

Results of 17th Missouri 8 Ball Doubles Tournament

All the action took place Saturday, April 13, 2013 at Side Pockets Sports establishment in St. Charles, Mo. A full field of 64 teams shot it out for the 1000-dollar top prize with first place trophies. Once the board was complete and tables called, it was wall to wall 8-ball on 16 bar-boxes.

Eight teams placed for the cash as listed below. Some players returned with new partners, others with partners from past events. Third team of Jim Musiol & Ken Pratt finished 4th last time, moved up to 3rd for this one. Arnie Jones' partner had to withdraw and Colby Hinch happened to be available so they teamed up for a 7/8th finish. Keith Birch and Little Ricky Evans cashed again as did Mark Voerg and Tommy Lowery, Jr.

But the surprise ending was when the final matchup was between the teams of LaJuania Henry & Calvin Niehaus against Leon Young & Terry Konkle. It was the first time any of these four players finished in the Do-Re-Mi. With Ms Henry's first place finish over Mr. Young's second place, she now has bragging rights as they are partners away from the pool tables.

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| First: | LaJuania Henry & Calvin Niehaus | \$1,000.00 + Trophies |
| 2nd: | Leon Young & Terry Konkle | \$750.00 + Trophies |
| 3rd: | Jim Musiol & Ken Pratt | \$525.00 |
| 4th: | Keith Birch & Ricky Evans | \$350.00 |
| 5/6: | Brendan Sullivan & Marc Nease | \$200.00 |
| 5/6: | Jerry Casey & Vernon Thornton | \$200.00 |
| 7/8: | Arnie Jones & Colby Hinch | \$100.00 |
| 7/8: | Mark Voerg & Tommy Lowery | \$100.00 |

Those who have been keeping tabs with the double's events are aware of a new first. Not only is this the third consecutive tournament where a male-female combo won it, but a mixed team (male) Caucasian, and (female) African-American.

We are still looking for the day when two females take top prize. The way Missouri 8 Ball ladies hang tough it may happen at any time. There are many women shooting from the '4', '5' and '6' levels that would make excellent partners. Don't be surprised when it happens.

Talk about opposites attracting

This was the second time Calvin and Lou (LaJuania) teamed up. They were knocked out early their first time out. Which asks the burning question: Is it possible that two people as different as antonyms can actually compete and think as one when there is a common interest? You be the judge.

LaJuania slides from Michael Jackson's "The way you make me feel" to a hot R & B "Golden time of Day" by Maze, which features Frankie Beverly. Calvin is heavy metal siding with Judas Priest's "Breakin' the Law" and Styx "Too much time on my hands". Lou favors the Jazz saxophone of Norman Brown while Calvin digs "Pool Hall Junkies".

Lou goes basketball and the comedy genius of George Carlin with a tad of Richard Prior thrown in while Calvin prefers baseball and Nicolas Cage's "Gone in 60 seconds".

There is one more specific element that distinguishes these two: One each, Republican and Democrat. Wouldn't it be great if those in D.C. would work together as Calvin and Lou have! Maybe they would come out winners as well. As they say on Sesame Street, 'that's called co-operation'.

I.Q. Jones notes: “Calvin Niehaus has been lobbying for two years claiming he should be lowered one skill-level. Those in attendance Saturday at the M0-8-Ball doubles tournament may have different thoughts. I mean, nothing scream’s ‘I should be lowered’ louder than winning a \$1000 tournament.

Mike the Spike says: “Hey Calvin, you can forget about going down a point. After splitting that 1000-dollar first prize this weekend it’s safe to say that ship has sailed. Although one could make a good argument that your partner, LaJuania Henry, did an outstanding job of carrying the load. As one female spectator was overheard to say ‘havin’ that dude as a partner is like workin’ two jobs’.”
Calvin, have a cigar and keep “ridin’ the gravy train” (Pink Floyd – 1975).

Jay Carlton observes: “What a great combo. There is no question that LaJuania Henry has been and still is amongst the leading female players. And all her fine efforts have finally been rewarded. She and partner Calvin Niehaus played almost flawlessly as this partnership went undefeated, wire to wire. Their six winning matches began against the top-flight ladies team of Julia Gabriel/Anne Carion and ended with the Leon Young/Terry Konkle duo. Lou & Calvin lost only three games Saturday. Congratulations to two well deserving M0-8 players.”

Negative Norman (keeping with tradition): “I don’t wanna say the Missouri 8 Ball doubles event isn’t a big deal but, in lieu of a championship parade, when Calvin Niehaus returned to normal Tuesday morning matches at Redbirds Hazelwood, he was welcomed by three guys giving a thumb’s up, then went 1-6 the first week back into the regular season.” (Where’s LaJuania when you need her?)
“At least when runner-up Terry Konkle showed up for his Wednesday night match at Clubhouse he was treated to several Jaegermeister and jello-shots; which could account for his 0-2 performance!”

I.Q. Jones again: When Calvin was asked who made the most ‘8’ balls he offered this: “Well, Lou broke more than I did so I had to make more ‘8’ balls.” To which a female overhearing this chimed in with, “Sure Calvin made more ‘8’ balls, but that’s only because Lou was nice enough to set him up to be the hero.” (Face it Calvin, its futile trying to beat these ladies.)

HEY, it was great and it was fun, which means it was great-fun. Don’t forget to sign up early for the next event. When the board was put together there were only 60 teams signed up. That is the reason it was decided to cut it at 64. Those who showed up trying to find a spot had to be turned away as there were only four openings. We do not pull out another sheet for three or four teams that all of a sudden want to play or turned their entry fee at the last minute. There are no re-draws.

The bottom line is – when you first see the ‘sign-up’ envelope in your team packets, take that time to sign up and put your team money in. Those white signup envelopes are in your packets four to five weeks in advance. There is no reason to wait until the last minute to sign up.

All the information in team packets is for all teammates to read and to be familiar with, not just the team captains. Read the rules and keep abreast of current happenings.

There were 78 teams in the last tournament. If we know in advance there will be more than 64 teams then we will open up the playing field to accommodate more teams.

All the best and keep on strokin’.

Mo-8-Ball gang, Rusty, Dave, Roger, Dustin & Jay

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