

51st Missouri 8-Ball All-Star Singles and Team Results

It was 10 o'clock Saturday morning when the snow began to fall. We were only two hours away from the start of the 51st Missouri 8-Ball singles tournament. There were degrees of speculation as to how many players would decide to cancel their appearance. Over the last few years the going rate of no-shows has been right at ten percent for whatever reasons: work related, hunting season, family situations and various others. From the size of those flakes pounding the pavement the smart money was 20 to 25 percent. In spite of the weatherman forecasting two to four inches of snow, and there was no question that every bit of it would be on the ground before nightfall, by 11:30am the place was packed with at least 200 players ready to do their thing and show their stuff. Snow or no snow the show would go on.

Action at Action Café and Billiards

The 51st Missouri 8-Ball All-Star shootout was held at Action Sports Café and Billiards Feb. 8th and 9th, 2003. A great turnout of 254 players crowded the premises to battle for top cash honors. It has been many moons since any Missouri 8-Ball tournament was held at this location and at least a year or better since this high a total participated. The last time this establishment was under the name of Starlight Café and Billiards. California Bob Strachan and Hazelwood Kathy Arens took over the place almost two years ago and brother has it been coming back strong.

In spite of the great many participants that responded to this event proceedings went very smoothly thanks in part to the 21 bar-boxes on hand. With the 254 packed field you better believe that each and everyone were needed-several times. All were recovered and brought up to tournament readiness only two days prior to the event. No doubt Bob and Kathy want to host this event every four months and went out of their way to prove it.

Top 16 Players

1.	Kris Ross	‘C’	\$1,000	& Trophy	
2.	Jerry Terbrock	‘AA’	800	& Trophy	For the first time a player from the Jefferson County area took top honors in the Missouri 8-Ball singles championships.
3.	Billy Wimberly	‘B’	650	& Trophy	
4.	Rick Williams	‘C’	500		<p style="text-align: center;">Congratulations to Kris. If you had the pleasure of watching any of his matches there is no doubt that he is the best ‘C’ player in the game today. Somehow we don’t think that he will remain at that level much longer. Enjoy it while you can pal. Everyone noticed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kris knocked third place finisher Billy Wimberly to the one-loss side on two outstanding runs, then for the finale defeated last session’s winner ‘AA’ Jerry Terbrock 2-0 to take the trophy home to Jefferson County.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Congratulations are also in order to *** Mona Vuichard. Mona was the only female to cash this tournament. Mona is a ‘C’ level player that finished 13/16 worth a cool \$100.</p>
5/6	Craig Schmied	‘CC’	350		
5/6	Jim Stevens	‘CC’	350		
7/8	Charles Burrage	‘B’	250		
7/8	Bill Lach	‘C’	250		
9/12	Jacob White	‘B’	150		
9/12	Art Lohnes	‘CC’	150		
9/12	Tom Blair	‘CC’	150		
9/12	Rodney Moorehead	‘DD’	150		
13/16	Jim Crosby	‘BB’	100		
13/16	Jim Hawkins	‘CC’	100		
13/16	Brett Swanstrom	‘CC’	100		
13/16	Mona Vuichard	‘C’	100	***	
			\$5,150		

Team Tournament Results played at Teacher’s

Believe it or not the following weekend, Saturday Feb. 15th and Sunday the 16th, snow and very cold weather once again put in an appearance. Only one team cancelled and they were from the 4-player Happy Hour division. Other than that everything went off as expected.

4-Player Happy Hour Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Paid Out</u>	<u>Total payout for all 3 events</u>
1.	Player's Pub	Bob Pendergrass	\$2,000 & Trophy	1. 5-Player Team \$17,000
2.	10-Mile House	Mike Williams	<u>940</u>	2. 4-Player Team 2,940
			\$2,940	3. <u>Singles</u> 5,150
				\$25,090

12 teams from the Happy Hour divisions earned a spot to compete for the \$2,000 first prize. Player Pub, led by Bullet Bob Pendergrass, shot it out with 10-Mile House, led by mild-mannered Mike Williams. Mike and the gang set out the 50th session but were the team that went all the way in the 49th. They came into this event very determined to take it out and become the first team to repeat for the 4-player trophy.

On their way to the podium Bob's team reeled off four straight victories to become champions. That's about it. Although I might get an argument from Captain Bob Pendergrass, there isn't much to report about the 4-player happy hour playoffs.

"Huh, what'da'ya mean not much to report," Bob hollered. "We shot our tails off. Those teams were tough. Tell'em about our first match, the one that went hill-hill with Hillsboro Billiards. Those guys never gave up, man. We were lucky to come out of that with our skins still intact. Tell'em the score was 9-8. A rough 9-8, a mean 9-8."

Okay, Bob, I'll tell them. I'll also inform the readers that Players Pub's teams have won several championships over the years but this is the first time that you, Bullet Bob Pendergrass led a Pubsters happy hour foursome to the title. Is that okay?

"You better tell'em. And how 'bout that Charlack Pub gang? They hung in there all the way to the end. The 9-6 score was a lot closer than it looks."

Okay, Charlack Pub...

"And don't forget about Pat and Roses. We had to give those guys three on the wire. I mean we're down three and the balls haven't been racked yet. Talk about a hill to climb." (At this point Bob was reaching the over-dramatic state.)

"Come on Jay, you talk it up on all those other teams when they win. Get it on. That Pat and Roses score was 10-6. That wasn't no cakewalk either."

Okay Bob, no cakewalk against Pat and Roses...

"And did you know that for the championship we had to go up against 10-Mile House? Those bad boys can play, brother. They were going for two in a row. Former champs, man, everyone a winner. They're tougher than three penny nails."

That's tenpenny nails, Bob

"Whatever."

10-Mile House tough-got it Bob.

"Look at the scoresheet. If we blow that last game we won it's another hill-hill playoff. Anything can happen when it's double-hill. You know that, Jay. Tell'em man, tell'em the score was 9-7. I can't believe how slack you are on this one. Somebody get me a pen and paper. I ought to write this my own self."

No need Bob. You just did. Thanks.

5-Player Division Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Paid Out</u>		
1.	Hillsboro Billiards	John Neels	\$6,000	& Trophy	Now here we had a situation of two teams trying to repeat as champs. <u>Ethly's</u> won the 49th tournament and took a vacation from the 50th. <u>Just Bills</u> took out the 50th and they were back to defend their title. A scriptwriter could create and develop two possible solutions to the outcome that would make for proper endings.
2.	Just Bills	Butch Matlock	3,500		
3/4	Action Billiards	Kathy Arens	1,750		
3/4	D. J. Keg	Lane Koelling	1,750		
5/8	Penalty Box	Paul Verhulst	1,000		
5/8	Ethyl's	Joe Dames	1,000		
5/8	Little Nikki's	Mike McDonald	1,000		
5/8	Bourbon Street	Ron Michael	<u>1,000</u>		
			\$17,000		

One would be that Ethyl's and Just Bills would meet at the end for the showdown, one eliminating the other. The second would be exactly what happened. That Hillsboro Billiards would have to meet each former champ and defeat them both. To have both matches go double-hill would be asking too much but that's what did happen, both 11-10. When it got down to the nitty-gritty Johnny Neels' and the guys earned the trophy the hard way. And what we have here is another first in the annals of Missouri 8-Ball.

But it almost didn't come to pass where Hillsboro met and defeated both former champions. On their way to the finals, Just Bills had a close encounter of the first kind. Down 7-4 to Memoreze, Just Bills kicked it up a gear by taking out the next 7 games and stole the match 11-7. An 11-6 victory over Little Nikki's put Just Bill's into the final four where they met and defeated D.J. Keg 11-5 to immerge the winners of flight #2. Now all they had to do to repeat was to go up against the winners of flight #1.

D.J. Keg probably had the roughest route to travel to get to the final four. Their five match scores were 11-7, 11-10, 11-10 again, and 12-10 before going down to Just Bills, 5-11. That's a total of 98 games in five matches, more than any other team. However, Bourbon Street played only four matches with scores of 11-8, 12-11, and 11-10 before going down 10-12 to D.J. Keg. I don't believe that has ever happened where one team played all their matches that concluded with double figures. That's a total of 85 games in only four matches which beats D.J. Keg's pace.

The surprise of the final four would be the Action Billiards team led by Rich Sager and Matt DeBarr. These guys came out of nowhere. They began knocking off opponents like Nolan Ryan knocked off opposing batters, fast and furious. First was the great Bartman's team with Mike and Rhonda Bartram and Jerry Terbrock, 11-8. The tenacious Lucky Strikers' led by Joe Lombardozzi went down kicking 11-7, and then for the coup de grace, the always dangerous Penalty Box. This was a total surprise. Not because they defeated the Boxers but the easiness of how it went down. The lopsided score of 11-6 had everyone in the house with raised eyebrows.

Their opponents to be, Hillsboro Billiards was having a harder time getting their matches won. But in the final analysis the more table time paid off. When Hillsboro and Action met a lot of railbirds thought that because Action took out Penalty Box their way to the victory-throne was road-mapped in stone. Aha, not so 8-ball breath. Because just as fast as it comes, it also goes. The gang from Hillsboro was not to be denied their rightful place in the finals. They jumped all over Action Billiards to the tune of 11-6 and for the first time in years they would go for the gold.

Players with 4 wins in a match from 5-player teams: Rich Sager (Action Billiards), Marty Fears (Ethyl's) did it the hard way. Against McDuff's Marty lost the first game before reeling off his 4 in a row to pull out an 11-10 heart-pounder. Tom Aquino (Woody #2), Jerry Terbrock (Bartman's), Rusty Wright and Rick Morawski (Bourbon Street), Bill Masnica (Pete's Place), Brian Kroeger twice, once with Andy Hurwitz (Penalty Box). This was the match with that tough team from Illinois, Al's, led by Tim Smith. While Mike Withers and Sparky Eddleman were playing their hearts out winning 3 games apiece, Andy Hurwitz and Brian Kroeger ran off 4 wins apiece for Penalty Box leading the way to an 11-8 victory.

And finally John Neels and Dave Isaac (Hillsboro Billiards) teamed up for 4 wins apiece in an 11-10 win over Ethyl's. It was almost the same scenario as the previous one just discussed but with a different twist. Hillsboro was ahead 9-6 looking for two easy wins in round four to close it out. However, the gang from O'Fallon had been here before and had no plans to fold up like a two-dollar tent.

Ethyl's got a good draw in the fourth. The guys turned it up a notch by taking 4 of the 5 games in that round for a 10-10 situation. Already a 3-game winner Dave Isaac got the call for Hillsboro while the number one pill rolled out for John Schneider for Ethyl's. It was a good double-hill game and Dave picked up his 4th win sending Hillsboro to the next level. This shot down Ethyl's chance of repeating. Tony Overkamp and Rick Ritter put everything they had into it with 3 victories apiece but it wasn't enough. It doesn't happen very often where two players from the same team win 4 games each but it happened twice in this tournament.

Players with 4 wins in a match from 4-player teams: Ken Heffner (Charlack #2), Jeff Treacy (10-Mile House), and Don Weber (Hillsboro Billiards). Don was out-gunned by the opposition. Don won half of his teams 8 games but that wasn't good enough as they went down 9-8. Sue them for non-support Don.

Another rarity is when a player manages to win 5 games in a single match. This time it was Pat Cornish who turned the trick. Pat plays with one of the 10-Mile House teams. And the kicker is that he pulled it against his sister team, another 10-Mile Houser. (No respect?) Actually, Pat had no choice; the final result was a 12-11 squeaker.

It was nice to see former champ Ed Libby back in the Missouri 8-Ball League. Over the years Ed has either captained or played on some dynamite teams. Waiting in the wings with another sleeper, huh, Ed.

Players with 10 or more Wins

		<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Team</u>
Dave	Isaac	14	4	Hillsboro Billiards
Mo	Carlton	14	5	Just Bills
Shannon	Simpkin	13	6	Just Bills
Steve	Mitchell	13	6	Just Bills
Marty	Fears	12	4	Ethyl's
Rick	Morawski	12	4	Bourbon Street
John	Neels	12	6	Hillsboro Billiards
Mitch	Parmeley	12	6	Hillsboro Billiards
Rich	Sager	11	2	Action Billiards
Rick	Ritter	11	4	Ethyl's
Rusty	Wright	11	4	Bourbon Street
Lane	Koelling	11	9	D. J. Keg
Tony	Chagolla	10	4	Little Nikki's
Butch	Matlock	10	7	Just Bills
Tod	Davis	10	8	D. J. Keg
Bill	Millikan	10	9	Just Bills

Winning Streaks

1.	Mo	Carlton	11
2.	Andy	Hurwitz	7 first 7
3.	Rick	Morawski	7
4.	Pat	Cornish	7
5.	Jeff	Shelton	6

Teams Playing Record Tot MP

1.	Just Bills	65	41	106	6
2.	Hillsboro	55	41	96	6
3.	D.J. Keg	50	48	98	5
4.	Bourbon St	44	41	85	4
5.	Ethyl's	43	36	79	4
6.	L. Nikki's	39	31	70	4
7.	Action Bill.	39	32	71	4

As usual we would like to thank all of the men and women that participate in the Missouri-Illinois 8-Ball League. As we enter our 18th year of operations things look a lot brighter as each session passes. Continued success and good shooting.
Rusty Brandmeyer-League Operator
Roger Pheasant-Internet Coordinator
And yours truly-Jay Carlton