

**62nd Missouri 8 Ball Pool League Tournament
5-Player Board & 4-Player Happy Hour Board.
9 Ball Finals & The All-Star Singles Showdown.**
missouri8ball.com



The 62nd Missouri 8 Ball Pool League session was a short 10-weeks for some divisions and 11-weeks for other divisions running from June 5, 2006 to August 14, 2006. And then the two-weeks playoffs through to August 28th. Even though the summer sessions frequently produce fewer teams and players, the session was well represented from all parts of St. Louis City, the St. Louis Counties and Jefferson County. The following reports are a reflection of how teams and players fared.

9-Ball Division Report

9-Ball Division - Thursday: Crescent Room #2 came out of the gate firing from night one and were never headed. For the 11-week summer schedule they cranked out a 10-1 record, two games better than runner-up 21 Rock #2's 8-3. C.R. #2 placed four players on the All-Star list and their games won/loss percentage also led the division, 183-126 .592.

From the All-Star sheet the first three players were not only teammates from JP's Corner but fought it out for top honors the last five weeks. Mark Wieland gets himself another first place trophy by bringing in a 40-11 .784 record. How close was it? Glad you asked. Tony Chagolla fell just a bit short with his 36-10 .783. Tighter than Aunt Hattie's girdle. Not too far behind in third place was Ed Medlock, 34-11 .756.

From the playoff angle 21 Rock #1 blasted their way through two weeks of tough competition to get a chance for the Trophy. First they knocked off 21 Rock #2 17-15. Then came the 17-16 heart-pounder against JP's Corner. That gave them the chance to meet Crescent Room who finished the season at 10-1, while 21 Rock #1 was lucky at 5-5. But the smart money was still on Crescent Room. Somebody forgot to tell 21 Rock they weren't suppose to be doing what they were doing.

The winner-take-all match for the \$696.00 and Championship Trophy was another squeaker 17-15. 21 Rock #1 went against the odds and pulled out the best upset of the session. Goes to show that anything can happen! Congratulations to all who made 9-Ball successful. See ya'all next time.

8-Ball Divisions Report

Division #1 - Tuesday: Sometimes it's hard to keep your head in the game when things are going bad for the team. Case in point: We reported last session how a player on a 10th place team finished second on the 25-player All-Star sheet with over .800 W/L Pct. Once again a player trying to the very end to get *her* team higher in the standings but to no avail. Rhonda Bartram came out of nowhere on the 8th week, took over the top spot and ended the campaign 20-4 .833. Some respectability had to be salvaged for the team as they finished 2-8 way down in 8th place. Going for top honors is nothing new for Rhonda, one of only four solid '6' female shooters in the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League record books. She has been locked in these battles many times over the years. This time she edged out Bill Ray, JP's Corner #2, 24-5 .828, or a slim .005 difference. Rhonda's husband Mike was the only other player from this Bartman's team to make the 25-player All-Star sheet.

From the team side: After seven weeks of play Wedge had a 7-0 record, just one game over Crescent Room's 6-1. Then they met and C.R. took an 11-8 decision from Wedge to tie at 7-1. But Wedge still had a better games-W/L Pct. Playing out even the rest of the way Wedge and Crescent Room tied with 9-1

team records. Going to the games won-lost percentage shows that Wedge, 110-71 .608, won out over Crescent Room's 102-80 .560.

Sometimes things are just suppose to happen. Crescent Room was nosed out of first place by percentage points as stated above. That didn't stop them from turning on for the two weeks of playoffs. Winning five of the last six games against Pardella Club put Crescent Room into the big show. Nice comeback, guys.

Division #2 - Wednesday: Teammates Jimmy Raymo & David Haynes (Cotter's) led the way to the top of the All-Star sheet. Congratulations to Jimmy as his 24-11 .686 just edged out David's 19-9 .679 by a mere James Bond number, .007. Even though they and their four teammates occupied six of the 23 spots on the sheet, they could manage only a third place team finish. That's a tough division, Clyde! So we see once again that Foleys had another successful run as their 9-2 finished one-game ahead of Shot Heaven's 8-3. Foley's has never led the division with games won, won/lost percentage, most players on the All-Star sheet, or, as far as I can remember, had a player win the trophy. All they do is finish first. Go figure! So which team came out from the playoffs? Cotters. As mentioned, all six team members made the All-Star sheet. So to keep from getting the horse laugh from the rest of the division Cotters utilized every player by knocking off Jack Patrick's by a slim 11-10. They were down 10-7 and had to win the last four games to do it. From there they took on Shot Heaven. Tied 8-8 after three rounds Cotters took three of the final four games for the 11-9 victory.

Division #3 - Wednesday: Aaaaah, timing! Whoever it was that first said timing is everything knew exactly what they were talking about. Timing is the art or operation of regulating an occurrence; a pace. To coordinate. To achieve a most desirable effect. Today's class, kiddies, features the man, the myth, the legend, Mr. Greg Martin. Whomsoever said they didn't think that Greg Martin couldn't do simple math better get their thinking repaired. Greg Martin can too count to 22. The rule-book states, in effect, that all a player has to have to qualify for top honors is two times the number of scheduled matches. This division required 22... 11 matches x 2 = 22 credits. That 22 credits can come three ways; by actually playing 22 times, or by adding the number of times played and any forfeit games that player would have played because his opponent did not show up for the match, or in case the team had a bye that week whereby each player on the team is credited with two forfeit credits. (As in plate appearances in baseball). Example: Two forfeit wins, two bye points and 18 plays add up to 22. Criteria met!

Whether or not math was Greg's strong point he got what was needed to take out the division trophy. His 19-3 .864 was .007 better than runner-up Jim Wanner's 30-5 .857. Bummer, huh, Jim! But as Boris Badenov always says: "Dat's show biz!"

I said all that to say this: Jim, of the fine Wanner clan, and a long-time member of Missouri 8 Ball, knows and understands the rules. So there won't be any name calling to the Mo-8 office by Jim or by any of his friends screaming that Rusty is a racist (as someone did two years ago) and a cheater (as that person's friends did) and anything else that questions Rusty's ethics and moral reputation.

Basically what happened then as now, Tom Dooley never appeared on the All-Star sheet until the very last week because he was always one credit short. By getting that extra game in the final week, Tom Dooley's name appeared at the top of the list. He qualified by the exact number of credits that were needed, as Greg Martin has done. And when that person called Rusty a bigot, racist, cheater et al, my god you'd have thought Rusty had cut a deal with Satan. (You mean... he didn't?)

Although he didn't have to, Tom Dooley, being the gracious gentleman that he is, gave the jacket to the whiner. He should have given him a bottle of warm milk and a rattle to go with it. Tom broke no rules by winning first place as Greg Martin broke none. Personally speaking, I'd have handed the guy and his friends a copy of the rule book with a hint that they should learn how to read or have someone read the rules to them. But that's me!

Congratulations to Greg Martin and Jim Wanner for an excellent race. Did I mention that these guys are also teammates from Hazzards? (Jimbo, don't let Greg play the final week next season!)

From the team angle: Greg and Jim, along with three other team members on the All-Star sheet, brought Hazzards #1 past the post first. They tied with sister team Hazzards #2 with 8-3 records, but going to the games W/L Pct. #1's 116-101 .535 was slightly better than #2's 92-85 .520.

The playoff match saw Memoreze #1 spotting Hazzards #2 3-games on the wire. That's about as far as they got. Hazzards just couldn't get started. Memoreze turned on by winning 12 of the 13 games played for a 12-4 blowout earning the second spot to the big show.

Division #4 – Thursday: Another division with a race to the wire. It was a see-saw battle the final three weeks, and when they ran out of schedule it was Curt Wisely (Wedge #1) hanging by a thread. He came in at 19-5 .792, a mere .006 better than runner-up Joe Oberkirsck (GED) at 22-6 .786.

It was just the opposite from the team side. Joe's GED knocked out a 10-1 record to Wedge #1's 9-2. GED also ran up a whopping .621 games W/L PCT. with a 95-58 team record. Wedge #1 had to go through the playoffs. They managed to get to the big tournament by taking the last six games overcoming an 8-5 deficit to pull out an 11-8 victory. It must be a come-from-behind habit with Wedge. The following week they were down 10-8 going into the final round when they took the next four games for a 12-10 victory over Slo Toms. Great shooting, guys. See you at the big showdown.

Division #5 - Thursday: The first two weeks of the season were the only two that The Phoenix was out of first place. Once they got to the top it was no longer a question of which team was going to the big show from that position, it was a race for second place. Phoenix hung a 9-2 beating on the division two games ahead of Memoreze #3, 7-3. The fact that the top three players from the All-Star roll were Phoenix players could have something to do with it.

Mike Renick put on a pretty good show by going (**o-look, it's exactly 22**) 18-4 for a division leading .818. That .818 was .099 above partner Dennis Agnew's 23-9 .719 and .104 higher than teammate Craig Foster's 15-6 .714. Great season, guys. See'ya at the big showdown.

** Here's exactly what I referred to in Division #3. Division #5 had only five teams, an uneven number. Ergo, each team received at least two byes. That means that each player received two byes per match or four credits. Therefore Mike's total credits added up to at least 26. Clear as mud? Good!

A pair of Memoreze teams fought it out in the playoffs for second team honors. The first week M #3 beat out M #1 12-6, as four teammates won three games each. The following week M #3 continued their fine shooting by knocking off M #2 11-6. That means that once again John O'Farrell, Jim Stevens and company will be doing their thing at the big show. Congrats, guys.

Division #6 - Monday: Monty, Monty, Monty! How do you do it?! Here's that guy again. There's no stopping Monty Caldwell. He won it as a '3'; he won it as a '4', he kicked butt as a '5' and now he's done it several times as a '6'. Is it a 'improves with age?' thing with him or 'improves with number?' It doesn't matter. Monty Caldwell is as legit as Mother Teresa. Congratulations on another fine season. It also was another squeaker in the race to skip Saturday's qualifying rounds for the All-Star singles tournament shootout on Sunday. Check it out. From Charlack Pub, Monty posted a 23-5 .821 edging out Uncle Pete Mocca by a slight .021. Uncle Pete's 24-6 .800 is another sign that the over 'three-quarters-of-a-century' crowd can still bring it on. Way to hang in there Uncle Pete. And not far behind was another veteran, Larry Baker, coming in third with another successful 23-6 .793 showing. Larry still has a couple of years before he catches up with Uncle Pete, but he's getting there. Ho-ho!

Of the 30-players on the All-Star sheet, only three came via Cocktails. Yet Cocktails managed a 107-75 .588 games W/L record. Go figure! That's what got them in first place because Charlack Pub tied them with an 8-3 team record. But Charlack Pub's 107-97 .525 fell short from the games Percentage. Go cocktails, go Cocktails, go Cocktails.

It was upset time from the playoffs. Fifth place Jennings Station #1 survived by first knocking off Cactus Inn the first week than Classic's #2 the second. Tied at 10-10, Jennings took both games in round four for a very tough 12-10 victory over a very tough Classic's team that features Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozzi, Uncle Pete Mocca, '8-Ball Burner' Wayne Turner, 'The Thinker' Guy Tinker, 'Jumpin' Joe Rogers, Kickin' Kenny Martin and Merry Mary Stillwell. Congrats to Jennings Station #1 for a great comeback. I don't know how he does it but Willie White will be there again.

Division #7 - Tuesday: Dave Stafford! What can we say about this man that hasn't already been said! Like the Mississippi River, he just keeps rolling along. Mr. Stafford smoked the field big time. His 28-5 .848 was a whopping .140 over runner-up Danny Sugar's 17-7 .708. Dave isn't like a few players who over the years got to that certain place on the honor roll, then suddenly developed corporal tunnel syndrome, or some broken-wrist disease that would keep him out of the lineup, to coast on home for the trophy. Dave has never been a malingerer. If there's work to be done or a chore to complete, Dave is right there in the lineup every day, every week. Big ups Dave, on another fine season.

With brother Larry, Dave's team, Fucifino's #1 tied with sister team #2 with 7-3 records. Going to games W/L Pct. for the tie-breaker, #1 gets it 105-82 .561 to Fucifino's #2, 83-70 .542. It's a win-win for the Stafford boys.

Coming out of the playoffs was that same Fucifino's #2 that lost out in the W/L Pct. They knocked off TK's Pub #2 then squeaked out an 11-10 chiller over Airport Billiards. Holding a 10-6 lead it looked like AB was down for the count. But they came back with four in a row for a 10-10 tie. There must be something magical about that number one pill. Billy Wimberly played five times and drew number *one* four times but none more importantly than the double-hill match. With that win Billy Wimberly was responsible for five of his team's 11 wins.

Division #8 - Wednesday: This was another great race to the finish line. The lead changed names and faces the final five weeks. Week-7: Tony Kircher had the lead. Week-8 saw Jim Edwards at the top. Week-9: It was Jim Raby's turn. Week-10: Back to Tony Kircher. But the final week went to a guy who was hanging in the shadows. Tyler Jones (Lehmann's Landing) turned in a 4-0 match the final week and took home the prize. Tyler's 31-8 .795 was only one loss less than Bottle Cap's runner-up Jim Raby, 31-9 .775. Great finish, guys!

I'm not sure if this is a surprise or not! Shenanigan's wins top place, *again*. What has gotten into these guys? Two in a row? I know: Tina Foust! Captain Larry Foust brought back his sister, Tina. Could be! You say you want more proof, poopsie? Only three players from Shenanigans made the 25-player All-Star sheet, Larry, Curt Clark and Tina, and they ran off a 10-1 team record. As a matter of fact I think they went 10-1 last session also. No, I still haven't seen pigs fly over Florissant. Nice going, Tina - & guys.

Tyler Jones continued his fine shooting as he once again led Lehmann's Landing #1 through the playoffs by going 4-0 in an 11-8 victory over 'fino's #2 then knocking out Aftershock for the second spot.

Division #9 - Thursday: It's plain to see that this is a tough division. The first nine players on the All-Star list are over .700. Darryl Anderson (Fucifino's #1) picked up another first place trophy by staying one small jump ahead of Dave Stafford (Fucifino's #3). Darryl's 19-4 .826 knocked out Dave's 28-8 .778.

Neither team finished in the tie for first past the post. Those honors went to 'fino's #2 and Mi Familia #2 who tied with 9-2 records. It was another close call from the games W/L percentage. How close was it? Glad you asked. Fucifino's #2 edged out Mi Familia 113-97 .538 to 98-86 .533; or .005 close!

For second team honors 'fino's-4 earned another shot in the big show by first knocking off 'fino's-3, 11-7 with three players, Billy Wimberly, Leon Young and new acquisition Richard Tanksley, winning three games each. Round two went 11-8 against former champions Butch Matlock and company, now playing out of Cactus Inn. Phil Anderson led the assault with four wins.

Division #10 - Thursday: It's always great competition from this in-house division at Starlight Sports Bar & Billiards. And it's no surprise that we see Todd Berry's name at the top of the All-Star list again. How many is it now, 200, 300? Todd's 26-3 .897 overshadowed the rest of the field except for teammate and runner-up, Mike Conroy. Mike made a great showing with his 25-5 .833. Good enough to win in other divisions, Mike. I know that's no consolation, but, hang in there, your time will come. Todd's got to have a bad session sometime in the next 10-20 years. Oh, wait a minute. Todd's your captain. Now I understand what you did. Let the old guy have his day in the sun. Good thinking, Mike.

Todd and Mike, along with Matt DeBarr and Darrell Toliver combined forces to take out the top team spot. Starlight #1 came in at 8-2, 3-games over Starlight #3, which features the Charlie Heavel Gang. (Kinda sounds like the Charlie Daniels Band) It's nice to see the Heavel family back in action. Charlie Sr., Charlie Jr., and Keith always create great competition.

And sometimes the Heavel's (aptly named 'Misfits') can cause some upheaval of their own. Because this is a four-team division and first place gets the free ride to the *Show*, second place has a week off so the third and fourth place teams shoot it out. Smokin' (#4) gave Hell Razors (#2) 4-games on the wire and had to come from behind to take an 11-10 victory. Smokin' was smokin' the second week to the tune of 9-7 when suddenly their fire went out. The Misfits lived up the their sobriquet by throwing a monkey wrench into the last round by taking four of the five games pulling out a tough 11-10 come-from-behind win. Misfit? Oh yeah!

Division #11 - Thursday: Just One More #3, captained by Jeff Ayers, almost pulled off a clean sweep in what very well could be the toughest division in the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League. Can't get much closer than 10-1. Their only loss was the 11-10 squeaker to one of their sister teams, JOM #1. Most of these teams play 30, 31 or 32 points every week; that's tough, brother. '6's, '7's and '8's bumping heads make for great competition.

Oddity #1: The team shooting out of Allstars finished 7th from the 10-team division and ran up a 123-121 .504 games played record. Yet, of the 25-players on the All-Star sheet not one is from Allstars. They must have been given beaucoup weight, or maybe they're laying low!

Oddity #2: Flash – "Rich Sager losses in Double Figures." Rich... we've covered this once before... you are not going down. Your 16th place finish on the All-Star sheet (16-10) is not what your two fans are accustomed to seeing from you. Knock it off!

Oddity #3: This is not an oddity as such as it used to be. In these short 10-week, 11-week sessions, it does happen more frequently than the 16-week sessions as has already been pointed out.

For several weeks the top two players fighting out for top spot on the All-Star sheet were Gene Rader and Jeff Ayers. It was one and then the other, etc. And then it happened, again. From out of left field (actually JOM #4) came riding Mr. Brian Kroeger. Brian can add 2 & 3. His name never appeared on the sheet because Brian was always one credit short. He got that one extra game the final week. It resulted in a final 19-3 .864 record. Hey, that totals 22! Brian's .864 edged out Gene Rader's 24-4 .857 by a narrow .007.

For the second team spot JOM #2 handed JOM #4 5-games on the wire. After going down 2-3 the first round and facing an 8-2 deficit in this race to 12, "What, Me Worry!" were not words to be associated with this match. JOM #2 have six teammates, two '7's and four '6's, and all champions. They came roaring back. Taking four games in rounds two and three evened the score at 10. Jared put #2 on the hill and Dustin closed it out at 12-10.

Steve Schultz did what he could do for #4. He won all three games he played being the only one to win the last three rounds as his team went down 2-10.

Div.	Winner- 5 Player	Team	Record	Day	Runner-up	Record
10.	Todd Berry	Starlight #1	26 3 .897	Thur.	Mike Conroy	25 5 .833
11.	Brian Kroeger	J.O.M. #4	19 3 .864	Thur.	Gene Rader	24 4 .857
3.	Greg Martin SC	Hazzards #1	19 3 .864	Wed.	Jim Wanner	30 5 .857

7.	Dave Stafford	Fucifino's #1	28	5	.848	Tue.	Danny Sugar	17	7	.708
1.	Rhonda Bartram	Bartman's	20	4	.833	Tue.	Bill Ray	24	5	.828
9.	Darryl Anderson	Fucifino's #1	19	4	.826	Thur.	Dave Stafford	28	8	.778
6.	Monty Caldwell	Charlack Pub	23	5	.821	Mon.	Uncle Pete Mocca	24	6	.800
5.	Mike Renick	The Phoenix	18	4	.818	Thur.	Dennis Agnew	23	9	.719
8.	Tyler Jones	Lehmann's #1	31	8	.795	Wed.	Jim Raby	31	9	.775
4.	Curt Wisely	Wedge #1	19	5	.792	Thur.	Joe Oberkirsck	22	6	.786
2.	Jimmy Raymo	Cotter's	24	11	.686	Wed.	David Haynes	19	9	.679

Div.	Ladies	Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	Night
1.	Rhonda Bartram	Bartman's	20	4	.833	Tue.
3.	Rhonda Bartram	Bartman's	20	5	.800	Wed.
9.	Lajuanina Henry	Fucifino's #4	19	9	.679	Thur.
3.	Carol Hamilton	Memoreze #1	17	9	.654	Wed.
4.	Tina Wiedner	GED	16	10	.615	Thur.
6.	Mary Stillwell	Classic #2	17	11	.607	Mon.
6.	Aleeta Fahrenholz	Charlack Pub	13	9	.591	Mon.
4.	Donna Pope	GED	11	8	.579	Thur.
8.	Tina Foust	Shenanigan's	12	9	.571	Wed.
9.	Rose Boul	Fucifino's #2	17	13	.567	Thur.
3.	Julie Hemann	JP's Corner #2	14	13	.519	Wed.

4-Player Happy Hour Results

Division #101- Monday: Four of the five teams that made the playoffs were from Hotshots SC. Hotshots' #4 and #3 tied with 8-3 team records sending the decision to the games W/L Pct. #4 won out with their 89-65 .578 to #3's 96-78 .552. But #3 was not to be denied. They won the two-week playoffs and earned the second spot for the big *Show*.

Congratulations are in order to Dave Poitras for a great All-Star finish. For the entire schedule Dave was chasing Nick Skrbin and didn't catch him until the final week. Dave's 26-8 .765 was slightly ahead of the tough Skrbin Brothers. Runner-up Nick Skrbin was 30-10 .750 and Jason was close behind with his 28-12 .700. Another great race, guys. Dave continued his great shooting in the playoffs with four wins but his team went down 9-8.

Division #102- Monday: Teammates Bill Ray and Ross Belt (JP's Corner) were neck & neck throughout the season. When the smoke cleared Bill edged out Ross for top honors by only two wins. Bill Ray's 26-5 .839 was only .011 ahead of Ross Belt's 24-5 .828. Throw in new teammate Dan Creasy's 5th place numbers, 24-8 .750, and you can see how JP's Corner went 2-games past the post with a 10-1 team record. Ironically JP's won 87 games which was only 6th highest among the teams, but their 54 losses were 19 fewer than the second lowest number. Throw in a whopping .617 games WL percent and you have the division champs.

The playoffs were somewhat of a surprise. It was a toss-up between Liz's Place #1 and Libby's. The first week Libby's knocked off Wedge while GED surprised Liz's Place by forfeiting their match. It was Liz & Libby tied at 6-6 for the final round when Liz's took three of the four games for a tight 9-7 victory. The winning game coming from the stick of Long John Legens, who won four of his team's nine games.

Division #103 - Tuesday: Gentleman Jim Crosby turned out not to be a gentleman to opposing teams this session. Jimbo turned in a great 27-5 .844 season by outdistancing his nearest rival by .165. That's a lot, bro. Runner-up Victor Day gave it a good run but his 19-9 .679 fell quite a bit short.

Victor's team, however, did get past the post first and gained entry to the big show. In addition to Victor, Joe Garger and Bob Pendergrass helped put Fucifino's #1 over the wire by winning their last two matches, 9-0 and 9-1. That's determination, Clyde.

The second team that earned their way to the big showdown was Fucifino's #3. This group had no players make the All-Star sheet and finished the season at 3-7, a 58-85 .406 games percentage, and big smiles on their faces. The session wasn't a complete bust as Ms Lajuanica Henry rallied the guys the final two weeks pulling out 9-4 and 9-6 victories. What a comeback! Lou, you'da girl!

Division #104 - Thursday: Jake Embry is back in town. And for those who thought he lost his stroke eyesight, jump-shot or whatever, witness the punishment he administered on the division. His 21-3 .875 was .118 better than runner up Tony Gregory's 28-9 .757. Considering that Jake didn't appear on the All-Star sheet until the 8th week leaves big indication that he had to kick it up a notch to take the top honor away from Tony, Bill Millikan and Al Hale, who were in hot pursuit. One more time we congratulate Little Jake and another fine performance. (He really didn't want to play Saturday anyway!)

From the team angle it was Airport Billiards by one-game over Shenanigans. Leading the way was Jake and father James Embry, Bill Millikan with help from Mo Carlton. They put together a 9-2 record with a division leading 97-71 .577 games W/L percent. Great shooting, guys.

Playoff spot went to Cactus Inn. These guys can really be a thorn in the... in the ... neck. First they knock out Shenanigan's 9-6 and then defeated Lehmann's Landing. The big thorn for Cactus Inn was Randy Turnbough. He dropped a 4-0 match over Lehmann's leading his team to the 9-6 victory.

Division #105 - Thursday: There were 16 players that made the All-Star sheet; 11 coming from Classic's. Considering that half of the eight teams in this division play there, that is no great surprise. What is a surprise, and I don't mean to be rude, belittle or to imply that Byron Devroux (and I'll buy the first person I meet two White Castle hamburgers if you can correctly pronounce his last name without ever having before seen it in print or unfamiliar with the French alphabet) shouldn't have taken top All-Star honors from this tough division. But I know Pat Row and Wayne Turner and Dan Tucker and Steve Monko and Walt Penrod and Tricky Ricky Sutberry and Gary Blanks and most of the rest. Any player that shoots as a '6' and compiles a 20-3 .870 has got to be solid. But wait, lookie here... who is this guy that finished second... why it's Byron's teammate, Pat Row. Could be that Pat was pushing Byron week after commanding week? Pat has won many trophies over the years and missed this one by a hair, 21-4 .840. And who was pushing Pat? It was Wayne Turner with another great session, 26-5 .839. Big ups to Mr. Devroux for hanging in against some of the best competition in North County.

And while I'm perusing the 16 players on the All-Star sheet, I see that Mr. Gary Blanks earned a spot at the Singles Tournament by coming in dead last with a 19-17 record. Whether it was by luck or design, let me make this perfectly clear, young man... we've known each other a long time; and we will not be hoodwinked by this less than stellar performance. We are use to seeing 30-wins out of you. This 19-17 ain't gonna get it, dude. You're not going down... so deal with it. Remember, Santa Claus is coming to town. He knows if you've been naughty or nice...

From the team side: All four Classic's teams made the top five spots. Classic's #4 ended the campaign at 9-2 just 2-games above second place. They also had four members make the All-Star sheet and all were in the top 10, Byron Devroux, Pat Row, George Mudd and Bob Rojeski. Nice going, guys.

The playoff spot had the odds-makers huddling around tables with pens and pads ready for any kind of 'book' you wished to make. Why? Check it out! The team to beat was only the guys who won the last two Happy Hour Championships, Classic's #2. And after they gave Classic's #3 three-games on the wire and pulled out a 10-9 victory when they were down 6-1 after the first round, hey – who wouldn't want to place a few 'bob' on them? While that match was taking place, Classic's #1 was having their troubles with TK's Pub & Grill. Playing heads up TK's jumped off to a 7-3 lead. Classics came back strong

winning the final two games from round three and then wiped out round four for six straight wins taking the match 9-7. It would be a classic showdown between Classic's #1 & #2.

One of the hardest things to do is stay consistent. Giving up 4-games on the wire is really tough in a race to 9. Every player has to stay focused. Play it one game at a time. Conversely, the team receiving those four games has to stay just as focused so as not to let the other team get on a roll to overcome that 4-game spot. It's tough! It was Dan Tucker's guys, the veteran Champions, going against Lou Sauerwein's, the new wanna-be champions.

To make a long story short, the score is 8-8. The final game will be decided between Link Althen, a '4' and Wayne Turner. Link was beaten the first round by Mr. Turner, a '7', and defeated the second round by Dan Tucker, a '6'. And now he had to go up against the best player in the division again, 8-Ball Burner Wayne Turner. The third time's the charm, as they say. Link linked together a 5-ball run and earned his 15-minutes of fame. That win put Lou Sauerwein's Classic's #1 into the big Show and took away the chance of Dan Tucker and crew going for their third straight championship.

Division #106 - Tuesday: Lehmann's Landing jumped out of the box quick like Jack taking their first six matches. At 6-0 and a 3-game edge on the rest of the field most thought the race was over. After all the first four players on the All-Star sheet were Lehmann teammates, and they were raining blows on opponents like Bobby Brown rains on Whitney. Rich Schumacher 15-2, Mike Doak 16-3, Tim Goertz 12-5 and John Albers 9-4 sported a collective record of 52-14 .788. With only four remaining matches all they had to do was split and off to the big show they go. Or, they needed just one more win as long as their games won/loss percentage remained higher. They landed only one win for a 7-3 record.

Blockhouse turned on and won their final four matches for a 7-3 first place tie. But Lehmann's games W/L Pct. was still much higher, 87-65 .572 to Blockhouse's 72-71 .503.

Four of the eight players that made the All-Star sheet were Lehmann teammates. And for the trophy Lehmann's Rich Schumacher held the lead 25-5 .833 over Mike's 24-9 .727.

The playoff spot went to Blockhouse. By winning three games in each of the three rounds played Blockhouse overran GB Field to the tune of 9-2.

Division #107- Wednesday: This six-team in-house division was full of surprises. One would be the team that finished first? Relax - I'm not picking on Bob Pendergrass or Victor Day who star for Just One More #2. These guys play good and were the only two from their team to make the 12-player All-Star sheet. In fact their final match was to break the first place tie with #3, led by Tough Tony Napoli, Gene 'The Machine' Rader and Jeff Davenport. It went all the way, 9-8. That match brought their winning record to 8-3, only one game over JOM #3's 7-4. Here's what I'm referring to - JOM #2's games W/L Pct. was only .509. That was third highest behind JOM #3's .534 and JOM #5's .513. JOM #5 has a couple players you may have heard of - Rich Sager, Jason Helmholtz and Larry Nolan. And JOM #4 has a couple hackers named Rusty Brandmeyer, John 'Tattoo' Snyder and Buffalo Bob Buck, and they could manage only a fourth place finish with a 5-6 record. Go figure. Like I said - full of surprises. It's not my intention to pick on Bob and Victor but they had to be underdogs in this tough division.

The race for the All-Star trophy was as tight as Boss Hogg's wallet. A couple of fair '8's in Rusty Brandmeyer and Rich Sager battled it out to the end. Guess what? You guessed it. In order to win the award an '8' had to hit .905. Although Rusty finished first with his 22-3 .880 and Rich 25-4 .862, it was the third place player who got the prize. Jason Helmholtz was in the right spot. His 21-4 .840 was more than enough to take out the trophy for his '5' skill level.

This is the second consecutive time this has happened from this division. Last session it was Rusty and Rich not hitting high enough and Nick Price got it for his third place finish. Congrats, Jason.

JOM #4 defeated JOM #1, 9-5, for the playoff spot.

<u>Div.</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>4-Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>.</u>
104.	Jake Embry		Airport Billiards	21 3 .875	Thur.	Tony Gregory	28 9 .757	
105.	Byron Devrouax		Classic's #4	20 3 .870	Thur.	Pat Row	21 4 .840	
103.	Jim Crosby		Fucifino's #4	27 5 .844	Tue.	Victor Day	19 9 .679	
107.	Jason Helmholz		Just One More #5	21 4 .840	Wed.	Tony Napoli	21 6 .778	
102.	Bill Ray		JP's Corner	26 5 .839	Mon.	Ross Belt	24 5 .828	
106.	Rich Schumacher		Lehmann's	25 5 .833	Tue.	Mike Doak	24 9 .727	
101.	Dave Poitras		Hotshots #5	26 8 .765	Mon.	Nick Skrbin	30 10 .750	

62nd All-Star Singles Tournament Results

The 62nd Missouri 8 Ball All-Star singles event took place at Starlite Sports Bar and Billiards September 23-24, 2006. Eighty-eight players signed up for the event. The 88 x \$20.00 generated \$1,760. Add the bar-sponsored money of \$1,180 gives us a total payout of \$2,940. That's 167 percent payback. There's not another pool league anywhere that offers that kind of return.

Was it fate? Or, a case of great timing? At the conclusion of this two-day tournament we now have answered the burning question: Who is the best player in the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League that has never won the All-Star single's event? A drum roll if you please – Jake Embry has now fulfilled a quest that has eluded him off and on for fifteen years. Most thought it would have happened long before now. Like, it was his right to be champ. It was expected. As inevitable as another pro boxer trying to make a comeback. But when? There was always someone in the way. The highest Jake had previously finished was second once and third twice. Always behind the guys that were favored, Runout Rich Sager, California Bob Strachan, Jeff Ayers, Handy Andy Quinn, Jerry “the Rock” Terbrock and others. Forget it. His chance has presented itself once again. There were several top-flight cueists vying for the honor. Jake would have a rough road to travel with six-time winner Rich Sager leading the favorites again. There has always been a battle when these two meet and this would be no different.

Rich had the match in hand when he had one ball left on the table plus the '8'. He made a very pronounced cut shot making his last ball but had to hit it hard enough to make the corner pocket. The cue ball knocked one of Jake's solids into the '8' sending it up table. When the cue ball came to rest Rich was hidden behind two other solids. Rich kicked a good hit on the '8' but that was all. Jake ran out the match against Sager then ran everyone else into the one-loss side putting himself in the catbird seat. Sager would go on to get knocked out by Jim Stevens ending his run for a 100-dollar payout. Stevens ran into Mike Renick's run-outs and settled for \$200 and a tie for 5th-6th. Renick continued his run and K-O'ed Jason Helmholz and Jason Krentz earning another shot at Embry for the Championship, whom earlier had dropped Mike over to the one-loss side.

Jake was on a big-time roll and was not to be denied. He screws together the two pieces of his custom stick as an assassin would assemble his high-power rifle. You're sitting in the highback chair waiting... waiting...and patiently waiting for your turn at the table... but it never comes. All the while you're cursing under your breath how your lag shot hit the end rail and bounced off just silly millimeters too far, while Jake's lag nearly froze on the rail. You continue to watch as Jake breaks open the rack and systematically makes the stripes disappear from the table. You watch the '8' ball fall into the corner pocket. That's your cue to retrieve the rack, gather up the balls, place them on the spot and return to your highback chair for another lesson in patience waiting. And as comfortable as that chair is you're uncomfortable watching as the second coming of Saint Louie Louie dissolves another rack. You discover what others have known for years, that getting a shot from Jake Embry when he's on a roll is about as

complicated as it is trying to figure out precisely what talent Paris Hilton has. The match over, that's your cue to congratulate Mr. Jake Embry for an outstanding performance.

The timing was right after all. Why? Maybe the planets were aligned! Or something. Think about it! First, Jake takes out the division All-Star Award. Second, he captures his first All-Star Singles Award. Now there is only one tourney left, the 4-Player Happy Hour. And his team took that. (The story is later in the report) This is the first time in many years that we have had a 3-Star player. Only one player has ever been a 4-Star winner and that was back in the early 1990's. There has yet to be a 5-Star winner. Congratulations to Jake Embry for his first-time win. We think there will be many more. And here's to all that participated in the event.

PL.	Player	Rank	Winnings	Saturday			Sunday		
				Bye	W.	L.	Bye	W.	L.
1.	Jake Embry	'7'	890.00 & Trophy (TP)	n/a			1	6	0
2.	Mike Renick	'6'	650.00 & Trophy (TP)	n/a			1	6	2
3.	Jason Krentz	'4'	475.00 & Trophy		3	0	4	2	
4.	Jason Helmholz	'5'	325.00 (TP)	n/a			7	2	
5-6.	Jim Stevens	'6'	200.00	1	2	0	1	4	2
5-6.	Jim Edwards	'4'	200.00	1	3	1	4	2	
7-8.	Rich Sager	'8'	100.00	1	2	0	1	4	2
7-8.	Brian Adams	'3'	100.00		3	0	1	3	2

(TP) = Top Player – does not have to play Saturday

*Notice the skill-levels that cashed: From '3' to '8'. It is the first time that six different skill levels represented the players that cashed from an 8-player winner's circle. There were no '2's in the tournament or possibly all seven levels could have been represented. There lies the reasoning behind each group perform against their same level.

5-Player Team Results

The gang from Crescent Room made a big hit their first time at the big show. With four players with a skill-level '5' and two at '3', the only problem I had with Crescent Room over the two-day tournament was I didn't get to see Heather Hampe play. That's personal, I know. But this gal plays good 9-ball and I just wanted to see her 8-ball game one time. That's all. Having said that - no one can deny that Captain Dave Pope made the right decisions when it came to making out the lineup. Based on the outcome, how can anyone fault him? You can't!

The Phoenix took out the 5-Player Award last season and many had the thought that they would be the team to beat, the first to take out the 5-Player board back to back. There's no doubt Captain Dave Braley improved the team by replacing Mike Devers with Mike Renick but the rules of Missouri 8 Ball say you still have to play the matches... and win.

The Phoenix began their run by defeating Hazzards, 11-9. They gave Shenanigan's 3-games on the wire and knocked them out 11-8. Giving up another three games to Fucifino's was almost a bit much as 'fino's worked their way into a 10-8 lead. But Phoenix held on and rallied taking the final three games for a come-from-behind 11-10 victory.

Making their run from the bottom of the board Crescent Room first knocked out Hillsboro Billiards 12-8, then out shot Shooters 11-8. Memoreze gave C.R. 3-games on the wire but never really got out of the starting gate. Memoreze went down 11-4. The next super power was Just One More. JOM had to give up 6-games. It was power against power but the six-game spot was a bit much to overcome even for Brian Hedrick's bunch. They went down 11-7. This set the stage for The Phoenix and Crescent Room shootout. The race was to 12 as The Phoenix gave up 3-games on the wire. Crescent Room opened up an 11-3 lead and looked like a massacre was about to take place. The Phoenix rallied with four in the 3rd round and the

first two in round four closing the gap, 11-9. But Crescent Room pulled out a tough game, which involved several safeties, for their 12th win taking out the 62nd 5-Player Board Championship. Congratulations to the gang from Crescent Room on their first championship victory: Captain Dave Pope, Nick & Joe Lopez, Jeff Sullivan, Jerry Casey and Heather Hampe.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Winnings</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Winnings</u>
1. Crescent Room	Dave Pope	3, 768.00 & Trophy	3-4. Just One More	Brian Hedrick	900.00
2. The Phoenix	Dave Braley	1, 800.00	3-4. Fucifino's	Billy Wimberly	900.00

4-Player Happy Hour Team Results

At 11 a.m. Sunday morning October 1, 2006 Airport Billiards' Captain Lois Schuerman and gang paraded into Planet 8 Ball with cue sticks in tow. Airport Billiards nailed their division title and bypassed the playoffs. They entered Planet 8 Ball receiving the same kind of attention Ma Barker and her four sons got when they entered banks carrying violin cases. They would have been mistaken for the notorious Over-the-Hill bunch rather than the infamous Ma Barker gang. Take note: They turned out to be as tough as a cup of chuck-wagon coffee. Hard as a Mike Tyson right cross (or ear bite). Miscreants full of bravado and confidence. We're here! Who's first, and what's the payout?

And when the tournament concluded at 10 p.m. they paraded out the same way they came in. But when they packed up and left the building, they took with them the First Place Trophy and the cheque for \$1,880, and the title of Conquerors - again. Oh, no! This wasn't their first championship win.

But it almost wasn't to be. And it really wasn't as easy as I'm making it out to be. For instance, with the match 5-4 for Airport Billiards, Jerry Jordan, with cue-ball-in-hand, miscued while attempting to draw the cue ball back for shape on his last ball, missing his chance to get out for the win. (The miscue was reminiscent of the famous Louis Fox miscue. Mr. Fox was so upset with himself after a miscue cost him the 1865 U.S. Billiard Championship that he went out and drowned himself.) Being afraid of water, except to mix a drink, the reserved Mr. Jordan would never contemplate that route. Instead, he banged his cue stick on the next table and probably muttered a few expletives under his breath.

After the Jordan miscue, the incoming JP's Corner player had the opportunity to put the match even, 5-5. He made a ball and while going for shape for his last ball, he over-drew the cue ball. It drifted into the side pocket allowing Jordan another chance at the table. It was a direct violation of the 'turn' rule. That is, your opponent gave you too many turns at the table. With another cue-ball-in-hand situation, this time Jerry got out. The emotion was so high that Mo had to take another shot of *air*.

A couple years back this bunch took out this same event. And the following season, with one player different, they followed that up with a second place finish. Call them what you will, and some might think them over-the-hill, but... whatever you do... do not take them lightly. One thing to remember when you are up against Ma Lois's gang, don't violate the 'turn' rule. The whole match can turn on *you*.

1. Airport Billiards \$1,880.00 & Trophy
 Members: Captain Lois Schuerman, James Embry, Jerry Jordan, Bill Millikan, Jake Embry and Mo Carlton. Airport Billiards defeated Classic's 9-8, HotShots 9-8 and JP's Corner 9-5.
2. JP's Corner \$900.00
 Members: Captain Bill Ray, Ross Belt, Dan Creasy & Jason Krentz. JP's Corner defeated Cactus Inn 9-8, Just One More 9-8, and HotShots 9-8 before losing to Airport Billiards 9-5.

The uncanny thing about all these matches (except the final match) is that they ended by the same score of 9-8. And the winning teams gave up 2-games on the wire to all their opponents. Can't get more evenly matched than that!

Total payout for the four tournaments: 5-Player Board 7,368.00 4-Player Board 2,780.00
\$13,784.00 All-Star Singles 2,940.00 9-Ball 696.00

Parting Shots: One week after the All-Star event took place I was approached by a guy who says, “Jay, I know you do all or most of the writing on the internet for the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League, would you please include something for me? I said that I would be happy to. What’s it about?”

He said “to write something nice about the ‘late’ Rich Sager.”

I said, “The *late* Rich Sager? I didn’t know Rich Sager died!”

The guy says, “*He* didn’t, but his *game* did!” Boom-Boom

Believe it... or don’t: This coming from I.Q. Jones. Although I have a little more than a modicum of doubt, I.Q. Jones swears this is true. He says, “I’m not saying that other Pool League territories are plummeting in value, but the other day I was at the drive-through window at McDonalds and ordered a Big Mac, large fries and a diet Pepsi, and the cashier said, ‘Would you like an APA franchise with that?’”

Joke de jure “The 12-year-old Genius”

It seems that this 12-year-old kid, among other things, got a chemistry set for his birthday. He decides to put all his waking hours into mixing up all kinds of recipes, potions, formulas, etc. There’s smoke coming out of tubes and gasses and liquids changing colors and all kinds of stuff going on. One day he mixed up some concoction that when you put one drop on a worm it would get stiff and hard just like a nail. He was out in the back yard with a hammer driving worms back into the ground.

He’s so excited about his experiment that he goes to his father. “Hey dad, look what I discovered. I put one drop on a worm and it gets stiff and hard just like a nail; watch.” He demonstrates and starts driving worms back into the ground.

The father looked at that (this is a true story by the way), the father looked at that and said, “Son, you give me some of that stuff and if it does what I think it’ll do I’ll buy you a new Thunderbird.

The next day the kid wakes up and looks out his bedroom window and there in the driveway is a brand new Cadillac Coup DeVille. The kid runs to his dad and says, “Dad, I thought you said you’d get me a new Thunderbird?”

The dad says, “I did, I did get you a new Thunderbird, it’s in the garage. The Coup DeVille’s from your mother.”

As always, thanks for supporting the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League. The following session will be the 63rd which will complete 21-years of operation.

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