

57th Missouri 8 Ball League Results from the 2004 Fall Session



We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank those who participated in the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League's 2004 Fall 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. That's the great thing about being in a race. The great team and/or personal competition; the art and 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 for the long haul your time will come.

Divisional Award Winners & Team Champions

Division #1 Rhonda Bartram (Bartman's 32-6 .842) made a bid to win her 10th, 12th or who knows how many Missouri 8 Ball All-Star Awards? Ronnie-girl came up just a little short. Mike Renick (Woody's 39-4 .907) outlasted the perennial female All-Star by .065 of a point. Mike's 39 wins also led the division. Congrats, Mike. You were in a battle. See you at the tournaments.

Bartman's finished first past the post with a 14-2 record taking out the automatic bye into the team championship. Their 164 wins and .550 won-loss percentage led the division beating out JP's Corner #1 by three games.

Division #2 Joe Lopez (Libby's) won a divisional high 42 games sporting a 42-8 .840 record and beat out Semir Ekic (Filling Station 35-9 .795) for All-Star honors. Only .045 difference. Congrats, Joe.

It was the other way around for their teams. Filling Station (12-4) edged out Libby's (11-5) by a single game by winning their final match 11-9 for the clincher. Libby's won 170 division games while Filling Station's .579 led with the highest won-loss percentage.

Division #3 One of the best players, if not the best, showing his skills in Missouri 8 Ball is Jerry Terbrock. He picked up another All-Star Award by blasting the entire field from this division. Jerry, shooting out of Hazzards, slam-dunked a 45-4 .918 record, which was a whopping .207 ahead of second place finisher Jodi Zeni (who, as everyone knows is no slouch). Jodi's 32-13 .711 was easily outdistanced.

There was a tie for team honors as two teams finished 11-5, Memoreze and JP's Corner #2. The deciding factor was determined by games won-lost percentage. Memoreze 166-136 .550 edged out JP's Corner, 156-135 .536.

Division #4 Bill Owens (Night Sky) hung on to take out first place for the All-Star Shirt. His 36-12 .750 was slightly ahead of Bartman's Pat Remming, 40-16 .714. Pat's 40 wins led the division.

It was a runaway for first past the post. Night Sky romped home with a 14-2 record finishing five full games ahead of second place. Their W-L percentage of .570 and 158 wins were divisional best.

Division #5 First: Team honors. It was a two-way tie past the post as JP's Corner #1 and Sideline each romped home with 12-4 records. That's close. Now check this out. It took the games won-lost percentage to determine the real winner and it was JP's Corner #1 by an eyelash. Their 139-117 .543 barely edged out Sidelines 123-105 .539. Only .004 is very close indeed. Why did I say - eyelash? Read on.

It is always interesting to check out Division 5 for several reasons. In addition to the usual All-Star winner and team champions, there are always more ladies on this All-Star list than from other divisions. And they are usually from the same team. The #1 team out of JP's Corner features six dolls. Yep. That's them. The same team that beat out Sideline for first-place honors. Don't be taken in by their Barbie Doll looks. Big mistake. In fact, don't even be thinking Barbie Dolls. These girls are dangerous as a Black Widow Spider or a Praying Mantis. Feel sorry for them and you're dead meat sitting in your chair staring wide-eyed at the ceiling.

WORDS of WARNING: Don't be deceived by their femininity, overcome by their good looks, infatuated by their coquettish ways. Don't be sidetracked by what might appear to be a hapless look, as in the 'oh gee, which ball do I shoot next,' routine. They are cunning, crafty, contriving, always scheming, man. They know what they are doing. These gals are not capricious and believe me they are anything but scatter-brained. And above all don't be sucked in by their flirtatious ways. Look it up. The definition of flirtation is: A brief involvement. BRIEF! As in – it only lasts until she drops the '8' ball. That's brief, man. You can't get much briefer than that. And there you sit wearing the proverbial dunce cap wondering what the hell happened. You were taken in, Clyde. You were suckered. You were careless. You were caught napping. Pay attention, dude. You snooze – you lose.

When the male species drops his guard he soon discovers he's paralyzed and unable to perform. It's kind-a hard overcoming the shock while sitting in your chair watching her drop the '8' ball just as fast as she'd drop a bad relationship. The first thing you become aware of, after the initial shock wears off, is now she stands before you waiting for the complimentary handshake. The insincere 'good game' that the loser gives. The one you give. And she does it with a smile. A cute smile. A warm smile. A smile that would melt an iceberg. A forgiving smile. The same kind of benevolent motherly smile she would give her 4-year-old after she caught him with his hand in the cookie jar. Damn, she's good.

And there you sit in shock. You're frozen expression says it all. You goofed again, pal. You may have been focused on her... her... new shoes... yeah, that's it, her new shoes, instead of paying attention to the game. Don't feel bad. You're just one of many who succumbed under her spell. You dropped your guard for a minute and, Elmer Fudded: "Yeb-ba-dee, yab-ba-dee, that's all folks". Makes you wonder which one you really are, Dumb or Dumber?

Remember the old adage: "If you're in a pool game five minutes with a female and you don't know who the chump is – it's you."

How does it feel? You want to say "check please, where's that back door, I'm outta here." And the whole place knows. Listen to me. Listen to your buddy, Jay. These females are dangerous, man, dangerous.

Final Word: Big ups to All-Star finisher Julie Hemann. This doll is always there. Julie's 31-13 .705 was good for third place on the honor roll. Other dolls from JP's Corner #1 were 12th place Sharon Luitjens with 28 wins and 15th place Donna Collins with her usual 20 wins. Still wondering why JP's Corner #1 got there?

I know this guy is wondering when I'd finally get around to him, so here it is. Congrats to Justin Pennycook (The Phoenix) for his All-Star award. At 38-9, Justin's 38 wins led the division and .809 was .047 better than runner-up Chad Deshurley's (Hazzards) 32-10 .762. Justin, I'll devote more space to you next time. Congratulations and keep up the great shooting.

Actually this is the final word: Remember, those dolls are dangerous. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

Division #6 Division 6 should be renamed to 'The John O'Farrell Division'. "Just bring the Trophy to Keith's, place it on the shelf and after the session ends I'll take it home. It'll save time. And-a, don't forget to spell my name right." Seems like every session Big John is taking home another jacket or shirt or cap or whatever is offered up for the All-Star winner. Rumor has it John had to add another wing to his house just to have a place for all his trophies. In the past some races have been runaways for John and some not. For instance this one was as tight as the elasticized undergarment worn by Star Jones.

John (Keith's 34-8 .810) was in a real battle this time with second place finisher Dennis Bullock (Libby's 21-5 .808). Only .002 difference. One of the closest runs for top honors in awhile. Nice going, guys.

For team honors Libby's outlasted the field with a 12-4 record and placed six players on the All-Star page. Three teams tied for second with 11-5 records.

Division #7 When there are more than two players going for top spot on the All-Star page it seems to be more exciting. Unless, of course, you are the one leading the parade and don't really want anyone close enough to ambush you. In this case three players went to the wire and all are from JP's Corner. All three are 'B-6' rated and all very capable and very accomplished 8-ball tournament players.

In order: Congratulations to John Porter, 34-6 .850, for a great finish. Hard on his heels were Mark Wieland (27-5 .844), and Louis Erbe (22-5 .815). A separation of only .006 for top spot. The leading female once again is Liz Lammert from Bartman's with her 25-9 .735 showing. Nice going, girl.

Once again George's took team honors. Their 12-3 record was two games better than Memoreze, Bartman's and JP's Corner #3 who tied for second. George's leading player was new to Missouri 8 Ball, Billy Ray (forget the Cyrus). Bill, another great find of Dave Collins no doubt, opened his M0-8-Ball rookie year with a 28-10 .737 record. George's placed six players on the All-Star sheet.

Division #8 For those of you who were asking the burning question "What ever happened to Tony Chagolla?", he's alive and well and been laying low over at Shot Heaven. Tony came out of hiding to prove that he's doing fine and still in stroke. Tony took top spot on the All-Star sheet just barely edging out teammate Craig Schmeid. Tony's 29-13 .690 to Craig's 28-14 .667 was basically a two-horse race and wasn't settled until the final game played. Nice race, guys. See you at the tournaments.

Team honors went to Filling Station who edged out Libby's by a single game with an 11-4 record. Leading players for Filling Station were Semir Ekic, Jason Miller, Mike Carpenter and David Haynes.

Division #9 It's been awhile since Kelly's had a representative take out the All-Star Award. This was the session. Congrats to Tough Tony Neisz. He's the man of the hour. Tony, 23-7 .767, held on to knock down the award by edging out Kevin Moran's (Iron Horse Saloon) 27-10 .730.

Team honors, however, go to Foleys South County #1. Their 11-4 showing was one game better than Kelly's and Wedge who were tied at 10-5. Also from Foleys was Dawn Froesel, the leading female, with a 23-18 record.

Division #10 This 11-team division produced a great race to the wire for both the Singles and team qualifiers. As many as six players were involved up to the final three weeks. When it got down to the nitty-gritty only three remained as bona fide contenders. Top spot goes to Fucifino's #2 Bill Parrot. His 36-8 .818 showing was .018 ahead of the next two players (teammates Wayne Turner and Steve Monko) who tied with 32-8 .800 records.

Team first past the post was Classic's #2 which placed five players on the All-Star list. In addition to Turner and Monko, others are perennial All-Stars Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozzi, Uncle Pete Mocca and Roger 'Dodger' Ellis. Classic's #2 with a 12-3 record was one game better than New Classic's #1, 11-4.

Division #11 Five of the top six finishers playing out of Lehmann's Landing fought it out for top honors. But it was Billy Wimberly (Lehmann's #1) who maneuvered himself into first place about three weeks before the end of session and coolly calculated his chances of how to hang on for the All-Star Award. Billy's impressive record of 25-2 .926 was among the highest for all divisions. Billy out shot Jay Carlton (Action Billiards 40-8 .833) who finished second and Billy's teammate Tyler Jones, 23-5 .821 came in third.

It was, however, Lehmann's Landing #2 that got past the post first and made their way to the grand championship. But it was decided by their games won-lost percentage. Lehmann's #1 and #2 tied with 12-4 records, but #2 shot a 138-113 .550 session edging out #1, 136-124 .523. Action Billiards, led by Captain Greg Tebeau, came out of the preliminary rounds and made it to the big show February 19th at Planet 8 Ball.

And here's an oddity: TK's Pub & Grill had the most wins, 150, third highest W-L percentage, .510, but finished last from the 9-team division. Go figure.

Division #12 It was a long dry spell but Rich Peer (Airport Billiards) pulled it off. It wasn't easy, it never is. Rich had to hold off Chris Taylor (Just Bill's Place) for top All-Star honors by a narrow .018 percentage point. Rich came in at 26-5 .839 to Chris's 32-7 .821. Great race, guys. Congrats to young Rich Peer on a fine performance. Rich has another reason to celebrate; his Airport team (13-3) outlasted the field by coming in first past the post by a single game over, yep, Just Bill's Place (12-4) and also Fucifinos (12-4). Chris did all he could do and had a very good session but came up short both ways. Hang in there Chris your time will come. Airport Billiards #1 ran off with most game wins, 162, easily outdistancing the runner-up who had 138. Their .570 W-L percentage was among the highest of all divisions. Airport #1 placed five players on the All-Star sheet and four of them had 25 wins or more. Top female player was Rhonda LaPointe (Owner of Cocktails Lounge) with a 23-19 .548 showing. Great session, guys... gal.

Division #13 Captain Art Lohnes runs a tight ship and a great establishment, Fucifinos. Art also runs racks when he gets the chance. The jury is still out on how many he actually ran out this past session but it doesn't matter. Art ran enough to take the All-Star Award with a 31-13 .705 record. And here's a kicker, Runout Rich Sager is Art's teammate and he came in second? Huh? What? True, true. For the first time in many a moon Rich Sager lost in double figures. Mr. Sager's record of 27-12 .692 is a far, far cry from what we are accustomed to seeing from him.

Memo to Rich Sager: You were dropped from the 'PRO-10' ranking to 'AA-9' and then to 'A-8'. It has been a long standing rule that the Missouri 8 Ball League never ever drops a player two spots. There was an exception in your case. But, if you think for one minute you are going any lower, sir, DePaul Hospital has an excellent computed axial tomography scanner (CAT for short). Oh, by the way, there's no truth to the rumor that Mr. Lohnes will forthwith be known as 'Runout Art'. Sorry Art. We need more evidence. You understand!

By the way, Robyn Eidson (Airport Billiards) was top female player with an 18-12 .600 showing. It was good for 11th on the All Star sheet.

Division 13 is a tough division. Of the seven teams, four won 10 games or more. Art's Fucifinos won it with a 13-3 record edging out Airport Billiards by a game, 12-4. It was a great race as both teams placed five players each on the All-Star board and all five from Fucifinos produced 20 wins or better. Congrats, guys. See you at the big show.

Division #14 Who says you don't improve with age? Don't know, could care less. That's the way Charlie Jones feels. All 400-year-old Charlie Jones did was run off a divisional high 40 wins and take out the All-Star Award for the umpteenth time. Not much slows this gamester down. Charlie had some competition of course but managed to outshoot the youngsters. His 40-19 .678 was only .032 better than runner-up Mike Murray (McDonalds), 31-17 .646 and .034 better than Mike Watson (Action Billiards) 29-16 .644. But it was enough.

From the team side Charlie's gang didn't fair so well. Although Charlie's 40 wins and veteran teammate Pete Potthast with 34 wins totaled up to 74, the team combined for only 134, meaning the rest of the guys (including the games on the wire) produced a total of 60. Could be the reason they finished 7th. Hang in there guys. You've been there before. McDonalds took team honors in a runaway, 14-2 with divisional highs of 162 wins and a .579 won-loss percentage. That was four full games over runners-up Brewskee, 10-6.

Division #15 Ripper Skipper Barnum (Mimi's Subway Bar) had a hard go for the gold with a trio of players but managed to hold on for the All-Star Award. I don't mean to be flip, or come on as a drip, but while Skip was on the 16-week trip, he was trying to give the slip, to the three guys hot on his hip. (Never make Poetry Book of the Month Club I know, but I try.) All four top players on the board had 35 wins or more. Skip finished off the session with a 39-10 .796 showing. Following close behind were Ron Young (Airport Billiards) 35-10 .778, John Breeding (Charlack Pub) 38-11 .776, and Carl Morris (Charlack Pub) 35-12 .745. Great race, guys.

Not very often does a team have six of their players on the All-Star board but that's the case for Mimi's Subway Bar. Led by Skip Barnum with his 39 wins, teammates Aaron Akers (28), Dan Palmer (19), Chris Reed (16), Ryan Barnum (18) and Captain Big Mama Cooki Palmer Kaucher (17), obviously is the reason this team went 16-0. Huh? You read it right, 16-0. A first for Missouri 8 Ball.

Every team needs a 'Big Mama'. Big Mamas come in different shapes and sizes and Cooki Kaucher fills that bill in all the right ways. Although she has trimmed down some she still commands attention when walking around a pool table. She strokes a big stick, has a big heart, leads big, plays big, and swings a big whopping backhand should anyone get out of line. Cooki has been playing competition pool about 21 years, competed in many tournaments and been associated with several ladies championship teams both here and in Las Vegas. It is no surprise a special

event like this would happen to a sincere, dedicated and all around nice person like Cooki (but watch that backhand). By the way, Mimi's Subway rolled over the division by 4 full games. Go big mama.

Three ladies shot their way onto the All-Star sheet. Deb Miller (Classic's) finished highest with 27-19 .587 good for 12th place of the 20 that made it. Others were Michele Underwood (GB Field 20-15 .571) and Cooki Kaucher (Mimi's 17-15 .531). Nice going ladies.

Division #16 Check it out. The difference between first and second place on the final All-Star sheet was a single game loss. Leading the All-Star Parade from Fucifinos #1 was Dave Rauch, 30-7 .811. He edged out teammate Ed Enders, 30-8 .789. Can't get much closer than that. Great race. In addition, four other teammates made the All-Star list including the top female player Stephanie McCarthy, 20-16 .556. Six players making the All-Star board could be the reason they went past the post first with their 13-2 record, two games in front of Just Bill's Place.

Division #17 Oh, nuts. Well, nuts to you too! Hang loose. Allow me to explain. It was all Nuts; actually it was all Nuts #2. For the third division in a row six players from one team made the All-Star board. And numeral uno was John Prouhet with a 31-7 .816 record. John outlasted teammate Spencer Hubbard, 30-9 .769 and Doug Gibbons (Cactus Inn) 33-9 .786.

Also from the team side, Nut #2 finished, ready for this, 15-0. Isn't that the way things happen? First Subway goes 16-0, and not to be out done Nuts #2 also makes history. Nuts #2 finished a record 6 big games ahead of second place, which was a 3-way tie. GB Field, Cactus Inn #2 and Cactus Inn #1 each had 9-6 records. Nut #2 led the division with 155 wins with only 95 losses and had a whopping .620 won-loss percentage, one of the highest recorded. Big ups, guys. See you next session. Let's see how far you can carry that string.

Division #18 It's amazing how some things work out. Several examples here: Marlon Choy was a last minute addition to Soldiers, one of six teams that play Thursday nights from the 'in house' division at Action Billiards. The personnel are good enough to win without Marlon, and in fact finished second in the Big Show a couple of tournaments back. They're a bunch of good ole 'homies' with great talent up and down the lineup. One thing wrong, some work schedules prevented certain key players from showing up each week. That's where Marlon Choy comes in. He had just gotten back into town that week and wasn't doing much anyway, just hangin' out. And Marlon has in the past proven himself to be as reliable at tournament time as ubiquitous church bells ringing on Sunday morning. He would add needed stability to a precarious lineup. So Marlon Choy becomes a solid fixture in Soldiers' starting five, plows his way through a very talented field of players, rips off the All-Star Award and supported considerably in leading Soldiers first past the wire.

Marlon's 26-4 .867 record was slightly better than teammates Waddell Whitehead, 23-6 .793 and Charles Burrage, 25-8 .758. They were one, two, three on the board. Great going, Marlon.

As mentioned, Soldiers (11-4) marched on out-maneuvering their foes and finished two games ahead of second place, Stroke of Genius (9-6). Great team effort, guys. See you at future tournaments.

Division #19 **Headline:** Wayne Ferrell beats out John Bissell. I know, I know. It's a shocker. Maybe to some it is, but not to Wayne. He has been there before. He has heard it before. Wayne who? You gotta be kidding! It's got to be a misprint. Well, Clyde, it's on the level. It was close, it was tight, but it wasn't impossible. Big John has taken this award many times and came within a fraction of repeating, but the pool gods were not with him this time. Wayne Ferrell owns the spotlight and will shine for awhile. These guys pushed each other all session as they are teammates from Planet 8 Ball #4. Wayne (29-4 .879) edged by John (32-6 .842) by a narrow .037. Big ups, Wayne. They needed to push each other as their team barely got to the wire first. Their 12-4 record was just one game better than Good Tymes' 11-5.

Division #20 Talk about a division loaded with talent, 11 of the 18 players on the All-Star list are 'B-6' rated or better. So it's no big surprise that the winner would be 'BB-7' General Jeff Ayers. General Jeff has won many awards in the past and shows no signs of slowing down. His 24-6 .800 beat out 'A-8' Richie Cunningham's 23-8 .742, and Jeff's two teammates 'B-6' Pat Tobin (24-10 .706) and 'B-6' Gentleman Jim Crosby (20-9 .690).

These three guys continued their success by leading Planet 8 Ball #2 to the wire knocking off Planet 8 Ball #3 by a couple of games.

Division #101 .003? That's right, .003. That minuscule number was the difference between having to play on Saturday or getting the free ride to Sunday in the All-Star singles tournament. Cueball Bender Al Lindner, (Phoenix) 25-7 .781, outlasted Wild Bill Berry, (Bartman's) 28-8 .778.

Putting five players on the All-Star sheet is one of the reasons 21 Rock #2 finished two games ahead of the next three teams, Hotshots SC #1, 21 Rock #1 and Bartman's all tied with 10-5 records.

Division #102 He did it again sports fans. But that's why they call him Kurt 'The Big Hurt'. Kurt Sellmann blew away the field by a large .146 over his closest rival. It wasn't even close. The Big Hurt compiled a great 37-4 .902 all-star showing k.o.'ing runner-up Joe Leber (George's) 31-10 .756.

Kurt 'The Big Hurt' Sellmann, Uncle Ben Wanner, Long John Legens and Sam 'Tiger' Joseph, you know, the usual suspects from Pat & Roses, as is more often than not, hit the All-Star sheet and led their team once again in a race to the finish line and nosed under the wire by a mere game lead. Pat & Roses' 10-5 record edged out Wedge and Ten Mile House, both with 9-6 showings.

Division #103 First he does it from the 5-player board (Division #16) and for an encore Dave Rauch pulls the double by taking out the All-Star Award from the 4-player Happy Hour board. Dave, the only 'CC' from the 10-player All-Star list, beat out seven 'B' players for top honors. That's a pretty good showing young man. When you can out-gun the likes of Troy Moore, Bullet Bob Pendergrass, the Mayor of Breckenridge Hills His Honor Al Pruett, Gentleman Jim Crosby, Victor Day, Slick Steve Schultz and Art Lohnes, you've had a busy 16-weeks indeed. And that's to say a close one. Dave finished off the session with a 24-10 .706 record barely getting by Troy Moore's 32-14 .696. A .010 squeaker. Congrats one more time Dave.

From the team angle it was another double-header for Dave. Fucifinos #4 finished two games ahead of the pack.

Division #104 Tyler Jones has a great philosophy, if you are beaten out of the All-Star Award from one division run away with it from another division. And run away he did. Tyler's 38-7 .844 was far ahead of runner-up Jim Harrison's 30-10 .750, who gave it a heck of a try. And it was comforting to Tyler and his teammates that with the help of Bruce Weston's 31 wins they one-two punched Lehmann's Landing #2 (13-2) three-games past the post ahead of three teams that tied for second place. Yep, TK's Pub & Grill, Lehmann's #1 and Fucifinos all settled for 10-5 records and fought it out for the second official spot to go to the big show. Once again Rhonda LaPointe (Cocktails) was the top female player. Her 19-13 .594 record placed 14th on the list of 25 All Stars.

Division #105 If anyone in town thinks this is a surprise you must have just blown in from the fourth rock. Picture the perfect lineup. Of the 25 players that made the All Star board, all five from Classics #3 placed in the top 12. First: Wayne Turner, 36-6 .857. Second: Dan Tucker, 34-6 .850. Fourth: Dave Bradtke, 27-8 .771. Eleventh: Bobby Mauer, 21-12 .636, and Twelfth: Uncle Pete Mocca, 20-13 .606. That's a total of 138 wins against only 45 losses for whopping .754 won-loss percentage. Talk about Murderers Row! If this doesn't level off people might be yelling what they were yelling about the 1927 Yankees. We'll keep an eye on the situation. Why? Read on. Classic's #3 flew past the post at an incredible 15-0 clip, the first team to ever go 15-0 from Happy Hour. They may have been only two games ahead of second place, Streiler's 13-2, but were much more in command.

Outstanding Team Record Breakers:

Division	Team	Record	Captain	Members:	
# 15	5-Player	Mimi's Subway Bar	16-0	Cooki Kaucher	Members: Chris Reed, Skip and Ryan Barnum, Aaron Akers, Vince Hays and Dan Palmer
# 17	5-Player	Nuts #2	15-0	Biff Barieter	Members: John Prouhet, Don Eggleston, Russ Chittenden, Spencer Hubbard, Sam DiMarco
#105	4-Player	Classic's #3	15-0	Dan Tucker	Members: Wayne Turner, Uncle Pete Mocca, Bobby Mauer and Dave Bradtke

All-Star Singles Championship Placings

	Player	Rank	Team	Winnings	
1.	Skip Barnum	'C-4'	Mimi's Subway Bar	\$1,019 & Trophy	February 12th & 13th, 2005 were the dates and Action Café and Billiards the place and hosted by Hazelwood Kathy Arens. 237 players answered the bell Saturday. Sunday the field was down to 81. Surprise of surprises, check out the top 16 players that cashed. For the first time ever there were no 'A' or 'BB' rated players in the money. The smart money was on Richie Cunningham to repeat. When Richie and former champion Jerry Terbrock were eliminated no 'A' players remained. Shortly thereafter Dennis Agnew, the last 'BB', was gone. That opened the field for Jim Crosby to go for his second trip to the podium. And it seemed like a sure bet as Gentleman Jim was on the bubble waiting
2.	Jim Crosby	'B-6'	Planet 8 Ball	750 & Trophy	
3.	Johnny Moore	'C-4'	Hazzard's	600 & Trophy	
4.	Wayne Turner	'B-6'	Classic's	450	
5/6.	Wayne Mistler	'CC-5'	Pat & Roses	300	
5/6.	Ken Pratt	'C-4'	Crystal City Billiards	300	
7/8.	Mike Lashley	'CC-5'	Airport Billiards	225	
7/8.	Kris Ross	'CC-5'	Hazzard's	225	
9/12.	Charles Burrage	'B-6'	Action Café & Billiards	150	
9/12.	Dave Rauch	'CC-5'	Fucifino's	150	
9/12.	Tony Chagolla	'CC-5'	Shot Heaven	150	
9/12.	Melissa Parmely	'DD-3'	Hillsboro Billiards	150	
13/16.	Sam Martin	'B-6'	JP's Corner	100	
13/16.	Tyler Jones	'CC-5'	Lehmann's Landing	100	
13/16.	Mike Severs	'C-4'	Mr. T's	100	
13/16.	Dan Palmer	'DD-3'	Mimi's Subway Bar	100	
				Total Payout: \$4,869	

for the rest of the field to catch up. But along came Jones...er.. along came dancing and skipping his way into our hearts was Mr. Skip Barnum. After Johnny Moore eliminated Wayne Turner, Skip skipped past Johnny 2-0 to set the final stages with Jim Crosby. Jim ran out the first game of the first set but skip came back strong taking the next two games. This set up the final set. After Crosby missed a side-pocket shot Barnum took his time and meticulously ran out the final rack for the championship.

Some of whom turned out to witness the finals of the 57th Missouri 8 Ball All-Star singles shootout were asking the question: So when did Skip Barnum turn into Runout Rich Sager? No denying Skip picked a great time to expose talents that laid dormant the last few years; or... were... they? Skip was a product of the old Dave Branstetter teams that applied their talents around the Ferguson/Florissant/Berkeley establishments and taking their show to many city and regional championships throughout the '80's and '90's.

Now Skipper aids and abets Cooki Kaucher's team out of Mimi's Subway Bar (Ferguson) where they set a Missouri 8 Ball League record of going 16-0. (See Division 15's report) Although he couldn't single-handedly produce the trifecta (the team was knocked out from the team championships) taking out division 15 All-Star Award and the singles championship, as Meat Loaf says: "Two out of three ain't bad." Big ups to Skip Barnum. He deserves it. Congratulations are also in order for Melissa Parmely from Hillsboro Billiards. Melissa was the only female to cash this time around. She finished tied for 9th place taking home \$150.

Team Championship Playoff Placings

Planet 8 Ball was the sight of the 57th team championships February 19th & 20th, 2005. Buddy and Suzanne Evans hosted the event and as usual everything went off without a hitch. Forty-six 5-Player teams opened the tournament Saturday and by midnight it was down to eight for the return trip Sunday. Twelve 4-Player Happy Hour teams arrived to begin play noon Sunday.

So What was Expected and What Really Happened?

Action Billiards (Soldiers) has been on the cusp several times. Always there, always tough. They were up against a couple of the best teams in Missouri 8 Ball. Case in point: the 55th title was on the line between Soldiers and Hideaway Café out of Granite City, Illinois. Soldiers marched there way to a 10-6 lead. Needing only one win to Hideaway Café's 5, well, who wouldn't put a few bob down on Soldiers? But the pool gods can be a vicious lot when they want to be. Without going into great detail here (see the 55th Missouri 8 Ball Report) Hideaway Café came back like little David. And it wasn't just one big Goliath to knock down, there were five big Goliaths. And Hideaway pulled it off. One of the most incredible come-from-behind victories for the championship ever from annals of the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League.

So now we come to the 57th tournament. It's the opening round Saturday. The Action Billiards' Soldiers are to meet a Planet 8 Ball team. But not just any Planet 8 Ball team. This one is led by General Jeff Ayers. And as everyone who knows General Jeff, he has always surrounded himself with quality personnel. Players who can think on their feet. Superb tacticians skilled in planning. Strategists. Jeff's ability to lead and perform under pressure is a perfect example of leadership. He teaches excellent run-out patterns. Jeff brings to the war table a different perspective of how the game should be approached, maneuvered and played out. Logician rhymes with magician, and there are those who equate Jeff with both. And he's been doing it for years. Jeff Ayers is a horse of a different color. Some can play and some can teach. Jeff can do both. He's a motivator, a mover and shaker, a Guru if you will. Just some of the many reasons his teams appear at these tournaments year after year after year.

So now it's the 12 o'clock start of round one. It will be a race to 12 and Action Billiards receives a 3-game head start. The skirmish is on and at the completion of round one Soldiers take all five games for an impressive, a very convincing 8-0 lead. At this point of the proceedings the great sports caster Warner Wolf would announce in his 11 o'clock report: If you had Soldiers and 8 points – YOU LOSE!

Planet 8 Ball settled down and came back strong in round two taking all five games closing the gap to 8-5. Soldiers weren't done yet and took the first two from round three for a 10-5 lead. But Planet 8 Ball came at them from more angles than a course in advanced geometry. Jeff's boys finished out the set taking the last three games, and going into the final round trailed by only two, 10-8. After two games in the fourth and final round Soldiers were on the hill 11-9. In an exciting ending, the 8-ballers got the last three games, General Jeff playing the double-hill contest against Sir Charles Burrage, and for the only time in the match not only led but won, 12-11.

Someone was overheard saying: These guys remind me of Kenny from South Park. He always dies before the show is over. As I said earlier, don't sell Soldiers short. And don't go by past performance. When the time comes they are going to take it all. What we are talking about now is in the past. Both times they were up against a couple of the best teams the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League had to offer.

Mimi's Subway Bar came in at 16-0 but wasn't expected to go very far for the simple reason there wasn't enough backup power after Skip Barnum and Chris Reed. They managed an 11-10 first round upset due to the fact that their opponent, Tiger's Inn, had only four of their six players show up. Mimi's received 5-games on the wire to start and picked up one game per round when the missing player's number came up. That brings it to an 8-game lead. You got to hand it to the Tiger team, they hung in there. They won ten games and would have taken the match with only four players had not the last player scratched after making the '8' ball in the double-hill game.

Nuts #2 was Mimi's second round opponent, the same team that went 15-0 from division 17. This was another first as no two teams ever met in the championship playoffs that were undefeated coming in. Nuts #2 drew a bye for round one. Their match with Mimi's wasn't even close. After giving Mimi's a one-game head start Nuts sped away from the starting line like Big Daddy Don Garlets, gained momentum around the far turn and cruised across the finish line with a lopsided 11-4 victory.

Just One More! So what was the fate of Nuts? Their next match would be against last session's champions. Although they were now called Just One More, they won this event when they played out of Planet 8 Ball. Same personnel, same great lineup. Nuts got a 5-game on the wire lead. It was short-lived. Just One More ran off the first round and the first four games from round two for nine games in a row. At this point it was 9-5. Nuts won only two more games and that was it. Just One More finished them off 11-7 (11-2). Just One More was one of three choices that would repeat as champions. It has been said many times, it is very hard to repeat. This was no exception. Although the smart money was on them there are too many things that can happen that could go against them.

Just Bill's Place was coming up from the other end of the board captained by owner Robin Field. Just Bill's Place has had teams finish first and second in tournaments past. Just Bill's Place came out of Division 12 having to go through the playoffs to get here. They smoked the field Saturday with run-away-scores of 11-3, 11-8 and 11-2. It didn't take odds makers long to realize these guys were legitimate contenders. They opened up Sunday by k.o.'ing JP's Eureka 12-10 and squeaked past a team out of Planet 8 Ball 12-11 to get to the finals.

While Just Bill's Place was polishing off Planet 8 Ball, Just One More was wrapping up a 13-11 victory over Action Billiards. Two better matches couldn't have set the stage for the grand finale, Just Bill's Place and Just One More. Just Bill's Place received 6-games on the wire going to 11. A couple hours later the score was 10-10 and the double-hill match was on between Tony Napoli and Robin Field. Tony played a semi-safety forcing Robin to bank his last ball. Robin made the bank shot. The next question would be would the cue ball roll behind one of his opponent's balls for a hook shot or would it stop in time. It stopped, but barely. Robin had a straight in shot on the '8', made the shot and Just Bill's Place placed first in the do-re-mi department and once again was champions.

Place	Team	Captain	Winnings	Place	Team	Captain	Winnings
1.	Just Bill's Place	Robin Field	\$6,000.00 & Trophy	5/8.	Airport Billiards	Rich Peer	850.00
2.	Just One More	Brian Hedrick	3,400.00	5/8.	JP's Eureka	Brian Birke	850.00
3/4.	Action Billiards	Greg Tebeau	1,700.00	5/8.	Streiler's	John Koch	850.00
3/4.	Planet 8 Ball	Wayne Ferrell	1,700.00	5/8.	Memoreze	Jack Mayer	850.00
Total Payout:							\$16,200.00

Results from the 4-Player happy Hour Board

There were several bono fide contenders vying for top honors here. Three of the twelve, Hillsboro Billiards, Pat & Roses, and Fucifino's, had taken this event before and it looked like a toss-up for the final two. In addition to those three, word on the street was that Classic's put together a solid team of sharp shooters for the sole purpose of taking out this event. Duh, doesn't everybody do that? Their bio from Division 105 offered sound reasoning. And when they completed the session 15-0, there was talk of an undercover agent. But the bottom line is, it's always been a hard and fast rule if you're going to the Big Dance, better have some partners that know the right steps. Fred Astaire had Ginger Rogers, the team of Marge and Gower Champion; Shirley Temple and Bojangles, and the Nicolas Brothers had each other, as did Tip, Tap & Toe.

Captain Dan Tucker did an excellent job of recruiting four of the best. Although it has been rumored that Dan had something on two of them, but emphatically denies it (or just denies which two?). Blackmail or not, Wayne Turner, 75-year-young Uncle Pete Mocca, Bobby Mauer and Dave Bradtke were the right pieces that completed the puzzle. And they still had to keep looking over their shoulders. Why, because it was anything but a cakewalk. Streiler's was creeping up their backs like a cheap wool T-shirt. Streiler's ended the campaign at 13-2. Hey, it was a great race. A lot of 9-8, 9-7 matches were played. Most of the time they go 50-50, but not this time. They all went Classic's way. There was a lot more to it than just showing up and putting their sticks together. They had to play and play they did, to the tune of 15-0.

So now they enter the Ballroom

First round action saw Hillsboro Billiards being upset big-time by 21 Rock, led by Dan Lemond. Can't remember the last time Johnny Neel's team was ever knocked out the first round of any tournament. Exit one favorite. Pat & Roses got by their first round over the always tough Mr. T's (9-5) led by Kenny Vaughn but went down to Tiger's Inn 10-4 in the second round. Exit two of the favorites. George's won a bye for round one. Some guy with a serious sense of humor said it was close. "Bye took them to the hill... yeah, yeah." George's enhanced their chances by knocking off 21 Rock (Nick's team) before going down 9-4 to Classic's. Fucifino's went out their first round and so goes the three favorites. Now the tournament was up for grabs.

The following round 21 Rock (Dan's Lemond's team) bumped out Tiger's Inn 10-6 to get to the final two. Classic's kicked out two Fucifino's teams, 9-4 and 9-2 before sending George's packing, 9-4. At this point Classic's was shooting a whopping .730 with a 27-10 record. 21 Rock was doing pretty good themselves with a 29-18 .617 average. The showdown would be a flat race to 9. And it proved to be a good match for the championship. Classic's came out on top 9-5 for the \$2,640 first place prize and trophy while 21 Rock took away \$1,000 for second. Great tournament guys. I'm sure we'll see you next time.

Pl.	Team	Captain	Winnings	Total Payout for the three Tournaments:	
1.	Classic's	Dan Tucker	\$2,640.00 & Trophy	All-Star Singles	\$ 4,869.00
2.	21 Rock	Dan Lemond	<u>1,000.00</u>	5-Player Team	16,200.00
			\$3,640.00	4-Player Team	<u>3,640.00</u>
					\$24,709.00

And a final word about a sport other than pool. It was a toss-up between Koby Bryant, Michael Jackson, and the Red Sox. We elected to go with the Bosox. Now that Boston has won a World Series, what excuse will they use in the event they go another 86 years without a winner? Can't be using The Babe any more. No more blame on Harry Frazee, the Red Sox owner who sold The Babe for a \$125,000 back in 1919 to the New York Yankees. Yep, those days are gone. No Babe, no Harry.

It's kind-a like the Cubs. When the Cubs finally win another World Series they can kiss the Goat stuff goodbye. The Goat will be exonerated. Can't be milking that ghost Goat story any more. No more blame for the Goat. Gone is the Goat. No more Goat. Adios Goat. Ta ta Goat.

That's about it for now. Be with us at the next All-Star Singles and Team events. We here at the Missouri 8 Ball Pool & Darts League offices hope you continue to play and enjoy both the regular 5-Player and 4-Player Happy Hour tournaments.

[Rusty Brandmeyer: League Operator](#)

[Roger Pheasant: Internet Co-coordinator](#)

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