

## Results of the 47th Missouri 8-Ball All-Star Singles and Team Championships

The 47th Missouri All-Star and Team Tournaments were once again played in the salubrious confines of Teachers in St. Peters, Mo. One hundred seventy players signed up for the All-Star event that took place Saturday and Sunday September 22nd and 23rd. By 6 o'clock Saturday evening the field was reduced to 40 players that would be back Sunday. An additional 17 players who were divisional champions would join the crowd Sunday for a 57-player board.

Because the summer session was slow, and the field of participants was 170, only the top 12 places would take home cash. Of the 12 winners there were four 'B's and four 'CC's, two 'C's, one 'BB' and only one 'A'.

Noticeably a.w.o.l. was perennial All-Star Bo Webb. He hasn't missed the All-Star tournament since before Ginger left the Spice Girls, and has won more cash than Dr. Joyce Brothers from the 64-Thousand Dollar Question quiz program four decades ago. Bo's reputation has hot shots coming out of the woodwork. Players were lining up to play Sir James but they'll have to hang loose until January 2002 for the next get together.

Also missing were 3-time champions Runout Rich Sager and Jefferson Airplane Ayers. Yours truly didn't get past Saturday again. Big surprise? No!

### Matt DeBarr

One of the many nice surprises to come out of this tournament was Matt DeBarr. The 6-foot 3-inch lanky lefty has been applying his talent in Missouri 8-Ball many years always doing his best to gain recognition from his peers. Incessantly trying to improve.

Some mindless players think it clever to hold back their true ability contriving to convince league operators and opposing teams that they are one to two levels below what they really should be playing as. Not so with Matt DeBarr. He does his best to elevate his game. Move up in rank. Matt believes that if you can't play the game for which it's intended, re: sportsmanship, honesty and fair play... here's a thought: GO JOIN ANOTHER LEAGUE. Lord knows everybody and his brother is trying their hand at it. And when a person is pulling that cheap trick you can bet grandpa's cotton farm that his team captain is aware of the cheating aspect as well. Otherwise, how did he get on that team?

As one team captain from way South County so succinctly intoned that weekend: "You can't win a tournament like this unless you have a player or two that's underrated." The nuts! Right? Gotta have the nuts! Forget personal integrity.

I felt like coming back at him with, "now you listen to me one G--d--- minute you ill-informed snollygoster!" But then, rational judgment prevailed. Two reasons. One: because I personally know more than one team captain from the North County area who unfortunately shares the same inconsiderate and selfish attitude. And two: because it would do no damn good. Once that type of inane reasoning infiltrates their pericranium and filters through the braincase trying to change their attitude is tantamount to Al Gore clinging tenaciously to the hope that something or someone will change the outcome of the Florida vote. It ain't gonna happen, dude.

Where's the competition? Where's the challenge? Step right up. Don't push don't shove. It's here in Matt DeBarr. Matt wants to go against the better players at the skill-level he rightly should be. And at this writing DeBarr is ranked 'BB' (that's a 7 on the scale of 1 to 10) in the Missouri 8-Ball ranking system.

Any half-backsided sandbagger can beat a higher ranked player when they get an undeserved two or three games on the wire. Where's the challenge there? The only thing that person is doing is proving to other players and teams he faces each week is that he is just what he appears to be:

a low-rent cheating S.O.B., capitalized. Someone who has no respect for himself, the establishment he plays for, or the league he represents. I guess it's the millions of dollars that can be won! Take your act to another league, please.

As a double 'B' ranked shooter Matt is one of the most improved players over the last year. I can remember a time when he didn't know the difference between red light green light or a safety from left field. Both his 8-ball and 9-ball games and thinking have improved to a more respectable position since he has been taking on some of the more higher-rated cuemeisters around.

Little Jake is spreading the rumor (or fact?) that Matt beat him out of a C-note and did it heads up. Hummmmm. Is this a set up, Jake?

Matt was one of the 17 divisional summer winners who got a free ride to Sunday. He didn't get a chance to show his stuff in his first match. Wayne Turner sent him to the loser's side. From there Matt made a run. He knocked out Scott Hopping setting up a rematch with Turner. Matt took revenge by knocking Turner out. Former Missouri 8-Ball All-Star champion Tim Smith was the next victim. Airport Billiards' Don Johnson went down 2-zip followed by former pro, Little Jake Embry.

Matt's luck ran out against 'A' shooter John Neels; but by then he made one gigantic statement. He will be back.

Only Matt DeBarr knows how good he will be and how high his ability will take him. This time he finished in a tie for 9th place. I have a feeling before it's all over Matt will be a champion. Why not? Remember that it is a race-to-two contest. Anything can happen. That's why the 'A' players don't always win with this short format. But that's what makes it so interesting. It's a crapshoot. With respects to Jerry Reed, if you're hot you're hot and if you're not you're not. Congrats to Matt and good luck in the future.

### The Breakdown for the \$3,000.00 goes this way

1. Kurt (Slick) Liliensiek	(B)	\$750	7/8.	John Neels	(A)	\$125
2. Rob Gerber	(CC)	575	7/8.	Dave Kicielinski	(CC)	125
3. Dan Horrell	(C)	425	9/12.	Matt DeBarr	(BB)	75
4. Victor Day	(B)	300	9/12.	Jim Crosby	(B)	75
5. Billy Wimberley	(B)	200	9/12.	Mike Wills	(CC)	75
6. Waddell Whitehead	(CC)	200	9/12.	Tom Carrillo	(C)	75

### Kurt "Slick" Liliensiek

Twenty years ago Andy Warhol declared that everybody on the planet is entitled to have their 15 minutes of fame. It has since been disclosed that Andy Warhol was dyslectic. Now we aren't hinting that the 47th Missouri 8-Ball All-Star placing of first place is Kurt Liliensiek's 51 minutes of fame, but... well... who knows?

Kurt Liliensiek is better known as Slick for a very good reason. Huh? What? No, I didn't say Sick, I said Slick. Either one is easier to pronounce than Li-li-en-sick and a whole lot easier to spell.

Somewhat of an enigma a few years ago Slick has worked hard to shoot his way up the Missouri 8-Ball ratings ladder to be one of the better 'B' players around. Winning the All-Star tournament bore out the fruits of his labors.

Early in his pool playing career opponents virtually ran over the happy-go-lucky guy. When the tournament board was drawn up, the pills were shaken and the coins were flipped, everybody and their uncle wanted a piece of Kurt. Get up to the table, boy. Take your beating. It was a sure win and off to the loser's side Kurt would go finding himself once again in familiar surroundings. Ole 2-and-out-Kurt became a familiar epigram.

Kurt took poundings only the Iraqi Red Brigade could identify with. It wasn't pretty. But unlike the Red Brigade Kurt didn't run. He stayed. He stayed and practiced and practiced and practiced. He wore out the cloth on two of Player Pub's tables and was working on a third when something gelled.

The following weekend Al Pruett (Players Pub) was having his monthly 9-ball gig. It would provide an excellent opportunity for Kurt to put his newly discovered talents on display. Who would have thought that a new Kurt Liliensiek would immerge? He did. He blew out the field and won the event going away.

A few weeks later Al hosted a B-C 8-ball tournament. Slick took that out with style and grace. Slick (no pun intended toward the renowned Jefferson Airplane lead singer of White Rabbit) proved that his shot-making abilities jumped up a notch. With another tournament victory under his belt Slick was on his way. Instilled with more confidence than the High Sheriff allows, he has served notice to anyone within earshot that he has finally arrived. No more pushover. No more Mr. Nice Guy. In fact, now you get the '8' and two on the wire.

Congratulations Slick. By the way, on the road to winning the Missouri 8-Ball All-Star shootout, he went undefeated and lost only one game. Not one match, I said one game. He met and defeated in order: Jeremiah Thompson, Mario Webster, Pat Nelson, the ever dangerous Jim Crosby, Victor Day and Dan Horrell before putting the finishing touches on the weekend by rolling over Rob Gerber for the championship. Watch out. Slick Liliensiek may be looking for you.

### 5-Player Team Results Sat. and Sun. Sept. 29th and 30th

Ever go to a horse race knowing you have the winner in your hip pocket? No matter how many horses are at the starting line once the bell rings and the gates open your thoroughbred has absolutely no chance of losing. It's a can't miss. A sure thing. It's Man-O-War and Secretariat all rolled into one. You know this because you have seen it win several times before. It wins by three lengths or by a nose but it wins. All it has to do is set its hoof in the vicinity and the rest of the field groans. They hope they can find a way to place or show. And by chance if some hotshot neophyte decides to challenge, your baby just yawns rolls its eyes and throws a disrespectful grunting "hur-rumph" in his direction. The nerve of these upstarts! You say, "sorry kid, come back when you grow up. Put a little weight on them bones. Pick up more speed or go play with the children."

Your can't miss has the strength, the stamina, the talent, the best jockey, bigger balls than any horse that has ever reared its hind legs in a show of defiance. The everything it takes to be a dynasty unto itself. You bet the kids college fund and everything else you can beg, borrow and hock. You sit back in the recliner you brought just for the occasion. You prop your feet up. You get comfortable with a six pack of suds because when this thing starts you don't want to miss a single hoof beat.

Just the thought of what's about to happen makes you begin to grin from earlobe to earlobe. You got the nuts, man, and you know it. Oh, God, ha-ha. There ought-ta be a law. How much side betting money am I gonna walk outta here with today? This is highway robbery without an uzi. I'm so excited I'm about to wet my pants.

What's all of this nonsense got to do with pool? Just this. The favorites going in were real winners out of Penalty Box. Top pedigrees all. Purebred stock trained to win. The same Penalty Box group that has won two of these tournaments over the last two years. Back to the story.

The buzzer sounds and they're off and running. It's Penalty Box against a gang called Hotshots. This is no average bunch of hotshots. These guys can play. Greg Martin (A), Johnny Pedrolie (BB), Sean Schmoll (B), and Derrick Bockius (B) tops their list. The gates were barely opened when Penalty Box reached the quarter turn. It wasn't even close. Hell it wasn't even half-close. How does 11-1 grab you? I didn't stutter. It was 11 to 1 against a killer team.

Johnny Pedrolie ran out the first game on Julia Gabriel. It was their only win. Penalty Box knocked off the next 11 in a row. Ho-ho. Man, this is like wheat in the bin. Who's next?; and we can double the bet.

Bartman's joined the race at the half-mile mark. Although they put up a much better run than Hotshots, they still came up short, 11-9. That 401K plan is looking better all the time.

Waiting around the far turn was Chilsters. Jeff Ayers and company. Another tough outfit who has been through these battles many times. Jeff just came off a 4-0 match against Tom E's and would surely be a factor in the outcome of this contest. The best laid plans as they say. Jeff did a 180 faster than Alvin Karpas. This time he was 0-4, a stroke of bad luck that probably never happened to him in the 15 years he's been playing. One game at a time can humble even the best.

Three fifths of the way home and it looks like much wampum in the wickiup. I'm trying to give odds but there are no takers.

The mile marker is just around the bend and Penalty Box is running like the proverbial Arabian Stallion. They are coming up on the heels of Bottom Line, a pretty fair group out of Granite City. Even though they have to give Bottom Line 3 games on the wire, Bottom Line still should be no match for these veterans.

Penalty Box got one of the games back by winning the first round 3-2, to make it a 5-3 Bottom Line lead. No sweat, right? They'll make it up in round two. They're getting their second wind. Bring'em on. They got staying power.

That's when it happened. Their power pack blew a fuse. It was Bottom Line who just about reached the bottom line by taking... all... 5... games. A better explanation would be to say that Penalty Box choked on three of the five games and choked big time. With the score now 10-3 there seemed little hope of Casey getting to the plate. The second game in round three was all that was needed as Bottom Line ended Penalty Box's streak, 11-4. A humiliating 11 to 4. They lost heads up, heads up!

I couldn't believe it. Penalty Box was almost at the wire when suddenly regression set in. The jockey can see the finish line straight in front of him. It's his for the taking. Just go and get it. You've been here before. You're the man. The ace of the pitching staff. The lead singer. The first idiot in line to get Madonna tickets, (that part's a mystery) and... and... you drop the reins.

I watched in disbelief as my retirement fund circled the drain waving bye-bye, Jay. Bye-bye. This can't lose stallion turned out to be nothing more than a run down nag. It was like it had never ran a race before. It looked like a beginner. No, worse than a beginner. It needed training wheels to keep from falling over. It was back to the stables and square one. They faltered. They picked up a stone in their hoof and limped. Limped badly.

Lord knows I've never seen anything spring from the starting gate so fast and die even faster. Where's the glue factory? Maybe something can still be salvaged out of this.

Man, am I glad I didn't have a Mexican Peso on this plug. Honest; I couldn't get any takers.

Now this brings us to a very interesting situation. The team from Illinois and eventual winners, Bottom Line, showed up with only five players. Their total points added up to 26. Four players rated as 5's (CC's) and one rated as a 6 (B).

Their first match was against Lucky Strike who played 28 points. This allowed Bottom Line (1) game on the wire. Now it isn't my place to tell another team captain how to play his line-up. But I was wondering why he put 28 points down allowing Bottom Line a free game when he played rounds of only 26 points? Irrespective, it wasn't needed as they beat Lucky Strike heads up 10-8, but that game on the wire could have made all the difference.

Round two was against Streiler's. Streiler's played 29 points giving up 2 games. They were defeated heads up 9-7. This was another mismatch.

Playing even, Hillsboro Billiards was their next victim, 11-7. Tim Smith (Bottom Line captain) showed his stuff by winning all 4 games he played and Rob Gerber, who finished second in last week's All-Star tournament, won 3 of the 4 he played.

Enough has been said of the next match. With 3 games head start and 4 given to them by mistakes, it was the easiest match Bottom Line ever played. The final against Penalty Box was 11-4; minus 3 on the wire, 8-4 heads up. This set up the final with Soldiers out of Action Billiards.

On their way to the finals Soldiers had a much rougher time than Bottom Line. Playing even with Streiler's Soldiers emerged 11-9 victors. Again playing even, with The Wedge, it was an 11-10 squeaker. They got 2 on the wire against Mr. T's and road it out for an 11-7 victory.

McDuffs was their opponent to open up the first round Sunday. Soldiers ambushed McDuffs to the tune of 11-3. They jumped out to an early 4-1 first round lead and continued with another 4-1 round two follow up. With the score 8-2 there was little hope that McDuffs could overcome such a deficit. Soldiers took 3 of the 4 games from round three for a very convincing 11-3 rout.

This brought up the finals between Bottom Line and Action Billiards (Soldiers). On paper these two teams are dead even. Each played 26 points and each team had the horses to carry off the trophy. It would be a matter of which team would get out in front and maintain the lead. That is of course to grab the lead and not allow the opponent back in. You have to keep them down. Have them play catch up throughout the match. That's what Bottom Line did.

The Line jumpers took a 3-2 round one lead. Even though Soldiers scored 3 in round two for a 5-5 tie, and actually won the first game in round three for a 6-5 lead, they couldn't maintain. Bottom Line put a damper on Soldiers' hopes by knocking down the next 4 games. It was 9-6 and looking good for the guys from Granite City Illinois.

It didn't take long. Rob Gerber defeated Theo Taylor to get on the hill and Mike Withers put it to bed by beating Waddell Whitehead. Congratulations to Bottom Line and to all the teams for another great Missouri 8-Ball tournament. Listed below are the money winners from the 5-Player Board.

### Money Earners from the 5-Player Board

			Total Payout	
	Team	Captain	Winnings	
1.	Bottom Line	(Tim Smith)	\$3,173.00	5-Player Board \$7,144.00
2.	Action Billiards	(Charles Burrage)	1,673.00	4-Player Board 930.00
3/4.	Penalty Box	(Paul Verhulst)	924.00	All-Star Singles <u>3,000.00</u>
3/4.	McDuff's	(Rich Stark)	924.00	\$11,074.00
5tie.	Mr. T's	(Kenny Vaughn)	150.00	
5tie.	Final Destination	(Tyler Jones)	150.00	
5tie.	Hillsboro Billiards	(John Neels)	<u>150.00</u>	
			\$7,144.00	

### Top 6 Teams Won-Lost Percentage

	Team	Captain	W.	L.	Pct.	Placing
1.	Players Pub	(Wendell Tole)	26	11	.703	4-Player Board Champions
2.	Bottom Line	(Tim Smith)	49	32	.605	5-Player Board Champions
3.	Players Pub	(Al Pruett)	18	12	.600	4-Player Board 3rd Place
4.	Penalty Box	(Paul Verhulst)	37	26	.587	5-Player Board 3/4 Tie
5.	Final Destination	(Tyler Jones)	30	24	.556	5-Player Board 5/8 Tie
6.	Action Billiards	(Charles Burrage)	48	39	.552	5-Player Board 2nd Place

## Players With One Match Records of 4-0

Mike Wills (Hillsboro Billiards), Tim Smith (Bottom Line), and Al Pruett (Players Pub).

\* Jeff Ayers (Chilsters) pulled a first. He went 4-0 in his first match, then was 0-4 in the next.

\*\* Jim Crosby (Players Pub) also pulled a first. He went 4-0 in back-to-back matches.

\*\*\* Dave Locke (Wedge) was the only player this tournament whom had a chance to be 5-0. He had 4 wins under his belt when he was called upon to play a hill-hill match. He lost.

## Top 10 Winning Streaks

Rank	Player	Team	WS	W	L	Pct.
1. (B)	Tim Smith	(Bottom Line)	9	13	3	.813
2. (B)	Jim Crosby	(Players Pub)	8	12	4	.750
3. (CC)	Mike Wills	(Hillsboro Billiards)	7	8	3	.727
4. (BB)	Al Pruett	(Players Pub)	6	7	1	.875
5. (CC)	Rob Gerber	(Bottom Line)	6	12	5	.706
6. (B)	Cary Huddleston	(Tom E's)	6	6	1	.857
7. (CC)	David Fritz	(Final Destination)	6	6	2	.750
8. (BB)	Kenny Vaughn	(Mr. T's)	6	7	4	.636
9. (CC)	Randy Simpson	(Mr. T's)	5	7	3	.700
10. (CC)	Robyn Eidson	(Players Pub)	5	5	1	.833

[2 teams]

\*\* Robyn is the only female with a winning streak of 5 or more games.

## Other Top Performers Included

Rank	Player	Team	W	L	Pct.
1. (BB)	Al Pruett	(Players Pub)	7	1	.875
2. (B)	Cary Huddleston	(Tom E's)	6	1	.857
3. (CC)	Robyn Eidson	(Players Pub)	5	1	.833
4. (B)	Tim Smith	(Bottom Line)	13	3	.813
5. (CC)	Dorman Warren	(Players Pub)	7	2	.778
6. (B)	Jim Crosby	(Players Pub)	12	4	.750
7. (A)	Kevin Carron	(Hillsboro Billiards)	9	3	.750
8. (B)	Louis Erby	(Penalty Box)	9	3	.750
9. (CC)	Wendell Tole	(Players Pub)	6	2	.750
10. (CC)	David Fritz	(Final Destination)	6	2	.750
11. (CC)	Mike Wills	(Hillsboro Billiards)	8	3	.727
12. (CC)	Rob Gerber	(Bottom Line)	12	5	.706
13. (CC)	Randy Simpson	(Mr. T's)	7	3	.700
14. (CC)	John Williams	(Penalty Box)	8	4	.667
15. (CC)	Charles Burrage	(Action Billiards)	11	6	.647
16. (BB)	Kenny Vaughn	Mr. T's)	7	4	.636
17. (CC)	Bob King	(McDuffs)	7	4	.636
18. (CC)	Waddell Whitehead	(Action Billiards)	10	7	.588

[2 teams]

## BEN WARNER

Long-time Missouri 8-Ball player Ben Warner set a dubious record of sorts. He played with three different teams this weekend. How is that possible you ask? Easy.

At noon Saturday Ben's 5-player team (Jody T's) was in a heated battle with Kenny Vaughn's Mr. T's (no relation). Jody T's, down 11-8 in a race to 12, was making a great comeback by winning three games bringing the match to a double hill situation. That fourth game wasn't to be as Mr. T's pulled it out 12-11 in a very exciting contest.

According to the rules if a player qualified on two or more teams that player may move over to his/her other team once the team they choose to start with has been knocked out (if that second team wishes to add them to their roster). They did.

So Ben moved over to play with his second team, Pat and Roses. Wouldn't you know it, Pat and Roses was scheduled to play the same Mr. T's team. Yep, they went down in another squeaker, 11-10. Mr. T's was skating by the skin of their premolars.

But Uncle Ben wasn't through. He returned Sunday with the 4-player team out of Jody T's to make a run for the 'Happy Hour' trophy. Their first match was against Al's Players Pub team. It would be a race to 10. Go to the head of the class if you know what the score was. You got it, 10-9. A third double hill match. But this time Jody T's was victorious.

This brought up the finals against another Players Pub team led by Wendell Tole. It was nip and tuck (hello nip, hello tuck) all the way and Jody T's found themselves on the short end, 9-7. Four matches played and the totals for those matches couldn't get much closer, 38 wins and 41 losses.

Ben, you gave it a heck of a try. See you January 2002 for the next Missouri 8-Ball shootout.

### 4-Player Team Results Sunday Sept. 30, 2001

Of the six teams that qualified three came out of Players Pub. However, none of them received a bye the first round. What did happen is Bert's team drew Wendell's team. The score of 9-3 would send Wendell's gang to the second round to meet J.P.'s Corner, who did get a free ride to round two.

Al's team from Players Pub barely edged out Airport Billiards, 9-8. The pills rolled out right as far as the Pubsters were concerned, but not so for Airport Billiards. With AB leading 8-7 going into the last and final round luck of the roll would play a huge part in the matching up of the players.

Had the pills dropped 1 and 2 for Charles Meredith and John Holman, (one win and 5 loses between them) the match could have gone either way. But 1 and 2 rolled out for Al Pruett and Jim Crosby who were already 6-0 for the match and suddenly favored to win. Both Jim and Al did win their 4th game for a 9-8 squeaker. It is believed to be the only time in Missouri 8-Ball history that two players from the same team finished 4-0 in a race to 9 match.

Round two was more nail biting. Pub, playing 24 points to Jody T's 20, (they got the other bye for round one) had to give up 3 games in a race to 10. It would be an arduous task indeed to overcome and they gave it a real try, but they came up short, 10-9. Once again Jim Crosby went 4-0 and Al Pruett was 3-1, but it wasn't enough to get to the finals against their sister team.

While Al's team struggled in their defeat, Wendell Tole's team flat blew out J.P.'s Corner, 9-1. They had such an easy time of it and finished well ahead of schedule that they had time to munch down on a couple of pizzas (extra large size of course) and wash them down with plenty of suds.

With a 2-match total of 18-4, Wendell took his rode show to table 29. The finals would be against Jody T's. Playing even in a race to 9, the Pubsters jumped off to a first round 3-1 lead. If they

could maintain a split throughout the final rounds they would go home the champs. That's what they did. Splitting rounds 2, 3 and 4, the Players Pub guys finished with a 9-7 victory.

The winner-take-all match was worth \$930.00. Congrats to Wendell and the guys and gals for another great championship playoff.

Just for the record it was Robyn Eidson who turned out to be a real leader for the guys. Robyn proved to be more than just another pretty face. She had the best won-lost record for the team, 5-1 .833 (with a 5-game winning streak). You go girl. Hey Robyn, perhaps you should renegotiate her contract for next session!

As always we hope you enjoy the Missouri 8-Ball Pool League and the various formats offered for competition for the Day (9a.m.), Happy Hour (5:30p.m.) and Evening (7:30p.m.) divisions.

Rusty Brandmeyer Missouri 8-Ball League Operator

Bob Bohn Operations Assistant

Roger Pheasant who brings these reports to the Internet for your perusal

And yours truly, Jay Carlton, all-around good guy

PS

We would like to welcome California Bob and Hazelwood Kathy back to Missouri 8-Ball. As some of you may remember Bob started his own league about a year ago. They discovered what a lot of others did; it's not the easiest job in the world running a pool league. Put your own joke here.

They along with Bob, Roger, and Jay wish to thank all our players who have been with us the last 12 years or the last 12 weeks for making the Missouri 8-Ball Pool League the Premier League in and around the St. Louis and St. Louis County areas. **Thanks again....Rusty**