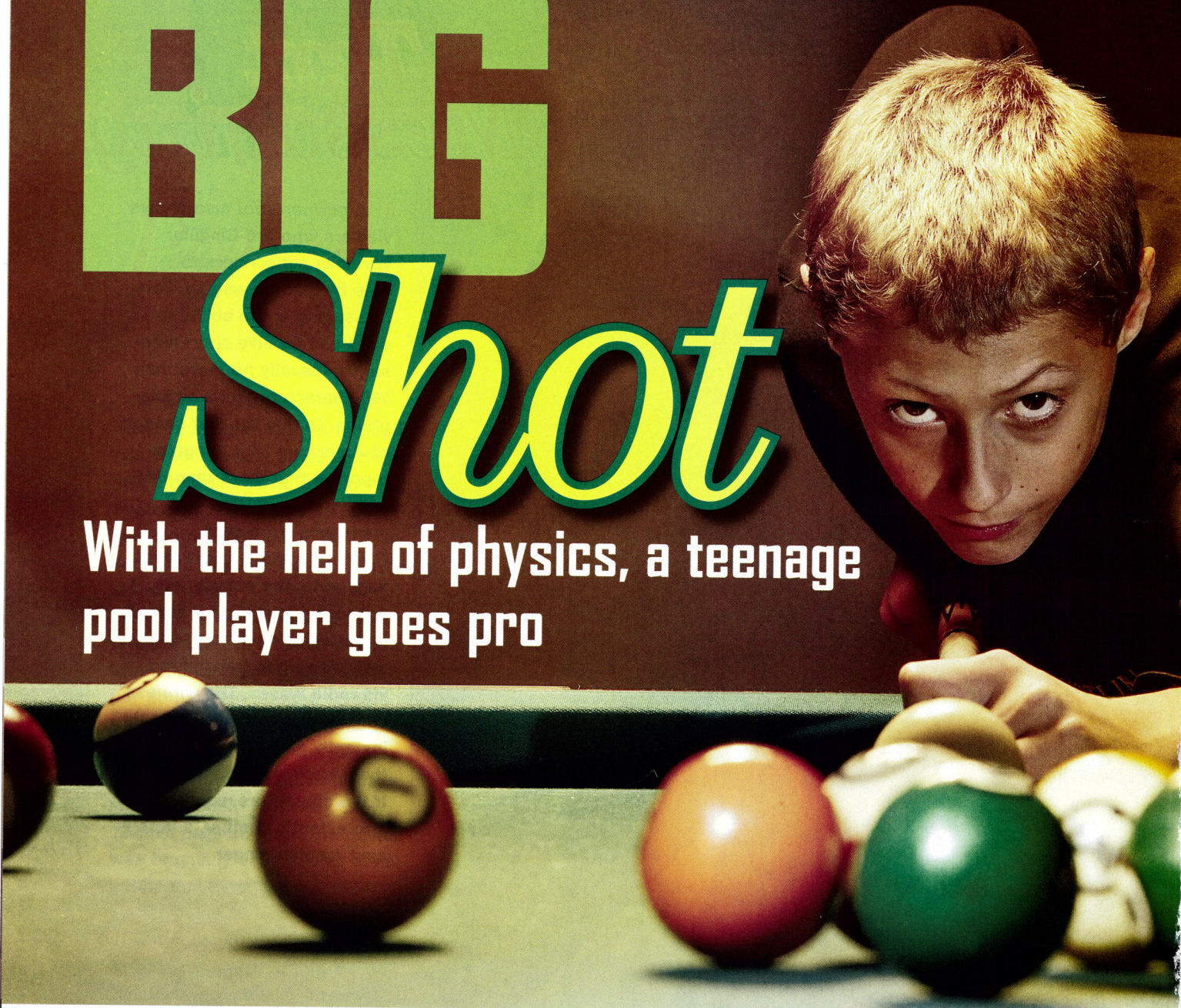


# BIG Shot

With the help of physics, a teenage pool player goes pro



**A**ustin Murphy, 13, sizes up the balls that are scattered around the pool table. A crowd of adults has gathered around, but Austin puts them out of his mind. Concentrating only on the game, he sinks the shot.

Regulars to the local pool hall in Folsom, California, know that Austin is a force to be reckoned with. He started playing pool when he was just 5 years old. Now he is the youngest professional competitor on the International Pool Tour. His secret? “You need to know about geometry and physics,” says Austin.

## BILLIARD BASICS

Knowing principles of physics alone won't make you a great pool player, says David “Dr. Dave” Alciatore, a professor of engineering at Colorado State University. But it can certainly give you the upper hand against even your fiercest opponents.

Common sense—and basic physics

