

Missouri 8 Ball Results
and Events from the 54th
All-Star Singles and
Team Tournaments
Spring 2004



Here at Missouri 8 Ball we do our best to recognize as many of our players as possible. From each night (or day) of play and from all divisions. Also to recognize many players who would not ordinarily get credit for their playing abilities, leadership, team and league spirit. Because Missouri 8 Ball is spread out over a vast area both city and counties, perhaps you would like to familiarize yourselves with players from other teams, areas and divisions.

The 54th Missouri 8 Ball season had many surprises and many firsts. Many familiar names came up in the standings both from their respective teams and single-game head to head meetings. There were several new players to Missouri 8 Ball who made their presence felt and sure to be heard from for several years. There were very close team races that went to the final week where only percentage points determined the outcome, and some that were runaways. The All-Star sheets had 101-point to 239-point differences between 1st and 2nd place from seven divisional races to a miniscule 2-points from another. One player went undefeated. Rich Sager (Fucifino's) shot his way to a 24-0 record, and when someone decided to unearth Ed Libby (Libby's) he proved his game didn't need resurrecting. Ed in a coma can shoot better than most who are fully conscious. Witness his 31-2 .939 record.

Several ladies made a great showing in many categories. Mary Stillwell held on the take her first Jacket with an outstanding 28-7 .800 W/L percentage. Her .800 was the highest of all females. Mary also captained her Classic's #1 team to the championship. You go, girl.

Rhonda Bartram shot her way to her 4th Jacket and also led her Bartman's team to the grand finals.

Julie Hemann (JP's Corner) played more games (49) and won more games (32) than all ladies.

This next little item goes out to nine teams (4 from south divisions and 5 from north) that deserve special mention. And I mean unequivocally a special mention in the most positive way. They won no honors, unless you call holding up the rest of the division an act of accomplishment. Their players won no awards and very few appeared on the All-Star honor roll. No team goes into action with thoughts of coming in last place. No player takes his or her turn at the table with the thought of losing every game. And try as they might, and lose as they do, we never hear a complaint. And believe me that is rare. These are the people and teams that make Missouri 8 Ball, or any league, great.

Win or lose they are there to have fun. Sure, they would like to win a few matches. Maybe make the playoffs once in a Blue Moon. Go to the big show. But if they don't, hey, they had fun trying. They take it as a night out. A night to have fun, to enjoy themselves and perhaps to relax even though they are competing. And if they don't make it this time, remember the Cubs cry, there's always next season.

There were 32 divisions this session. That means 32 teams finished last, some dead last. What I said above goes for those teams as well, but I thought I would highlight these nine.

South	Team	Matches			Games			North	Team	Matches			Games		
		W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct			W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Div. #6	Night Sky #2	0	14	.000	77	138	.358	Div. #18	Piper's Pub	1	12	.077	55	88	.385
Div. #2	Night Sky #2	1	13	.071	88	123	.417	Div. #105	Classic's #3	1	12	.077	99	115	.463
Div. #1	Memoreze	1	13	.071	77	99	.438	Div. #107	Airport Billiards	2	11	.154	61	102	.374
Div. #101	Dock Rockers	2	12	.143	95	110	.463	Div. #17	Butler's	2	11	.154	87	124	.412
								Div. #107	Just Bill's Place	2	11	.154	79	106	.427

We appreciate your participation year in and year out and even though you had a bad session we here at Missouri 8 Ball hope you do better in the future. It's teams like yours that play a very big part in the make-up of our league. We wish that all teams and players took the attitude that you take. Remember to relax and enjoy the competition. Make it a fun night out.

Division #1 Rhonda Bartram has proven once again why she is the first lady in Missouri 8 Ball and remains one of the most feared females in Mo-8-Ball history. This masse makin', carom cuttin', jacked up jumpin', 3-rail bankin', 2-rail kickin', ball bustin', 8-ball droppin', straight shootin' all business blonde bomber is anything but just another pretty face.

It would take several chapters to list all of her accomplishments in pocket billiards. Let's just say congratulations on winning your 4th All-Star Award Rhonda, and leave it at that. Except to add that her 28 wins led the division again. Rhonda Jo (28-12) finished with a .700 won/loss winning percentage in leading her team to another first place finish. I believe that qualifies as conclusive evidence why she has remained a solid 'B' player for several years.

NOTE: Has anyone else noticed that since a certain 'AA' player left Bartman's and joined that other team he hasn't won the top player award? Could it possibly be because he no longer enjoys Rhonda's expert coaching and leadership?

Division #2 New players to Mo-8-Ball, brothers Jay and Jeff Boeger (Hessler's Pub) tried to pull off a first. There was no brotherly love lost here once the balls were racked. Jay and Jeff out-dueled each other all season going for the All-Star Award. Jay's stats, 23-10 .697, and Jeff's numbers, 29-13 .690 were very respectable indeed. But somebody always has to come along to play the bad guy. That somebody was Don Hauser (JP's Corner #3). Don pulled in front the last couple of weeks to stay with his 29-9 .763 to take top honors. I have a feeling these guys will be a force in future events.

Julie Hemann (JP's Corner #1) is making a name for herself as the highest lady to finish on the all star list with her 24-12 .667. Pam Vancil and teammate of Julie's, finished 11th with a 23-17 .575 record.

Division #3 Three of the first four players came out of Little Nikki's. Teammates David West and Larry Stuart played it out for top All-Star honors. David immersed victorious 27-7 .794 to Larry's 31-10 .756. The third member was John Young at 28-10 .737 good for 4th place. Even with the heavy hitting Little Nikki's barely made the playoffs with their 5th place finish. If these three can pick up a good cleanup hitter they could win this thing outright. Good luck guys.

Division #4 The race for the jacket was so close there was hardly daylight between them. Check it out. Jim Stevens (Keith's) and Dennis Dunbar (Libby's) both played 45 games. Jim finished with a 37-8 .822 record. That was good for... you got it... 2nd place. What? Oh, yeah. Dennis edged him with stats of 38-7 .844. Incredible you say? Incredible says Jim as he asked the burning question, "What'da'ya have to do?" "No sweat," says Dennis, as he wiped the perspiration from his brow. "I knew it was in the bag."

Division #5 Ryan Huelsman (Hotshots SC #3) overtook Greg Martin (Hazzards) for top All-Star honors. His 35-11 .761 record edged out Martin's 20-7 .741 or .020 of a point. Great race guys.

The All-Star race wasn't the only battle in progress. Three teams tied for first place with 9-5 records. The games won/lost % took over and JP's Corner 126-103 .550 edged out Memoreze 119-117 .504, who edged out third place Hazzards, 100-102 .495.

I do believe we have another first here. Hotshots SC #2 finished in the cellar of the 8 teams with a 4-10 showing. What's so unusual about this is that their games played won-loss record was at .500, 76-76. They out hit four other teams and tied one for the third highest W-L percentage.

Here's that gal again. Rhonda Bartram won 30 games for her Bartman's team. It was good for third place on the 20-player all star win list. Yes, she was her team's top player again.

Division #6 Bob Thum is probably wondering what you have to do to win a title. Bob's 33-8 .805 would have been good in other divisions but not so here. Matt Auclair (Memoreze) knocked down a few good memories on his way for top All-Star honors. Matt's 36-7 .837 was the best of his Mo-8-Ball career. The way he is progressing Matt may be up for a promotion. Good luck. We hope you get it.

Special mention goes out to Julie Hemann from JP's Corner #2. Not only was Julie the highest ranked player on her team but she had 32 wins, good for 3rd highest from the 12-team division. Unfortunately Julie's team failed to give her much support and didn't qualify for playoffs. They missed it by... ready for this... .002. Only newlyweds on their first night of marriage are closer. Teammate Sharon Luitjens stopped the bleeding some by adding 20 wins but for all intents and purposes they could use a little more firepower. Better luck next season ladies.

Division #7

Team Standings	Match Won	Match Lost	Game Won	Game Lost	Team W/L %	I do believe we have a first here. Would you believe that all five teams that qualified for playoffs had identical 8-5 W/L records? Take my word for it. But, I listed them to verify that it happened. And of course actual placings were determined by games W/L%. Notice Memoreze games W/L % is highest of all teams. They must have lost a lot of close ones.
1. Hotshots WC #2	8	5	97	91	.516	
2. Hotshots WC #1	8	5	103	101	.505	
3. JP's Corner	8	5	108	107	.502	
4. George's	8	5	105	105	.500	
5. Bartman's	8	5	99	107	.481	
6. Memoreze	6	7	98	90	.521	
7. Hazzards	6	7	98	107	.478	

But that's not the end of the story. Another rare happening was that a new player to Mo-8-Ball took top honors. Paul Voyles (Hotshots WC #1) eked out a 20-7 .741 record, a mere .011 ahead of second placer Joe Maciocia's 27-10 .730. (See Div. 15) Where you gonna go from here, Paul?

Division #8 The firsts just keep on a-coming. From week one, two or at the very least week three, it was a forgone conclusion who would take top All-Star honors from Division 8. On the positive side Ed 'Lefty' Libby cruised through the field with a 31-2 .939 record. That's right folks, the Fireman, Steady Eddie is back in town and firing on all cylinders. His .939 is a whopping .239 higher than the 2nd place finisher, Phil Joseph, 21-9 .700.

To give you an idea of how a true champion stays focused-read on. After the positive there has to be a negative. Natch! Libby's, as a team, finished dead last in the 8-team field with a 4-9 record. Their games won-lost percentage went like this: 114-129 .469. Ed's 31 wins added to teammate Gene Schauman's 23 accounted for 54 of the team's 114 wins, or .474. That leaves only 60 wins by the other players. Back to the positive side. If this team continues to stay together and accepts Ed's advice, there's no doubt they will be playing for the championship in the near future.

Division #9 The guys from Filling Station filled up on high-octane fuel and crossed the finish line .026 ahead of Slo Toms. Slo Toms changed gears around the far turn to draw even with Filling Station with a 9-4 team record, but then slowed down again. The deciding factor went over to games won-lost percentage. Filling Station's 131-103 .560 was slightly better than Slo Toms 135-118 .534.

Tim Finnegan led the way for Filling Station with his All-Star winning 34-5 .872 record. That was .101 better than 2nd place Terry Masters (Zeke's) who stroked his way to a great 27-8 .771 session.

Division #10 This was a great race by two teams out of Fucifino's. After ending the season at 12-2 each, Fucifino's #2, 138-111 .554 edged out Fucifino's #1, 126-103 .550 by only .004 on the W/L percentage. That becomes the second lowest difference determining the outcome of a race. (Div. 6 was .002)

Sager outduels Wimberly... but Wimberly takes crown? Huh! From the All-Star honor roll we find that the first three players were from Fucifino's #2. (1) Rich Sager, 24-4 .857, (2) Billy Wimberly, 25-5 .833, and (3) Art Lohnes, 19-6 .760. Here's how it works, and you probably didn't know about it. You see, there's this clause in the rules that goes 'all Jacket winners have to shoot their skill level average to be eligible for the trophy'. In other words there's no guarantee that the player leading the parade wins the trophy. The player who finishes first must shoot his/her average or better. Therefore, Mr. Sager was not awarded the trophy because as an 'A' player, Rich had to shoot at .875 to take the honors. As you can see he hit .857, or .018 on the short end. Gripes!

In the event the first place player doesn't hit his/her average then it goes to the next player in line who did hit the required average for his/her skill level. In this case Billy Wimberly 'B', was awarded the trophy. It is a very rare occasion when this occurs. It's only the 10th time over the last 18 years. (See Div. 14)

Division #11 Talk about a hot contested race to the finish line. Four players hitting over .800? It happened right here in Division 11. That's a great race any time, except for the three players who had an exceptional session and had to settle for less than first place. Mo-8-Ball sympathizes with ya guys, but as they say in books-dats show biz.

The lead player on the All-Star honor roll was Tim Masnica (Pete's Place #2) with a nifty 30-5 .857. The three dogging Tim to the end were Larry Baker (Cactus Inn 37-7 .841), Tyler Jones (Lehmann's Landing 28-6 .824), and R.G. Ramsey (Lehmann's Landing 26-6 .813).

To put this Monday night division in perspective, Tim's brother Bill Masnica, was 30-15 .667 and he was only 11th on the sheet. Obviously this is a very competitive 10-team division. Lehmann's Landing took team honors 11-3, two games ahead of Classic's, with five Lehmann's Landing's players in the top 10.

Division #12 (Writing in the third person now) It has been a dozen years since a team of ladies took first place in a division dominated by very talented and experienced men league players. But one calling themselves 'Pool Hall Junkies', with six gals and only one guy, pulled off a major upset from this tough Tuesday night division. Only modesty prevents me from revealing whom that one guy is. Their 12-2 record was 2 games ahead of 'Old Pharts' and 4 games ahead of Penalty Box, who were favorites going in. Their 124-90 .579 record also was first and the only team with less than 100 losses. The ladies in question: (J)ulia (P)eace Gabriel, LaJuania 'Lew' Henry, Mary 'Blonde Bombshell' Stillwell (see Div. 16), 'Give'em Hell Gayle' Medvik, 'Hazelwood Kathy' Arens and 'Double Hill Jill' Schriewer. These are the girls that will represent St. Louis in Vegas in 2004.

The All-Star sheet noted the usual suspects. It was another close race to the final week of play but Jay Carlton (Pool Hall Junkies 30-9 .769) edged out 'Handy Andy' Hurwitz (Penalty Box 18-6 .750) by .019 for top honors. Also from Pool Hall Junkies: 5th place was Julia Gabriel 23-10 .697 and 7th place was LaJuania Henry 22-11 .667, both surpassing their previous best. Congrats ladies on a great session.

Division #13 Quote: "Hey, if I can't beat'em on Monday night, I'll steamroll'em on Tuesday night." Unquote. Larry Baker-Cactus Inn. Larry finished 2nd from Division #11 but held on to take top All-Star honors from Tuesday. He really didn't run away with it as Tracy Boyce (36-8 .818) was hot on his heels the entire distance. Larry's 24-5 .828 was a skinny .010 better than Tracy's effort. Hardly a steamroll job, Larry. I guess we'll let you slide. It was good enough, but barely.

And surprise, surprise. Witness the third place finisher, Larry Otte. Mr. Otte is the owner of Skooners. Larry hasn't been this high since last New Years Eve when he killed off two bottles of Captain Morgan. Larry proved that you really could sail with Captain Morgan without leaving dry land.

Division #14 FLASH: Sooner or later it was bound to happen, someone going an entire session undefeated. And who better to turn the trick than perennial champion Runout Rich Sager? (It has been mentioned that it has happened one other time but as yet it hasn't been verified. Until it is we'll go with Rich as the first to do so.) Sager's 24-0 1.000 is in the books and so is the .219 ahead of 2nd place finisher Biff Barieter (Nuts 25-7 .781). That is the 2nd highest difference between 1st and 2nd place. Rich says, "If they won't give it to me on Monday night (see Div. 10) I'll just smoke'em on Wednesday night." I would say that 1.000 W/L % was proof enough, wouldn't you?

Biff, what can we say? Mo-8-Ball can sympathize with ya buddy and extent our congratulations on your fine season. It was just your bad luck that Rich got hot. Better luck next session.

Division #15 Earlier we reported that a new player to The Missouri 8 Ball League won the top All-Star award (Div. 7). Now we are reporting that the top two players from this division are also new players to Mo-8-Ball. Both put up very good numbers for first-timers. All-Star winner Bill McKinney (Shenanigan's 24-5 .828) out did Rick Trolinger (Tiger's Inn #2 22-10 .688). Bill certainly made his presence felt. The difference in W/L % was a whopping .140. Not bad! Looks like Shenanigan's and Tiger's Inn #2 both have another champion on their hands.

There is one slight problem by winning the All-Star award your first time out, Bill. You have nowhere to go but down. Dawg gone the bad luck, huh? Rick on the other hand can only go up. Congratulations, guys. We'll be following your careers, count on it, ha-ha.

Division #16 There are 21 players on the All-Star sheet for your perusal and 20 of them are of the male persuasion. A pair of Missouri breeding mules if you can tell me who beat out all of them. Forget it. That's too easy. It's really no surprise that the blonde bombshell, Mary Stillwell, would eventually take out the prize. She's been on the verge of doing so several times in the past only to be beaten out by percentage points. This time it was Mary's percentage points that won her the 'Jacket'. Mary's 28-7 .800 was .020 better than Shawn Burns' 32-9 .780. This gal has made Missouri 8 Ball history many times over the years and just added another paragraph to her resume.

In doing so Mary joined Rhonda Bartram as the only two ladies to lead their respective parades this session. Congratulations, girls. Continued success next season. Oh, by the way, Mary, like Rhonda, captained her (Classic's #1) team to another 1st place finish and we'll be seeing her in action at the championships again.

Division #17 Fucifino's #2 and Player's Pub ended the session with 9-4 team records forcing the games won/lost % to determined the winner. Fucifino's 135-103 .567 was slightly better than Player's Pub's 122-121 .502. The following three teams that rounded out the playoffs each had 8-5 records and they also had to go to the games won/lost %.

From the All-Star list Ed Enders ended the campaign by beating his close rivals by very narrow margins. Ed (Fucifino's 24-9 .727) was .020 better than Terry Ray Dalton (Airport Billiards 29-12 .707) who was a minuscule .001 better than third place Mike McIntire (Player's Pub 24-10 .706). Mike was quick to add, "So I lose by .001 for second place. Big deal! You put 50-cents with 2nd place and you can make a phone call... as long as it's local."

Division #18 Lehmann's Landing ran away with the Thursday night division with an 11-2 record. Their games' W/L % was a league leading whopping .599. The fact that four of their regular starting lineup showing up on the All-Star honor roll might have something to do with it, including the first two. Leading the parade was R.G. Ramsey 33-4 .892. R.G., obviously on a mission, determined to prove that his 4th

place finish of .813 from Monday would be avenged, he just flat outgunned the All-Star field. (See Div. 11) R.G.'s .892 solidly thumped teammate Michael Lehmann's 23-8 .742 gaining him team bragging rights. That .150 margin came in as the third highest difference between first and second placing.

Division #19 (Again writing in the third person) Another race to the final two weeks for both team and All-Star honors. Team Smokin', led by Matt DeBarr, outlasted Sharpshooters led by Jay Carlton. All-Star honors were just the opposite. Jay's 27-5 .844 edged out Matt's 24-7 .774. Sharpshooters Jason Wilson finished 3rd at 17-5 .773, a slight .001 behind Matt. Jason, never at a loss for words, immediately let it be known that so he was beaten out for second place. No big deal! "Nobody ever remembers who finished second anyway." To which Matt DeBarr reminded Jason that is not so 8-ball breath.

"I remember," said Matt, as in deep thought, "...you finished second the last time we played '8' ball. I seem to remember that you finished second the last time we played '9' ball. I also seem to recall that you finished second the last time you played that girl from the ladies team, what was her name...?"

Wow, what a memory! Who says nobody ever remembers who finished second?

Division #20 Planet 8 Ball #1 took off faster than Deer in woods on opening day of Deer season. Their 13-1 record was 5 games ahead of sister team Planet 8 Ball #2 who finished 8-6. Possibly that accounts why the first four players on the All-Star sheet came out of Planet 8 Ball #1. Mike Moore's 18-4 .818 edged out teammates Tommy Arcobasso (from Arcobasso's restaurant fame-on Highway 94) 19-7 .731, Pat Guittar 17-8 .680, and Steve Foppe 14-8 .636.

Division #21 Who said Buddy Evans went into the witness protection program? If that be true he came out of seclusion long enough to take first place on the All-Star honor roll. Now he has to stick around long enough to show his stuff in the singles shootout. Buddy's 25-7 .781 was .016 better than rival Jim Crosby. Jim is always in the running. His 26-8 .765 edged out teammate Jeff Ayers 19-6 .760.

On the plus side Jim and Jeff go straight to the team championship as their Teacher's #1 team edged out sister team Teacher's #2 for top team honors.

Division #101 Ed Medlock had one of the best sessions of his Missouri 8 Ball career. The 'B' player from JP's Corner set down a 28-6 .824 record in running away with the trophy. His .824 was .143 higher than runner-up Kent Sanderson (Bartman's 32-15 .681). Ed was the only player of the 19 listed for All-Star honors who lost less than 10 games.

Question: Was this a fluke or by design? Only The Shadow knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men. Sorry, I didn't mean to go dramatic on you. But, talk about an almost impossibility. Allow me to set the stage. Three teams tied for first place with 9-5 records. Going to the deciding factor of games W/L %, Hotshots SC #2 126-107 .541 out did second place JP's Corner 113-100 .531 who out did third place Blarney Stone 117-106 .525. JP's Corner had four players on the All-Star list led by Ed Medlock as we have mentioned. Blarney Stone has three players on the list. There are players from Bartman's, 21 Rock, Hotshots SC #1, Hessler's Pub, and even Dock Rockers placed three players and they finished last.

I said all that to say this: Of the 19 players listed we cannot find a single (or married) player from Hotshot SC #2. I mean, hey, they had a .541 team average. Someone on that team had to hit .500. The last four players listed of the 19 hit .500. You can't tell me that everyone on that team hit under .500 and still took out the championship. No way, Jose! Tis a Chinese conundrum to be sure. I mean, what are the chances? I didn't even ask my friend I.Q. Jones to figure the odds on this one.

Division #102 All-Star kudos and honors to John Legens from Par & Roses. It wasn't even close, well, on paper anyway. His 31-5 .861 was .086 higher than runner-up Russ Alewel from Amvets, 31-9 .775. If you think this race was close cast your peepers on the team outcome. It was a 3-way tie for first, all with 10-4 records. After going to the games W/L % we find that Memoreze 111-94 .541 just barely squeaked passed Ten Mile House 100-87 .535, or a meager .006. My Place 105-95 .525 settled for 3rd.

Division #103 Kris Ross barely (yuk-yuk) ran off with All-Star honors and team bragging rights. His 33-10 .767 record was .108 better than teammate Roy Traughber's 29-15 .659. Roy is a new player to Missouri 8 Ball and believes in starting off a new league with a bang. Congrats, Roy. In addition to finishing 1-2 on the All-Star list they were a big 1-2 punch leading their team Hazzard's #2 to the championship. Although it was a 2-team tie for first (10-4), the games W/L % gave it to Hazzard's #2 109-83 .568 to Hazzard's #3 87-83 .512.

Division #104 Talk about a solid division, one that's loaded with beaucoup talent, 104 is your meat. Names like 'Breckenridge Al' Pruett, 'Bullet Bob' Pendergrass, 'Gentleman Jim' Crosby, 'Slow Charles' Meredith always appear on the All-Star honor roll. It's tough knocking off this one. But someone had to cross the finish line first and you better believe that someone earned it. This someone turned out to be the guy who knows the score, Troy Moore.

Troy Moore, trick knee and all, for 16 weeks hobbled his way around bar-boxes to take top honors for the All-Star singles shootout. Representing Fucifino's #2, Troy's 29-11 .725 was .036 better than runner-up Leon Young (Fucifino's #3) 31-14 .689. To put his win in perspective, Troy came off surgery not too long ago and missed a year or more. To make the comeback even sweeter, of the nine players who made the list 8 were 'B' caliber players. However, it was Fucifino's #4 taking out team honors.

Division #105 The Energizer Bunny has nothing on this guy. He just keeps hopping along. We are talking about Joe Lombardozi. This 73-year-old champion has bunions older than most Missouri 8 Ball players. Joe (Classic's #2) is a veteran of hundreds of tournaments, a savvy coach and still has plenty of backspin on his draw shot. Like a fine wine that improves with age, he scored one for the septuagenarian crowd. Joe outlasted all the youngsters from the 8-team division with his 30-4 .882 record. I think even Joe surprised himself this time... maybe not. Check it out. Third place was Dan Tucker (Classic's #1) 33-8 .805. Second place was Jeff Wilson (Shenanigan's) 28-6 .824. If you're looking for easy pickin's, guys, better find another division. This one is spoken for. It's his. Joe owns it. Adios. See ya later.

Division #106 Seldom do you see the first three players on the All-Star list from the same team. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you, from Fucifino's... (I'll buy you a 'Happy Meal' if you can pronounce the first player's last name, provided you never seen or heard it before)... #1 Moe Teimoortagh 27-10 .730, #2 Pete Kelly 21-9 .700, and #3 Jim Harrison 30-14 .682. Collectively, their record of 58-33 was the big reason they beat out Lehmann's Landing .590 to .564. That coming from the games W/L %. Both teams ended the session 10-3.

Division #107 If Erich Weiss isn't familiar to you as the worlds greatest escape artist perhaps his stage name is, Harry Houdini? Bob Hood breaks the racks at Houdini's Bar up on Lackland road. And Bob Hood had to pull more than a rabbit out of his hat or make a pachyderm disappear to win the All-Star Award. He tried to make Gary Bayless disappear throughout the 16-week campaign but that trick was a hard one to do, until the last '8' ball was dropped. Bob Hood (Houdini's) ended the campaign 26-7 .788 to Gary Bayless (TK's Pub & Grill) 33-9 .786. The meager difference of .002 would make the real Houdini elated and excited knowing that he pulled off another narrow escape just in the nick of time. That .002 is the slimmest margin between two players going for the 'Jacket' in a long time.

In spite of the heavy hitting of Hood and Bayless, it was Charlack Pub taking team honors. Their 11-2 record was two games better than TK's Pub & Grill and Lehmann's Landing. Houdini's finished 5th.

Most Games Played

- 1. 52 Al Pruetz
- 2. 52 John Breeding
- 3. 52 Steve Paneitz
- 4. 49 Julie Hemann
- 5. 49 Jim Crosby
- 6. 49 Pete Potthast
- 7. 48 Joe Curlee
- 8. 48 Lane Koelling
- 9. 48 Todd Lamwersiek
- 10. 47 Bob Nickles
- 11. 47 Don Kirchoff
- 12. 47 Don Millfelt
- 13. 47 Joe Lopez
- 14. 47 John Koch (NC)
- 15. 47 Kent Sanderson
- 16. 47 Kris Schlaeffli

Top 28 Players

- 17. 47 Art Lohnes
- 18. 47 Tom Hopkins
- 19. 46 Randall Tidwell
- 20. 46 Rick Andrade
- 21. 46 Rick Sutberry
- 22. 46 Robert Froesel
- 23. 46 Ron Hasty
- 24. 46 Ryan Huelsman
- 25. 46 Jon Peterson
- 26. 46 Paul Edstrom
- 27. 46 Steve Schultz
- 28. 46 Tim Blandford
- 29. 45 games by 17 players

Largest point difference between 1st and 2nd place-Singles

- 1. 239 Ed Libby (Libby's) 31-2 .939 to .700 21-9 Phil Joseph (Pat & Roses)
- 2. 219 Rich Sager (Fucifino's #1) 24-0 1.000 to .781 25-7 Biff Barieter (Nuts)
- 3. 150 R.G. Ramsey (Lehmann's) 33-4 .892 to .742 23-8 Mike Lehmann (Lehmann's)
- 4. 143 Ed Medlock (JP's Corner) 28-6 .824 to .681 32-15 Kent Sanderson (Bartman's)
- 5. 140 Bill McKinney (Shenanigan's) 24-5 .828 to .688 22-10 Rick Trolinger (Tigers Inn #2)
- 6. 108 Kris Ross (Hazzard's #2) 33-10 .767 to .659 29-15 Roy Thaugher (Hazzard's #2)
- 7. 101 Tim Finnegan (Filling Station) 34-5 .872 to .771 27-8 Terry Masters (Zeke's)

<u>W/L % Top 25</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Top 25</u>	<u>Team</u>
1. 1.000 Rick Sager	'A'	24	0 Fucifino's	1. 38 Dennis Dunbar	'B'	Libby's
2. .939 Ed Libby	'A'	31	2 Libby's	2. 37 Larry Baker	'B'	Cactus Inn
3. .892 RG Ramsey	'CC'	33	4 L. Landing	3. 37 Jim Stevens	'B'	Keith's #2
4. .882 Joe Lombardozzi	'B'	30	4 Classic's #2	4. 36 Matt Auclair	'CC'	Memoreze
5. .872 Tim Finnegan	'CC'	34	5 Filling Station	5. 36 Tracy Boyce	'CC'	Streiler's
6. .861 John Legens	'CC'	31	5 Pat & Roses	6. 35 Ryan Huelsman	'BB'	Hotshots SC #3
7. .857 Tim Masnica	'CC'	30	5 Pete's Place #2	7. 34 Gary Blanks	'B'	New Classic's #1
8. .857 Rich Sager	'A'	24	4 Fucifino's #2	8. 34 John Breeding	'CC'	Charlack Pub
9. .844 Dennis Dunbar	'B'	38	7 Libby's	9. 34 Tim Finnegan	'CC'	Filling Station
10. .844 Jay Carlton	'B'	27	5 Sharpshooters	10. 33 Gary Bayless	'C'	TK's Pub & Grill
11. .841 Larry Baker	'B'	37	7 Cactus Inn	11. 33 Jim Fallon	'CC'	Charlack Pub
12. .837 Matt Auclair	'CC'	36	7 Memoreze	12. 33 Robert Froesel	'CC'	Maple Leaf #1
13. .833 Billy Wimberly	'B'	25	5 Fucifino's #2	13. 33 John Legens	'CC'	Pat & Roses
14. .828 Larry Baker	'B'	24	5 Cactus Inn	14. 33 Mike Musser	'CC'	Charlack Pub
15. .828 Bill McKinney	'B'	24	5 Shenanigan's	15. 33 RG Ramsey	'CC'	Lehmann's
16. .824 Tyler Jones	'CC'	28	6 Lehmann's	16. 33 Kris Ross	'CC'	Hazzard's #2
17. .824 Ed Medlock	'B'	28	6 JP's Corner	17. 33 Bob Thum	'B'	JP's Corner #1
18. .824 Jeff Wilson	'BB'	28	6 Shenanigan's	18. 33 Dan Tucker	'B'	Classic's #1
19. .822 Jim Stevens	'B'	37	8 Keith's #2	19. 32 Art Lohnes	'B'	Fucifino's #2
20. .818 Tracy Boyce	'CC'	36	8 Streiler's	20. 32 Al Pruetz	'B'	Fucifino's #4
21. .818 Mike Moore	'CC'	18	4 Planet 8 Ball #1	21. 32 Kent Sanderson	'B'	Bartman's
22. .813 RG Ramsey	'CC'	26	6 Lehmann's	22. 32 Shawn Burns	'CC'	McDuff's
23. .805 Bob Thum	'B'	33	8 JP's Corner #1	23. 32 Dave Fexer	'C'	McDuff's
24. .805 Dan tucker	'B'	33	8 Classic's #1	24. 32 Pat Gill	'C'	Memoreze
25. .800 Mary Stillwell	'CC'	28	7 Classic's #1	25. 32 Julie Hemann	'C'	JP's Corner #2

Runout Rich Sager tops All-Star field for the 6th time

February 7-8, 2004. Teachers hosted the 54th Missouri 8 Ball shootout. Almost 300 players signed up for the All-Star singles event. Not only was Sager undefeated in his 6th title win, it was the 3rd consecutive win, all being undefeated. No one can remember the last time someone beat him in this race to two-tournament. It was the second time Sager and Wimberly met at the end and Billy coming out second best.

The Sager saga continues. During the regular season these guys are teammates out of Fucifino's. They also finished 1-2 for the 'Jacket'. (Check out Division #10)

4th place winner Ronda Day took a few headlines. Ronda has played many times in these tournaments and this is by far her best performance. Jay Ackay finished 3rd. Congratulations to all players. It was a great time as always at Teachers.

Results of 54th Missouri 8 Ball All Star Singles Tournament

Place	Player	Winnings	Place	Player	Winnings
1.	Rich Sager	'A' \$1,048 & Trophy	9/12.	Jim Crosby	'B' \$150
2.	Billy Wimberly	'B' 800 & Trophy	9/12.	Bill Owens	'CC' 150
3.	Jay Ackay	'CC' 650 & Trophy	9/12.	Rich Norris	'CC' 150
4.	Ronda Day	'DD' 500	9/12.	Brian O'Leary	'C' 150
5/6.	Larry Baker	'B' 350	13/16.	Jack Mayer	'B' 100
5/6.	Rob Royer	'C' 350	13/16.	Ed Enders	'CC' 100
7/8.	Dennis Dunbar	'B' 250	13/16.	Matt Auclair	'CC' 100
7/8.	Pete Potthast	'CC' 250	13/16.	Jerry Smith	'DD' 100

17/24. The following players were \$50 winners: Don Weber, Steve Lowery, Jeremy Cardwell, Tracy Moore, Bill Cloyd, Elliott Kite, Tim Finnegan and [Patty Wells](#).

Results of 5-Player Tournament

48 teams qualified for the 54th 5-player tournament that took place Saturday and Sunday February 21-22, 2004 at Buddy & Suzann Evans Planet 8 Ball, a real up-to-date room in St. Peters, Mo. Stop in the next time you're in town. For the first time in the 18-year history of Missouri 8 Ball the final four teams were loaded with heavy hitters. All four fielded either 31 or 32 points in their lineups. No one thought it would come down to this considering the amount of games given up to the lesser skilled teams. Check out the list below for the weight shift.

Coming out of Flight #1 was Teachers, a team led by Captain Jeff Ayers. They drew a bye the opening round Saturday. Their 4pm match turned out to be a hill climber. Nine games on the wire to Hazzards made it a very high hill indeed. And then Hazzards won the leadoff game for a very commanding 10-0 lead in the race to 15. Although the consensus of several odds makers thought Teacher's chances of pulling it out was fuzzier than Whoopi Goldberg's hairdo, not one offered to lay down so much as a lightweight farthing. And it's a good thing. The guys from Teachers showed nerves of steel by running off the next 12 games. After Hazzards won only their second game Teachers finished it off taking the last three. Actual score, 15-2 (officially 15-11).

It was a great comeback indeed, but they weren't out of the woods by a long shot. Teachers' next match was almost a carbon copy. Having to give up 7 games to Filling Station, Jeff & Co. again had their work cut out. It didn't take long to level the playing field. Teachers took the first round 5-0 cutting Filling Station's lead to 7-5. The Station squeezed out one game in round two increasing their lead 8-5, but as we all know it is easier to squeeze money out of customers at the gas pumps than it is to squeeze out games in a championship 8-ball contest. Teachers turned up the heat and took the next five games for a 10-8 lead, and that's when it happened. We will not identify the player from Filling Station (I guess he had his fill) was so incensed, so upset, displeased (to put it mildly), not amused (to put it mildly), well, pissed off is what he was, he just flat up and quit. Stopped. Took a hike. Left the other four teammates without a Leper's chance.

This was another first for the league. No team had ever resigned itself to a loss with a 7-0 lead. Talking to the team captain had they another player they would have continued but their roster showed only five players. Teachers was given the three forfeit games for a 13-8 win. Actual score, 10-1 (officially 13-8).

Now if Jeff and gang were looking for easier fish to fry it didn't come in their first match Sunday. Their opponents, 21 Rock, were allowed 11 games on the wire in a race to 16. This would be their biggest hurdle yet. Getting to 16 before 21 Rock won 5 would be a good trick. (A few years ago one team had to go to 17 and pulled it off.) For sure everyone would have to stay focused. Staying focused is their forte.

Teachers took four games in round one, four in round two and all five from round three. It was now tied at 13-13. 21 Rock managed only one more win. Teachers was just too overpowering. They took three of the last four for a tremendous 16-14 victory. At one stretch Teachers ran off 10 in a row. At this point in the tournament Jeff Ayers was 10-0, Walter 'Fast Train' Crane, 8-0, Jim 'I can't sing like Bing' Crosby, 8-2, Smokin' Pat Tobin also 8-2, and Jumpin' John Bissell, 7-2. Their team record was a whopping 41 wins and only six losses. Talk about staying focused. They had to overcome giving up 27 games on the wire. I'd say this lineup not only was focused but also was in dead punch. This brought Teachers to the final '4'. Their next opponents would be the winners of Flight #2.

Penalty Box has been here so many times over the years the tournament would almost seem incomplete not seeing them going for the trophy. They received a first round bye. Their 4pm match showed that Penalty Box had to pony up five games on the board to Fucifino's. The 11-9 (11-4) win put Penalty Box on the road. Their 8pm match wasn't as bad having to spot Action Billiards only two-games head start. The 11-8 (11-6) win brought Penalty Box back for Sunday's shootouts. Giving up four games to Players Pub, the Pubsters managed only two wins and the Boxers were victorious 11-6 (11-2). At this point Penalty Box showed 33 wins against only 12 losses and gave up 11 games on the wire.

Out of Flight #3 came last session's champions Fucifino's. Art Lohnes and gang of roughriders were out to make it two in a row. They opened up by giving JP's Corner three games on the wire and defeating them 11-6 (11-3). Then allowing Dellwood Lounge a 6-game head start forced Fucifino's to keep their heads in the game. They took out an 11-9 squeaker (11-3). Moving on to the 8pm round, Fucifino's gave up another three to Hotshots and pulled away 12-7 (12-4). To make the final '4' Art's guys financed four to Crystal City Billiards. It was another battle but rewarding to the tune of 11-9 (11-5). At this point in the proceedings Fucifino's put together 45 wins, only 15 losses and gave up 16 games on the wire.

Planet 8 Ball came out of Flight #4 huffin' and puffin'. And like a big train on the downgrade they picked up momentum as they tracked along. When they pulled it off it became the first time ever that all four teams left standing played either 31 or 32 team points throughout the tournament. Like the other three teams that made it this far, Planet 8 Ball gave up a lot of weight. Their first match allowed 21 Rock 8-games head start. At one point 21 Rock was crusin' 12-8 in the race to 13. Kirkwood Tom kept it alive, as did Kevin Van Leer. Jared Speckmeyer won the 12th and 13th games for the 13-12 (13-4) come-from-behind victory. This was the first of Jared's three 4-win matches.

Jared's second 4-win match came in the following meeting with Classics. Ironically the setting and ending was the same as the last match ending. Jared won the fifth game to end the last round and drew the number one pill beginning the final round. Again winning the final two games 11-9 (11-5) advanced Planet 8 Ball to the 8pm matchup with Memoreze. By some standards giving up only two games would seem like a small hurdle to jump. But Jack Mayer's teams are always in the hunt. Planet 8 Ball prevailed, 11-8 (11-6) moving Buddy Evans and the gang into the money for Sunday's showdown.

Out of the frying pan into the fire? Planet 8 Ball having overcome 8 games on the wire Saturday now found themselves on the short end of a 10-0 beginning. Hessler's Pub made it this far by getting five games on the wire their first match, five for their second and four their third, were now getting 10—talk about being in the right place on the board. But as they say in books, all good things eventually come to a screeching type halt. The gang from Planet 8 Ball dug in to meet the challenge. Thirty minutes later the

song ‘See Spot Run’ could be heard from around table #9. After eight games Hessler’s Pub was out in front 12-6 needing only four more wins in the race to 16. They didn’t come close. Buddy’s group put together a 10-game winning streak ending all doubt of who was moving to the next level.

The next level featured some dynamite playing. Teachers and Penalty Box squared off from the top of the board. Penalty Box was ahead 5-4 when the roof fell in. Teachers ran off 7 games in a row securing their place for the finals. Of those 7 games, 4 were runouts. As the saying goes ‘they can’t beat-cha sitting in their chairs’. Penalty Box settled for a 3rd place tie.

Fucifino’s and Planet 8 Ball fought it out from the bottom half of the board. It looked like Fucifino’s were on their way to another title when they took 4 games from round one. When they came back with 3 in the second round for a 7-3 lead most railbirds thought the fat lady was warming up. “La la la la la, my dog has fleas” could be heard from the back corner. But as Yogi says, ‘it ain’t over till it’s over’.

Planet 8 Ball rallied with 4 wins in round three closing the gap 8-7. The uphill climb wasn’t getting any easier. They needed 3 wins in round four for a tie and got them. Tied up 10-10 the pills were drawn for the matchup for the 21st and deciding game. Rich Sager got the call for Fucifino’s and their supporters breathed a sigh of relief. Kevin Van Leer got the call for Planet 8 Ball and the fat lady took a break to watch the action. The balls were ready and Sager broke open the rack. The balls scattered around the table but nothing fell.

Van Leer, taking his time, picked off the solids one about every 20 minutes (just kidding). He knew what everyone in the house was thinking; do not allow Sager back at the table. Coach Buddy Evans picked his spots very carefully and used both coaches. Kevin finessed his way around to the last solid, fuzzed it into the corner pocket with left spin and the cue ball caromed off a striped ball just right for a 45 degree cut-shot on the ‘8’. It was a great runout. The jury is still out on whether future reference to Van Leer to be ‘Runout Kevin’.

The stage was set for the championship match. The race to 11 opened up with Planet 8 Ball taking a 4-2 lead. Teachers came back with 3 of 4 to tie it at 5-5. Buddy Evans opened the third round for a 6-5 Planet 8 Ball lead. That would be their last win. Teachers, playing about as solid 8-ball as can be played, took the last 6 games and the 54th team championship, 11-6. It has been many years since Jeff Ayers and company got past the 4pm round on Saturday. We would have to dig through the record books for the correct event. Let’s just say it hasn’t been as long as the Chicago Cubs or the Washington Nationals. Congrats, guys. See ya next time.

Place	Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Gup	Gr.	Winnings
1.	Teachers	63	17	.788	27	0	\$6,000 & Trophy
2.	Planet 8 Ball	68	38	.642	18	0	3,500
3-4.	Fucifino’s	45	15	.750	16	0	1,750
3-4.	Penalty Box	33	12	.733	11	0	1,750
5-8.	Crystal City Billiards	26	17	.605	0	5	1,000
5-8.	Players Pub	31	30	.508	6	8	1,000
5-8.	21 Rock	31	41	.431	3	20	1,000
5-8.	Hessler’s Pub	22	24	.393	0	24	1,000

Results of 4-Player Tournament

16 teams contested for the 4-player trophy and first place prize of \$2,750. From the bottom of the board 21 Rock had a rocky road to hold even though they got weight in their first three matches. They derailed Fucifino’s 10-4 (7-4), kept up the pace against Classics 9-7 (6-7), and ambushed Charlack Pub 9-3 (7-3) to get to the final showdown.

From the top of the board Memoreze was matching the competition game for game. The difference was the games head start they were getting. They knocked off Hazzard's 9-6 (5-6), pounded Mr. T's 9-4 (7-4), and got passed Hotshots 9-7 (7-7) to meet 21 Rock for the gold.

With a 3-game spot, Memoreze racked up another 3 in the first round for a fast 6-1 opening. The 3 wins in round two kinda solidified their chances. Down 2-9, 21 Rock tried making a comeback with two wins in round three but it was just too big a hill to climb. Memoreze took out the match 10-4 (heads up, 7-4).

<u>Pl.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Gup</u>	<u>Re</u>	<u>Winnings</u>	<u>Payout</u>
1.	Memoreze	26	21	.553	0	11	\$2,750 & Trophy	5-Player Tourney \$17,000
2.	21 Rock	24	21	.533	3	8	1,250	4-Player Tourney 4,000
								<u>All-Star Singles 5,598</u>

Included in the winnings Missouri 8 Ball added an extra \$1,677.50 **\$26,598**

Missouri 8 Ball is committed to giving our players the best tournaments with the largest payouts possible.

Players with 4 Wins in a Single Match

All players listed had at least one match where they won 4 games with the exception of Jared Speckmeyer (Planet 8 Ball). Jared broke another Missouri 8 Ball record by recording 3 matches where he won 4 games. Others are Dennis Gallagher (Planet 8 Ball), Mark Emmons (Crystal City Billiards), Jeff Ayers and Pat Tobin (Teachers), Wayne Lowery (Players Pub), Jeff Wilson (Shenanigans), Ed Enders (Fucifino's), Josh Goodman and Bob Crook (21 Rock), and Ryan Ritter (Cactus Inn).

Players with 10 or more Wins

Pl.	Name	W.	L.	Pct.	Place	Team	
1.	Jared Speckmeyer	17	5	.773	5.	Planet 8 Ball	You will notice that all 14 players listed with double figure wins were from the final four teams. All five of Planet 8 Ball and all five of Teachers players are among them. Three from Fucifino's and one from Penalty Box round out the list. Jared Speckmeyer's 17 wins set a Missouri 8 Ball record for a championship tourney. He won 4 games in three different matches, had two runs of 9 & 6-game-wins, and he owes it all to teammate Steve Boucher. For some reason Boucher 'BB' didn't show for the most important tournament of the year. 'CC' Jared was pressed into action. That's why he is my choice for MVP.
2.	Buddy Evans	15	4	.789	4.	Planet 8 Ball	
3.	Jeff Ayers	14	3	.824	3.	Teachers	
4.	Walt Crane	13	1	.929	1.	Teachers	
5t.	Jim Crosby	13	4	.765	7tie	Teachers	
5t.	Pat Tobin	13	4	.765	7tie	Teachers	
7.	Rich Sager	13	5	.722	9.	Fucifino's	
8.	Dennis Galagher	13	8	.619	12.	Planet 8 Ball	
9.	Pat Row	12	2	.857	2.	Fucifino's	
10.	Jeff Ford	12	5	.706	10.	Fucifino's	
11.	Kevin Van Leer	12	11	.522	14.	Planet 8 Ball	
12.	Tom Vogt	11	10	.524	13.	Planet 8 Ball	
13.	Paul Hopfer	10	3	.769	6.	Penalty Box	
14.	John Bissell	10	5	.667	11.	Teachers	

Consecutive Wins

1tie. Jeff Ayers	11	Teachers	Jeff Ayers won his first 11 games, and Paul Hopfer won the first 10 games he played. His three losses came in the final match where he got only one shot in those three games. That's how tough the final three matchups were. Not many can dispute Jared Speckmeyer deserving the MVP award from Planet 8 Ball. This could be the start of his fame. There is a problem however selecting a MVP from Teachers. Everyone did such an outstanding job. I think I'll just go with the entire team equally sharing the honor.
1tie. Pat Row	11	Fucifino's	
3. Paul Hopfer	10	Penalty Box	
4tie. Walt Crane	9	Teachers	
4tie. Jared Speckmeyer	9	Planet 8 Ball	
6. Jim Crosby	8	Teachers	
7tie. Buddy Evans	7	Planet 8 Ball	
7tie. Mark Emmons	7	Crystal City Billiards	
7tie. Pat Tobin	7	Teachers	
10tie. Matt Auclair	6	JP's Corner	
10tie. Jeff Ford	6	Fucifino's	
10tie. Rich Sager	6	Fucifino's	
10tie. Jared Speckmeter	6	Planet 8 Ball	

ODDS AND ENDS

Hessler's Pub received more games on the wire than they won 24 to 22. The second most games on the wire were 20 received by 21 Rock. They did manage to match that total with 20 wins. Hazzard's received 17 games on the wire and managed only 8 wins.

On Penalty Box and the Yankees: To booster their lineup for the championship Captain Paul Verhulst tried a George Steinbrenner move. Boss George picked up A-Rod to add more punch to an already tough lineup. To send a 5-player powerhouse rotation against the competition in every round Verhulst picked up 'A' Paul Hopfer and 'BB' Kip Esteep. The move almost worked. Like the Yankees who finished second in the World Series last year, Penalty Box finished in a tie for third.

A Bounty on Rich Sager? Rich put the finishing touches on one of the best 8-ball seasons in league history and he did it without a cellphone hidden in the corner pocket, a cheerleading squad, or even a pen. His history making 24-0 from Division 10 and 24-4 from Division 14 were among the best ever for two combined divisions, 48-4 .923. His 6th All-Star win puts him far and above all others plus his team finished 3rd. The boy made money this season. Congrats, Rich. See ya next time.

Classes Opening? There's no truth to the rumor that most All-Star singles' tournaments are held at 'Teachers' because it's an institution of higher learning. But "after the last showdown it wouldn't be a bad idea," said a resent grad of '8-ball-cum-laude.' With 35% of players losing their matches after winning the first game, and 24 '8' balls missed that would have won matches, maybe Teacher should consider reopening his classroom for refresher courses.

Joe Lombo still on the go: Joe Lombardozzi adds another first to his long line of Mo-8-Ball credits by becoming the oldest player to take the All-Star trophy. Actually what he did was break his own record. A trophy here, a jacket there, ho-hum. Congrats, Joe and many more awards to you.
By the way, Classic's #2 took first for team championships. Of course Jumpin' Joe had some help. Aiding and abetting was Uncle Pete Mocca. Yeah, that's him. The same 73-year-old Uncle Pete Mocca. What a combo-Mocca/Lombo. These guys should start their own league. You youngsters...come on, come on.

Lucky Ronda? Someone noted how “lucky?” Ronda Day was trying to describe the way she turns the cue ball loose after each shot. “The table could be laid out like a minefield and the cue ball would breeze around them.” I saw one of Ronda’s matches and personally speaking I wish I could guide my cue ball through a minefield without running into obstacles. I didn’t want to tell the guy how much trouble he would be in if he challenged her. Perhaps one day he would find out.

For those who may have missed her weekend performance, Ronda knocked off 7 opponents on her way to a 4th place finish that was good for \$500. Take some of that, (husband) Vic.

Ronda Day becomes the fourth lady to finish in the top ten in the ‘open’ tournament. Her 4th place is also the 4th highest for ladies. The others were, 1st Julia Gabriel, 2nd place Rhonda Bartram, and 3rd (& 7th place), Mary Stillwell. Congrats once again Ronda and-a...keep the ball rolling.

Just wondering: Is anyone up for the Missouri 8 Ball League borrowing a page out of the NFL and having our own **Lingerie Bowl**? Bob might look a little silly in a see-through, but...

And finally this bit which is totally unrelated to billiards but I’d thought I’d throw it in anyway just in case you missed it. This item was in the Sports Digest section of the Post-Dispatch dated Tuesday December 30, 2003. It said, ‘in voting for story of the year, the Kobe Bryant saga received 30 first-place votes for a total of 616 points. That beat out Lance Armstrong who won a record-tying fifth straight Tour de France title. That garnered 19 first-place votes for 540 points.’

That got me to thinking about their voting system. Here we have Lance Armstrong who for five years peddled his rear-end all over France and other parts of Europe to win the creme de la creme of Bicycle races five times. FIVE. Kobe Bryant, (I have to clean this up a bit), has an extra marital affair, (that’s about as clean as I can get it), and he gets top billing. Is that fair? Is that justice?

Another thing, Armstrong’s wife divorces him. Kobe Bryant’s wife stays. Go figure. Obviously a \$4-million dollar diamond ring carries more appeal for forgiveness than a new Schwinn, huh?

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 number one.

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

<http://missouri8ball.com/>
<http://free-reference.com/billiards.htm>
<http://free-reference.com/JaysCorner/>