

Results of the 46th Missouri 8 Ball All-Star Singles and Team Championships

First and foremost: Congratulations are in order to Billy Mayhall who out dueled a field of rough competitors on Saturday and Sunday, June 2nd and 3rd 2001 to take out the 46th Missouri 8-Ball All-Star Singles Tournament.

Although it was Billy's first time, the boys weren't very gentle. He came out of the 'A' flight and knocked off some pretty tough customers. Heavy hitters the likes of Dennis Agnew, John Neels, Illinois Jimmy Gorman, Dandy Andy Hurwitz, John's father Jack Neels, and to get to the hill, a very tenacious, and probably the best 'CC' player to come out of Granite City since Julia Gabriel, Sir James 'Bo' Webb.

While Billy and Bo were cooling their heels waiting for everyone to catch up, Illinois Jimmy was fighting an uphill battle through the loser's bracket. Gorman defeated some formidable opponents in Paul Verhulst, Andy Hurwitz, Dean Campbell and Jack Neels. This got him a shot at Sir James.

At this point there were only three players left of the 209 who entered the competition. Jimmy and Bo played a tough match, Bo prevailing, 2-1. This set the stage for the championship. Bo would have to defeat Billy twice to take top honors. But it wasn't to be. Billy got on a roll and smoked Bo 2-0 in the only set needed.

There were 185 players for the Saturday qualifier plus 24 Top Jacket Winners who got a free ride to Sunday. From the final 16 players who cashed ten were first timers. That includes: One 'DD', two 'C', six 'CC', and one 'A'.

Congratulations to all 209 players who paid their money and took their chances. We'll see you again in four months.

Top 16 money winners

1.	Billy Mayhall	'A'	\$1,000	Trophy	9/12	Andy Hurwitz	'B'	\$125
2.	Bo Webb	'CC'	725	Trophy		Jeff Keuthe	'CC'	125
3.	Jim Gorman	'AA'	575	Trophy		Keith Heavel	'CC'	125
4.	C.J. Powers	'CC'	425			Mac Chandler	'C'	125
5/6	Louis Willyerd	'DD'	275		13/16	Paul Verhulst	'BB'	75
	Jack Neels	'B'	275			Mike Wills	'C'	75
7/8	Dean Campbell	'CC'	175			Paul Edstrom	'CC'	75
	Steve Stamper	'C'	175			Todd Housend	'CC'	75
\$3,625								\$800

A total of \$4,425.00 was paid out to the top 16 winners. It was slightly less this time of course because of the (poor) showing. As you know, usually we get between 280 and 320 competitors. And the more players that sign up for these All-Star tournaments, the more cash that goes into the pot, which means monetary rewards are much higher and more places are paid out.

4-Player Team Results

The six qualified 4-Player teams played it off Sunday, June 10th. Airport Billiards squeaked by Wendell Tole's team out of Players Pub, 9-8, only to fall victim to Blarney Stone, 10-6 in round two. Doc Rockers nailed another Players Pub team, 9-4. They ran into a third Players Pub team and were also successful, 9-7. This brought them to the finals with Blarney Stone.

It seems that Blarney Stone, led by Dave Muckler, has made this tournament his own private exhibition. They have been here every session the last two years, winning most of them.

Blarney Stone had to spot Airport Billiards three games. In younger days the boys from Woodson Terrace would have put up a better battle. Ah, but those days are long gone. Today they could manage only three wins of the 13 games played. The Blarney Stone once again brought luck to the Irish to the tune of, 10-6, and the championship check of \$1,655.00. For runner-up Airport Billiards, they received \$150.00.

5-Player Team Results

The results of the 46th shootout for the 5-player teams were somewhat of a surprise to a lot of railbirds. Some picked one of the South County teams: Hotshots, led by 'A' sharp-shooter's Greg Martin and Johnny Pedrolie, or Hillsboro Billiards, also by a couple of hot 'A' hitters in John Neels and Kevin Carron.

Others thought that Penalty Box would repeat again. They have been here so many times they have become a fixture. Still others opted for one of the two Illinois qualifiers, primarily Besserman's out of Granite City, led by 'CC' Bo Webb and 'B' Timmy Smith. The other team east of the Mississippi that showed much promise was Bottom Line with 'AA' Illinois Jimmy Gorman and 'B' Tim Woodrome.

Amazingly how things come into being. Last session's champs, Penalty Box, started off strong as usual. After their first round bye, Penalty Box eliminated two of the top favorites: Hotshots, 11-5, then in round three Bottom Line bit the dust, 11-7. By midnight four of the top ten teams went down faster than Monica Lewenski.

Sunday's final eight began at noon. Filling Station [Tuesday] got all pumped up and knocked out Spanish Room, 11-4. Goodtymes flopped on Fucifino's, 11-7. Besserman's got by Players Pub [Charles], 11-9, and the last Players Pub team [Steve] went to the wire with Penalty Box, 11-10, knocking out the last odds on favorites. Suddenly the tournament was up for grabs.

The semi-final round began at 4pm. Filling Station [Tuesday], playing 19 points to Goodtymes 22, received two games head start and needed both of them. Just about the time it looked as if they were going to run out of gas, Filling Station pumped up and held on to take it, 11-10.

The other semi-final match showed the 12th Street gang from Besserman's playing 26 points. Players Pub Captain Steve Schultz was faced with a decision. Should he play his highest-ranking player, Al Pruett, for 30 points and give up three games to this hard hitting, hard playing gang from Granite City, or keep him on the bench and go with 29 points and give up only two games? He elected to go with 29. As it turned out it was a wise decision. But before it was over there were some very tense moments.

With three games in round one plus the two on the wire, Bo Webb's boys jumped off to an early 5-2 lead. Now it seemed that they were the inside favorites. Players Pub managed to take three games in both rounds two and three, but Besserman's was still on top, 9-8.

Pub player Tony Wiley, who was having an outstanding tournament and who had already posted two wins this match, opened up the fourth round with his third win knotting the score, 9-9. Steve Brown prevailed over Besserman's captain, Bo Webb, putting Players Pub ahead for the first time, 10-9. That lead lasted about as long as Peter Best lasted with the Silver Beatles.

Besserman's Mike Withers returned the compliment by knocking off Pub Captain Steve Schultz making it a double hill match, 10-10.

Besserman's Tim Smith, already 3-0 this match, and Willie White, 2-1, would be the deciding factor. Tim had beaten Willie earlier in round one. Willie was out for revenge. They jockeyed back and forth until Tim tried to get out. There's a good change he would have made it had he not hooked himself on the '8' ball. Tim made a good hit, but Willie had a table full of balls and had boo-coo shots of which to begin his run.

He stepped to the table. This was possibly the biggest game in young Willie's career. He took his time and methodically picked off each ball for the winner.

Most people watching would have thought this matchup was the finals. It had all the ingredients. But Filling Station was waiting in the wings ready to pump it up. The 11-10 nail biter put Players Pub into the finals for the first time.

If Steve Schultz thought he had a rough decision giving Besserman's two games on the wire by benching his top rated player last match, how do you think he felt when he saw that Filling Station was going to put up only 19 points for the championship?

Once again the wily captain played his hunch. Once again he decided to sit out Al Pruett. Even though that brought his team down only one point to 29, there was still a 10-point difference. Players Pub was going to have to spot Filling Station seven gallons on the wire. With that large spot, that meant the race would be to 13. Players Pub would have to win 13 Imperial gallons while Filling Station had to post only 6 regular.

The race was on. Players Pub made up half the spot by winning four of the five laps in round one. Willie White, after the heroics of last match, opened up by running his rack. Tony Wiley, Steve Brown and Steve Schultz also were victorious.

Steady playing and a couple of good breaks in the second leg allowed Players Pub to take all five and wrestled the lead away, 9-8. Willie White ran another rack and the odds makers were almost convinced that miracles really do happen. At this point Players Pub had won nine consecutive games.

Filling Station had just enough petrol left to take the first lap in round three tying the race at 9-9. But it would be the last tally they would get. It doesn't often happen but this time it did. Filling Station literally used up their allotment of high octane and ran out of fuel and had four flat tires at the same time. Even at today's prices Filling Station couldn't get pumped up. They were at a complete standstill. And it's hard to get rolling when you don't have a spare.

Willie White [there's that man again], Steve Brown, Steve Schultz and Tony Wiley knocked out the last four games and Players Pub took the championship by the score of 13-9. It was the first time ever that a match had to go as high as 13 points.

Although winning team championships in all honesty is a team effort and everyone contributes, usually someone stands out slightly above the others. The guys from Players Pub would probably not call for a team MVP because it is as we've said a team effort. But we're going out on a limb here and select a player who was the town's best kept secret, Tony Wiley. I say was because now Tony, you have been revealed.

Al Pruett (7-4), Steve Brown (10-4), Steve Schultz (11-5), Willie White (8-3) also were in the running. Willie won the double hill game against Besserman's and finished up the weekend by winning his last 6 games. They all won crucial games coming down the pike. But none more so than Tony Wiley.

Down 9-10 to Penalty Box, Tony was playing Captain Paul Verhulst. After much maneuvering [about 30 minutes] Paul found a way to get out. He went for it. Unfortunately the long bank shot he tried on the '8' ball went a tad long. Trying to control the cue ball in case he missed came up a little short.

Tony found an opening, went for the run and was successful. That made it a double hill match once again. As it happens so many times the shooter who puts his team on the hill often draws the number one pill to play the last and final game. Such was the case for Tony.

His opponent was Rolla Hoffman. It would prove to be another tussle. About ten minutes into the match Rolla found a way to get out. With two balls left, one no chance at all and the other could be made but without much chance of getting back on his last ball. The only other option available was to go for the bank and draw the cue ball back half the length of the table. On its way to the corner pocket, the object ball ran into one of Tony's and opened up the table for him.

Taking his time, Tony Wiley ran out the table sending Players Pub to the next round. Other highlights for Tony were, winning his last 6 games, and 10 of his last 11 for a 14-5 record.

Having made Tony Wiley the MVP of the 46th Missouri 8-Ball team tournament I only hope it doesn't jinks him. The last time we announced that Paul Verhulst was the MVP the very next tournament Paul lost all three games he played and his team was knocked out of the competition the first round. Yikes!

The following is a complete list of the teams that cashed from the 5-player board:

1.	Players Pub [Steve]	\$6,435.00	Trophy	9/12.	Crooked Cue	\$150.00
				9/12	Bottom Line	150.00
2.	Filling Station [Tuesday]	3,935.00		9/12	My Place	150.00
				9/12	Filling Station	150.00
3.	Besserman's	1,935.00			[Thursday]	_____
4.	Goodymes	1,935.00				600.00
						<u>17,980.00</u>
5/8.	Penalty Box	935.00	Total for 5-player board	(12)		\$18,580.00
5/8.	Fucifino's	935.00	Total for 4-player board	(2)		1,805.00
5/8.	Spanish Room	935.00	Total from All-Stars	(16)		<u>4,425.00</u>
5/8.	Players Pub [Charles]	<u>935.00</u> \$17,980.00	Total paid out all Events			\$24,810.00

Congrats to all who participated in the nightly divisions, the All-Star singles and team championships. We appreciate your business and welcome you back for the next session. Everyone displayed good sportsmanship and friendliness to your opponents and to the league operators. Thanks again.

We know that warm weather is upon us and many of our regular players will be sitting out this session. Enjoy the summer and don't forget The Missouri 8-Ball League when you decide to get back into the great competition.

For those of you who are staying with us this session, good luck. Remember, don't take it too seriously. Enjoy the night out with your teammates, family members and friends. No one is going to get rich or be able to retire on the winnings you get from this pool league or for that matter, any other pool league, I don't care what you may hear from other certain league operators.

(Except Bo Webb.) He told me just before he collected his second place winnings of \$725 that he has won close to two million dollars from the Missouri 8-Ball League All-Star Tournament. Come now Bo, are you putting us on? Wait a minute, maybe he meant that between his All-Star singles winnings AND his team winnings... nah.

Once again, it's supposed to be entertaining. Relax and have fun. See you next time at the All-Star Singles and Team Championships.

Rusty Brandmeyer
Bob Bohn
Jay Carlton