



## 56th Missouri 8 Ball Results 2004 Summer Session

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank those of you who participated in the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League's 2004 summer session. As customary we offer congratulations to those who qualified for the All-Star Singles tournament and of course for the Team Tournaments. We are in our 19th year of operation and happy to announce that we are still the largest 8-Ball League currently operating in the St. Louis area. Your loyalty and unswerving dedication are big reasons why we can offer up what we feel is the fairest handicap system as well as one of the more competitive pool leagues anywhere.

Recognizing divisional winners who played hard for their teams and shot their way to TOP honors is another highlight and a main feature we like to present. Many of our first place winners were leading several weeks into the schedule while others took over the first place spot just the last couple of weeks. That's the great thing about being in a race. The great team and/or personal competition; the art or skill of using stratagems in reaching the final outcome of a game or match. The camaraderie. We all have our moments, some early some late. If you're in it long enough your time will come.

**Division #1** Mike Bartram? Yep, that's what it says. The office staff and the crystal ball reader next door couldn't believe it either. But there it was in black and white, Mike Bartram. Someone suggested possibly computer malfunction... but no. No more of "Mike, who? Oh, that's Rhonda's husband." Forget that, Clyde. Now it's, "Rhonda, who? Oh, that's Mike's wife." Mike Bartram ran off with the divisional trophy like Justin Gatlin ran off with the Gold in Athens, fast, faster and zooooom. Mike's 20-2 record was good for a whopping .909. To put it in perspective it was 159 points ahead of second place. Okay, Rhonda, what have you done for the team lately?

By the way, Mike's Bartman's team finished first past the post in case you were wondering.

**Division #2** Who said you can't teach an old... an old... a mature guy new tricks. Jerry Dodson from Memoreze showed up the kids with his 29-5 .853 record. It was 67 points ahead of second place. From the team side Pardella Club took top honors led by Rick Edmonds' 22-6 .786.

**Division #3** The refugee from Riverview Circle down around the Baden area is still making headlines. Gary Heffernan is knocking them around for Libby's these days. His 19-3 .864 record beat out teammate Chad Stephenson for top honors. Chad hung in there through the final week and finished with a 21-5 .808. Very respectable indeed, but still 56 points behind Gary. Nice race guys.

Team honors go to Pat & Roses. Their 10-1 record outdistanced Libby's (8-3) by two games. Pat & Roses offered up the usual suspects, Sam 'Tiger' Joseph, Ben Wanner, John Legens, Bill Crawford and Ray Olliges among others. Good luck next session.

**Division #4** I can't remember the last time we had a 3-man race for the Trophy where all three players were from the same team. Hazzards #1 featured Jerry Terbrock (25-5 .833), Greg Martin (17-4 .810) and Jim Wanner (25-6 .806). The thing about this finish is that the previous week Greg Martin was leading the parade followed by Terbrock and Wanner. Martin didn't play the final week and both Terbrock and Wanner went 4-0. That's how Jerry overtook Greg for the honors. Unfortunately Terbrock and Wanner were outgunned and the team lost 12-11 having to settle for a third place finish.

JP's Corner went past the post on the final week with an 8-3 record slightly ahead of Bartman's and Hazzards #1 with 7-3 showings.

**Division #5** Teammates from 21Rock #1 Rick Andrade (18-3 .857) and Bill Keith (15-3 .833) shot it out for top spot on the All-Star list. Touch and go until the final week but Rick held on. No doubt you've heard the expression 'closer than newlyweds on their maiden night of marriage?' Well, just in case you haven't, here's the example we're alluding to. Going into the final week of play 21 Rock #1 was 9-1 .628. Awesome, huh? But, as luck would have it their last match would be against their sister team 21 Rock #2, sporting an impressive record of their own, 8-2 .603. For 21 Rock #1 to stay number one and finish first past the post they could still lose the match as long as they won 10 games. They didn't. They won nine. They lost the final match 12-9. 21 Rock #2 had to win 12-9 to overtake first place and that's exactly what they did. Now, check this out. Both teams finished 9-2. But here's the real close part. The deciding factor of course is games played won/loss percentage. In games played 21 Rock #2 was 106-71 for a .598.87 won/loss percentage. 21 Rock #1 was 85-57 for a .598.59. Only .000.28 is the difference. By far the closest race we've had in many a moon. Great going guys. Do it again next time.

**Division #6** Another last minute reprieve in the All-Star parade. Going into the final two matches Ken Williams (The Phoenix) led 14-2 .875 to John Porter's 19-4 .826. Ken played one game and lost dropping his record to 14-3 .824. While that was going on John went 3-0 raising his final totals to 22-4 .846, a slight .022 difference.

From the team side George's and JP's Corner #3 tied with 8-3 records sending the tiebreaker to games won-lost percentage. It was George's 108-91 .543 coming out on top of JP's 88-82 .518.

**Division #7** If anybody can Kurt 'the Big Hurt' Sellmann can. That was the cry throughout the session from Jody T's team and fans. And it looked like they were going to pull it off, until... well here's what happened. With one week remaining on the schedule three teams were tied with 8-3 records with Jody T's having the highest W-L Percentage in games played of .586. Little Gam's .578 and Filling Station .544 were close behind. Enter Foleys. In order for Foleys to secure a berth for the playoffs they needed a strong win against Jody T's and got it, 12-8. That win knocked Jody T's down to third place in the final standings. That still left Little Gam's and Filling Station tied with 9-2 records. For some reason Filling Station got a 'bye win' which meant that Little Gam's had to play and win to finish in first place. They put it together and knocked off Keith's 11-7 edging out Filling Station .581 to .544, or .037 difference.

So what does this have to do with Kurt 'the Big Hurt' Sellmann? I'm glad you asked. Kurt, from Jody T's, ran off with top All-Star honors with his 25-3 .893. That my friend, is 115 points higher than the runner-up, Robert Froese, who deserves a big honorable mention with his 28-8 .778.

**Division #8** Imagine being in fourth place with an .800 won-loss percentage. That's right, I said 4th. Then imagine the guy leading the parade is 113 points ahead of you. Say what? You read it right. You are 16-4 with but two weeks remaining on the schedule in 4th place with .800. The two guys immediately in front of you, Cecil Morris and Mario Webster, have identical records of 18-4 .818 The front runner is Wayne Turner packing a hefty 21-2 .913. Forget it. It's over. Turn in the sheets. Order the trophy and put his name on it. Pick out the correct size jacket or shirt or whatever is handed out for the winner this session. Have it neatly wrapped and packaged to be handed out at the tournament. Then throw away your cue stick, dig out the rod & reel and go fishing. The chances of overtaking the three players in front of you and becoming the divisional champion the final two weeks is like saying give Custer another two weeks and his chances of overtaking Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Rain-in-the-Face at Little Big Horn would have been in his favor. It ain't gonna happen, Slick.

Well it did. No, Custer could have had two more weeks and two hundred more men and the final results would have been the same. However, Steve Galloway had a better plan than Custer did. In the two weeks that followed one player went 2-3 and dropped to 7th place. Another went 7-1 and moved into 2nd, while the front runner went 4-3 dropping to 3rd. Steve Galloway went from 4th place to first by going undefeated 7-0 raising his record to 23-4 .852. What a comeback. What a great race. Only .019 was the

difference. Steve overcame 113 points and added another 19 of his own. That's 132-point turnaround in two matches. Talk about earning the jacket! Big ups, Steve. Way to hang in there.

Now for the downside: For those same two weeks Steve's team, Fucifinos #1, dropped out of the frontrunner slot for the bye into the big tournament having instead to settle for second place and go through the playoffs. You win some and you lose some.

Congratulations to Pete's Place #2 for pulling out the top spot from the team side of the race. Stuck in 3rd place needing to win the final two weeks to pull it out and they did. The three-way tie of 7-3 went to games won-lost for the tiebreaker. Pete's Place #2 (94-73) .563 got past Fucifinos #1 (110-103) .516 and Classics #2 (111-106) .512.

**Division #9** The run-for-the-trophy changed hands a couple of times throughout the session but in the end Jay Carlton was victorious. Jay's 32-3 .914 outdistanced Tyler Jones' (Lehmann's Landing) 23-4 .852 by only .062. If you keep up with these reports you may recall that last session Jay finished first past the post but was not awarded the trophy because he didn't hit high enough for his 'BB' (7) skill level. Jay's teammate Mike Warfel got the honors because he finished second. Not so this time, Herbie.

It was a rewarding session another way too. For the first time in many moons the team that Jay plays with finished first in the standings. The two-week rest felt mighty good. Action Billiards, led by Greg Tebeau, had an outstanding run for top honors going 10-1 in the shortened summer session.

**Division #10** The race is on. It's week 10 and the difference between first and second place is a scant .003. What to do, what to do? That's easy, you play and hope. You 'play' and put all the effort into your matches to be victorious. And at the same time you 'hope' that the other guy has a horrible last week, that your adversaries' cue tip falls off and he miscues just as he's about to shoot the '8' ball into the side pocket, two maybe three times tonight. He'd have to have a lot of cue sticks handy. I wasn't there for the finale but somebody said that another somebody sent a voodoo doll to Mike McIntire complete with pins and needles and whatever they send with voodoo dolls. Obviously it worked. Mike, 21-8, going into the final week's play was .003 behind Billy Wimberly's 24-9 .727. Mike went 1-3 for the night lowering his record to 22-11 .677 as Billy was having a great last night 3-1 raising his average to 27-10 .730. Personally I don't believe in voodoo dolls but maybe others do. I'll leave it to you. Oh, by the way, if you do believe in voodoo dolls and all that hocus-pocus mumbo-jumbo, let me know. The next time you and I are in a tight race I'll know to whom to send... nah, I wouldn't really do that, snicker-snicker.

It was a double sweep for Lehmann's Landing. Their team also finished first past the post with a great 9-2 record led by Billy Wimberly, Kurt Bauer, John Holman, Brian Walker and Tyler Jones all making the All-Star honor roll. Congrats, guys.

**Division #11** We have another first as best as I can recall. The top four players are from the same team. The difference here is that of the nine teams in Division #11 there are only two teams from the same location, TJ's Ali-by Inn. Usually when I report that the three or four top players leading the All-Star list are from the same team it is because all teams are playing out of the same location, re: Planet 8 Ball or Fucifinos early Tuesday morning division. Mike Doak pulled it off again. Mike's 20-4 .833 edged out teammate David Smith 19-4 .826 by a meager .007 of a point. David surpassed Ed Headley's 16-4 .800 by .026 of a point and Ed blew past Tim Goertz 16-6 .727 by .073.

This unquestionably is the reason that TJ's #1 went undefeated 11-0 running away with the divisional championship. It's hard to do and TJ's #1 is the only team in awhile that has gone undefeated. The next three teams tied with 7-4 records, which mean that the difference was 4 games ahead. A big gap by today's standards. Congrats, guys. See you next time.

**Division #12** It was a two-way finish for the Gas Light Inn crowd. Kurt Liliensiek took top honors with an outstanding display of shooting with his 28-2 .933 record. Captain Kurt was 141 points ahead of runner-up Ed Enders 19-5 .792. Most folks thought that when Kurt got all his hair cut off he would lose

his powers, ala Samson. But that didn't happen. In fact he has improved so much the last couple of years an undisclosed source said that he was thinking about going clean-shaven, ala Yul Brenner, the rest of his pool-playing career. Whatever, it is obvious that Mr. Liliensiek is on top of his game.

Holding off Long Branch for first past the post wasn't so easy but Cactus Inn #1 held on by a mere .015 of a point. Both ended the season at 9-2 team records and had to be decided by the tiebreaker of games won-lost percentage. Thanks to Doug Gibbons' great shooting of 25-7 .781, Cactus Inn's record 111-85 .566 beat out Long Branch's 118-96 .551. Great competition guys. Do it again next session.

**Division #13** Okay guys flip a coin, who's it going to be? Kevin Douglas, Mario Webster, Mario Webster, Kevin Douglas. Back and fourth is the way it went up to very end. With one week remaining Mario led the All-Star list with his 14-5 .737, slightly ahead of Kevin's 11-4 .733. Did I say slightly? A miniscule .004 is not much to hang your hopes on. So now the final match. Who's going to blink first? I'll tell you. Neither! Both players went 2-0 the final week and changed places. Huh? Yep! Let's do the math. Mario went to 16-5 .762 while Kevin rose to 13-4 .765, or a .003 to Kevin's good. Check this out, there was only a .007 point swing. The difference was that Mario had 5 losses to Kevin's 4. Kevin's team, Smokin' - 9-2, finished two games ahead of runners-up, Five Men and a Lezbo, 7-4, who just missed making the big tournament by going down 12-11 the final week of qualifiers. That's a great team name, "Five Men and a Lezbo" We hope they make it back if for no other reason than to keep the name out there. The last great team name I can think of was Mike Johnson's "Crack of Dawn".

**Division #14** Will the real Lee Utterback please stand up. Lee who? That's what they're saying over at Planet 8 Ball. How dare this outsider from Good Tymes get on the All-Star sheet? Who does he think he is, ANYHOW! Of the 19 players who made the All-Star honor roll Lee was the only one that does not play for one of the seven Planet 8 Ball teams. Yep, the boy was all alone. Lee placed 11th of the 19 with a 21-13 .618 showing. Hey, it could have been worse. Last week there were two players on the sheet that didn't play with Planet 8 Ball. Lee's brother, Robert Utterback, was there but was bumped the final week. In spite of being outgunned seven teams to one, Good Tymes managed to finish in third place with a 7-4 record winning 102 games. Not bad for a stepchild.

So who won? John Bissell took honors again, from where else, Planet 8 Ball. John's 26-2 .929 was exactly 100 points ahead of runner-up Mike Heidbreder's 29-6 .829. We know that Planet 8 Ball took team honors but which one. It was #4 with a 10-1 record winning a division high 118 games.

**Division #15** Here we go again. I think we covered this somewhere before, oh yeah, division 14. Of the 16 players that made the All-Star list only three were not with a Planet 8 Ball team. Top honors go to, oh him again. Yep, John Bissell, from, yep, Planet 8 Ball, again. John is living proof that you can't keep a good player down. It's not the first time John has won back to back trophies and surely won't be the last. He shot his way to 20-4 .833 edging out runner-up Tom Vogt 24-6 .800.

Of the six teams in division 15 four were from Planet 8 Ball. The top two tied with 9-2 records and #3 won out from the games won-lost tiebreaker .582 to .550. The team that finished 4th was disqualified from the team tournament championships for rules violations. That has not happened in many-many moons. So watch it!

**Division #101** It was nip and tuck (hello nip, hello tuck) going into the final week but Dave Sieber (23-7 .767) held off Nick Skrbbin (24-8 .750) by the slight .017. Tight indeed. Great race guys. Dave and Nick's teams also finished one-two. But this time it was Nick's 21 Rock #1 howling as they beat out Dave's Hotshots #1. Tied 8-2 sent the deciding factor games won-lost percentage into action. 21 Rock #1 snapped off an 84-62 .575 record to Hotshots #1 82-66 .554.

**Division #102** Perennial league player Uncle Ben Wanner (Pat & Roses) ripped off top All-Star honors. His 17-3 .850 was 81 points better than second place Dennis Dunbar's 20-6 .769.

Uncle Ben, with a little help from his friends ‘Tiger’ Joseph, Bill Crawford, Kurt ‘Big Hurt’ Sellmann and John Legens, pulled off first past the post by two games. A double winner for Pat & Roses. Great going.

**Division #103** Anyone who hasn’t heard of Troy Moore hasn’t read any of the last ten reports or was stuck inside Genesis, the capsule that flew in from outer space and crashed to Earth Wednesday September 8th. If nothing else Troy is consistent on Tuesday mornings. His 24-3 .889 went for top honors on the All-Star sheet... let’s see, how many times... never mind, I lost count.

Obviously being a newlywed hasn’t slowed Gentleman Jim Crosby down much. His 33-6 .846 gave Troy a run for the jacket coming up just .043 on the short end. Nice race guys.

The in-house Tuesday morning division has four Fucifinos teams. Number 1 went past the post first led by teammates Victor Day (22-10 .688) and Bob Pendergrass (19-10 .655).

**Division #104** Young Guns leader Billy ‘the Kid’ Mayhall (Just Bill’s Place) is still teaching and leading by example. His league leading .778 was a skimpy .013 ahead of Art Lohnes (Fucifinos) second place finish .765. The difference was Billy’s 14-4 record to Art’s 13-4, just one win, but all it takes, right!

Conversely, neither Just Bill’s Place nor Fucifinos went first over the line. In fact it was a two-way tie between TK’s Pub & Grill and Lehmann’s Landing with 10-1 records. Games won-lost percentage went this way: TK’s 68-40 .630 was .028 ahead of Lehmann’s Landing’s 77-51 .602.

**Division #105** If 74-year-old Pete Mocca ever reaches middle age he may slow down to a subdued trot. The operative word is ‘may’. Don’t even go there. Saying Uncle Pete will slow down in the prime of life is like saying George Foreman will hang up his gloves or telling Donald Trump to get a new hairpiece. It ain’t gonna happen, Clyde. Uncle Pete, as he is affectionately called, is in remarkable shape, shooting straight and can initiate, break and ventilate a rack of ivories on the hard slate, if I may relate. And he plans to keep on keeping on. That is to give the four younger generations a run to the finish line.

“Hang up my stick, hell... I have not yet begun to play.” (A slight paraphrase of the John Paul Jones bit) Not that he needs another jacket or trophy or cap with the Missouri 8 Ball insignia, he has a closet full of those; it’s the competition he likes. Uncle Pete craves competition like a kid craves ice cream. Bring’em on, rack’em up, let’s play. Oh, and I’ll have a chocolate cone if you please.

So one more time Pete takes out the prize. Although it was a two-way tie with teammate Mary Stillwell Pete was awarded the top spot because of the tiebreaker rule. Uncle Pete finished 20-8 .714. It goes to prove what Uncle Pete has been saying; “Hanging with the young dudes and dudettes is where it’s at.”

Shenanigan’s and Tigers Inn finished with 9-2 records. This brought on another tiebreaker. The games won-lost percentage put Shenanigan’s on top 87-55 .613 compared with Tigers Inn 75-64 .540.

Leaders for the Short 11-week 2004 Summer Session

Divisional Leaders	Rank	Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Div.	Top 10	Wins
1. Kurt Liliensiek	‘B’	Gas Light Inn	28	2	.933	12	1. Jim Crosby	33
2. John Bissell	‘B’	Planet 8 Ball	26	2	.929	14	2. Jay Carlton	32
3. Jay Carlton	‘BB’	Action	32	3	.914	9	3. Jerry Dodson	29
4. Mike Bartram	‘B’	Bartman’s	20	2	.909	1	4. Mike Heidbreder	29
5. Kurt Sellmann	‘CC’	Jody T’s	25	3	.893	7	5. Kurt Liliensiek	28
6. Troy Moore	‘B’	Fucifino’s #2	24	3	.889	103	6. Robert Froesel	28
7. Gary Heffernan	‘CC’	Libby’s	19	3	.864	3	7. Billy Wimberly	27
8. Rick Andrade	‘C’	21 Rock #1	18	3	.857	5	8. Frank Depoutot	27
9. Jerry Dodson	‘B’	Memoreze	29	5	.853	2	9. Five tied with	26
10. Steve Galloway	‘B’	Fucifino’s #1	23	4	.853	8	10. Seven tied with	25
11. Ben Wanner	‘CC’	Pat & Roses	17	3	.850	102		

### Leaders for the Short 11-week 2004 Summer Session

Pl.	Ladies Leaders	Rank	Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Div.	Top 13	Wins
1.	Mary Stillwell	'CC'	Classic's #2	15	6	.714	105	1. Dawn F.	21
2.	Donna Pope	'DD'	Kelly's #1	18	9	.667	7	2. Donna P.	18
3.	Rhonda Bartram	'B'	Bartman's	17	10	.630	4	3. Rhonda B.	17
4.	Dawn Froesel	'DD'	Foley's	21	14	.600	7	4. Melissa K.	17
5.	Vicki Narez	'DD'	21 Rock #2	13	9	.591	5	5. Gayle M.	17
6.	Melissa King	'CC'	Fucifino's #2	17	12	.586	8	6. Betty T.	16
7.	Betty Tucker	'DD'	G B Field	16	12	.571	11	7. Cyndie G.	16
8.	Gayle Medvik	'C'	Lindy's	17	13	.567	12	8. Mary S.	15
9.	Donna Collins	'C'	JP's Corner	13	10	.565	5	9. Erin S.	14
10.	Erin Shea	'C'	TJ's #2	14	12	.538	11	10. Vicki N.	13
11.	Monica Lumb	'DD'	Hazzard's #1	10	9	.526	5	11. Donna C.	13
12.	Da Da Harton	'C'	Cactus Inn #1	13	12	.520	12	12. Da Da H.	13
13.	Cyndie Gibbs	'C'	G B Field	16	16	.500	11	13. Monica L.	10

### **All-Star Results – Congratulations Richie Cunningham from Planet 8 Ball**

1.	Richie Cunningham	'A'	\$778 & Trophy	9-12.	Jerry Dodson	'B'	\$100
2.	Allan Ranay	'C'	575 & Trophy	9-12.	Jim Hornick	'CC'	100
3.	Bob Crook	'C'	425 & Trophy	9-12.	Monty Caldwell	'CC'	100
4.	Bob Pendergrass	'CC'	300	9-12.	Chris McIntyre	'DD'	100
5-6.	Eric Rackley	'B'	200	13-16.	Mario Webster	'B'	50
5-6.	Eric McDonald	'C'	200	13-16.	Mike Doak	'CC'	50
7-8.	Billy Mayhall	'BB'	150	13-16.	Steve Reynolds	'CC'	50
7-8.	Ken Williams	'CC'	150	13-16.	Jason Huson	'DD'	50
							\$3,378

Planet 8 Ball was the site for the 56th Missouri 8 Ball All-Star shootout. Saturday and Sunday September 25-26, 2004 at 12 o'clock high 154 players began the race for the top 16 spots paying the dough. And don't think for a moment that because the only 'A' player in the field took top honors that he had a cakewalk, guess again, Jim. Granted, most of the time the smooth-strokin', tall lanky stilt-like figure with a slight swagger to his stroll, Richie Cunningham, who bares absolutely no resemblance to the 'Happy Days' character portrayed by Ronny Howard, kept his opponents muddled, befuddled and way off balance and totally dominated the lesser skill-leveled players. But there were a couple of times when he had to do more than put his stick together. He had to prove that he was by far the better player.

Of the seven matches Cunningham won on his way to the Trophy he lost only two games. But both of those losses were the first games played of that particular set. So twice he was the underdog. Remember that a race to two is a crapshoot. Witness the second and third place finishers, 'C' players. Of the 16 players that cashed there was only one 'A' (Cunningham), one 'BB', three 'B's, six 'CC's, three 'C's, and two 'DD's. Ten of the 16 cashed for the first time. As usual it was a great All-Star tournament. Total payout \$3,378. That included \$1,848 sign-up + \$1,530 bar sponsor money.

### **Results from the 5-Player & 4-Player Tournaments**

#### **Action Café & Billiards: October 2-3, 2004**

#### **5-Player Board – Planet 8 Ball takes Trophy for the first time**

Pl.	Team	Captain	Won	Lost	W-L-Pct.	Spot Won	Lost	Pct.	W/Spot	Winnings
1.	Planet 8 Ball	Brian Hedrick	69	18	.793	-37	70	.560	+1	\$4,533.75
2.	JP's Corner – (Eureka)	Brian Birke	21	49	.300	+37	58	.542		2,500.00

3T. JP's Corner – St. Louis	Pat Gill	41	19	.683	-12	41	31	.569	1,000.00
3T. Hillsboro Billiards	Mike Bradly	32	30	.516	-3	46	33	.582	<u>+14</u> 1,000.00
									\$9,033.75

Planet 8 Ball found out just how tough it is to capture the 5-Player tournament trophy. A great team with a great starting lineup Planet 8 Ball, led by Brian Hedrick, shuffled the cards and rolled the dice just right the entire weekend and pulled out what could be the biggest coaching experience of his Missouri 8 Ball career. Every game, and I mean every game, was potentially a do or die situation. Witness the games won and lost. Now look at the 'spot' they had to give. Their .793 for actual games played (69-18) is a brand new record and wouldn't surprise me if that stands for a very long time. Now look at their record when adding the spot, 70-55 .560 (they received one on the wire.) It was an incredible tournament performance from each player.

Brian's boys began the weekend on the short end by giving 21 Rock 11 games on the wire. The race to 16-match was on and mistakes would be very costly. Planet 8 Ball went to work immediately and won the first 11 games to tie the score. Someone on the sidelines cracked 'see spot run'. At the end of three rounds it was a 13-13 contest. Darcy's girls (and one guy) from 21 Rock did their best but fell short in round four as Planet 8 Ball took the first three games for a 16-13 final. Records fell by the wayside in this match. All five players in the starting lineup for Planet 8 Ball won three games with Dustin Dunham winning four. Of the 33 teams that entered the tournament none had a better time than the great gals from 21 Rock did.

The 4pm match against TJ's Ali-by Inn started with TJ's getting seven games head start for a race to 13 match. Planet 8 Ball made up ground fast by running off 8 of the 10 games from the first two rounds. Ahead 9-8, TJ's never really got started as Brian's gang took the last seven games for a 13-9 finish. The 8pm round found Brian's guys bumping heads with another Planet 8 Ball team, Jeff Ayers and company, and they actually got one game in their favor. Like they really needed it. Some days you're hot and some days you're not and today was one of those days they were hot. They won heads up 10-6.

The tournament continued at noon Sunday. From the Hillsboro 'hood rolled in Mike Bradly and gang. With a 10-point difference in starting lineups Hillsboro received 7-games head start. Taking two games in round one brought the score to 9-3. The gang from the 'hood was only four wins away from the next plateau when Planet 8 Ball made their move. By taking the next eight games the 8-ballers wrestled the lead away from Hillsboro 11-9. They split the final four games and Planet 8 Ball survived another great come from behind victory, 13-11.

Isn't it amazing how the 'luck-of-the-draw' format works? Years ago these kind of spots were never seen unless it was the very last match. Now it can happen once, twice or all weekend long. I mention this because if Brian, Tony, Monty, Dustin and Dave thought they had already gone through the roughest part of the war, they were in for a big awakening. Those were only minor skirmishes compared to the real battle that was waiting over the hill. As Planet 8 Ball was fighting vigorously for the title by giving up 11, 7 and another 7 games on the wire to their opponents the team they were to meet for the finals was getting beaucoup games on the wire.

JP's Corner from Eureka began the tourney with a bye. The 4pm match saw them getting 8-games head start from Mr. T's and barely escaping 14-13. Next they were awarded 9-games by George's and pulled off a 15-11 upset. That brought them back for Sunday's shootout with JP's Gravois where Eureka received another 8-games on the wire. That produced a 13-8 win leading them into the finals with Planet 8 Ball where they would get, ready for this, a whopping 12-game head start.

The showdown was played on table 7 and a patient crowd waited. Could Planet 8 Ball pull off the race to 17 match by giving JP's a 12-game advantage? Huh! Yep, all JP's had to do was win five games and walk out with \$4,533.75, which was \$2,033.75 more than second place money. No question Planet 8 Ball had a tough hill to climb. But they had already climbed three tough hills this weekend. Compared to those this would seem more like a mountain. And as they say you have to start the engine before you can roll, or something like that. And the mountain got higher.

**Enter (we'll call her Tina)**

By winning two games in round one JP's Eureka had a commanding lead, 14-3. This is where an old Poplar Bluff trick came into play. Standing with the 8-ballers was (we'll call her Tina) and she invited the team outside for about ten seconds. What for? A pep talk? Perhaps. I didn't witness it but the boys returned to the table excited and reeled off the next seven games before another loss. At this point JP's was still in control 16-9 needing only one more game for the championship and Planet 8 Ball needing another eight. What to do, what to do? (We'll call her Tina) knew what to do. Because she couldn't stick around for the finish she stood in front of the team and flashed them a second time and told them to go get'em. So that's what she did outside!

I've heard of many ways in my time to motivate the boys but flashing a 'rack' in front of everybody was one I missed. You know what... it worked. The guys came back with the eight they needed and took the match 17-16. So that's how the Poplar Bluff trick works. Thanks in part to Tantalizing Tina the Tittie Teaser Planet 8 Ball won their first championship. I wonder if she was voted a full share? If so, could it be termed 'The Tittie Take'?

**4-Player Board – Fucifino's takes Trophy for the first time**

Pl.	Team	Captain	Won	Lost	W-L-Pct.	Spot	Won	Lost	Pct.	W/Spot	Winings
1.	Fucifinos	Lisa Crosby	35	18	.660	-2	36	20	.643	+1	\$1,220.00
2.	Pat & Roses	Sam Joseph	24	16	.600	-3	24	19	.558		500.00
											\$1,720.00

Ten teams represented the 4-player Happy Hour divisions. Here's the rundown.

While Pat & Roses drew a bye the opening round Sunday two Fucifinos teams were going at it. Lisa Crosby's team overpowered Big Moe's guys to the tune of 9-2. The 3 o'clock meetings saw Pat & Roses give a 3-game head start to Shenanigan's and squeak out a 10-8 victory behind some superb cueing of Bill Crawford who joined the 4-games-in-a-match category. Kurt 'the Big Hurt' Sellman and Uncle Ben Wanner pitched in with three wins apiece. Meanwhile Lisa's guys stroked past another Fucifinos team led by Big John McCrary, 9-6. This match had a player from each team go the 4-win route, Gentleman Jim Crosby and Bullet Bob Pendergrass. It was one of those 'where's the help when I need it' stories. Sheriff Bullet Bob Pendergrass blew out his opponents but there was little help from the posse.

For the 6pm matches Pat & Roses took on TK's Ali-By Inn while Fucifinos entertained 21 Rock. It was a walkover for Pat & Roses. Even though TK's Dave Vaughn increased his winning streak to 8 straight games the opponents were just too tough. P & R took about an hour to unload a 9-2 beating on the gang from TK's. They had no Ali-By when they returned to the Inn.

21 Rock gave it a shot. They got two games on the wire and at the end of round three the score stood 7-7. Fucifinos' Gentleman Jim and Slow Charles Meredith drew the 1 and 2 pills for round four and finished off the match 9-7.

This set the stage for the grand finale. Pat & Roses won this event the summer of 2003, the 53rd Missouri 8 Ball championship. Fucifinos had won the 5-player tournament that same session but never has won the 4-player trophy. They were playing even, no spot. It would be Lisa's league of lollapaloozas against the legendary Sam 'Tiger' Joseph gang. Fucifinos got a couple good rolls early and jumped out to a 7-2 lead. P & R rebounded with three straight making the score more respectable, 7-5. But there would be no repeat

for the Tiger man this day. Lisa's crew came out swinging in round four taking the first two games ending the contest at 9-5. And it was all smiles from newlywed Lisa Crosby. She captained her team to its first championship. By the way it was hubby Jim who put the finishing touches on the match.

Jim Crosby had his second 4-win match and Slow Charles Meredith went 6-0 for the weekend. Yes he did play in all four matches. Talk about stretching out his wins. Kind-a makes you wonder why he wasn't in the lineup more often. But, hey, it worked. Lisa pulled all the right strings. Everyone played .500 or better. Lisa (4-4), Dave Rauch (6-6), Al Pruitt (7-5), Jim Crosby (12-3) and Slow (6-0). Congrats to both teams. See you next time.

#### Players who won 4 games in a match

**Mary Stillwell** (Action Billiards), Lew Go (Pardella Club), Jay Ackay (Mr. T's), Bill Cloyd (Bartman's), Dave Vaughn (TK's Ali-By Inn), Bill Crawford (Pat & Roses), Bob Pendergrass (Fucifino), Dave Collins (George's), Larry Jackson (Airport Billiards), Dustin Dunham, Tony Napoli, Monty Caldwell and Dave Leonhard (Planet 8 Ball).

Jim Crosby (Fucifinos) turned the trick twice.

Jon Williams (Planet 8 Ball) had a 4-win match and also produced the first **5-win match** in many moons when his team edged out Pardella Club 11-10. That's the match Lew Go had his 4-wins.

**Another Record:** When Planet 8 Ball squeaked by JP's Eureka for the championship 17-16, three shooters won 4 games in a single match for the first time in Missouri 8 Ball history; Tony Napoli, Monty Caldwell and Dave Leonhard.

And for the first time two players from the same tourney lost 5 games in a single match: Nicole Van Alstyne (JP's Eureka) and Larry Ferrell (Planet 8 Ball).

#### Players with perfect records

Jon Williams	Planet 8 Ball	9-0	Except for 'Slow' Charles the other three players and their teams are listed because their teams were knocked out early and they didn't get a chance to advance and further their records. Fucifinos won the Happy Hour tourney.
Johnny Pedrolie	JP's Eureka	6-0	
'Slow' Charles Meredith	Fucifinos	6-0	
Lew Go	Pardella Club	4-0	

When it comes to picking the Most Valuable Player from the 56th tournament... there wasn't one. We could go out on a limb with (we'll call her) Tina, whom as you may recall twice inspired the Planet 8 Ballers. But we'll go instead with the entire Planet 8 Ball All-Star starting lineup with their personal records: Brian Hedrick (12-5 .706), Tony Napoli (13-4 .765), Monty Caldwell (14-4 .778), Dustin Dunham (16-3 .842) and Dave Leonhard (14-2 .875). Congratulations guys. Great shooting.

Our one item unrelated to pool for this report: How about those Rams coming back over the Sea Hawks! Scoring 23 points with only 5:37 left in the game for a great come-from-behind 33-27 victory. Yo mama.

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 numeral uno. 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.

**Total payout: All-Star \$3,378.00, 5-Player: \$9,33.75, 4-Player: \$1,720.00 = \$14,131.75**

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