

61st Missouri 8 Ball Pool League Tournament Results



The 5-Player Board & The 4-Player Happy Hour Board.
The 9-Ball finals & The All-Star Singles Showdown.

A Few Encouraging Words for 9-Ball: We are happy to announce that the 9-Ball division doubled for the second session. Right up front it doesn't seem that going from four teams to eight is a big deal; but it's a start. When you remember that the first session was made up entirely of all four teams playing out of one location, Woody's (now Crescent Room), the division has expanded to five locations. Joining Crescent Room are JP's Corner, 21 Rock, Wedge and Hotshots SC. We don't expect it to double for the next session as a lot of players sit out the summer season. We are looking ahead to the Fall season for additional 9-ball teams and possibly new locations to join us.

9-Ball Results: It was the usual suspects. JP's Corner #1 tied for first place with 21 Rock #1, each with 12-4 team records. Going to the deciding factor of games won/lost percentage we find it was very close indeed, but JP's did it again. Their 253-200 .558 was slightly ahead of 21 Rock's 225-195 .536; only a smidgeon .022 difference. For the preliminary rounds to meet JP's #1, there were two Crescent Rooms with 21 Rock and a JP's #2 team. After the two-week playoff JP's #2 earned the right to meet JP's #1 for the title.

It was a great season for JP's #2 as they overcame the playoffs and then knocked off the number one team to take the 9-Ball championship. For their fine effort JP's #2 came away with the \$1,000 first prize. JP's Corner #1 earned runner up money of \$254. Congrats to all teams in their efforts to keep the 9-Ball divisions going.

Sam Bevell shot his way into the record books with his 48-22 .686, which was only .007 better than 21 Rock's Jim Crowell's 57-27 .679. Incidentally, because 9-ball matches are played two games at a time these players can put up some high numbers. Here's a rundown on the top 10 players with their total number of games won:

Player	Team	Wins	Player	Team	Wins
1. Dave Pope	Crescent Room #2	65	6. Nick Kroenlein	Crescent Room #1	55
2. Ricky Lipe	JP's Corner #2	58	7. Bill Keith	21 Rock #2	51
3. Rick Lipe	JP's Corner #2	57	7. Brett Tribout	Hotshots SC	51
3. Jim Crowell	21 Rock #1	57	9. Dan French	21 Rock #1	49
5. Ron Hasty	Crescent Room #2	56	10. Sam Bevell	JP's Corner #1	48

100 Games Played: Dave Pope-117, Rick Lipe-105 & Nick Kroenlein-102. Honorably Mention: Ron Hasty-97. Just for the record Dave Pope ran off 74 wins the first session out of 105 games played. That might be tough to beat. He gave it a shot by winning 65 games this time. Dave now has the two highest wins on the list, 74 & 65. Heather Hampe is by far the leader for the ladies, 54 wins.

'8' Ball 5-Player Division Team Results & Top Player

Division #1 Tuesday Matt Auclair has had some pretty good seasons over the years but none were runaways as this one. Matt led the division with 37 wins and his .804 percentage was a whopping .130 ahead of runner-up Mike Bartram's .674. Could be the reason JP's Corner #1 annihilated the field with their 14-2 performance that ended four full games in front. In addition, JP's #1 fired in 172 '8' balls (only 122 losses) good for a heavy .585 won/lost percent. Of course we can't give the scholarly Mr. Auclair all the credit for JP's #1 fine performance. Teammates Tim Powers and Bryan Higginbotham had 28 wins each and Scott Diebold threw in 26.

Crescent Room #1 wanted the extra playoff birth so badly they brought out the big guns. After giving their opponents 3-games on the wire Crescent fired off four fast wins, lost one, then nailed the last seven. It was an 11-1 (11-4) blowout.

Division #2 Tuesday Gene Dix out dueled John Doyle for top All-Star honors .884 to .837, or a mere .047 difference. Gene's 38-5 and John's 41-8 had separate meanings toward team finals. Check this out. Gene Dix led JP's Corner #1 past the post by a nose. Their 12-4 record edged out Wedge (11-5) and two teams with 10-6 records, Hazzards & JR's Saloon; and John Doyle is not on any of those teams. This is a tough division. So, where did John's team finish? Last! **Huh?** Yep, dead last! We'd have to do some serious back checking but I do not believe

any player in the 20-year history of the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League has ever hit over .800 on a 10th place team. Talk about staying focused! It obviously was hard core determination and pride that kept John plugging away as he did. Of the 25 players on the All-Star sheet John was the only one from G.E.D. A lot of players would have just been going through the motions with their team mired in last place with a 2-14 record. Big ups, John. And, there's no truth to the rumor that John plans to sue G.E.D. for non-support.

How close is this? After Hazzards and JR's Saloon knocked off their first round opponents they met for the playoff slot. Their season's team records were each 10-6 and only .004 difference in games won/lost percentage with Hazzards ending with 142-137 .509 to JR's Saloon, 142-139 .505. And things didn't change for this meeting. After round four the score was 10-10. Dick Brutcher got the call for Hazzards and Larry Stuart was the opponent, both with 3-1 match records at this point. Dick closed out the 11-10 squeaker sending Hazzards to the tournament.

Division #3 Wednesday Tom Davidson (Memoreze) held on the final two weeks taking out the top spot. Tom's 33-10 .767 was .049 better than Jim Wanner's (Hazzards) 28-11 .718. It was the usual crowd doing what they do best, knocking down the divisional team championship. Along with Tom were notables Jack Mayer, Jerry Dodson and the leading female, Carol Hamilton. Of the 23 players on the All-Star sheet Carol's 27-20 .574 placed 12th; nothing new for her.

From the team angle, all five teams for the playoffs ended the season in double figures. Memoreze #1 led the parade with a 13-3 record followed by Hazzards #1 & JP's #2 both at 11-5, then Hazzards #2 & Memoreze #2 both at 10-6. This is another very tough division to maintain a lead and try holding on to. Everything is subject to change with each passing week.

How many times has this happened? The 5th place team in the standings makes the big show! Memoreze ended the season 10-6 but with a .486 games percentage. For Memoreze it was one close call after another. They got by 3rd place JP's Corner #2 only to find themselves up against the 2nd place Hazzards. As mentioned, it was another battle but Memoreze took the contest 11-9.

Division #4 Wednesday Just about the time you've seen a tough division along comes another one. This 11-team division produced six teams in double wins, and the first four were 12-4; and the sixth team didn't make the playoffs. That's tough, brother. Here are the final standings:

Team	Matches		Games			It is rare indeed that four teams finish tied for first place; and, of the seven locations, three playoff teams were from one place, 21 Rock.
	W	L	Won	Lost	Pct.	
1. 21 Rock #3	12	4	144	104	.581	Another 5th place team 21 Rock #1 pulled it off to make it a sweep for the big show. After knocking off Phoenix, 21 Rock met JP's Corner #2. They took an 11-9 victory by winning the last three games
2. 21 Rock #2	12	4	136	111	.551	
3. The Phoenix	12	4	141	119	.542	
4. JP's Corner #2	12	4	128	120	.516	
5. 21 Rock #1	11	5	148	129	.534	
6. Memoreze	10	6	129	118	.522	

It was a tough race to the All-Star finish line. Four players finished over .700. Like I said, this is another tough division. Bob Urberger (JP's #2) slipped out in front by a whisker. Bob's 32-11 .744 was a (wait for it) .001 winner. You read it right. Runner-up Gary Suellentrop (21 Rock #3) came in at a very close second with a 26-9 .743. Sam Bevell (JP's #1) was right on Gary's heels with his 31-11 .738. And not to be forgotten we have the top female player, Ms Lisa Kissel, also from 21 Rock #3; and she even had more wins (29) than teammate Gary. Lisa's 29-12 .707 was good for 4th place on the 28-player All-Star sheet. Great going, Lisa.

Division #5 Wednesday Only .011 separated Jason Miller (Cotter's) and the next two players for the All-Star award. Jason's impressive 39-14 .736 edged out Jimmy Fried (Wedge #1) and Dennis Bullock (Libby's) were closing in with their 29-11 .725 records when the season ended. No margin for error here. Four of Cotter's teammates made the All-Star list and for good reason. The team barely edged out Wedge #2 13-3 to 12-4. Wedge #2 also placed four of their players on the sheet. Libby's (11-5) finished third with six players making the board. The big reason Libby's placed third is the weight factor. Not theirs, but their opponents. The opposition put on as much weight as Larry Holmes and Meatloaf combined, though Meatloaf has trimmed down some since his "Bat out of Hell" days. Three of Libby's players were .700 or better and the other three were .577 or higher; and all six in the top 16 on the board.

For the playoff weeks it took all six to pull out the second team entry. Libby's forced out Ulena's then went on to defeat Some Other Place 11-5 (11-7) with Dennis Bullock staying in stroke and going 4-0 the final match. The only female to make the honor roll was once again from Foley's SC; and Lori Love was also her team's leader. Lori was 20th out of 25 with a very respectable 26-20 .565. Great shooting, Lori!

Division #6 Thursday The Phoenix #1 produced a 14-2 team record coming in two games ahead of Bartman's and JP's Corner #1, 12-4 each. The fact that Phoenix placed six players on the All-Star board might have been a factor. Heavy hitters the caliber of Mike Devers, Dennis Agnew and Craig Foster, followed up with Dave Braley, Johnny Moore, and the only skill level '3' to make the 15-player board, Tony Szyhowski. Is it red-flag time, fellas? Only kidding!

Bartman's team may have finished second but Mike McLean didn't. He secured the Top Player award by .054. Mike (Bartman's) scored a 31-7 .816 that topped runner-up Mick Demello's (JP's #1) 32-10 .762. And who didn't figure this: "You make me dizzy Miss Lizzy", Liz Lammert extended her record as being the top female player from this division. Liz was instrumental in getting Bartman's to second place with a 32-15 .681 showing good for 10th place on the 15-player board. Great going, Liz! And speaking of the All-Star board... all 15 players hit above .600. That's another first for any division. The lowest won/lost percentage was .615.

There has been so many times that I mention Liz, I would be remiss if I didn't mention her husband, Larry. Hi, Larry! Well, I should say a little more, after all, as her protégé, Liz has taught him so much over the years. His stance is evenly balanced, stroke more level, has formed better runout patterns, etc. You say you want more proof, brother: Larry finished third on the All-Star list with his 38-12 .760. All that time invested in coaching Larry has finally paid off, huh, Liz!

As an after thought: There are several husband/wife combos playing Missouri 8 Ball. It's ironic that two of the best in the game exhibit their talents from the same establishment – Bartman's. In addition to Liz & Larry Lammert, there is Mike & Rhonda Bartram.

Here we have almost a carbon copy of division 2's playoff. After Bartman's and JP's Corner #1 got by the first week of playoffs they met at Bartman's for the showdown. Both teams were 12-4 when the season ended. Their games won/lost percentage went this way: Bartman's 184-155 .543 to JP's #1 184-156 .541. Again, it is no surprise that the final score was this close, 11-9. Bartman's, led by Larry Lammert's impressive 4-0 match is proof once again that Lizzy's help and unwavering dedication is paying off. Congrats, guys.

Division #7 Thursday Shot Heaven teammates Lane Koelling and Craig Schmeid went back and forth 'til the end. Lane clipped Craig by a mere .016 to take top honors. It was a good thing these guys pushed each other because it took every bit of their talents and fine shooting to bring in Shot Heaven at 11-5 just a single game ahead of Filling Station's 10-6. For their team to capture the crown, Lane's 37-14 .725 and Craig's 39-16 .709 led the way backed up by Tony Chagolla's 23 wins & John Ayers' 17.

Filling Station refueled for the 2-week playoffs and got by Libby's making it to the second round against Slo Toms. Slo Toms received one game on the wire then ran off all five from round one for an early 6-0 lead. Filling Station pulled three wins in round two but Slo Toms' 8-3 lead loomed too large. Filling Station had a better chance of selling Sno Cones to Eskimos at the North Pole than pulling out this match. There was only one thing to do, head back to the pumps for some High Octane Ethyl. It did the trick. Ethyl was good to the boys. Round three went all five games their way. Now the score was a more respectable 8-8. In round four Slo Toms got to the wire first, 10-9. This forced Filling Station to bear down once again. They eked out the last two wins for a great 11-10 come-from-behind victory. The lesson to be learned here: Never give up... or... in a pinch... go get some Ethyl!

Division #8 Thursday Hypothetical situation! There is a team in your division that placed five players on the All-Star sheet. That's one third of the 15 listed. Two of the five are female. These five player's total wins add up to 120. Their losses totaled only 77. They have a killer .609 won/loss percentage. The top two players on the All-Star board are teammates from this team and they each have 30-14 .682 records. If you haven't figured out where I'm going with this, you haven't read between the lines. Here it is – they didn't finish first. That's tough, Clyde!

G.E.D. came in at 11-5, good for second place, one game behind the division leader, Foley's SC at 12-4. Foley's SC turned out to be the surprise of the division. A little fast math shows that G.E.D. had a team total games won/loss record of 134-137 .494. That means that 14 wins came by other sources which aren't bad. But the

negative side is... 60 losses apparently was from a lot of weight given up; a whole lot of weight given up. So how did this compute for the playoffs? Stay tuned. But first...

Leave us continue with this hypothetical situation. Let us say there is another team in this division that begins the season 0-6. Put a fork in'em, they're done! There's no way, they say, (whoever 'they' are) that this team is going anywhere but down the toilet. You can hear it now; Swooooosshhhh!

But something began to happen. They won three of the next four matches. DD's-2 was still in last place with a team record of 3-7 and games won/loss percentage .459 (it had been .378); but like their confidence, that was climbing. DD's-2 won three of the next four matches kicking their team record up to 6-8, moved into 5th place and saw their games won/loss percentage fly up to .511; a dramatic turnaround to be sure. At this point they were playing at a .603 clip pointing to the critics that this was a team not to pull the plug on just yet. And then something happened.

Like a chapter from 'Daze of Our Lives', another twist was written into the script. As DD's-2 began the season with only six players, just when things were going good, Tom Andrews and Vern Bullock had to leave the team and all that hard work and shooting was about to go for naught. Left with only four players DD's-2 had no choice but to exercise 'Survival Rule #23' on page 5. Enter Melody Kirsch! Melody, who?

It was at this point the critics reared their ugly heads again; listen... can-cha just hear it! What's a girl gonna do, rustle up some grub for the other team members? Wipe down the tables when they spill their drinks? Come on! There was only one thing to do, prove the naysayers wrong. Melody opened up with a personal 9-2 the final three weeks of the session bringing the team into 4th place at 7-9! That was a resounding 7-3 since their 0-6 start. The games percentage went from 34-56 .378 to 131-126 .510. The best comeback since Elvis' 1968 world tour.

Back to the question we asked earlier; how did this compute for the playoffs? Bad news for G.E.D. In spite of their fine team, the five games on the wire to first round opponent DD's-2 was simply too much to overcome. The DD's-2 group consists of five players with the highest skill level being a '4', and that belonged to the hard hitting mama, Melody "Wonder Woman" Kirsch.

Melody won two games and both were against co-title holder, Joe Oberkirsch. The outcome was a devastating loss for G.E.D. but a resounding 12-5 confidence building victory for DD's-2. Wedge knocked off Jody T's 11-7 setting the stage for the playoff with DD's-2. Playing even, DD's-2 took off and finished the match at 11-7. And "Wonder Woman" led the way again, with a great 4-0 night. It just goes to show nobody knows when it's going to happen, when it's time to step up and carry the load it's usually someone you least expect. Since joining the team no one gave much chance of making the playoffs, Melody Kirsch ran off a whopping 15-3 .833 record. Can the miracles keep coming? We'll keep you informed.

I mentioned that there was a tie for Top Player. G.E.D. teammates 'Tough' Tony Neisz and Joe 'Obie' Oberkirsch raced to the wire each ending with 30-14 .682 showings. Whether by luck or design, it's been awhile since that has happened. (They decided to play a two out of three for the award and Tony won out.)

Division #9 Monday When the first three players on the All-Star sheet apply their talents for the same team it's expected that that team went first past the post. Unlike division-8, this did work out that way. Classic's #2 blew out the division with a 14-2 record, 179 wins, a .565 games percentage and five players making the All-Star board. It was a big-time first for Joe Rogers. Joe's 30-6 .833 outlasted 84-time winner Wayne Turner's 42-9 .824. And Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozzi came in third with his 28-8 .778. Now check this out; the 4th spot on the All-Star sheet belongs to Aleeta Fahrenholz, the only female to make the 30-player list. Aleeta led Charlack Pub to a second place 12-4 showing with a personal 24-8 .750. Aleeta is another fine player that regularly makes the All-Star board. (You'll be reading more about Aleeta later.)

For the second playoff spot Charlack Pub and New Classic's #2 teamed up for a nail-biter. In the race to 12-match New Classic's-2 got five games on the wire. After nine games were played New Classic's #2 had a commanding 10-4 lead needing only two more wins. Charlack Pub hit a gear and ran off the next seven games taking an 11-10 lead. New Classic's-2 evened the score that called for a double hill situation. Charlack's Ryan Grieb out dueled Tony Nugent sending Charlack Pub to the big show. Great race, guys.

Division #10 Tuesday On a team of champions and former champions there seems to be this everlasting challenge. This time it was Joe Branstetter leading the parade for the gold. Joe shot his way to the Top Player award with an outstanding 31-7 .816. He beat out four teammates, Skip Barnum, Mike Lashley, Terry Zlepper and brother Dave, all former champions and all five ended the campaign at .605 and higher. This Airport Billiards group is tough. Sandwiched in there in second place was another champion, Dale Fallon (Gas Light Inn) with a 37-12 .755. Airport Billiards went first past the post with a 12-4 mark edging out TK's Pub #2, 11-5. Both teams went 1-1 the final two weeks which turned out good for Airport Billiards. Had they lost both matches and wound up in a two-way tie, TK's #2 would have taken team honors as their won/loss percentage was a lot heftier, .546 to .503. So, how is that possible you math-wizards are asking? When AB's starting five have a combined division leading total of 121-60 .669. The clues are in the All-Star sheet. Only two players from TK's #2 are listed. That means that TK's received a lot of weight, a whole lot of weight. But, that's the beauty of a handicap system; trying to make teams as evenly as possible when the bell rings.

The second slot for the big tournament went to TK's-1; another surprise inasmuch as they finished 5th in line, had never made the big show before, and the only player that made the All-Star roll was James Warden, and he was 22nd. They knocked off a tough Fucifino's team led by Billy Wimberly, which in it self was a giant coup.

Division #11 Wednesday Mike Noble survived to take out the Top Player award from teammate Rich Norris. These guys are always going at each other. Throw in Rich Stark with his 32 wins and you can see the great rivalry and great camaraderie. Mike's 30-7 .811 was a little ahead of Rich's 37-12 .755. Rich won the most games for Tigers Inn but Mike gets to showboat the trophy.

Two teams with 12-4 records went to the games won/lost percentage board. McDuff's 171-116 .596 was slightly ahead of Lehmann's Landing's 164-137 .545. So while McDuff's got a couple weeks off, Lehmann's Landing went to work to fill the second slot. The first match against Tigers Inn wasn't going to be easy as we just mentioned the top three players from that team. Lehmann's got two games on the wire then ran off four of the first five for a fast 6-1 lead. Tigers roared back with seven of the next ten bringing the match to 9-8. Lehmann's caught a break in the fourth round and breathed easier when they won two of the three games played for an 11-9 final.

Meanwhile, Streiler's gave 4-games head start to Cocktails and had the match tied at 7-7 after two rounds. Taking four out of five in round three put them over the top 11-8 and the chance to meet Lehmann's Landing.

Who knows why certain things happen in playoff situations? All I can tell you is that playing heads up at 25-points each, Lehmann's Landing won 11-zip. You read it right, 11-0. There was a word printed above the score sheet – "unbelievable." That about sums it up. Totally... unbelievable!

Division #12 Wednesday Headline: "Larry Foust Wins Top Player" What! And Hell didn't freeze over? The psychics were wrong! Pigs didn't begin to fly. Regularly scheduled trips to the moon haven't begun. What the hell happened? Those Crystal Ball readers better get a new ball or cleanse the smoke out of the old one. Some predicted that the (ready for this), that the Cubs would actually win the World Series before Larry Foust would wear the Top Player jacket. The nerve of some people! No respect, no respect at all. I guess he fooled dem guys, huh!

Larry jumped out of the gate at 15-0 leading Shenanigans to a fast 5-0 start. It was the 10th week before Shenanigans lost their first match. By now Larry was rolling like a fast train on a downhill grade. His totals were far and away ahead of the field at 26-4 .867. At that point Larry was reported to have yelled, "JUST SOMEBODY TRY TO STOP ME. GO AHEAD. JUST TRY."

Things tightened up at the 14-week mark. Classic's made a move and tied Shenanigans at 11-3. With two weeks remaining while Classic's went down to both Crystal Room & Airport Billiards ending at 11-5, Shenanigans solidified first place by taking out both Starlite & New Classic's for a 13-3 finish. For the first time in history of man or beast Shenanigans enjoyed a representative as Top Player and a Division Champion. In direct opposite of what you may have heard there's no truth to the rumor that Larry Foust will be signing autographs each Saturday night at Shenanigans while the band plays "Hail to the King". (It'll be Sundays) Runners-up behind Larry were Ron Young, Airport Billiards, 35-9 .795 and Larry's brother, Mike Foust, 32-14 .696. Congratulations, guys. Two great races! See'ya next season! What? Larry who? *Larry Foust???*

Classic's finished second behind Shenanigans for the season but brought it on for the playoffs. After beating Crystal Room, Classic's met Starlite for the second slot. Starlite gets 1-game on the wire, has one player go 3-1 and another, Eric Miller at 4-0. However, there was no joy for Starlite. As a team Classic's outlasted them, 11-9.

Division #13 Thursday Here's a 6-team division that's fairly equal in power, at least for four teams. It's another one you have to see to believe, as is the 2-week playoff outcome; so here it is:

Team	Matches	Games	
1. Starlite	10 6	147 114	.563
2. Homer's	10 6	153 128	.544
3. Fucifino's #3	10 6	160 143	.528
4. Fucifino's #2	10 6	140 145	.491
5. Just Bill's	4 12	131 146	.473
6. Fucifino's #1	4 12	109 164	.399

This Starlite team was previously Hotshots, Bridgeton. Remember them? They finished second from the 5-player board last season. Same top players: Jason Oberdas, Eric Rackley and Adam Argo again made the All-Star list with Jason taking top honors. It was close but Jason, 29-8 .784, edged out Marland Choy, 30-10 .750. From the team side, Starlite gets the nod with their .563. For the

second slot we expected a battle and for sure got not one, but two. Homer's defeated Fucifino's #2, 11-9 with Ed Chier leading the way for Homer's with a 4-0 match. But the real story for the 2-week playoff was Just Bill's Place. Just Bill's faced Fucifino's #3, the same potent championship team that features Sir Charles Burrage, Waddell Whitehead, Lonnie Gregory, Marland "Boy Toy" Choy (say that three times fast) and Bill Parrott. I mean, these guys are Murderous Row. The chances of Just Bill's getting through that lineup would be Barp's and Nunn. Ten-block long Liechtenstein could declare war on China with crossbows and lancers and have a better chance.

But Just Bill's Place showed up at Fucifino's anyway; and with only four players! Huh!? *Four players!* Get outta town! Did they think that Fucifino's-3 needed a chance? Obviously Robin's gang forgot their medication! They can't be serious! Some railbirds couldn't help but snicker at this lopsided confrontation.

Fucifino's-3 offered up 27 points to Just Bill's 24. That allowed Bill's 2-games on the wire. With only four players, that would give 'fino's-3 one extra game for the four rounds which means they would get back the two up front plus another two. Can't beat that deal! So, (without Pete Napoli) Butch Feathers, Steve Lowrey, Larry Jackson and Robin Field offered up a precarious offence and the nightmare begins.

Counting the forfeit wins, 'fino's-3 gets two the 1st round, two the 2nd, four the 3rd and two the 4th. Wait a minute... hold it; that's only ten. I know; I had to count it a couple of times myself. Go to the head of the class if you came up with 11 wins for Just Bill's. It turned out to be a nightmare all right, but not for Just Bill's crew.

The 11-10 victory over one of the best teams in Missouri 8 Ball history couldn't help but raise their confidence a few notches. Knock off the four forfeit wins and the 2-games on the wire the actual score was 9-6. That's determination, brother. In fact, it inspired the boys so much they thought they'd try it again the following week.

So, off to Homer's they go. Only this time Pete Napoli shows up but Larry Jackson didn't. Here we go again! Homer's played 25 points to Bill's 24; heads up. But, Homer's gets one free win each round so they're already up 4-0; and the fun begins. Just Bill's jumped out of the gate with 3-wins in rounds one and two, and two from round three for an 8-7 lead. The only loss in round four was the forfeit game. They won the three they played for a final 11-8 score. Again, the actual score, 11-4. Here's another two matches that come under the heading, "incredible."

Which inspired someone to wonder: "If Just Bill's Place finished fifth at 4-12 with five players, why didn't they just play the entire season with only four like they did in the playoffs?"

Division #14 Thursday When Cactus Inn replaced Doug Gibbons on week 10 the team was 4-6 with six weeks to go and a chance to make the division playoff. Doug was top of the post at 25-7 .781. The only other Cactus Inn player moving things along was Da Da Harton. Had Doug stayed on the roster he would have taken All-Star honors, for his won/lost percentage was never in danger of being surpassed. Because of work commitments, Doug had to leave town, there was no choice but to replace him for the good of the team. It happens. But, without his big stick in the lineup, Cactus Inn went 2-4 the final six weeks and finished last in the 6-team division missing the playoffs by a mere .030 percent.

The Top Player award was up for grabs. It was a close finish and Doug's teammate, Da Da Harton, almost pulled it off. He came on the last week with a 23-9 .719, just .003 behind Scott Christensen. Scott had a great season closing out at 39-15 .722. Scott also led his Fucifino's #1 team, 10-6, one-game over the wire just ahead of Starlite's 9-7. Congrats to Scott Christensen for two well-run races.

The playoff winner was fourth place Charlack Pub. Charlack knocked off Starlite the first week then took on the Stafford Bro's, Dave and Larry, the second week, and came away winners, 11-7.

Division #15 Thursday When Mi Familia closed out the session with their team winning 13-3 match record and division leading .566 games won/lost percentage, someone shouted: "Did anyone check to see if these guys have 'Green Cards'?" It was a good joke and taken within the friendly spirit of the moment. Truth is this team has been together for some time. They were playing out of Lindy's until this session. Raphael Garcia operates a Mexican Restaurant that happens to be called Mi Familia on St. Charles Rock Road in St. Ann. They have three pool tables (each with different color cloth) a DJ setup, good Mexican food and a great friendly atmosphere. (No, I am not being paid for this commercial) But, check'em out if you get out St. Ann way.

Mi Familia players that made the All-Star sheet were Zeferin Bandaras, 30-15 .667, (a distant relative of Antonio Banderas), Marco Garcia, (no relation to Marco Polo), 19-10 .655, and Oscar Lopez, 17-12 .586. (He says he's related to Jennifer... buuuuutt... we aren't buying that just yet.)

Getting to the wire first wasn't as easy as it looks on paper. They were hounded all the way by Lindy's Fat Cats #1. And Lindy's was led by the 20-year veteran Ms Gayle Medvik. Gayle is always in the running for not only top female player but divisional player. Observe her whopping 41-9 .820 record. Unfortunately for Gayle, Darryl Anderson thwarted her championship plans for All-Star honors. Mr. Anderson, playing for Nuts #2, also produced his best ever division totals of 34-5 .872. Congratulations to both Darryl and Gayle for outstanding performances. Lindy's Fat Cat #1 said, "Hey, we didn't get over the wire first, we'll just beat up on the competition in the playoffs." And they did. And Gayle Medvik continued her fine shooting going 3-1 in the 11-9 defeat of Nuts #1. The following week Gayle put a little more shock in Aftershock's chances with another 3-0 performance. Only this time she was overshadowed by teammate Matt Heath who went 4-0. This 11-7 victory sent these Fat Cats to the fat tournament at Starlite.

Division #16 Wednesday When a team has six players make the All-Star sheet the odds of that team making it first past the post may not be as high as Mike Warfel Jr. getting through a complete season without having at least 12 meltdowns, but it is high enough to place a positive bet. Rufkar's ended the campaign 14-2, a 146-103 .586 games performance and one-third of the 18 players on the hot list. It was a tough run as four of the seven teams finished with 10 wins or better. And to prove it was a team effort, not one of the six Rufkar's players won Top Player.

That honor went to Walter Crane Jr. from Planet 8 Ball #1. Walter Jr. has taken over from his long-time playing father Walter Sr. who has run up beaucoup trophies over the past 25 years. Walter Jr.'s 31-8 .795 was .038 above runner-up Terry Moore's (Rufkar's) 28-9 .757. As father/son teammates go (and there are several around), the Crane's could very well be the best of the lot. To go with Walter Jr., Walter Sr. was 21-10 .677. It's a one-two punch that will well represent Planet 8 Ball in future events. Great going, guys.

Tis very odd indeed that when three Planet 8 Ball teams finish in the top five positions at least one doesn't end up going to the big tournament. But that's the case from this division. After Rufkar's won the season, three of the four teams going for the second slot were Planet 8's. Planet 8 #3 knocked out 8 #2 and Just One More got past 8 #1. This set up the Just One More and Planet 8 #3 showdown. Just One More overran them 11-7 and the odds makers took a beating on this one.

Division #17 Thursday If you've been keeping up with these reports you will recall how some players that finish atop the list only to be denied the award because they failed to reach the allotted percentage for their skill level for that particular division. Here's a new one for the record books: Handy Andy Quinn, as an '8' had to hit .795. Would you believe he managed only .794.1176470588235294117 ad infinitum? No matter how far we go, Andy, 27-7 just doesn't compute to .795. Sorry, pal. (If you're looking for comfort or condolence, hint... don't go see Rich Sager.) So we say congratulations to Mike Cox from St. Charles' Just One More #2. Mike's 32-10 .762 was high enough for his '6' skill level. And here's another one... of the 15 players that made the All-Star sheet, only one player, Joey Wafe, made it from Planet 8 Ball #1. So what! So this, Planet 8 Ball #1 eked out a one-game lead, 11-5, taking top team honors. The only thing stranger than this is a couple years ago there was a team that took the division title without a single (or married) player making the sheet. Go figure!

It went this way for the playoffs. Keep in mind this could very well be the toughest division in the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League. Each team is loaded with '6's, '7's and a couple of '8's. The first week Just One More #2, led by Rich Sager and 32 points, met Side Pockets, led by Andy Quinn and 30 points. Just One More came away 11-7 winners. While that was going on, over at Planet 8 Ball, Just One More #1 knocked off Planet 8 Ball #2, 11-3, both teams playing at 32 points. The meeting between JOM #2 and JOM #1 was a throwback to the old days when Sager and Jeff Ayers met many times in this kind of situation. Playing at 30 and 32 points, Rich Sager and JOM #2 pulled out the victory at 11-6. Go Rich, go Rich, go Rich...!

Division #18 Thursday What a great Top Player race these guys put on. Mike Heidbreder (Planet 8 Ball #1) came in at 37-4 .902 outlasting Kevin Drury (Rich's Place #2), 32-6 .842. Mike, with help from the third place finisher and teammate Jim Sander (31-9 .775), and also new guy Dan Lenaver (22-11 .667), these are three good reasons why Planet 8 Ball #1 blew across the wire at 14-2, two-games over runner-up Planet 8 Ball #3 (12-4). And Kevin brought Rich's Place #2 in at 11-5. Two outstanding races. Rich's Place #1 defeated Planet 8 Ball #3 and then their sister team Rich's #2 earning the call for the big show.

Division #19 Thursday Starlite's in-house division showed no surprises except that there were only five teams instead of the usual six. That cut down the number of players to make the All-Star honor roll. Only 13 were allowed and six of those came from the same team, Big Sticks. And the biggest stick was Jeff Shelton earning the right to skip Saturday's All-Star play by squeaking past another big stick, teammate Todd Berry. Jeff's 21-4 .840 was .062 better than two runners-up, Todd Berry (Big Sticks) & Mike Fishbeck (Starlite) both finished at 21-6 .778. We mentioned this before: If six players from the same team make the honor board, it's almost a foregone conclusion that their team surpassed the field. No exception here! Big Sticks waved their big sticks to a 13-2 walkover. In addition to Jeff Shelton and Todd Berry, other Big Sticks were Tony Herrod (17-8), Tony Gregory (15-9), Roger Ellis (13-8) and Darrell Toliver (14-9). For the playoffs: Star Lite beat Fujimo while Smokin' drowned Shrinks 'N Water in round one. Smokin' then defeated Star Lite 11-7 for the second slot.

	<u>Top Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Division Winner</u>	<u>Playoff Winner</u>
Div. 18.	Mike Heidbreder	Planet 8 #1	37 4 .902	Planet 8 Ball #1	Rich's Place #1
Div. 2.	Gene Dix	JP's #1	38 5 .884	JP's Corner #1	Hazzards
Div. 15.	Darryl Anderson	Nut #2	34 5 .872	Mi Familia	Lindy's Fat Cats #1
Div. 12.	Larry Foust	Shenanigan's	42 7 .857	Shenanigan's	Classic's
Div. 19.	Jeff Shelton	Big Sticks	21 4 .840	Starlite #1	Starlite
Div. 9.	Joe Rogers	Classic's #2	30 6 .833	Classic's #2	Charlack Pub
Div. 6.	Mike McLean	Bartman's	31 7 .816	The Phoenix #1	Bartman's
Div. 10.	Joe Branstetter	Airport	31 7 .816	Airport Billiards	TK's #1
Div. 11.	Mike Noble	Tiger's Inn	30 7 .811	McDuff's	Lehmann's Landing
Div. 1.	Matt Auclair	JP's #1	37 9 .804	JP's Corner #1	Crescent Room #1
Div. 16.	Walter Crane Jr.	Planet 8 #1	31 8 .795	Rufkar's	Just One More
Div. 13.	Jason Oberdas	Starlite	29 8 .784	Starlite	Just Bill's Place
Div. 14.	Scott Christensen	Fucifino's #1	25 7 .781	Fucifino's #1	Charlack Pub
Div. 3.	Tom Davidson	Memoreze #1	33 10 .767	Memoreze #1	Memoreze #2
Div. 17.	Mike Cox (Sch)	Just One More	32 10 .762	Planet 8 Ball #1	Just One More #2
Div. 4.	Bob Urberger	JP's #2	32 11 .744	21 Rock #3	21 Rock #1
Div. 5.	Jason Miller	Cotters	39 14 .736	Cotter's	Libby's
Div. 7.	Lane Koelling	Shot Heaven	37 14 .725	Shot Heaven	Filling Station
Div. 8.	Tony Neisz	G.E.D.	30 14 .682*	Foley's SC	Double D's #2
	8. Joe Oberkirsch	G.E.D.	30 14 .682*		

4-Player Happy Hour Division Results & Top Player

Division #101 Monday Memoreze and Hotshots SC #4 ended the campaign with 11-5 records bringing the games won/lost percentage into play. Memoreze 134-114 .540 edged out Hotshots SC #4 117-110 .515. From this 10-team division, 8 teams finished at the .500 mark. Eight teams at 8-8 or better. That didn't leave much for the bottom two slots at 6-26 between them. This is one tough division. Hang in there, guys. Things have to get better. Check out these numbers: Nick Skrbins, 33-12 to Mike Kissel's 33-13. Close, huh! But as they say in books, close only counts in horseshoes, hand grenades and... close dancing... or so I'm told. That one loss for Mike was the difference that sent the Top Player award to Nick

With Memoreze taking the top team spot the next four teams meeting for the 2-week playoff included three from Hotshots SC and one 21 Rock; and 21 Rock came within an eyelash of pulling it off. First: While Hotshots #1 was knocking off Hotshot #3, 21 Rock sent Hotshots #4 packing. The final showdown was a heads-up race-to-nine

match. 21 Rock was in the driver's seat, big time. With the score 8-3 the Rocker's needed only one more win to secure a slot at the big tournament. For Hotshots #1 things looked blacker than inside Dracula's coffin.

Mike Kissel kept it alive with the 4th game win in round three. After Mike opened up round four with a win the other three players followed. Taking five in a row brought the match to an 8-8 tie. "And don't-cha just know it!" When the pills were rolled out for the final game, Mike Kissel got it... and proceeded to win his 4th consecutive game. Hotshots #1 needed to win the last six games and Kissel took three of them. Doesn't get any better than this!

Division #102 Monday A 3-way tie at 13-3, yep! That's what Wedge #1, Liz's Place #1 and Mary's Blue Ribbon #1 came up with. Separating them was like trying to separate Siamese Twins. It had to go to games won/lost percent, and, a drum roll please, Wedge #1 got the honors. Their .579 overtook both Liz's .562 and Mary's .556.

The playoff matches went to Mary's Blue Ribbon #1. They had to knock off Mary's #2 and then made a trip over to Liz's Place. It got down to the nitty-gritty but Mary's #1 pulled it off, 9-7.

Gary Heffernan wins again? That's all you hear these days... Gary Heffernan wins again. Five of the 16 players on the Top Player board shoot for Liz's Place #1 and Heffernan led the way, again. There's no stopping this guy. Gary's 31-7 .816 beat out Curt Wisely (Mary's Blue Ribbon #1), 38-12 .760, and partner John Legens 31-10 .756.

Division #103 Tuesday Fucifino's is the host for this in-house morning division. Fucifino's #3 took top team honors at 10-6 coming in one-game ahead of #1, 9-7. Don't be surprised who the top player was for Fucifino's #3; it was Lajuania Henry, that's who. (You'll be reading more about Lajuania later.)

After the two-week playoffs #1 beat out #4 (10-8) to earn the second spot at the big show. Coming in top of the All-Star list at 32-15 .681 was Victor Day from Fucifino's #1. Victor held on long enough to defeat Art Lohnes' (#2) 34-18 .654.

Division #104 Tuesday Michael Lehmann put the hurts on this division; I mean just flat out put a Mach 3.0 on everybody. Coming in at 37-5 .881 was heavy hitting indeed, but did he have to bury the number two guy? We understand embarrassing the 10th, 11th and 12th guys on the sheet, Mike, that's expected; but, number two? There's no question about it, Michael Lehmann walks off with the "Who's your Daddy" bragging rights from Lehmann's Landing. I mean, a difference of .167 just isn't playing fair, is it Rich? And what's kind-a unique about this All-Star sheet is that Michael is the only '6' that made it. The other 11 were skill level '5's. I guess you could say he had something to prove. So, "Who's your Daddy?"

Rich Schumacher, Lehmann's Landing #2, has the dubious distinction of being runner-up with his 35-14 .714. That's tough, Rich. Many .714's would win it at other times.

There was no difference from the team side. Michael also led his team to a 13-3 finish (3-games over TJ's Ali-by Inn), 137 wins and a .564 games won/lost percentage. Just goes to show that at any given time one player can 'shoot over his head' and completely dominate a division.

If you had TJ's with their 10-6 record going up against New Classics at 5-11... YOU LOSE! After TJ's knocked out Cocktails and New Classics defeated Lehmann's landing #2, New Classics pulled a big upset over TJ's by the tune of 9-4. Sure, they got 4-games on the wire, but still beat them heads up, 5-4.

Division #105 Thursday A couple of things about this division stand out. First, there are three teams out of Classic's and they finished in that order, Classic's #1 (12-4), Classic's #2 (11-5) & Classic's #3 (9-7). The second thing is their games won/loss percentage: #1 was .521, #2 .520 & #3 .519. I'd almost be willing to bet we wouldn't see something this unusual again in say... 123 years, 4 months, 5 weeks, 6 days 7 hours, 8 minutes and 9 seconds. So how did it go in the playoffs? Classics #3 met Lehmann's Landing #2. Uncle Pete Mocca won four games to help get Classics to the hill. At 8-8, Mary Stillwell (here's that girl again) won the confrontation over Jim Hart for the 9-8 victory. From the All-Star board: Wayne '8-Ball Burner' Turner does it again. His 40-14 .741 edged out Bob Jeanis' (Streiler's) 40-18 .690. I lost count, is this the 84th or 85th time Wayne has taken top honors? It doesn't matter. When you win this division you have earned it. Of the 16 players on the honor sheet, 10 were '6's and six were '5's. It's a tough division!

And here's that girl again, too. Mary Stillwell led all females and was 9th on the All-Star honor roll. Her .563 beat out former champions Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozzi, Mike 'Won't Choke' Doak and Dan 'The Man' Tucker. Take some of that, guys. (You'll be reading more about Mary later.)

Division #106 Thursday 200-year-old Jim Fallon proved once again that age makes no difference when it comes to making the game winning '8' ball. This Charlack Pub sharp-shooter has been doing it for many years. Jim's 31-9 .775 beat out Tim Carey (Cactus Inn) 34-13 .723 and Jim's son, Dale Fallon, (Gas Light Inn #2) 34-14 .708. Ever so often Jim turns on to prove to the youngsters that he can still compete seriously when he takes a notion to. Charlack Pub failed to make the playoffs from this division being a mere .037 on the short end. Better luck next time, Jimbo; you did all you could do.

When the season began Final Destination had a definite destination in mind. It was first past the post. Their 11-5 team record got them there. What's strange about that is of the 16 players on the All-Star sheet the number 15th was Shawn Tendiel (25-22 .532) the only player from Final Destination. Go figure! Me thinks they may have garnered a wee bit of weight over the 16-weeker.

Third place finisher Cactus Inn had a criterion of their own for the playoffs. They gave Lehmann's Landing two games on the wire and nailed them 9-5 by winning the last six games. After that morale builder Cactus got all pumped up and really stuck the thorns in Airport Billiards the following week. Giving up two games, Cactus won nine of the ten games played for a 9-3 walkover.

Division #107 Thursday Classic's, 10-6, held on and got to the finish line one-game ahead of New Classic's #1, 9-7. And Classic's did it with only two players making the All-Star sheet. Mike Yocum finished third (37-15 .712) and holding down the 7th spot of 16 players with a resounding 35-18 .660 is 80-year-old Walt Penrod. If you were at the doubles tournament last month you might recall that Walt and his partner (George Mudd) finished third. This octogenarian isn't getting older, he's getting better.

Gary Blanks was doing anything but shooting blanks. He woke up from hibernation, walked out of his cave, peeked at the ground, saw his shadow, took a roll of toilet paper into the woods... and... a... and decided he needed another All-Star jacket. Gary was obviously well rested as his 38-6 .864 proves. He jumped a whopping .129 ahead of runner-up and teammate David Gase's 36-13 .735. Although Gary and David were the only players from Tigers Inn to make the sheet, Tigers Inn went 8-8 good for 3rd place; but their games percentage was numero uno at .527.

New Classic #1 made round two behind Jim Franklin's 4-0 match, which was expected as Jim had a great 32-15 .681 season. While that was happening, over at Tigers Inn a guy named Ken Niebling was having the best night of his pool-playing career. Ken didn't make the All-Star sheet but that didn't stop him from having an All-Star match. His double-hill game-winner ran his night to 5-0. It was the only 5-0 match this season and coming in the playoffs couldn't have come at a better time.

So how did they do the second week? Jim Franklin went 2-1 and Ken Niebling went 2-2 as Tigers Inn come out on top 9-5. And Ken won the final game again. Could this be Ken's 15-minutes of fame? Time will tell!

Division #108 Wednesday A couple of years ago I mentioned that the best place to be on the All-Star sheet (if not first place) was to be right behind Rich Sager and Jerry Terbrock. I now can add Rusty Brandmeyer's name to that list. This will make the 6th time Mr. Sager failed to hit high enough to capture the award. But first: After taking off many years Rusty decided to get back in action. It took a few weeks but Rusty found his way to the top of the ladder. At the conclusion of the season Rusty's totals were 27-7 .794. Not bad; but not good... enough.

So we go to the second player on the sheet, Rich Sager. Runout Rich had a 28-10 .737 final. Commonsense tells you that if Rusty's .794 wasn't high enough, forget .737. Which prompted Sager to intone, "No matter what I hit Rusty ain't gonna give it to me anyway!" Always did like that boy's sense of humor! (And he sings karaoke, too.) Bottom line is for this division an '8' has to bring home an .875 won/lost percentage. Exit stage right, the top two players. Congratulations to Nick Price. Nick was the man behind Rich Sager. Nick had the right price for a skill level '5' coming in with his 19-8 .704 record.

This is an in-house division hosted by Gene Rader's Just One More establishment. JOM-5 took the top team spot. Of the 10 players on the All-Star sheet four are with JOM-5. In addition to Rich Sager and Nick Price, there are Bob Buck and Bobby McCulloch. Their team came in at 13-3, two games ahead of JOM-2 & JOM-1 at 11-5 each. For the playoffs, Just One More #1 knocked out JOM #4 to get to meet JOM #3. JOM #3 got past JOM #2, 9-6. The unique thing about this match is two players won four games each. Rusty Brandmeyer and Dave Leonhard accounted for 8 wins. The 9th was taken by Jim Schreiber. JOM-3 then KO'ed JOM-1, 9-5 for the second spot.

Division #109 Monday The final week holds the clue. Who would it be? What would it take for the Top Player award? Film at eleven! Bated breath aside here it is: From Sportsman's Bar... may we have the fanfare, please. The entire 16-week season came down to a single win. Kevin Hampton breathed easier when the finals were posted. His 38-14 .731 was a fraction over Ten Mile House's Frank Depoutot who shot a great 37-14 .725. One win and a scant .006 of a percentage point turned out to be a big difference. "What..." says Kevin, "...me worry?" In spite of Frank's outstanding effort Ten Mile House failed to make the playoff.

Just for the record the 3rd and 4th place finishers were teammates of Kevin's, Allen Barnhart, 37-16 .698 and Mean Gene Burgin, 30-15 .667. Remember these three names for later.

Tis a mystery to me how often this happens: Of the 16 players on the All-Star sheet, only one shoots for Super Bungalow, and Chris Breer was 10th on the list. I forgot to mention that Super Bungalow, with their 12-4 record, waltzed home two games over Pardella Club #2 (who posted four players on the sheet) & Sportsman's Bar (with three of the top four players), each team with 10-6 records. Go figure!

This division is spooky, man. Read on. Jody T's (8-8) beat Pardella Club #2 (10-6) and Sportsman's Bar (10-6) beat Amvets (6-10) to meet for second team honors. Sportsman's Bar guys were very sportsman-like indeed giving Jody T's a big 7-game head start even before the first rack was broken. Seven games on the wire from the Happy Hour points spread sheet means the match will be played as a race to 13; and anything can happen, and usually does. In this case three of Sportsman's players won 4-games each. It can only happen when one team has to give up seven or more games on the wire. Again, Kevin Hampton, Allen Barnhart and Mean Gene Bergin are the guys that made it happen. Oh, by the way, 13 to 11 was the final. We can't forget about Tim Glover; he won the 13th game that sent Sportsman's Bar to the big showdown. Spooky, man, spooooooo...keey!

<u>Happy Hour</u>	<u>Top Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Division Winner</u>	<u>Playoff Winner</u>
Div. 104.	Michael Lehmann	Lehmann's #1	37 5 .881	Lehmann's Landing #1	New Classics
Div. 107.	Gary Blanks	Tigers Inn	38 6 .864	Classic's	Tigers Inn
Div. 102.	Gary Heffernan	Liz's Place #1	31 7 .816	Wedge #1	Mary's #1
Div. 106.	Jim Fallon	Charlack Pub	31 9 .775	Final Destination	Cactus Inn
Div. 105.	Wayne Turner	Classic's #1	40 14 .741	Classic's #1	Classic's #3
Div. 101.	Nick Skrbin	Hotshots SC #4	33 12 .733	Memoreze	Hotshots SC #1
Div. 109.	Kevin Hampton	Sportsman's Bar	38 14 .731	Super bungalow	Sportsman's Bar
Div. 108.	Nick Price	Just One More #5	19 8 .704	Just One More #5	Just One More #3
Div. 103.	Victor Day	Fucifino's #1	32 15 .681	Fucifino's #3	Fucifino's #1

	<u>Top Female Players</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Team</u>
Div. 15.	Gayle Medvik	41 9 .820	Lindy's Fat Cats #1
Div. 9.	Aleeta Fahrenholz	24 8 .750	Charlack Pub **
Div. 4.	Lisa Kissell	31 11 .738	21 Rock
Div. 6.	Liz Lammert	32 15 .681	Bartman's
Div. 8.	Donna Pope	21 15 .583	G.E.D.
Div. 103.	Lajuania Henry	29 21 .580	Fucifino's #3 **
Div. 3.	Carol Hamilton	27 20 .574	Memoreze #1
Div. 5.	Lori Love	26 20 .565	Foley's SC
Div. 105.	Mary Stillwell	18 14 .563	Classic's #3 **
Div. 1.	Rhonda Bartram	17 15 .531	Bartman's
Div. 8.	Tina Wiedner	19 17 .528	G.E.D.
Div. 106.	Kimberly Sykora	25 23 .521	Gas Light Inn #2
Div. 102.	Donna Pope	26 25 .510	G.E.D. #2

Extra-Extra read all about it: ** These three ladies, Aleeta, Lajuania and Mary teamed up with Julia Gabriel (the only female to win the 'open' All-Star singles championship & ex-pro-circuit player), Christy Warner (St. Charles 8-ball & 9-ball champion out of Planet 8 Ball and Just One More), and new-comer Kelli Duncan (Chesterfield Billiards) and traveled to Las Vegas this past May 2006 and entered the Ladies team '8' Ball Championship. Of the 128 teams that signed up from around the country our Missouri 8-Ball girls took third place. Very hearty and well-earned congratulations. (I'll take the '8' and the break.)

All-Star Singles Results Planet 8 Ball Billiards June 10-11, 2006

There was good news and there was some bad news for this, the 61st Missouri 8 Ball Tournament. The good news is that 120 players signed up which is about 120 less than normal for the spring session. The bad news is only 120 players signed up which is about 120 less than normal for the spring session. There are conflicting reasons why such a low turnout. Some thought it because the entry fee went from \$12 up to \$20. That may be for some players, but 120 didn't seem to mind. The main reason is because there were three other tournaments from different areas and leagues that were scheduled this same weekend and several players were entered in another one of these. That being the case the Missouri 8 Ball League allowed several players some latitude in scheduling and coordinating their travel time from one tournament to another.

It also was the first event beginning our 21st year. After Saturday's elimination rounds there were 28 players that made the cut for Sunday's showdown. Add the 25 division winners that gave us a field of 53 going for the 12 cash spots. From the 12 players that cashed, only four were Top Players as indicated by (TP). This means that they are entitled to a free ride for Sunday's finals.

There is no confirmed evidence that winning Top Player guarantees a person an advantage; as you can see, only four Top Players cashed from the 12. But almost everyone agrees that they would rather skip Saturday's rounds.

Place	Player	Skill	Winnings	Bye	Matches Played		Totals
					Sat.	Sun.	
1.	Andy Quinn	'8'	1,070 & Trophy	1	2-0	6-0	8-0
2.	David Vaughn	'5'	800 & Trophy	0	3-0	10-2	13-2
3.	Larry Stafford	'4'	600 & Trophy (TP)	0		5-2	5-2
4.	Jim Crosby	'6'	450	1	3-1	6-2	9-3
5-6.	Mike McLean	'5'	300 (TP)	1		3-2	3-2
5-6.	Walt Crane Jr.	'5'	300 (TP)	0		4-2	4-2
7-8.	Joe Branstetter	'6'	200 (TP)	0		6-2	6-2
7-8.	Jim Sander	'4'	200	0	3-0	5-2	8-2
9-12.	Todd Berry	'6'	100	1	3-1	3-2	6-3
9-12.	David Haynes	'5'	100	0	3-0	3-2	6-2
9-12.	Jason Uttley	'4'	100	1	3-1	2-2	5-3
9-12.	Jeff Davenport	'4'	100	2	2-0	2-2	4-2

You can rack up a lot of matches if you have to play Saturday. And that also means you weren't lucky enough to get at least one bye along the way. Three years ago a player arrived at 11am Saturday to play his matches only to be told that every time his matches were scheduled to be played that his opponents weren't there. He drew a bye for round one and the other two matches were given because of no-shows.

Check out 2nd place winner David Vaughn. He received no byes either day, went 3-0 in Saturday's elimination rounds, came back Sunday and lost his first match. That is correct-da-mundo. Which means in order to collect the 2nd place winner's share, David had to win his next 10 matches. It takes a lot of luck and lots of good shooting.

On his way to the final showdown with Andy Quinn, David knocked off such heavy hitters as Larry Stafford, Jim Crosby, Walter Crane Junior, Jim Sander and Jason Uttley, all went on to cash. Some may think David had a rougher road getting to 2nd place than Andy Quinn had winning the event. Guess again, Clyde.

For Handy Andy to get to the 'hill' he had to first get through Saturday's rounds against some pretty tough talent. After a first-round bye, Andy sent '7' Billy Wimberly and than '8' Runout Rich Sager to the elimination side. Sunday's opponents were top of the liners again. First it was a rematch against Sager, then Gary Blanks. From there he took on and defeated Todd Berry, Mike Mclean and Larry Stafford. Andy was now on the bubble waiting for an opponent from the one-loss side.

David Vaughn got past Larry Stafford to meet Quinn for the championship. The fact that Andy had quite a wait didn't hamper his shooting in the least. He was in dead punch. Andy ran off the two games like Chantel Davis was in a cab double-parked with the meter running.

This is Andy Quinn's first Missouri 8 Ball Championship win. He's young and good enough to run up a few wins as Sager has. Rich has won a total of six Mo-8-titles and three were consecutive. California Bob Strachan and Jeff Ayers have won three each. No other player has won two, although Gentleman Jim Crosby went first and second back to back and finished 4th in this event.

Total payout for the All-Star tournament was \$4,320.00. The break down: 120 players x \$20 = \$2,400.00. Add the Bar sponsor money of \$1,920.00 give us a total of \$4,320.00. That turns out to be 180 percent payback. This is basically for the skeptics who had second thoughts of why the entry fee went to \$20. All tournament reports include all monies paid back to the players. And all tournament winnings, the Singles, the 5-Player Team tournament and the Happy Hour 4-Player team events have always been over 100 percent.

5-Player Tournament Results

June 24-25, 2006 Starlite Sports Bar & Billiards

Place	Team	Captain	Winnings	
1.	The Phoenix	Dave Braley	7,000 & Trophy	The breakdown for the 5-player board goes this way: Team monies \$16, 759. Now add the \$1,041 by Missouri 8 Ball and the total comes to \$17,800. All teams that make it to Sunday had \$900 in the bank. It goes up from there. That \$17,800 represents 106 % payback. No other League can make that offer.
2.	Planet 8 Ball	Mike Voerg	3,600	
3-4.	Classic's	Joe Lombardozzi	1,800	
3-4.	Rich's Place	Rich Cates	1,800	
5-8.	Shenanigan's	Joe Trebing	900	
5-8.	Just Bill's Place	Butch Feathers	900	
5-8.	Lehmann's Landing	Tyler Jones	900	
5-8.	Lindy's Fat Cats	Joyce Gemmell	900	

1. The Phoenix, brothers and sisters, according to Egyptian mythology, was a bird that lived in the desert for 500 years, (these guys are a few years short of that, but only a few), and then consumed itself by fire, (after blasting their way to a commanding 10-5 lead, Phoenix blew their front and lead by dropping all five games from round four), later to rise renewed from its ashes, (redeemed itself by winning the double-hill game).
2. A person or thing of unsurpassed excellence or beauty: (forget that!); a paragon: (forget that, too!)
3. A constellation in the Southern Hemisphere near Tucana and Sculptor: (A place two-hundred billion miles away where Dave Braley is sending these guys should they ever cause his heart to skip another beat.)

It has been awhile since a team from south city has taken the top spot from the 5-player board; but that came to an end June 25, 2006. Circle that date on your calendar. The Phoenix, captained by Dave Braley, pulled off the upset but only by the narrowest margin, 11-10. There's no question this team will be back many times.

Getting to the finals was a rough road for Phoenix. They received a bye for Saturday's opening round. Their 3pm match was against the power-house team out of Just One More featuring Runout Rich Sager, Tattoo John Snyder, Gene 'Radar' Rader, Tough Tony Napoli, a couple of Mike's, Cox and Gibbs. The smart money said this was the showdown of the tournament. The team that came out of this would go all the way. As it turned out they were right; but it was no cake walk. Phoenix got three games on the wire from Just One More and rode it to a surprisingly easy 12-5 victory (9-5 heads up).

Following that Phoenix ran into Lisa Kissel's 21 Rockers. Giving them six games on the wire made 21 Rock just as tough as Just One More (sans flamboyant Mr. Sager). It took a long four hours but Phoenix overcame the deficit and come out of the tussle 11-9 winners. That win put Phoenix in the money and a return trip for Sunday's finals. Their first match would be against Lehmann's Landing, another championship team, captained by Tyler Jones. The heads up match went to Phoenix, 11-6.

Just about the time Phoenix thought they were on the high road along came Rich's Place, led by Rich Cates. This is a new team that had opponents shaking their heads and made believers out of the skeptics. As this was their first championship tournament not too many took them seriously, until the final scores were in. Rich's Place was the only team that cashed that did not get a bye. They picked a great time to strut their stuff collecting \$1800 in the process. Rich's Place ran into a buzz saw against Phoenix. Even though they got 8-games on the wire Phoenix took advantage of every opportunity and put together some outstanding shooting taking a close 14-12 nail-biter.

From the other end of the board Planet 8 Ball, led by Mark Voerg, moved along slow but steady. They won over opponents by the scores of 11-8, 11-7, 11-8, & 11-6. Nothing too flashy, nothing too exciting, just solid steady playing. Their match against Phoenix would be a true test. As neither of these teams had been this far before they were going at even money.

Phoenix jumped out to a fast 4-1 lead. Planet 8 Ball closed the gap with three wins in round two making the score 6-4. The roof caved in on Planet 8 Ball the third round as Phoenix padded their total with four more wins taking the contest to 10-5. Here's where all the clichés come in; their backs against the wall... there's no tomorrow, etc, etc; and that's the way Planet 8 Ball played it. The coups de théâtre was timed perfectly. Planet 8 rallied taking all five games from round four tying the score at 10-10. Along about the 4th game when it was obvious Mike Devers was going to lose his match Mr. Braley was about ready to pull a Leroy Jethro Gibbs.

And in game five after Mike coached Johnny Moore into putting a hook job on his opponent Joey Wafe, Joey was waiting. He had his jump-stick already out, scuffed, chalked and slickered up. Joey stroked a couple of times, jumped over a ball, made the shot then continued to run out the game. The momentum changed big time.

The pills were rolled out for the double-hill game. Johnny Moore got the call for Phoenix, and without Mr. Devers help Johnny managed to overcome the mood swing, turned the tide and pulled it out for Phoenix. It was a great match for the championship. Congratulations to all teams that helped to make it a great tournament.

4-Player Board Tournament Results Starlite Sports Bar & Billiards June 25, 2006

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Winnings</u>	
1.	Classic's	Dan Tucker	3,500 & Trophy	For those who may be wondering why the big difference in prize monies to the 3rd and 4th place finishers, it has always been league policy to pay only for first and second place from
2.	Fucifino's	Bert Wethington	1,750	
3-4.	Memoreze	Anthony Trevisano	250	
3-4.	Tigers Inn	Lynn Kempf	250	

the Happy Hour board. But because we had two extra teams qualify the vote leaned toward paying for two more spots. Missouri 8 Ball added \$464 to the pot. That's where part of the \$500 came from. Therefore the payout for the Happy Hour tournament was pushed up from \$5,286.00 (100%) to \$5,750.00 (101%).

In round one Classic's gave up 3-games. They came out firing on all cylinders and ran off a 9-4 (9-1) victory. Round two began the same way. Just One More getting '3' on the wire made it a little tougher but Classic's pulled off one of their classic moves and took a 9-8 squeaker. Giving 6-games head start to Memoreze took the match to another level. It became a race to 12 and whatever visions of grandeur Memoreze may have had faded faster than Barry Bonds' homerun production.

The Classic's gang pulled the perfect ambush. They started off by taking the first eight games for an 8-6 lead. They lost two then took the last four for a big (12-2) 12-8 finish. When it was over Memoreze was just that, a memory. Both Dan Tucker and Steve Monko led the attack with four wins each.

The finale between Classic's and Fucifino's would be a race to '9'. On paper Fucifino's appears to have no chance. But getting to this final championship match showed that they did have a chance. LaJuania's first match was less than stellar as she went 0-4. Since then Ms Henry has won six in a row. Donald Rash came in at 7-4 and two of those wins were over Rich Sager. Add the 4-games on the wire they were getting, either Fucifino's would have to completely fall apart or Classic's would have to ignore the 4-game spot and continue their flawless shooting concentrating on taking it one game at a time. Play each situation as it appeared. In other words do exactly what they had been doing. By taking the first round the score was even, 4-4. The teams split round two and at 6-6 the match was still up for grabs. Classic's pulled away with three of the four from round three and took the championship, 9-7.

When it got down to the 'real' nitty-gritty it was Classic signature stuff. The stuff that makes these guys a dominating force, a first-rate well-trained unit. Classic's took last season's championship and wanted... no... needed to repeat. Their agenda is to be, if not the greatest 4-Player Happy Hour team, at least to be recognized as

one of them. And in a concerted effort they are on that road to accomplish that agenda with personnel sharing the same views; a joint effort to achieve a common goal; and this unit compliments each other because there's an agreement in purpose; and that purpose is to win championships.

It's like their destiny is to follow in footsteps of past teams that set the standard of greatness; Penalty Box, Players Pub, Blarney Stone, Sportsman's Inn, and others. And they are doing it with no 'real' superstars; only a well trained group of guys that know how to cope with the pressures of playoffs which ultimately lead to championships. Nothing fancy here; no fanfare; no strutting around with the display of "well, here we are, again." The only explosions of emotion come from their cheerleaders, and you can tell three-blocks away when the team is going well. No drum rolls needed. They simply go about business as usual. I think they will accomplish their agenda.

	W	L	Pct.	
Dan Tucker	11	1	.917	It would be a real problem trying to select the MVP from this team. There's no way as you can see from the breakdown. Classic's also gave a total of 16-games on the wire. Add those to their totals you get 39-27 .591. Still very respectable.
Steve Monko	11	2	.846	
Kelly Ambrose	9	3	.750	
Wayne Turner	7	4	.636	
Bobby Mauer	1	1	.500	
	39	11	.780	

Players with 4-Wins in a Match 5-Player Board: Lance Abrahamson & Eric Rackley (Starlite Sports Bar & Billiards), Joe Lombardozi & Guy Tinker (Classic's), Scott Christensen (Fucifino's), Richie Bryan (Planet 8 Ball), Peter Napoli (Just Bill's Place), Craig Schmeid (Shot Heaven), Gary Buneta (Lehmann's Landing) and Dennis Agnew (The Phoenix).

Players with 4-Wins in a Match 4-Player Happy Hour Board: Bob Buck (Just One More), David Gase (Tigers Inn), Jason Huson (Memoreze), Kelly Ambrose, Dan Tucker & Steve Monko (Classic's).

When Classic's discovered that they had to give up 6-games to Memoreze one railbird chimed in with, "These guys have about as much chance as a pitcher of beer in front of Danny Sugar." When it was revealed that the race would be to '12' and not '9' their stock went up again. (But it was duly noted that a pitcher of beer in front of Danny Sugar still had no chance.)

This is the match where both Tucker and Monko won their four games. After two rounds Classic's made up the six games plus two for an 8-6 lead. After dropping the next two games, Classic's took the last four for a 12-8 final.

5-Wins in a Match: They don't call him Cozy Lombardozi for nothing. Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozi (Classic's). How can you win '5' games in a Happy Hour Match? Only one way... give up a lot of weight to your opponent. Final destination received 7-games on the wire making it a race to 13. Joe got to play five times because the score was dragged out to a 13-11 final. In fact, had Joe lost that last game the score would have been 12-12 and John Hilgar would have had a chance to win his 4th game. He would have played Matt Kramer who at the time was 0-4. So Matt could have been given a chance to secured the final win for Final Destination had he gotten the opportunity. But then he also would have been given the dubious honor to join Bruce Weston in losing five games in a single match. Strange, strange match.

How Many?: In a related account about how many matches are needed to win the Singles Championship coming out of the one-loss side: If a player receives no 'byes' either Saturday or Sunday a player can go as high as 18 matches. And if each match goes three games, that's a total of 54 games. The player losses his first match Saturday he then needs to win four matches to qualify for Sunday. If he losses his first match Sunday he would then need to win 10 matches just to get to the lone player on the 'hill'. Then the player on the one-loss side would have to defeat the opponent two matches to take the tournament. That's a total of 18 matches. To date no one has pulled it off. And when or if it does happen, chances are that person would be mentally exhausted. But I'm 99 % confident the winner's check would perk him/her up.

Breaks & Runs: Talk about a guy who can break & run: Billiards Hall-of-Fame member Steve Mizerak passed away Monday May 29, 2006; he was 61. Mizerak had a very illustrious career winning many pool championships in '9' ball, '8' ball, and Straight Pool, and beat just about every big name star in the pocket billiard's world of his generation. Mizerak died in Palm Beach County, Florida, from complications stemming from gall bladder surgery.

- Odds & Ends:**
1. An addendum to Division 8. Although Double D's missed the money by one match win we can say that that girl held up her end in the three matches they played. Melody Kirsch, with a 7-2 playoff record, ran her season's totals to 22-5 .815. What a gal. Good luck, Melody. See'ya next time!
 2. Guy Tinker won his first 8 games and finished with a 10-1 record helping Classic's to an \$1800 payday.
 3. There is now a Rose (Bowl) Boul playing out of Fucifino's. Boul is the French spelling pronounced bowl.
 4. Airport Billiards missed the money by one match win. Some thought them lucky to get as far as they did. They opened up by giving Brother's 8-games on the wire and pulled out a 14-12 victory. Then they handed JP's Eureka a 5-game head start and came out 11-8 on top. Their third match was too tough. Giving the eventual 2nd place winner 2-games on the wire Airport went down in flames to Planet 8 Ball, 11-7.
 5. Kenny's Bar & Grill entered the tournament with only four players. And the first team they were scheduled to play was Just Bill's Place. Remember them from division 13? That's the gang that went into the 2-week playoffs with only four players each week and pulled off the impossible. And Kenny's almost did it. They took Just Bill's to the hill only to lose out 11-10. What a try!
 6. Newcomer Rich's Place led all teams by getting 21-games on the wire. That was parlayed into an 1800-hundred-dollar payday. 21 is a long way from the record 34 Hillsboro received last season when they took top honors. Hillsboro Billiards didn't make it this session.
 7. Bruce Weston (Lehmann's Landing) and Don Parson (Fucifino's) should be receiving sympathy cards from Steve Byrnes any day now. (Bruce lost all five games in a single match and Don went 0-10 for the weekend.)

From our Quotes Department:

1. "I don't know why Art Lohnes sold Fucifino's? Fucifino's is not on her list of establishments for which Melissa King would like to play." Moe, Jim, Larry, Ken, Bob, Vic, Lou, Don, Joe, Dan and Chuck, among others.
2. "It doesn't matter what I hit Rusty ain't gonna give it to me anyway!" Rich Sager, after learning for the 6th time his won/loss percentage wasn't high enough to win Top Player. (See Div. 108's report)
3. "If you're looking for comfort or condolence, hint... don't go see Rich Sager." Advice given to Andy Quinn when discovering that his .794 was not high enough to win Top Player. (See Div. 17's report)
4. "Let me see if I get this straight; Just Bill's Place went through 2-weeks of playoffs, and beat the two best teams in the division with only... *four players*? And they had a 4-12 *season* record? Who's conning who here!" A couple of players from an opposing team! (See Div. 13's report)
5. "Don Parson may have had a bad weekend. At least he didn't blame it on the paparazzi!" A teammate!

Our Joke de jure

Our story for this report strangely enough includes President Bush and Barry Bonds. Of course it's a fantasy story... but, it's a cute story about President Bush who was flying by special jet aircraft from Europe to the United States. And with him, with President Bush, was the pilot of course, and Barry Bonds was on that flight. And there was a little old man who also was in government of some sort... and at the last minute they were about to take off in this big airplane... a... President Bush, the pilot, Barry Bonds and this little old man... there was a fella there with a back pack. This young fella hiked around Europe and now was trying to get back to the United States... and President Bush said, well... I think we ought to give him a ride in the plane, too... and the plane takes off.

Well, they get half way across the Atlantic when the plane develops problems. They are in serious trouble. Hoo boy! The engines stop... someone forgot to fill the gas tanks... or something... and they are in deep, deep trouble. The pilot comes over the intercom and he says... a... to the passengers, I'm afraid we're gonna have to bail out of the airplane... he said... we have a serious problem. Here there are five of us on board... unfortunately we have only four parachutes. But, he said, being the pilot, I'll be called upon to file the necessary reports and papers on this thing, so I'm definitely taking one of the parachutes... and with that the pilot put on one of the parachutes and jumped out the window.

And next was President Bush... who had a little difficulty... but he explained why he was important, too, and he put on a parachute and he jumped out. That's two guys and two parachutes. And that left Barry Bonds, the little old man and this kid hitchhiker with his back pack and everything.

And the next guy to stand up was Barry Bonds... and he went into great detail about how he was one of baseball's greatest players and that he has hit many homeruns and set many baseball records by keeping his body perfect and in a healthy state. And if anything happened to him nobody would know what to do with his grungy oversized uniforms... or the batting helmets that suddenly grew several sizes too large for his head... or the 200 autographed baseballs that he signed to himself... and how he was the fan's favorite player in all of San Francisco history... Even more so than Joe DiMaggio)... and a friend of all the great baseball stars... and how he was the brightest star ever to shine on any baseball diamond that ever played the game of baseball... and how he wasn't quite ready to meet other great homerun hitters like Josh Gibson or Babe Ruth on a face to face bases.

And he ended that by saying how he was one of the wisest men in the world which has been proved many times by erudite Baseball Writers who voted him the Most Valuable Player seven times... and consequently... he says... I'm certainly entitled to one of the parachutes... and besides, there's nobody here who can take me anyway. With that he grabbed one of the parachutes and jumped out. And that left the little old man and the fella that was hitchhiking.

The little old man turned to the young hitchhiker and he said... a... listen, he said... I'm old and I already have great grandchildren... and I've seen about everything in my life that a man could see... been everywhere a man can go, and done just about everything there is to do... and since there's only one parachute... I want you to take it... because... son... your whole life is before you and it isn't as important that I live as it is that you live.

And the young fella put his arm around the gentle old man and he said... don't worry, sir... we're gonna be all right. We can both take a parachute... because you see... Barry Bonds, the wisest man in the world, as he told us when he jumped out... he put on my back pack.

Final Thoughts:

This past season was successful in many ways. There were 19 divisions from the 5-player board and nine Happy Hour divisions, plus the one 9-Ball division. That's 29 divisions without including Dave Collins' group in Jefferson County. As stated above, the 120 players that signed up for the Singles event was way down due to the fact that there were three other league tournaments scheduled the same weekend. We try to work around that situation but there are times when it cannot be avoided.

Total payout for the 61st Missouri 8 Ball League Tournaments

	Team Money	League Added	Total Payout	
5-Player	16,759	1,041	17,800	106 %
4-Player	5,286	464	5,750	101 %
Singles	2,400	1,920	4,320	180 %
9-Ball	1,254	0	1,254	100 %
	25,699	3,425	29,124	113 %

The summer session will last only 11 weeks in some areas and only 10 in others. Plan ahead for the next All-Star and team events, and don't forget the 'doubles' tournament that will soon follow. Have a great session and we'll see you at the next tournaments.

[Rusty Brandmeyer](#) – Missouri 8 Ball Pool & Darts League Operator

[Roger Pheasant](#) – Internet Coordinator and Expert

[Jay L. Carlton](#) – Assistant to the Wheels

"And that's the way it happened... moving west!"