

55th Missouri 8 Ball Tournament results

As customary we would like to thank everyone that competed in the 55th session of Missouri 8 Ball. We are in our 19th year and happy to announce that we are still the largest 8-Ball league currently operating in the St. Louis area. Thanks for your participation and loyalty.

Also to recognize several players that shot there way to TOP honors by winning their respective divisions. Many of our first place winners were leading many weeks while others took over the first place spot on the very last week of the session. Great come-from-behind. That's the great thing about being in a race. We all have our moments, some early some late. If you're in it long enough your time will come.

Division #1 New player to Missouri 8 Ball Jim Wirz and teammate Mike Renick carried Woodys #1 to a first place finish. Their 12-4 record was one game better than Bartman's 11-5. Jim and Mike battled for top player every week and finished a mere .006 difference. Jim's 36-12 .750 to Mike's 32-11 .744. That's the way it should go, down to the wire. Except Jim, you don't have anything to look forward to now, buddy. Congratulations Jim and Mike for a great race and a great session.

Division #2 The top four players on the All-Star sheet are teammates from JP's Corner #3. Gee, think maybe that's why they ran away with the division with a 15-1 record? They placed five players on the honor roll. Mike Ramsey took top honors with his 27-9 .750 record. He beat out Jeff Loeffler 35-12 .745 by a scant .005 percentage point. Nice going guys. Another great race. Do it again next session.

Division #3 The top three players on the All-Star list came out of Little Nikki's. They placed five players total. Larry Stuart 29-7 .806 beat out teammates John Young (SC) 22-6 .786 and David West 25-7 .781. Little Nikki's 12-4 finished one game out of first place behind Pardella Club's 13-3. Great race.

Division #4 John O'Farrell rock 'n' rolled his way through division 4 and took top honors with a 32-5 .865 record. If that doesn't seem too impressive try this, he beat out Phil Joseph (32-10 .762) the runner-up by .103. That's right, 103 points difference in won-lose percentage. What a great session John. The Wedge team finished 12-4 one game ahead of Pat & Roses and George's for team honors.

Division #5 Mike Renick held on to take top honors and led his Memoreze team to a first place finish. Mike 27-6 .818 outlasted Jerry Terbrock 32-8 .800. Jerry made a last desperate bid the final two weeks but came up short. Memoreze placed six shooters on the All-Star list. Their team record of 14-2 was 2 games better than Hazzards and their games W-L percentage of .592 was the third highest of all divisions.

Division #6 Clint Lakamp finished a whopping 95 points higher than his closest competition. His 32-4 .889 led the way for his Night Sky team (13-3) to take out first place by 2 games over 21 Rock. Joe Curlee was a distant second at 27-7 .794. Night Sky also placed six members on the All-Star honor roll proving why the team's .581 was in the top five for games won-lost percentage.

Division #7 It was another close one, only .014 separated the first and second place finishers, but Sean Schmoll 31-6 .838 held on to edge out newcomer James Hassler, 42-9 .824, by a narrow margin. Sean's Hazzard's #1 finished with a 14-2 record 2 games ahead of Jody T's. Hazzards #1 knocked out 177 wins and hit for a division leading .602 W-L percentage. They placed five members on the All-Star honor roll.

Division #8 It was a one-game squeaker and Louis Erby pulled it out on the last game of the session. Mike McLean was up front with his 24-8 .750 record and looked like a shoe-in for the trophy. Louis Erby was 21-7 .750 tied for first. Mike did not play the final week and Louis did. He went to work needing

every game if he was to have a chance for first place. Louis won all three games he played for a final total of 24-7 .774 overtaking Mike by .024. What a race. Lou's team, JP's Corner #1, finished 14-2 for first.

Division #9 Ed Libby, Dennis Bullock; Ed Libby, Dennis Bullock; Ed Libby, Dennis Bullock. It was a seesaw session. After 15 weeks Ed Libby was on top of the All-Star list with his 35-7 .833 while Dennis was hanging in there with his 23-5 .821. But the seesaw made one more swing. The final week of play Ed went 3 out of 4 (38-8) dropping his won-loss percentage to .826. Teammate Dennis Bullock went 2-0 for a final 25-5 .833 edging out Ed by .007. How close is that? One of the closest that ever was, that's how close. Great race, guys. Oh, and if you hadn't figured it out by now team Libby's finished first with a 13-3 record, but only a scant game ahead of Pat & Roses.

Division #10 The difference was only .008. Ray Ridenour 33-11 .750 squeaked past Cassy Williams 23-8 .742 to take top honors. Cassy led the parade for many weeks but did not play the final week. Ray took advantage by going 3-0 his final match. On a brighter note for Cassy, she led her Slo Tom's team to first place with a 13-3 record. Nice shooting Cassy. Congrats to Ray on the come-from-behind victory.

Division #11 Who said Willie White was over the hill? Somebody get a rope and find a tall Oak tree with a thick branch. Better get that thinking repaired hombre, whoever you are. Tis true that Willie played to a second place finish with his 29-13 .690 record. But look at it from this angle, Willie beat out such notables as Wayne Turner, Steve Monko, Joe Lombardozzi, Minnesota Fats, Willie Hoppe, Jeannette Lee, and Allison Fisher... amongst others. And it was only .016 behind Billy Wimberly. Billy's 24-10 .706 took it out but he knew he was in a race. Billy Wimberly is only one of two players to repeat as divisional winner. Willie did lead his Fucifino team past the post with a 12-4 finish. Great going guys.

Division #12 It was a foregone conclusion Larry Baker would take center stage. Larry needed another jacket like Nolan Ryan needed another no-hitter. It was just a question of how the wily, cunning, smooth, astute, sharp (oh, cut it out) Cactus Inn legend wanted to handle the competition. Anyone who has ever gone up against this crafty fellow soon learns you better be on your game. Larry doesn't fool around. He goes after the trophy like Jim Edmonds goes after a long fly ball, hard and fast. His 43-5 .896 was 71 points ahead of second place Darryl Anderson's 33-7 .825. We think the secret is out. Larry's father, Howard, is 84 years young and is the dean of Missouri 8 Ball. Might have shown Larry a thing or two about the fine art of pocketing a ball. Congrats again, Larry. See you next time. Team wise, Cactus Inn finished second (12-4) one game behind Pete's Place (13-3). Here is an oddity, New Classic's #1 placed five members on the All-Star sheet but didn't make the playoffs. Somebody somewhere must have been sticking pins in voodoo dolls or something. They finished in sixth place.

Division #13 It was another one of those down-to-the-nitty gritty classics. Julia Gabriel, going for her third jacket, was a slight .002 in the lead with only one win away from pulling it off. Her 29-10 .744 was precarious at best. Mario Webster was breathing hard down her neck with his 23-8 .742 record. Came the final week and Julia went 1-1 to Mario's 2-0. That shot him up to 25-8 .758 to Ms Gabriel's 30-11 .732. Julia says, "What a Bummer."

Airport Billiards #2 took team honors with their 14-2 record beating out Action Billiards by 4 games.

Division #14 Here's another race that went down to the final week. Although Jay Carlton led the division with a 49-7 .875 record, the award went to second place, Jay's teammate Mike Warfel. Mike finished with a 51-8 .864 record. Because the rule says that Jay had to hit .905 (as a 'BB') to win top honors for this division, his won-loss percentage of .875 was .020 short. Previous to this it had happened only 11 times in 18 years where first place was bypassed because the first place player didn't shoot high enough for his skill level. It happened three times this session. See dubious records department below.

In addition to his All-Star honors, Mike finished the session with 51 wins. Until further investigation proves otherwise, we are saying that Mike now holds the record for the most wins in one division. That is not counting playoffs. Add playoff wins, Mike won two more for 53 wins and Jay won three for 52 wins.

Division #15 He did it again sports fans. Rich Sager led the parade with a 35-4 .897 percentage. Unfortunately that wasn't good enough, huh? Sad but true. For Runout Rich to take top billing (as an 'A' player) from this division, he had to hit .920. As we do the math Mr. Sager was .023 on the short end. (See division 17) Say congratulations to Danny Sugar who, ready for this, had one heck of a session with his 35-5 .875 record. That's right, only one loss separated Danny and Rich who are teammates from Fucifino's #1. But since Rich fell short Danny receives the trophy. Third place went to another teammate Steve Mitchell. Ironically Fucifino's #1 placed four players in the top 11 on the All-Star roster and had a division leading 172 wins but barely made the playoffs with a 5th place finish. (You guys give up a lot of weight?) Tigers Inn took out top team (13-3) and placed 6 players on the honor roll.

Division #16 Several weeks into the session Jeff Niebling stroked his way to the front of the pack. That's where he stayed. His 35-7 .833 record was hounded relentlessly by Pat Wilson who flat ran out of session. Pat had to settle for the runner-up position with an outstanding 37-10 .787 showing. Tigers Inn didn't make the playoffs but it wasn't because of the Niebling gang. Jeff, Ken and Jim tallied 89 victories for a combined 89-45 record. McDuff's took team honors and no, not one single person has seen pigs fly around Cross Keys. Why would anyone be surprised that McDuff's (14-2) took first place? They also placed five members on the All-Star roster. Congrats to Jeff Niebling (Tigers Inn) and to McDuff's.

Division #17 He did it again sports fans. Rich Sager led the parade with a 27-4 .871 percentage. Unfortunately that wasn't good enough, huh? Sad but true. For Runout Rich to take top billing (as an 'A' player) from this division, he had to hit .890. As we do the math Mr. Sager was .019 on the short end. (See division 15) Say congratulations to Danny Sugar who, ready for this, had one heck of a session with his 29-7 .806 record. (Anyone getting the feeling you've read this somewhere before?) Since Rich fell short (again) Danny receives the trophy (again). Airport Billiards took teams honors and placed four players on the All-Star sheet. Nice going guys.

Division #18 Going into the final week of play Joe Branstetter (Streiler's) was 31-5 and Doug Gibbons (Cactus Inn #1) was 31-7. Like many other races this one wasn't over until the final week. While Doug went 1-1 on the last night of play Joe finished off the session 3-0. That raised Joe's record to 34-5 .872 to take out All-Star honors to Doug's 32-8 .800. Great session guys and a great race to the wire. Team honors went to Fucifino's who were about as close to perfect as one could get. Their 15-1 record was a whopping 4 games ahead of second place Streiler's. They also placed 6 players on the All-Star list.

Division #19 This division is so equal in talent that the lead for top player changed faces five times in seven weeks. The top spot wasn't settled until the final week was over and there at the helm was (Smokin') Matt DeBarr. Matt's 32-6 .842 edged out Soldiers' teammates Sir Charles Burrage 31-8 .795 and 'Longshot' Lenzie Russ 27-7 .794. And there was another race as three teammates from Soldiers... Charles, Lenzie and Jeff Shelton... finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th on the list. Team champion was decided by games won-lost percentage because Soldiers and Stroke of Genius tied for first place with 10-6 records. Soldiers finished the session 162-154 .513 only .003 better than Stroke of Genius' 147-141 .510. The narrowest margin in awhile.

Division #20 New player Wayne Ferrell beat out new player Mike Heidbreder for top spot. You read it right. Two new players to Missouri 8 Ball took the first and second spot. Wayne's 29-4 .879 beat out Mike's 35-12 .745 by a big .134. That's the biggest gap since last session. Wayne, what are you going to do for an encore? Mike, you can only go up. Great shooting guys.

With seven teams in this division and five out of Planet 8 Ball why doesn't it surprise me that the top four teams were Planet 8 Ball teams? And here's the kicker, Planet 8 Ball #5 won it with their 13-3 record and was led by the only person to make the All-Star honor roll, Miss Paige Hester. I believe that this 5-foot-nothing lady is the only one playing whose cue stick is taller than she is. Paige shot a great 22-13 .629. Okay, Paige, you da man... er... wo-man.

Division #21 It was another squeaker, only .003 separated the top two players. Dennis Galagher (Planet 8 Ball) edged out (Teachers) John Bissell .733 to .730. Dennis rode out his 33-12 record for All-Star honors barely getting past John's 27-10. Team wise it was Planet 8 Ball #3 beating out Planet 8 Ball #4 by .005 percentage points. This is the first time that both races from the same division were a mere 5 points or less determining the outcomes.

Division #101 Team Bartmans finished in the cellar but it wasn't for the outstanding shooting of Bill Berry. Bill takes top All-Star honors with a 33-9 .786 record out distancing Joe Curlee's fine performance 30-12 .714. Blarney Stone #1 held off attacks by Hazzards and Blarney Stone #2 to take team honors. Their 12-4 record was a scant one game ahead, and that's all it takes.

Division #102 Frank Depoutot's 33-8 .805 took top All-Star honors. He finalized the outcome by beating out Curt Wisely's 43-13 .768 and John Legens' 40-13 .755. Congrats Frank, great session. From the team side The Phoenix did it again. Their 13-3 team record and .613 games won-lost percentage both were division leaders. Phoenix finished 3 games ahead of the next four teams. That's right. The next four teams all ended the session with 10-6 records and had to be decided by games won-lost percentage. To show how competitive they were, the breakdown goes, Ten Mile House .530, Wedge #2 .528, My Place #1 .525, and Pat & Roses .519. Only .011 separated these four teams, the closest ever.

Division #103 Once again Troy Moore knows how to score. Bad knees and all Troy Moore proved he's back. What is this Troy, three or four straight? Whatever, the tough Tuesday morning division is so evenly matched talent wise that the top player averaged under .700. But Troy keeps on truckin' picking up trophies, shirts, honors and respect. Another great job Troy. The top ten players read like murder's row. There was one 'C', one 'CC' and eight 'B' players. At 25-11 .694, Troy beat out teammates Steve Schultz 29-16 .644 and Steve Brown 24-14 .632. Could it be that Fucifino's #2 took team honors because of the ten players that made the All-Star list four were from that team? Their 12-4 record was 4 games ahead of second place.

Division #104 Billy's back in town. Been awhile since we've seen Billy the Kid and his 'young guns' on the loose. From his usual position, the gunfighter's seat in the corner, young Billy Mayhall took it all. But his team, Just Bill's Place, took a big fall. Billy is one hombre that would have grounds to sue his gang for non-support. Billy's 40 wins led the division and his 40-8 .833 was 46 points ahead of runner-up Rick McAtee's 37-10 .787. And speaking of McAtee, what's amazing is every time I see Rick and ask how he's hittin'em I get the same "I ain't hit a ball in six months" routine. Really! Then how come you're hanging out at Airport Billiards escalating your one-pocket game? Huh, Rick! 'Ain't hit a ball in six months' The guy should be arrested for even using this cliché. From the team side, Lehmann's Landing #2 (12-2) finished 2 games ahead of the next three teams who all had 10-6 records. Billy Mayhall's young guns need a little more experience outrunning the posse. They finished a distant 9th out of 12 teams.

Division #105 Teammates Steve Lawrence and Gary Blanks went down to the wire for top honors. Up to the very end neither player gave in to complacency. The final week of play Steve went 3-0 and Gary went 4-0, both raising their averages. When the final '8' ball was dropped Steve, 35-4 .897, held off

Gary's 39-9 .813 for the gold. Not only did they lead the All-Star parade but led their team (New Classic's #1) to a division leading 13-3 record, 2 games over Shenanigans.

Division #106 Newcomer Woody Burris proved he could handle the Sunday afternoon competition at Planet 8 Ball. His 21-4 .840 was 56 points higher than runner-up Richie Bryan's 22-6 .786. As you can see, on paper the race was a lot closer than 56 points. Once again Woody, where do you go from here? Can't get any higher than first. It's hard to repeat, but maybe you're the guy that can do it. Good luck and congratulations.

From our Records no one wants Department: Players who finished first from their division for won-loss percentage but was not awarded top honors because they did not hit high enough.

Div. 14: Jay Carlton Needed to hit .905, finished with .875, or .020 short. First time for Jay.

Div. 15: Rich Sager Needed to hit .920, finished with .897, or .023 short. Second time for Rich.

Div. 17: Rich Sager Needed to hit .890, finished with .871, or .019 short. Third time for Rich.

<u>Wins</u>	<u>Top 20</u>	<u>.800 Won-Lost Percentage</u>	
1. 51	Mike Warfel Action Billiards	1. .897	Steve Lawrence New Classics #1
2. 49	Jay Carlton Action Billiards	1. .897	Rich Sager Fucifino's #1
3. 43	Larry Baker Cactus Inn	3. .896	Larry Baker Cactus Inn
3. 43	Curt Wisely Wedge #2	4. .889	Clint Lakamp Night Sky
5. 42	James Hassler Hazzards #2	5. .879	Wayne Ferrell Planet 8 Ball
6. 40	John Legens Pat & Roses	6. .875	Jay Carlton Action Billiards
6. 40	Billy Mayhall Just Bill's Place	6. .875	Danny Sugar Fucifino's #1
8. 39	Gary Blanks New Classics #2	8. .872	Joe Branstetter Streiler's
8. 39	Ray Geisler Jim Greens	9. .871	Rich Sager Fucifino's #1
8. 39	Dave Takacs Hazzards #2	10. .865	John O'Farrell Keith's #2
11. 38	Bob Jeanis Streiler's	11. .864	Mike Warfel Action Billiards
11. 38	Ed Libby Libby's	12. .842	Matt DeBarr Action Billiards
11. 38	Greg Loehr Classics	13. .840	Woody Burns Planet 8 Ball
11. 38	Greg Mayfield Jim Greens	14. .838	Sean Schmoll Hazzards #1
11. 38	Rick McBride Keith's #1	15. .833	Dennis Bullock Libby's
16. 37	Larry Baker Cactus Inn	15. .833	Billy Mayhall Just Bill's Place
16. 37	Semir Ekic Filling Station	15. .833	Jeff Niebling Tiger Inn
16. 37	Rick McAtee Lehmann's Landing	18. .826	Ed Libby Libby's
16. 37	Ben Wanner Pat & Roses	19. .825	Darryl Anderson Pete's Place #2
16. 37	Pat Wilson Piper's Pub	20. .822	Larry Baker Cactus Inn
		21. .818	Mike Renick Memoreze
		22. .813	Gary Blanks New Classics #1
		23. .806	Danny Sugar Fucifino's #1
		24. .805	Frank Depoutot 10 Mile House
		25. .800	Doug Gibbons Cactus Inn #1
		25. .800	Jerry Terbrock Hazzards
		<u>.600 Won-Lost Percentage</u>	<u>Ladies Div. Place</u>
		1. .742	Cassy Williams Slo Toms 2nd
		2. .732	Julia Gabriel Action Billiards 2nd
		3. .703	Liz Lammert Bartmans 4th
		4. .700	Rhonda Bartram Bartmans 4th
		5. .636	Sue Penney Classics #2 12th
		6. .629	Paige Hester Planet 8 Ball 8th

12. 22 LaJuania Henry	Action Billiards	7. .617 Lanny Blackburn	Jody T's	14th
12. 22 Paige Hester	Planet 8 Ball	8. .609 Donna Collins	JP's Corner	15th
14. 21 Andrea Apple	Wedge	9. .606 Kathy Arens	Classics	18th
14. 21 Kathy Arens	Classics			
14. 21 Sue Penney	Classics #2	Both Cassy Williams and Julia Gabriel led their respective divisions up till the final week before being overtaken. Great session girls. Hang in there. You'll get'em next time.		
14. 21 Tina Wiedner	Kelly's			
18. 20 Julie Hemann	JP's Corner			
18. 20 Melissa King	Fucifino's			
18. 20 Lisa Kissel	Woody's			

All-Star Tournament Results from Teachers June 12th & 13th, 2004

A total of 274 players signed up for the 55th Missouri 8 Ball All-Star shootout. It was a busy two days beginning at noon Saturday June 12th and lasting until 9pm Sunday evening. After the smoke had cleared the top prize of \$1,000 went to a very deserving Jim Crosby. Playing almost flawless pool, Jim went undefeated until the finals when his reign was almost toppled by Paul Verhulst. Paul, playing the best pool that I can ever recall, came up from the elimination side and won 2-0 in their first set. With the score 1-1 in the final set Paul ran the table only to find that he had no shot on the '8' ball. Making a good hit was no problem, but Jim had all seven balls on the table and every conceivable angle was covered. Paul tried for a tie-up but it wasn't to happen. Jim took his time and systematically and patiently ran off the table for the win and the championship.

By the way, you'll notice that no 'A' players cashed. Can't remember the last time that has happened. The breakdown goes like this: Three 'BB's', six 'B's', six 'CC's', six 'C's' and three 'DD's'.

And congratulations to Paula Dooley. This tall smooth-stroking young lady out of JP's Corner finished in a tie for 17th. The first time she has cashed and the only lady to cash this tournament.

Place	Player	Winnings	Place	Player	Winnings
1.	Jim Crosby	'B' \$1,000 & Trophy	13-16.	Woody Burris	'B' \$100
2.	Paul Verhulst	'BB' 800 & Trophy	13-16.	Mike Lehmann	'CC' 100
3.	Brian Walker	'C' 650 & Trophy	13-16.	Mike Warfel	'CC' 100
4.	Larry Jackson	'CC' 500	13-16.	Rob Modglin	'C' 100
5-6.	Mike Noble	'B' 350	17-24.	Billy Wimberly	'BB' 50
5-6.	Rick McBride	'C' 350	17-24.	Wayne Ferrell	'B' 50
7-8.	Mike Renick	'B' 250	17-24.	Jack Neels	'B' 50
7-8.	Tony Trevisano	'DD' 250	17-24.	Dennis Bullock	'CC' 50
9-12.	Jay Carlton	'BB' 150	17-24.	Curt Clark	'CC' 50
9-12.	Rich Norris	'CC' 150	17-24.	Woody Perry	'C' 50
9-12.	Dan French	'C' 150	17-24.	Ray Ridenour	'C' 50
9-12.	Jim Smith	'DD' 150	17-24.	Paula Dooley	'DD' 50
		\$4,750			\$800

Total payout for the All-Star field was \$5,550.

Consecutive Games Won	Team	Wins	Team		
1t. 10	Rob Gerber	Hideaway	1. 16 Charles Burrage	Action Billiards	
1t. 10	Mario Webster	Action Billiards	2. 15	Rob Gerber	Hideaway
3.	9 Jim Wirz	Memoreze	3t. 14	Mark Montgomery	Hideaway
4t.	8 Blake Buchholtz	Airport Billiards	3t. 14	Mario Webster	Action Billiards
4t.	8 Ed Libby	Libby's	3t. 14	Waddell Whitehead	Action Billiards
6t.	7 Dennis Bullock	Libby's	6.	12 Robert Modglin	Hideaway
6t.	7 Todd Kippenburger	Libby's	7t.	11 Ed Libby	Libby's

6t. 7 John Neels	Hillsboro Billiards	7t. 11 Jack Neels	Hillsboro Billiards
6t. 7 Justin Pennycock	Woodys	7t. 11 Lenzie Russ	Action Billiards
10t. 6 Mike Noble	Tigers Inn	7t. 11 Jeff Shelton	Action Billiards
10t. 6 Allan Ranay	Libby's	7t. 11 Mike Withers	Hideaway
10t. 6 Shannon Simpkin	Airport Billiards	12. 10 Gene Schauman	Libby's

4 Wins in one Match

Jon Williams (Planet 8 Ball), Greg Mayfield (Jim Green's), Gene Schauman (Libby's), Charles Burrage and Waddell Whitehead (Soldiers-Action Billiards), Elliot Kite (Hillsboro Billiards).

Two players pulled off the trick twice: Blake Buchholtz (Airport Billiards), and Mario Webster (Soldiers-Action Billiards). Soldiers led with 4 times. Both 4-win matches were back to back by both players.

Two matches saw it happen by two different players. In the Woodys-Fucifino's match Justin Pennycock (Woodys) and Bob Frohre (Fucifino's) went toe to toe as Woodys came out on top, 11-10.

In the Hideaway-Mr. T's match it was 4 wins each for teammates Rob Gerber and Robert Modglin from Hideaway Café. Hideaway took out a 16-13 decision. Two other Hideaway players had 3 wins each.

Team Winning Streaks

Ironically the two longest winning streaks by a team both went to the Hideaway Café gang from Illinois. In their 16-13 match with Mr. T's they were down 13-5 (Mr. T's received 11 games on the wire) and won their last 11 games for the victory. And having to give Jim green's 5 games head start and down 6-1, the Hideaway gang rallied with 9 straight games and pulled off an 11-7 win.

But no doubt the most important streak they pulled out of their caps was in the final championship match with Soldiers from Action Billiards. Being down 10-6 in the race to 11, Hideaway won their last 5 games for the come-from-behind 11-10 victory taking the title right out of Soldiers' backpacks.

Results from the 5-Player Division Championship (50 Teams)

From the top half of the tournament board sprang forth a team of five gals and one guy. One with less couth might promulgate "Curt and his Harem". Since we here at Missouri 8 Ball possess a higher degree of sophistication and refinement we shall not hint at such a low rent implication. However, Mr. T's could be renamed the Lady T's and Curt, or not. Vicky Narez, Darcy Moore, Kelly Basford, Donna Caldwell, Donna Collins and Curt Friedman make up this precarious ensemble. Not much attention was given to them until the screaming began (Curt really should learn to contain himself). As one anonymous odds-maker offered up 99 to 1 their chances of pulling off the biggest upset since the Angels rallied to take the 2002 World Series right from under San Francisco's noses while Willie Mays was caught by the cameraman passing out Champaign in the Giants dugout in the seventh inning of game six. Big blunder.

Their opening act featured a 12-7 rout of TK's Pub. A slight roar of excitement from an obviously elated group was hardly noticeable. It was the second round 12-11 squeaker over Hillsboro the fun began. If you were in the house at the time the final '8' ball was dropped and didn't hear it you are either deaf or you needed new batteries for your hearing aid. The noise could be heard across the parking lot 300 feet away.

Their 8pm match against Libby's Wednesday night's team was a roaring success, if you'll please pardon the pun. Libby's didn't have a chance. These gals were turned on (8-ball playing of course). The 16-10 victory brought the decibel cycle up 14 notches. Someone had to remind them that Weldon Springs is a quite reserved village that has a noise pollution ordinance on the books and the men in blue may be paying them a visit. (Yes we are aware that Teachers is in St. Peters but the noise could be heard as far as Weldon Springs.) "Bring'em on", said one of the Donna's. "We'll buy'em a beer to help celebrate."

That win took Mr. T's to the \$1,000 range and a return trip for Sunday's finals. Their noon matchup was against Airport Billiards. Three hours later (with a 14-9 setback) Airport Billiards was on their way out the door and The Girls were whooping and hollering again. They made the final four and were in the

\$2,000 bracket. Alas, all good things must end (as the anonymous bookmaker breathed a sigh of relief). But they didn't go down without a fight. Mr. T's gave it a great shot against Hideaway Café but went down kickin' and scratchin', 16-13. It was great fun for everyone who watched. I think most nonpartisan railbirds were rooting for these girls. No other ladies team (we aren't forgetting that Curt was with them) had gotten this far. Great theater gang. See you next time.

Also from the top half of the tournament board the Hideaway Café gang from Granite City Illinois came a-ridin'. After knocking off Carol's Bridge Inn 12-8 they set their sights on Mean Jim Green's boys who came out a-hootin' and a-shootin'. It was obvious the battle was going to be a good one. Jim green opened up a 6-1 lead and most railbirds thought it over. But Hideaway couldn't afford to hide anything away now. It was time to bring out the big guns for the showdown. They ran off the next nine games in a row for a 10-6 lead then took another just a few minutes later putting an end to all doubt. When the smoke cleared the Green gang was reduced to a light mist and a dim memory.

Noon Sunday the boys from Illinois' were zeroing in on their aiming skills and ka-reamed Planet 8 Ball to the smokin' tune of 11-6. That set up the 16-13 thriller against Mr. T's. Hideaway Café took a break as they were now assured of the number two spot on the board and waited to see whom their opponent would be for the big payoff.

From the bottom of the tournament board Hillsboro Billiards, led by Capt'n Jack Neels and Soldiers out of Action Billiards led by Sir Charles Burrage were putting the finishing touches on their matches. Hillsboro Billiards began their trek by knocking off a Planet 8 Ball team 11-8, then stayed in stroke long enough to polish off a great Action Billiards gang (and one of the favorites to win), 11-7. Noon Sunday they were back to meet Tigers Inn. Capt'n Jack's gang declawed the Tigers to the humbling tune of 12-6. This put them in the final four and the \$2,000 bracket.

Coming up fast and strong to meet Hillsboro Billiards was Soldiers out of Action Billiards. Soldiers began their march noon Saturday by taking out a 12-10 decision over the Pardella Club. Their 11-8 tussle over Airport Billiards lined them up for the 12-7 defeat over Night Sky for the \$1,000 bracket and a return trip for Sunday's finals. Soldiers continued their assault on their next victims by dealing a solid body blow to Libby's, 11-5. This put them into the final four. Now they had to deal with Capt'n Jack and crew. The battle went back and forth but finally Soldiers got the better of Hillsboro, 12-10. Capt'n Jack and crew took away \$2,000 in booty and the respect of everyone at the finals.

It was Soldiers from Hazelwood, Missouri against the Hideaway Café gang from Granite City, Illinois. The battle lines were drawn. No quarter asked for and no quarter given. These two teams had met a couple years before and Hideaway took that contest and the championship 11-6. Soldiers were out for revenge. They began their assault cautiously taking a 3-2 lead in round one. Round two called for a full-blown charge. Out of the pits they came for 4 of the 5 games opening up a commanding 7-3 lead. With only two games added from round three still put Soldiers in the drivers seat 9-6. When Mario Webster opened round four with a win making the score 10-6 most thought the tournament over.

But then Robert Modglin snapped the '8' in on the break against Sir Charles Burrage, 10-7. What little hope Hideaway constituents had before was now being revitalized. Rob Gerber kept it going by outlasting Waddell Whitehead, 10-8. The Hideaway followers applauded showing their support. Mike Withers played an excellent match against the always tough Jeff Shelton, 10-9. Mark Montgomery outlasted Lenzie Russ, 10-10. The Hideaway group really had something to shout about now. Tied 10-10 the pills were rolled for the final game. Sir Charles got the call for Soldiers and Rob Gerber for Hideaway.

The game had everything, good playing, thought out strategy, safety play. Charles got to the '8' first but didn't have a very good shot. Rob played a couple of safeties looking for a sure opening. Charles was left with a very difficult backward cut shot on the '8' into the far right corner pocket. It came up to full on the '8' and the ball rolled two diamonds down rail. Now for the first time in the game Rob had a chance to put it away. With only one ball left on the table he made the shot and rolled down for a straight in shot on the '8'. They pulled it off again this time by winning the last 5 games in the championship match.

It was great playing by both teams. Those who witnessed the finals would have to admit that both teams showed outstanding playing abilities and great sportsmanship. This was one of the more interesting and well-played tournaments the last couple years. Check out the list of teams that cashed and where they are from. Never before did all eight teams come from a different area.

Place	Team	Winnings		Captain
1.	Hideaway Café	\$7,140 & Trophy	Granite City, Illinois	Iron Mike Withers
2.	Action Billiards	4,000	Hazelwood, Mo.	Sir Charles Burrage
3t.	Mr. T's	2,000	Barnhart, Mo.	Vicky 'Grandma' Narez
3t.	Hillsboro Billiards	2,000	Hillsboro, Mo.	Capt'n Jack Neels
5t.	Airport Billiards	1,000	Woodson Terrace, Mo.	Terry Ray Dalton
5t.	Libby's	1,000	South St. Louis, Mo.	Ed 'Lefty' Libby
5t.	Planet 8 Ball	1,000	St. Peters, Mo.	If I'm lyin' I'm dyin' Brian Hedrick
5t.	Tigers Inn	<u>1,000</u>	Florissant, Mo.	Rich 'The Singing Lark' Stark
\$19,140 total payout for the 5-player division championship				

Results from the 4-Player Division Championship (14 Teams)

From the top of the board Hillsboro Billiards fought their way to the final two spots. They got underway by taking a close 10-8 match against Lisa's Fucifinos group. Hillsboro followed that up with a 10-7 victory over Classics Pub. It was Classics Pub that just knocked out The Phoenix, last session's winners. Johnny Neels' gang met up with a second Fucifinos group this time led by Art Lohnes. Art's gang just completed a shocker by knocking out Herky's Lounge 9-7 led by Kevin Carron. Hillsboro's luck against Fucifinos continued to hold as they rode out a 9-4 victory.

From the bottom bracket My Place, led by Bill Lach, was making their move. A couple of squeakers brought them to the finals, first by taking out Hotshots, 9-7, and then Blarney Stone, 9-8. But when it got to the finals Hillsboro Billiards was ready for action and just too tough. My Place received five games on the wire to start and Johnny's gang was prepared for the showdown. They jumped out by winning the first five games to tie the score 5-5. Even though My Place took two of the next three for a 7-6 lead, it wasn't their day. Hillsboro won the last five games and took out the 4-player championship 11-7.

1. Hillsboro Billiards	\$3,190 & Trophy	Hillsboro, Mo.	Capt. John Neels
2. My Place	<u>1,500</u>	Lemay, Mo.	Capt. Bill Lach
\$4,690			

Total payout for the three tournaments: \$29,380.

ODDS and ENDS: Mr. T's, featuring five ladies and one gentleman, tied for third place and took home \$2,000. Playing 12 points every round it goes without saying that they would receive a lot of weight. They did and the 35 total games head start for their matches turned out to be a new record.

Conversely, Hideaway Café gave up the most games on the wire, 19, and 11 of those were against Mr. T's. The group of only five players were forced to play 28 points every match, four '6's and one '4'.

Three other team members that qualified didn't make the tournament, one '4', one '5' and one '7'. Decision time, do you split your winnings? Let's face it, had one or all of them showed up they would have probably changed your lineup several times. And then you never know just how far they would have gotten. They still may have won the tournament, but we'll never know.

As we are prone to do, add one item that is totally unrelated to pool, this time it has to do with the 10-year anniversary (July 1994) of O.J. Simpson's arrest. Remember the famous (infamous) Bronco Ride where, with a false beard and a handgun, O.J. coward in the back seat and on the floor.

In case you missed it, in the Post-Dispatch Tuesday, July 6, 2004 Greg Cote of the Miami Herald writes, "I was surprised to find an appropriate Hallmark verse." The verse goes like this:

"What courage you have shown, though people are so mean,
searching for the killers, on the putting green!"

Not to be out done an anonymous donor with a wily sense of humor sent this in: What does O J Simpson really stand for? Our Judicial System Is Making People Sick Of Nincompoops!
Here-here!

Hey, it's been great and it's been fun. Congratulations to all competitors and teams and we hope to see you at the next big get together. It's supporters like you that make Missouri 8 Ball numeral uno. Thanks to your participation we are still the biggest pool-league in the metro area. Feel free to call the league office any time you have questions or problems.

Rusty Brandmeyer, League Operator
Roger Pheasant, Internet Coordinator
And yours truly, Jay L. Carlton