

## 44<sup>th</sup> Missouri 8-Ball Tournament Results



It has been said many times over that it is a most difficult task indeed to repeat as back to back winners in the Missouri 8-Ball Championship Tournaments; not only from the 5-player field, but also from the 4-player field as well. The following is a brief synopsis that took place at Teachers September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

31 of the 32 teams from the 5-player field arrived for the shootout. The action began about ten past noon. By the end of three rounds, only four teams would return for the big finish. They were Lenny's, Penalty Box, Jody T's and Hillsboro. And, what has been passed on several times in the past, a very good case can be made for the current handicap system being employed by said League.

In one semi-final match Hillsboro, playing 29 points to Penalty Box's 31, received one game on the wire. It was an exciting back and forth battle, and after three full rounds Hillsboro showed a 2-point lead, 9-7. The auspicious beginning of round four had railbirds thinking a total upset was believable. Hillsboro took one of the first two putting them on the bubble, 10-8. But the more powerful and well-trained team from Penalty Box proved once again why they should never be counted out.

Andy Hurwitz and Rolla Hoffman pushed the issue by making it a 10-10 double-hill contest that forced a rematch between Jerry Arndt of Hillsboro and Matt DeBarr from the Box. Jerry beat Matt the previous round but now DeBarr was out to avenge that defeat and did so; and by doing so sent Penalty Box to the Grand Finals.

The gang from Hillsboro put up a most solid run indeed. They put together some outstanding matches of 11-9 over Starlite; another 11-9 squeaker against Players Pub and 11-6 over George's before falling to Penalty Box. For their efforts Hillsboro took home \$750 for the weekend tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

The other semi-final match had Jody T's getting two on the wire from Lenny's. With a 5-2 lead after one, Jody T's fell apart and got smoked in the second. Now Lenny's sported a 7-5 lead taking control of the match and closed it out, 11-7. On their way to the finals, Jody T's had some great and close matches. They opened up with a tight 11-9 win over Lyle's, 11-7 over Piccadilly and another 11-9 squeaker over Hot Shots. They also received \$750 in their tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

For the first place combatants Penalty Box decided to go with 29 points, and Lenny's, looking to capitalize, ponied up only 24. That 5-point difference allowed Lenny's to grab 3 games head start, and after two full rounds and one game into the third, they had a commanding lead of 9-5, which are very good odds indeed, if you are up against a crew who are known to fold up in the clutch like a wet cardboard box.

However, these six guys and two dolls have been here before. After dropping that first game in round three, Penalty Box hammered out the next 4 for a more respectable 9-9 showing. Now the bookies are scampering around to unload, but it is too late.

Andy Hurwitz made it a perfect match by winning his 4<sup>th</sup> game, and second over Captain Lenny Fowler, putting the Box ahead for the first time and on the mesa, 10-9. The next game pitted Jumpin' Julia Gabriel against the ever tough Danny Selph. And, when Danny found a run-out pattern to his liking, he went about business as deliberate and meticulous as a brain surgeon. He began picking off shots as neatly as a book depository sniper. Suddenly Julia's hopes of getting to the table faded faster than Pamela Anderson-Lee's marriage. Ah, but the pool gods did not smile down on Danny this match. He made an outstanding run moving in and out of traffic getting to the '8'. It was just too bad that the cue ball rolled a bit further than he wanted after dropping his last ball. Everywhere Danny looked one of his opponent's object balls was in the way preventing him from making the '8'. After surveying the situation and his options, Danny decided to 3-rail the '8' into the corner pocket. It was the only chance he had. Unfortunately, just a silly millimeter off target at the front end of a 3-custion bank shot can mean as much as a large inch at the back end. And that's exactly what happened. The 8-ball rolled uprail about one inch stopping short of the intended pocket.

That allowed Julia her only chance. Someone yelled "the governor called", and everyone in the Big House witnessed Julia as she jumped (thus her handle Jumpin' Julia) from the Hot Seat before the juice was injected. Cradling her cue stick like a mother cradles a newborn babe, Julia, slowly and steadily, rolled each ball from the green felt into their respective pockets. It was another narrow escape but she pulled it out, 11-9. Once again the team from Penalty Box were the Missouri 8-ball champs.

Their first place winnings was \$3,152.00. Lenny's went home with second place money of \$1,500.00.

The regular Summer Session saw many 4-player teams taking to the waterways, highways and skyways. Witness the low number of only four that shot it out for the winner-take-all prize award of \$750. All one of them had to do was to win two matches in these race-to-9 contests. Easier said than done of course. Round one saw Jody T's against Players Pub while Libby's took on Fucifino's.

Jody T's allowed Players Pub a free game to open and it looked like that would be the deciding factor. The two teams split rounds one and two. Half way through the third, Players Pub was coasting with a 7-4 lead. That one game spot was looming large.

Suddenly Jody T's found the zone. Paul Dattilo began the attack followed up by Ben Wanner to close out round three bringing the score to a more respectable 7-6. Big Ben opened round four with his second win for the tie, 7-7. Then John Wenzel won his second game putting Jody T's on the hill, 8-7. Ron Allman picked up his third win advancing Jody T's to the next level with the 9-7 come-from-behind victory.

Libby's made a statement early in their contest by taking 3 of 4 in both rounds one and two, jumping off to a fast 6-2 lead. With Tony Chagolla and Mark Willand leading the charge, each winning three games, it was smooth sailing on a rather calm sea to a very convincing 9-5 victory.

For the Grand Final, Libby's relinquished three games to Jody T's making it a 10 to 7 race. They wasted no time letting Jody T's know that a three game deficit meant very little. All they did was smoke them the first round and take the first two in the second for a 6-game start. At the end of two, Libby's had the lead 7-4. Jody T's, not to be out done, shot back with four of the next five tying the championship match at 8-8.

That brought up Roger Pheasant, who earlier in the tournament had a 4-win match. He quickly put Libby's on the hill 9-8 setting the stage for Mike McDonald to close it out bringing Libby's their first Missouri 8-Ball Championship in awhile.

Congrats to all participants of the 44<sup>th</sup> shootout, and of course to the new winners, Penalty Box (5-player) and Libby's (4-player). See you again next session guys.

## Players who scored 4-Wins in a Match

Lenzie Russ and Charles Sommerville (Airport)  
Al Pruett (Players Pub)  
Tim Elmore and Danny Selph (Lenny's)  
Roger Pheasant (George's)  
Ron Allman and Tim Robinson (Jody T's)  
Greg Gouvernal (Hot Shots)  
Andy Hurwitz (Penalty Box)  
Chip Montgomery (Lyle's)  
Charlie Heavel Sr. (Starlite)

Jerry Arndt from the Hillsboro gang was the only player to win four games in a match twice this tournament. Nice shooting gang. Keep up the great work and we will see you again next tournament.

## Team Records

1. Penalty Box 55-30 .647
2. Lenny's 50-31 .617
3. Hillsboro 42-27 .609
4. Jody T's 38-34 .528

## Players with 10 wins or 15 games played

1. Jerry Arndt Hillsboro 13-2 .867
2. Roger Pheasant George's{9-2} Libby's{2-1} 13-
3. Andy Hurwitz Penalty Box 14-4 .778
- 4/5 John Neels Hillsboro 10-3 .769
- 4/5 Ron Allman Jody T's 10-3 .769
6. Tim Robinson Jody T's 11-4 .733
7. Lenny Fowler Lenny's 12-5 .706
8. Tim Elmore Lenny's 11-5 .688
9. Danny Selph Lenny's 12-6 .667
10. Julia Gabriel Penalty Box 10-6 .625
11. Matt DeBarr Penalty Box 11-7 .611
- 12/13 Guy Giesecking Lenny's 9-6 .600
- 12/13 John Wenzel Jody T's 9-6 .600

## Winning Streaks (6 or more)

1. Jerry Arndt	Hillsboro	11 (Won first
2. John Neels	Hillsboro	8
3. Tim Robinson	Jody T's	7
4/5 Roger Pheasant	George's	6
4/5 Andy Hurwitz	P. Box	6

### Some Final Thoughts

There were 30 matches played from the 5-player field and 3 from the 4-player field. Of the 33 matches played, 22 were separated by only 4 games, or less. That is a 2 to 1 margin, or 67%. Of those 22, more than half (12) were decided by one or two games, or 55%. The present Missouri 8-Ball handicap system allows all teams to be more evenly matched than thought possible.

Conversely, blowouts by definition could be construed as where the losing team scores only 4 or 5 wins (or less). There were only 8 of the 33 matches that fell in that category, or 24%, or less than one fourth of the matches played.

In spite of what the skeptics might think of the present handicap system, the facts prove out, once and for all, it is working.

Have a great session and who knows possibly you will be the player to beat in the 45<sup>th</sup> All-star and team tournaments get together. Good luck and see you next time.

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