

58th Missouri 8 Ball Tournament Highlights, Divisional Results

All-Star Singles Winners and Team Tournaments Winners



Check it out! The Missouri 8 Ball Pool League is in our 20th year of operation. Would you believe that one-third of it has elapsed already? As we begin part two of our 20th year we would like to take this opportunity to once again thank those of you whom participate and remained loyal. We are happy in announcing we are still the largest 8-Ball Pool 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. And our tournaments attract more competitors and teams locally than all other pool leagues combined. The 2005 Spring Session was another great success. Again, we appreciate your loyalty and support. As customary we offer congratulations to those who qualified for the All-Star Singles and Team Tournaments. And for those of you who didn't make it this time hang in there. Your turn will come.

As usual we like to recognize divisional winners and say a few words about their hard playing week after grueling week. The guys and gals who give it their best shot. And even if they didn't come out on top, they continue to hang in there and support their local bar, lounge or favorite establishment. One of our main features is to say a few words and highlight players' successes letting them know that we are aware of their accomplishments.

Division #1 Another great display of shooting talent from division one. Bill Ray (JP's Corner #3) led the crowd with 42 wins but fell just short of the award. How short you ask 8-ball breath? Check it out. Bill's 42-11 .792 record was a scant .003 behind the leader (Woody's) Mike Renick's 35-9 .795. Congrats to Mike for a great race. However, Bill Ray and partner, 3rd place shooter Ross Belt (39-12 .765), formed a great duo and put JP's #3 one-game over the line for the team championship. Their 13-3 finish edged out sister team JP's #1 by a single game. Top female is no surprise. Rhonda Bartram finished 13th out of 25 with a 20-13 .606 showing. Nice going lady.

Division #2 For those who were asking the burning question: Whatever happened to Chuck Lenceski? "No," he says, "contrary to what people may have heard, I did not win the 213-million-dollar lottery, buy an island in the southern Pacific Ocean in the Windward group of the Society Islands in French Polynesia."

Huh? Who said anything about that?

"Oh, by the way," he continued, "did you know they were first settled by Polynesians in the 14th century. In fact, Gaugin's best-known works were painted here... er... there."

Come now Chuck, are you putting us on? Now let me see if I understand this. Big Chuck hasn't been seen in three or four years, shows up and rips off the All-Star award with a 22-2 .917 record. Okay! And his partner (a brand new guy named George Chaffin, ranked a 'B-6') comes in second with a 29-5 .853. So where did you find this guy, Chuck? In the islands floatin' in a raft off one of those sandy beaches spearfishing with a 19-ounce cue stick? And if that wasn't enough another teammate Tom 'The Enforcer' Arcobasso (21-4 .840) rounded out the top three. Is it any wonder why Planet 8 Ball #2 took the division?

Division #3 Libby's takes division #3 ahead of Little Nikki's. Yeah, so? So this! Libby's placed six players on the All-Star honor roll to only two players from Little Nikki's, yet managed to barely slip by. Libby's 12-4 record was only one small game ahead of Little Nikki's who was flat out out-gunned. Jerry Casey led the parade with 42 wins and all six Libby's players put 21 or more in the 'W' column. No surprise that Nick Lopez took top honors again. Nick's 35-5 .875 was .035 ahead of teammate Jerry Casey's 42-8 .840. Great race guys.

Division #4 Dennis Bullock produced one of his finest sessions. Dig it! How does 27-4 .871 grab'ya? Cool, huh. Should be! Dennis the Menace proved to be a thorn in everyone's side ending with a whopping .151 higher than runner-up Jim Stevens' 36-14 .720. A flat runaway. D.B., who applies his talents for Libby's, has been here several times over the past 20-years and seemingly improves with age. And like Mick Jagger, just about the time you think he's going to hang up his Rock 'n' Roll shoes, he decides, oh what the heck, we'll go one more tour. Once more around the league just to give the fans something to talk about, sign autographs, etc. Team honors went to Kelly's (12-4) with a slight one-game advantage over Libby's.

Division #5 Two significant things took place the final week which determined the outcome of division 5's All-Star race. Let me set this up. First: With one week remaining Jesse Sherrell's 35-11 .761 was leading the parade by only .002 of a percentage point. That's about as close as wall paper on plasterboard. Riding hard on his heels was Jeff Baird with his 22-7 .759. That's close, brother. So we come to the final week. Jesse Sherrell took a chance and it paid off, barely. Jesse did not play. He must have had a good reason because simple math says that if Jeff plays and goes 3-0 he takes the trophy and gets a free ride straight into Sunday's All-Star gig. Three and one won't do, it has to be 3-0. Jeff won two of the three games he played. No question about it, it was all in his hands to win or lose it. Congrats to Jesse for a great race. Jesse's 35 wins also led the division. And with a little help from his teammates Jack Mayer, Jerry Dodson and Tom Davidson, Memoreze went past the post 11-5, one game ahead of Hazzards. And all four players pounded out 27 wins or higher. Great show. Top female player is Rhonda Bartram, again. This girl gets around. Rhonda finished 10th on the honor roll, 25-18 .581.

Division #6 Question: What do these four gentlemen have in common? Rich Sager, Jay Carlton, Joe Branstetter and Jerry Terbrock? Save the gray matter in your belfry. The answer: All four have finished first on All-Star sheets at least once (Sager three times) and did not get the award. Check it out. Jerry Terbrock's 37-4 .902 – that's right, a big .902, and still wasn't big enough. Reason? Of the 32 out of 33 players that found a spot on the honor roll – that's all – every one – 32 – was a '5' skill-level or less. As an 'A-8' Mr. Terbrock had to bat a thousand. One thousand won-loss percentage. That's no losses, dude. .902 is no good in division 6. All or nothing for 'A' players. And the thing is Terbrock was a resounding .121 ahead of second place. Not enough. Sorry. Too low, pal. So we congratulate John Brewer from The Phoenix. John's 25-7 .781 gets the nod. And the difference between 2nd and 3rd was another .079.

From the team angle after 15-weeks 21 Rock #4 and Hazzards #2 were tied 13-2. And the breakdown from games won and lost was 21 Rock in first place by, ready for this - .556.4 to Hazzard's .555.9, or .000.5 difference. If we were listening to Mike Shannon in this baseball situation we would be hearing: "O! Abner did it to us again." In this situation meaning that the final match on the schedule was between these two teams for the championship of the division. 21 Rock #4 won 11-6 over Hazzards #2. So, we said all that to say this, Mr. Terbrock going 4-0 this final match may not have been enough for the All-Star trophy but the team will be there and that's the important thing, right? Right? Hey, right?

Julie Hemann (JP's Corner) was top female again. Julie's more than just a pretty face and anything but a typical blonde. This gal's got her act together. Her 26 wins secured a spot on the list again.

Division #7 It was another shootout by teammates. Joe Curlee and Scott Diebold from George's were neck and neck only .011 difference with one week left. Joe (29-6 to Scott's 27-6) did not play the final match. That left the trophy up for grabs. Scott needed to go 2-0 to take the award. He did win two games but he also lost one for a final record of 29-7. Once again Joe Curlee rules. While these teammates were going for the All-Star singles trophy two teams from JP's Corner were in just as close a race.

Check it out – if you had JP's #2 and 7 points... you loooosssssseeee.

With one week remaining JP's #2 (14-1) was one match ahead of JP's #1 (13-2). There aren't many situations that allow a team four chances to win the divisional championship. And you gotta have a lot of bad luck not to have one come through for you. Check out the concatenation of circumstances.

One: They can win. Wow, what a revelation, Jay. They didn't. One chance shot. Two: A little fast math tells you that JP's #2 can lose their final match and still finish first if they win 7 games. They failed. They took only six. Chance two shot down. Three: JP's #1 could lose their match. They didn't; three chances down the tubes. And four: Even if #1 wins they might lose 8 games and that would still be enough to put #2 over the wire. They didn't lose 8 games. Wonder of all wonders they lost only 7. If there is such a thing as 'pool gods', to a god they must have had (something) against JP's #2. The final was a scant .0004 difference in favor of JP's #1, 156-123 .5591 to JP's #2 176-139 .5587. This was .0001 closer than division 6. Oh, by the way, JP's #2 made it through the playoffs.

Division #8 Order of the day is having teammates going for the trophy. Dennis Dunbar and Steady Eddie Libby from, where else, Libby's, were one-two. Dennis finalized the award with a 27-4 .871 to Ed's 26-6 .813. And it is no surprise that Libby's (14-2) flew past the post 3 games ahead of runners-up Filling Station and Jody T's, 11-5.

Division #9 Robert Froesel led the division with 37 wins. His 37-10 .787 was .060 better than second place Tony Neisz's 32-12 .727. Tony started his surge a couple weeks late. After 15 weeks, Tony was in 4th place with 28-12. Although he went 4-0 the final week it was not enough time to make up the difference the lead Robert had build up. Great race, guys.

Tony may have come up short for the singles award but his team, Kelly's #1, literally flew past the wire. It was 4 full games ahead of the field, the widest margin for many a moon. Their 14-2, 173-wins and .571 won-loss percentage were divisional leaders. It could have been because Kelly's #1 placed six players on the All-Star list. Ya think? And all posted 24 wins or higher. Great going, guys. See'ya at the big show. Top female Player is Donna Pope from Kelly's. Her 22-11 .667 was 7th highest out of the 20 that made the list. Other ladies that made the honor roll: Hayley Pope- 25 wins, Andrea Apple- 29 wins and Kelly Pontious- 25 wins. Great shooting, girls.

Division #10 "What a Difference a Day Makes" ("*Cuando vuelva a tu lado*") Spanish composer Marcia Greves penned it, Stanley Adams translated it into English and Dinah Washington popularized it into a million-seller. And it fits to a 'T' the outcome of this division's final results. Check it out. After 15 weeks there are three teams tied with 11-4 records. And leading the parade is Classic's #2, a miserly .010 ahead. It goes without saying they have to win their last match to bypass the playoffs. They don't. They lose. They were on the bubble and it popped, 11-10, to - Jennings Station. Huh? *Jennings Station*? Meanwhile Pete's Place, Charlack Pub, and New Classic's #1 all win their final match. Results: Classic's #2 went from the Penthouse to the outhouse. They dropped from first rung to 4th leaving the top spot to Pete's Place #1. Depending on who you're talking to it was either a great come-from-behind victory for Pete's or a great disappointment for Classic's. Most teams are hard pressed to show an 'aawwllll' emotion or feel sorry for a team that doesn't repeat. After all, these are the guys that took the 'Happy Hour' championship last session, remember. And the whole scenario didn't take a day, or half a day. It took only three and a half hours. We at the Missouri 8 Ball offices enjoy great divisional races and the closer the better. And nine out of every ten divisions are decided by only one or two games. Check it out. It's in the Book.

But the session was not a total loss for the gang from Classic's. Five players, you know, the usual suspects, Steve 'On The Go' Monko, Wayne '8-Ball Burner' Turner, Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozzi, 'The Thinker' Guy Tinker, and Uncle Pete Mocca made the All-Star sheet all coming in the top 12 slots. Oh, yes, teammates Monko and Turner finished one-two again. How do they do that? Steve (32-7 .821) edged out Wayne (36-9 .800) by only .021.

Top female agent was Fucifino's Melissa King-Kong. She snapped off 27 wins and a .711 W/L percentage good for 6th place. The other lady was Charlack Pub's Aleeta Fahrenholz with 19 wins. Nice going girls.

Division #11 It was a two- thoroughbred race the final three weeks but when Dave Lehner rounded the bend and pulled ahead in the home-stretch he never showed signs of slowing down. Dave (McDuff's) posted a great league leading 30-7 .811 record. (Hey... those were Dizzy Dean's pitching stats for the Cardinals back in 1934.) Dave was a slight .007 ahead of runner-up Jay Carlton's (Action Billiards) 41-10 .804. (Hey... 7 was the total of shutouts Dizzy threw that year.) And 7 was the numbers of '8' balls Dave snapped on the break; and 'Ol Diz added 7 saves to his pitching record. *This is incredible! This is scary! This is nuts! Isn't it amazing how certain things parallel? For the team championship, however, it was the opposite. Jay's Action team finished first past the post, 11-5 to Dave and McDuff's 10-6. (Sorry, can't find any parallels here.)

Division #12 It is no surprise to see a couple of Bill's at the top of this list. Number one Bill, Bill Parrot takes home another trophy. Silent Bill, who has been known to play a safety or two in his day, ran up a comfortable lead and floated home on a 37-5 .881 record. Again, teammates were one-two for the award. Yes, fellow Fucifino partner, the other Bill, Billy Wimberly, 39-10 .796 was only .085 behind. Nice going, guys.

From the team side (another Bill) Just Bill's Place, eked out a one-game lead taking the division 13-3 to runner-up Airport Billiards, 12-4. Danny Sugar led all players with 40 wins and yes this is the same gang that won last session's 5-Player tournament. They'll be there trying to do what no team has ever done, repeat. Who knows, they may be the ones to do it.

Division #13 That safety playing rascal did it again. It was a little closer this time only .036, but Fucifino's Silent Bill Parrot, 33-13 .717, held on to beat out Lehmann's Landing Mike Kiwala's 32-15 .681. It took every match as with just the final week to play Bill was ahead 31-13 to Mike's 30-13. Great shooting, guys.

One consolation for Mike is that his Lehmann's Landing team came out on top for the automatic pass into the big show. But it was close. Three teams finished with 11-5 records. Final placings were determined by games won and lost. L&L (168-139) .547 was higher than TJ's #1(158-137) .536 and Fucifino's (160-142) .530. Another great race. Top female player was Robyn Eidson from Airport Billiards. Robyn fired in 20 '8' balls good for 9th place.

Division #14 It has been awhile since we've seen a Bergfeld at the top of the All-Star list. No, it's not one the oldies but goodies Bergfelds. This is a brand new Bergfeld. Jason Bergfeld in fact. Jason comes from a long line of 8-ball players from his dad, mom, uncle and aunt who stroked the cue stick several thousand times back in the '80's and '90's while he was still a kid wearing short pants and a crew cut. According to all available statistics Jason may be heir apparent to the clan. That being the case we're sure he'll be around a long time to come. His 32-5 .865 outdistanced runner-up Ken Pruett's 37-14 .725 by a wide margin. We're talking .140. Quite a gap for Mr. Bergfeld's first big-time showing. Oh, and about the oldie but goodie, Daddy Bob can still run a rack now and again. He was 9th on the honor roll with a 26-12 .648. And which team do the Bergfeld's apply their skills? Streiler's, the team that literally ran off with the division with a 15-1 record. Their 15 wins, 173 games won, and .581 won-loss percentage were division leaders as well. Well done, guys.

Division #15 Here we have a jim-dandy surprise and it couldn't happen to a nicer gal. There hasn't been a member of the female persuasion take out a division title in many moons. The latest to do so is the little gal with a big stick, and the very colorful and pleasantly pronounced Polynesian/Hawaiian name, Tammie Lalumondiere. Tammie shot it out with teammate and fiancé Joe Corey for top honors, and didn't back into it. Unlike several other award 'winners' Ms Lalumondiere could have sat out the final week guaranteeing her the trophy putting herself ahead of the team. She chose instead to play trying to raise her team's position in the standings. A breath of fresh air compared otherwise to the foggy individualist attitude others have displayed in previous years. She went 3-0 the final match raising her personal record to 37-11 .771, good enough to keep fiancé Joe Corey's 28-10 .737 in second place. Yo, Joe, what up wit dis? Second place! Who does the cookin' at your address? Go Tammie, go Tammie. Here's an oddity, four ladies occupied spots from the first eleven positions. The others were Betty Tucker and Cindie Gibbs from G.B. Field, and Deb Miller from Classic's. Speaking of G.B. Field, they did more than put it all together. They ran away with the division. Their 15 wins, 177 games won and .615 W/L percentage led all teams. And their 111 losses were the least amount for the division.

Division #16 Here's a hot commodity out of Lehmann's Landing, Jason Oberdas. Huh? Jason who? What can you say about a brand new player to Missouri 8 Ball who takes out the All-Star award his inaugural session? I got it – hey Jason O., what do you do for an encore? We'll have to wait and see if he can repeat. Jason's 31-9 .775 was a slight .015 ahead of runner-up Ken Morisaki's 38-12 .760. We didn't say he had an easy task, we just said he won it. Big time congrats for a fine showing. Top female Nikki Carroll with 21 wins placed 16th on the All-Star sheet. Just Bill's Place #1 (12-4) sneaked over the wire by a single game. What's incredible about this is Just Bill's won only 120 games. That was good for only 8th place of the 10 teams. Go figure!

Division #17 Joe Branstetter led the division with 38 wins and a .760 won-loss percentage. So why are we congratulating Darryl Anderson? Remember what we said earlier about Joe Branstetter being one of four players who finished 'first' but didn't hit high enough. As a 'B-6' skill-level Joe had to finish with an .800 percentage to take the division. Not short by much but just enough to give Darryl the honor. So, again, we say congratulations to Darryl Anderson.

Darryl may have been second choice for the All-Star award (just kidding Darryl) but his team wasn't. Our Place (St. Louis) rode roughshod over the other teams by two full games. Their 14-2 was better than Lindy's 12-4. Congrats to Christy Creel from Tiger's Inn. It's the first time making the All-Star sheet for Christy.

Division #18 Keith Heavel is another second generation Missouri 8 Ball player. His dad, Charlie Heavel Senior, and brother, Charlie (Junior), have been winning trophies and supporting each other the last three or four years. This time it was Keith taking out the All-Star award. His 36-7 .837 overtook the two Bill's, Bill Parrot (25-7 .781) and Billy Wimberly (24-7 .774) who finished 2nd and 3rd respectively. They may have come in 2-3 on the All-Star sheet but the two Bill's team, Kings Cross, finished two games past the post. Congrats to Lajuan Henry, also of Kings Cross. Her 20-10 .667 record was good for 6th on the honor roll.

Division #19 What we have here is an incredible amount of 'firsts' about this division that even I have a hard time believing. No, one of them isn't that 'Kirkwood' Tom Vogt won the free pass to Sunday by winning the All-Star trophy. He has done that several times. Although... no, that definitely is not one of them. Relax Tom. Being a 'B' and not a 'BB' may be..., no that isn't one of them either. Tom's 31-4 .886 beat out partner John Bissell (34-7 .829), who beat out partner Kevin Beumer (34-9 .791), who beat out partner Dennis Gallagher (30-8 .789), who beat out partner Louis Erby (22-7 .759). Yep, they dominated the first five spots. From the team angle is there any surprise how Planet 8 Ball #2 flew two games past the post? They led in everything. Team wins- 14, games won- 169, W/L percentage .560, number of players on the All-Star list- 6, and the incredible thing is with seven teams in the division and 20 players on the sheet the first five came from Planet 8 Ball #2. I'm wondering how they managed to lose two matches. The office is checking their sticks for pine tar.

Division #20 For the 2nd time this session Jerry Terbrock finished at the top of the heap. And for the 2nd time he didn't meet the required average for an 'A' skilled player for this division. What he needed was an .860 to be the champ. What he played was 29-7 .806, or .054 short. Now here's where another first comes into play. There was a flat-foot tie for second place. Both Jeff Ayers and Jared Speckmeyer had identical records of 26-8 .765. What to do, what to do? It so happens there is a clear and reasonable solution for such an occurrence. But I'm not going to tell you what it is. Check the rule book. So there! Oh, Jared Speckmeyer got the call. I can't remember was it heads or... no, no, just kidding. It wasn't a coin flip. Now here's another good one. After 15 weeks Planet 8 Ball #1 was at the top. In fact they won week 16 and finished 12-4. But, after 15 weeks #1 had no players on the All-Star sheet. After the results were in the final week one player did make it. Of the 15 players, Walter Crane Jr. came in... 15th. One more mention, 14 of the 15 players on the sheet were from a Planet 8 Ball team. The one that wasn't, John Hefner from Just One More.

Division #101 From the Happy Hour Division: Curt Wisely, as wise as a tree full of owls, very wisely picked his spots and proved just how wise and sagacious he really is. Playing almost every round Captain Curt led the division with 38 wins and a .792 W/L percentage. He was one of five players from Wedge #1 that'll be at the All-Star shootout. His .792 was .059 above runner-up Mike Roy (33-12 .733) from Mary's Blue Ribbon. From the team side it was the other way 'round. Mary's Blue Ribbon and Wedge #1 tied with 12-4 records. To the games won and lost we find that Mary's 136-98 .581 beat out Wedge's 145-110 .569. Only .012 different, but enough. Turned out to be great races from both All-Star and team events.

Division #102 Another division where the first and second players on the All-Star list are partners. From George's, Joe Raben, 36-16 .692, beat out Greg Leber, 22-12 .647. But together they came up short sending their team past the post. Three teams finished 11-5 making the games won-lost percentage the deciding factor. After doing the math Ten Mile House beat out George's and Super Bungalow. Congratulations to Kelly Neill for making the All-Star sheet. She was the only female to make the 12 qualifiers. The Super Bungalow bombshell won 28 games for the 8th spot on the honor roll.

Division #103 Remember the Johnny Cash song, "Hey Porter, Hey Porter"? Too bad, it's a good song. Anyway, that's what they were singing out 21 Rock way. John Porter romped over the division to the tune of .818. John recorded a great 36-8 .818 record and was a big .081 over 2nd place Bill Berry's 28-10 .737. Of the 18 players that made the sheet these were the only two that ended the session over .700. In a way that indicates how balanced the division is. And John, if he keeps this up, this Porter will have everyone else carrying his bags. It was two for two for Mr. Porter. From the team side John's 21 Rock #2 skipped over the wire by one game? Their 12-4 finish barely made it past The Phoenix, 11-5.

Division #104 Young Leon Young. Like the Energizer Bunny this guy keeps rolling along. One wonders if he slacks off every other session or two just to allow someone else a chance to look good on the All-Star sheet. Leon's 41-11 .788 was a solid .098 better than runner-up Gentleman Jim Crosby, 40-18 .690. Both play out of Fucifino's but with different teams. Leon's #3 team ran over the field by an impressive 4 games.

Division #105 Another race by teammates out of Lehmann's Landing. From L.L. #1 Vic Thebeau, 28-8 .778, outlasted Mitch Wagner, 33-11 .750, by a mere .028. But third place getter Michael Lehmann got the last laugh. His L.L. #2 team edged out #1. As both teams ended the session 11-5, L.L. #2 played to a games W/L percentage, 122-88 .581 to #1's 135-119 .531.

Division #106 Here we have another second-generation player showing off his stuff. Trying to out do dad and might be on his way. Back in the '80's and '90's Bob Dulle Senior was a force in the early days of The Missouri 8 Ball Pool League. Passing his knowledge on, son Bob Dulle Jr. (applying his talents for Cocktails Lounge) nailed down his first divisional trophy. A chip off the old block Bob Jr. made his talents noted with a 33-8 .805 showing. It was a mere .014 better than runner-up Dave Vaughn (TK's Pub & Grill) 34-9 .791. So we say congratulations and welcome another Dulle to the fraternity. Dave missed out on the All-Star award but led his team to the big show. TK's Pub & Grill (13-3) finished two games ahead of Fucifino's, 11-5.

Division #107 For those of you who wondered if Gary Blanks was still around, went into the witness protection program, or just didn't give a rat's behind, you can take comfort in knowing that since his departure from New Classic's last year, Mr. Blanks applied for and was granted admission to enter Tiger's Inn where he now displays his talents. (What the hell was Bob Abbott thinking?) Whatever it was, good, bad or indifferent; Gary's run for the gold earned him top honors on the All-Star list. It was a 3-way shootout between Gary Blanks (37-6 .860), Ken Geisz (35-6 .854), and Bob Jeanis (37-7 .841). Hey Gary, doin' pretty good in your new digs, huh! While Gary barely eked out the award by a scant .006 his team lost out in 6th place for the playoffs by a scantier .002. The big story at this point is that Streiler's went the distance. That's right, 16-0. It is very rare indeed that in a 16-week schedule someone goes wire to wire. Oh, by the way, this was the biggest gap (5 games) between first and second place we can ever recall. Streiler's walked off with all categories. Most wins- 16, zero losses, 142-game wins, fewest games lost- 89, highest W/L percentage .615. Great, great session, guys. Good luck at the big show.

All-Star Singles Results

Planet 8 Ball was the site of the 58th Missouri 8 Ball Pool League All-Star and Team Tournaments. Buddy and Suzanne Evans conduct and supervise an excellent establishment worthy of such events. June 25 & 26, 2005 was the Singles event where close to 200 players signed up for the shootout.

Several surprises surrounded the Saturday elimination rounds. After ten hours of non-stop play the field was cut to 48 players that earned the right to return for the finals Sunday. With the twenty-two divisional champions that entered a final total of seventy began play for the sixteen cash spots. There were only two 'A-8' skill-level players and only four 'BB-7' players left. The remaining field consisted of twenty-four 'B-6's, nineteen 'CC-5's, fourteen 'C-4's, and seven 'DD-3's. All 'A' players were gone after five hours and only one 'BB' remained. And that 'BB' turned out to be the winning player. But it was no easy task.

The last two players on the winner's side, Dustin Dunham and David West, put up quit a battle. Dustin defeated David sending him to the elimination side where he had to wait for the rest of the field to catch up. Rich Norris met and knocked out teammate Mike Noble, who finished in a tie for 7-8. While this was going on Bill Province knocked out fellow 21 Rocker, Ed Parris. Province went on to eliminate Don Eggleston while Norris fought his way past Bob Dulle Jr.

Trophy Rounds

Rich Norris defeated Bill Province giving Bill fourth place money of \$400.00. In the wings was David West. West got back in stroke and knocked Norris out setting up a rematch with Dunham. A 'BB' against a 'CC' is not a sure thing. David, previously a 'B' ranked player, had a couple of slow sessions and was dropped to a 'CC'. He would have to beat Dustin twice to capture the crown. David found his rhythm in the first set taking a 2-1 match. It was still up for grabs as both players earned one game in the final set. They went back and forth for a few minutes when Dunham saw an opening and got out. It was a very good match between two deserving players.

Final Results & Total All-Star Payout - \$4464.00

Player	Skill	Team	Winnings	Player	Skill	Team	Winnings
1. Dustin Dunham	'7'	Planet 8 Ball	\$1,064 & Trophy	9-12. Leon Young	'6'	Fucifino's	\$125
2. David West	'5'	Little Nikki's	700 & Trophy	9-12. Todd Berry	'6'	Action	125
3. Rich Norris	'6'	Tiger's Inn	550 & Trophy	9-12. Chuck Lenceski	'5'	Planet 8 Ball	125
4. Bill Province	'5'	21 Rock	400	9-12. Brock Schmittler	'3'	Kelly's	125
5-6. Bob Dulle Jr.	'6'	Cocktails	275	13-16. Keith Heavel	'6'	Action	75
5-6. Don Eggleston	'4'	Nuts	275	13-16. John Doyle	'5'	Kelly's	75
7-8. Mike Noble	'6'	Tiger's Inn	200	13-16. Curt Wisely	'5'	Wedge	75
7-8. Ed Parris	'3'	21 Rock	<u>200</u>	13-16. Bill Lach	'4'	Mary's Blue Ribbon	<u>75</u>
			\$3664				\$800

5-Player Tournament Results Saturday July 9, 2005

Opening salvos began noon Saturday July 9, 2005. There were 46 teams from the 5-Player side that earned their way here. By 10:30 that evening the field was cut to the final eight for the return trip Sunday. These eight would all share a piece of the \$17,377.00 prize money pie. A minimum of \$950.00 was already in the bank.

From the top half of the board Action Billiards, led by the Heavel Family, squeaked past Ed Libby's team 11-10. This is the match where both father and son (Charlie Heavel Sr. & Jr.) won four games each.

The second team out of Libby's, captained by Corey Lewis, gave up five games on the wire to G.B. Field. After GBF jumped off with the first three games in round one, the 8-0 lead looked like a bad omen for Libby's. A Libby's fan was overheard to say, "Don't break out the Champagne just yet." The guy must be psychic. Joe Lopez got the guys from Libby's rolling and with the exception of only one other loss, Libby's derailed their opponents and took the last eight games and 12 of the last 13. The 12-9 (12-4) victory put Libby's into the final four.

From the bottom of the board the second G.B. Field team received 3-games head start from Planet 8 Ball. With the score 10-10, G.B. Field's Tim Underwood happened to be the player of record and this turned out to be the fourth of his 4 wins in this match. The 11-10 victory added GBF to the final four.

Just Bill's Place allowed 2-games head start to Foley's, from down Maplewood way. Remember the elementary school story books 'Fun with Dick and Jane' where one of them would say, "See Spot run!" It went in the first round as Just Bill's took four of the five for a 4-3 early lead. It was 6-6 after round two and about as close as Foley's would get. Just Bill's ran off five of the next six for an 11-7 (11-5) walk into the last four.

The final qualifying round showed Libby's knocking out Action Billiards, 11-6. Jerry Casey added three more wins to his weekend totals and at this point was a resounding 13-1. On the opposite end Charlie Heavel Sr. (14-3), Charlie Heavel Jr. (12-6) and Keith Heavel (13-4) all finished well above and beyond the call of duty.

Just Bill's Place and G.B. Field got into a great elimination match. Playing heads up it looked like a walk-away for Just Bill's Place when they showed a 9-6 lead after three rounds. But GBF wasn't done yet. This team had eight players and five of them were women, and doing an excellent job of holding their own. They opened up round four by taking the first four games and the lead 10-9. And just about the time the railbirds thought an upset was in the making, Just Bill's Danny Sugar evened the score 10-10. The pills were rolled and Irv Taylor got the call for Just Bill's and Michele Underwood got it for GBF. Michele gave it a good shot but Irv got there first with the '8' ball for a come-from-behind Just Bill's victory. This was Tom Underwood's second consecutive match where he won 4 games. It would have been nice to have Tom pull the final pill only to see if he could pull off the 5-win trick.

The championship match began at 7pm. Libby's and Just Bill's Place were even money going in. It was hard giving one the edge over the other even though Just Bill's was our last tournament champion. They were making a hard run at becoming the first team to repeat as 5-player team champs. Libby's, on the other hand, had a stronger lineup and had to give 3-games away in this race to 12 championship match. Libby's jumped out of the gate fast with 4 games in round one for a fast 4-4 tie. (See spot run!)

Things couldn't have been better for Libby's. With three wins from round two plus another three from round three, Libby's was in the proverbial driver's seat, 10-8. The way the pills rolled out for the fourth and deciding round most odds makers would bet the Big Dipper would fall out of the sky before Just Bill's pulled this one out. For instance here's the way the skill-levels went for the draw, Pill # 1: Libby's '5' drew JBP's '4'. Pill #2: Libby's '6' vs JBP's '4'. Pill #3 went JBP's '6' to Libby's '4'. Pill #4: Back to Libby's '5' to JBP's '3'. And pill #5: Libby's '5' vs JBP's '3'. Four of the five games had advantage Libby's written all over them.

So what happens? You guessed it. Game One: JBP's '4' beats Libby's '5'. Game two: JBP's other '4' knocks out Libby's '6'. Game three: JBP's '6' defeats Libby's '4'. But there are a couple of things about this match. First, with the score now tied 10-10, the winner goes to the hill needing only one more win. JBP's Danny Sugar '6' would be a slight favorite taking on Libby's '4'. Except this '4' happens to be Jerry Casey, who at this point has buzz-sawed his way to two 8-game winning streaks and a weekend record of 16-1; pretty good '4', huh! Of course Danny was sporting a pretty good hefty W/L record himself at 17-4. After awhile Danny does pull it out. Now JBP's '3' is up against Libby's '5'. And Irv Taylor makes one hellacious '8' ball cut shot down the rail into the corner pocket. JBP wins the last four games and 6 of the last 7 taking the match 12-10, and repeat as 5-player champs. Incredible!

Looking back over the matches a special mention should go out to Joan Zielinski, a.k.a. Joanie the Z. Had it not been for this young lady Just Bill's Place would be just a faded memory. For it was Joanie the Z who played and won the double hill match Saturday night against Crystal Billiards. And she didn't stop there. Her two wins in the 4pm match Sunday helped JBP to another 11-10 squeaker. Congratulations Joanie the Z. Keep strokin'.

Total payout for the eight 5-player teams - \$17,377.00

Place	Team	Captain	Winnings	Place	Team	Captain	Winnings
1.	Just Bill's Place	Robin Field	\$6,000.00 & Trophy	5-8.	Planet 8 Ball	Mark Voerg	\$950.00
2.	Libby's	Corey Lewis	3,777.00	5-8.	G.B. Field	David Fritz	950.00
3-4.	Action Billiards	Charlie Heavel	1,900.00	5-8.	Foley's	Dawn Froesel	950.00
3-4.	G.B. Field	Chris Lichtenstein	<u>1,900.00</u>	5-8	Libby's	Ed Libby	<u>950.00</u>
			\$13,577.00				\$3,800.00

4-Player Happy Hour Tournament Results

The 4-Player Happy Hour teams began their run for the trophy at noon Sunday July 10, 2005. There was a full field of 16 teams. Hillsboro Billiards knocked out Crystal City Billiards and George's to get to the final four. Art Lohnes' Fucifino's eliminated Mary's Blue Ribbon and 21 Rock for a second spot. From the bottom of the board Streiler's sent Kelly's and Classic's packing while TK's Pub disposed of The Phoenix and the 2nd Fucifino team. Because it has always been the custom of Missouri 8 Ball to pay only two spots for the Happy Hour tournaments, one more win was needed to get to the final round. And it was a couple of good ones. Hillsboro Billiards and Fucifino's played even. The match stayed even throughout, 4-4, 6-6 and 8-8 going into the 4th and final round. And Fucifino's Bob Pendergrass was doing his bit. This was the match where Bob won four games. Ironically both team captains, Hillsboro's Johnny Neels (who won the 8th game taking the contest to double hill) and Art Lohnes (Fucifino's) drew the number one pill for the double hill finale. Neels prevailed for the 9-8 victory and moved Hillsboro into the finals.

The second penultimate match between Streiler's and TK's Pub was another squeaker. Although Streiler's received one game on the wire, at the conclusion of three rounds TK's Pub had worked their way into a 7-6 lead. By taking the first two games from round four TK's Pub earned a 9-6 path to the final two. An honorable mention goes out to Steve Davis from Streiler's. Steve won three of his team's six games extending his weekend record to an outstanding 10-0.

Playing 22 points to Hillsboro's 24, TK's Pub got one game head start. But the gang from Jefferson County came out smokin'. They ran off the first five games and six of eight for a 2-round lead, 6-3. Two more in round three put them on the hill and closed it out the first game of round four. The 9-5 victory gave Hillsboro Billiards their first tournament win in a couple of years. Congratulations to both Johnny Neels' gang and Rick Sutberry's crew for their outstanding playing.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Winnings</u>	<u>Payout for three tournaments</u>
1. Hillsboro Billiards	Johnny Neels	\$3,200.00 & Trophy	All-Star Singles 4,464.00
2. TK's Pub	Rick Sutberry	<u>1,500.00</u>	5-Player Team 17,377.00
		\$4,700.00	4-Player Team <u>4,700.00</u>
			\$ 26,541.00

Players with 4 Wins in a single Match

Charlie Heavel Sr. (Action Billiards), Guy Tinker & Steve Monko (Classic's), Wendell Tole (Airport Billiards), Dan Sugar (Just Bill's Place), John Neels (Hillsboro Billiards), Steve Davis (Streiler's), David Vaughn (TK's Pub), Bob Pendergrass (Fucifino's).

Tim Underwood (G.B. Field) had back to back matches where he went 4-0. They won the first match 11-10 and lost the second by the same score. Chuck Telle (Big River) was on the losing end, 11-9.

Charlie Heavel Sr. (4-0) & Charlie Heavel Jr. (4-1) in the same match. It was the second time for Daddy Charlie. Two ladies outsmarted the competition 4-0. Lajuania Henry (Action Billiards) and Lisa Kissel (21 Rock). Although Lisa's team went down 11-9 this gal more than showed the guys how to handle a situation. Lisa, in as a skill-level '3', beat up on a '4' and three '5's. Way to go, girl.

Won-Lost Percentages 10 or more Wins

<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Winning Streaks</u>
1. Steve Davis	Streiler's	10-0	1.000	1. Steve Davis 10
2. Bob Pendergrass	Fucifino's	10-1	.909	2. Tim Underwood 8
	'7-0' 5-player & '3-1' 4-player			2. Jerry Casey 8 **
3. Jerry Casey	Libby's	16-2	.889	2. Jerry Casey 8 **
4. Charlie Heavel Sr.	Action	14-3	.824	3. Charlie Heavel Sr. 7 also 6
5. Danny Sugar	Just Bill's	18-4	.818	3. Danny Sugar 7
6. Keith Heavel	Action	13-4	.765	3. Bob Pendergrass 7
7. Johnny Neels	Hillsboro	13-5	.722	3. Eric Hass 7
	'6-0' 5-player & '7-5' 4-player			3. Joe Lopez 7
8. Eric Hass	Just Bill's	10-4	.714	4. Keith Heavel 6
9. Joe Lopez	Libby's	14-6	.700	4. Johnny Neels 6
Honorable mentions: Jack Mayer (Memoreze) 9-1 .900				4. Walter Crane Jr. 6
Tom Davidson (Memoreze) 9-2 .818				
Walter Crane Jr. (Planet 8 Ball) 6-0 1.000				

Quips 'R' Us

1. A most unlikely candidate to win five games in a 'Race-to-11' team match would be Mark Prindable (Players).
Question: Do we congratulate him... or pass him a specimen cup?
2. Now that Dustin Dunham has his Missouri 8 Ball All-Star championship title, who do we pick on next?
3. Can you believe Airport Billiards' Melissa King actually said, in front of witnesses, that she would challenge Rhonda Bartram to 100-dollar sets of 9-ball, or any other game Rhonda chose to play? This is like Paris Hilton trying to tackle a legitimate acting roll, like, say Lady Macbeth or Camille. Be more like the final 10-seconds of Anne Boleyn.
4. Had a dream the night before the team finals. It was pretty good except for the ending, which was a little farfetched. I mean, come on – Just Bill's Place winning the 5-Player Missouri 8 Ball Pool Tournament a second time in a row? Who's gonna believe that?

From our Quotes Department

1. David West (Little Nikki's), 2nd place finisher with his 700-dollar check: "I only play one night a week!"
Gee, Dave, why don't you make it sound easy!
2. Bill Province (21 Rock) after coming in 4th and admiring his 400-dollar check: "Not bad considering I did it with a 10-dollar stick. These other guys with their thousand-dollar sticks, ha-ha."
Keep laughing, Bill. So let me see if I understand this:
Bill: 10-dollar cue stick.
Jay: 200-dollar cue stick.
Bill: 400-dollar winner's check.
Jay: No check... nada... nothing... big zero.
Bill: Out celebrating.
Jay: Home with TV.
Now, I'm not advocating that there should be a run on 10-dollar Chinese bamboo sticks, or those colorfully designed Budweiser cues. But if all of a sudden there's an abrupt stampede to the nearest K-mart for the purchase of (oh God) 10-dollar 'break-with'em-two-times-and-watch-how-easy-they-shatter' sticks, I think it only fair that Bill Province should get a cut of the action.
3. Jay Carlton: "Never let it be said that the powers of observation don't inspire." (Said of Hillsboro Billiards)
And our quotes department wouldn't be complete without one from Filling Station's Mel Winkler.
4. 'C-4' skill-level Mel Winkler on his way out the door Saturday night: "I'd stick around but there ain't no competition here."

An Added Attraction – our Joke de jure:

Two men were friends all their lives, since they were toddlers, went to grade school together, high school, played on the same church baseball teams, I mean friends for 75-years. They served in the military together, married twin sisters and took vacations together. These guys were literally the best of friends.

Skipping ahead: They shared good times and bad times, especially when they put together their first pool team. (We all know about that.) They never missed a Tuesday night. A local pool tournament every other weekend was always scheduled. For forty years they played pool through cold weather and hot. Some of these places they played in didn't even have air-conditioning. (Bummer)

Talk about die-hard fanatics. These guys loved playing pool. 3-Ball, 4-ball, 5-ball, 6-ball, 7-ball, 8-Ball, 9-Ball, 10-ball, Alabama, rotation, banks, straight, it didn't make any difference; any kind of pool game. And because of their great love for the games of pool they made a solemn declaration that when one of them died and went to their reward they would do everything they could do to make contact with the other to let him know if there were pool tables and pool teams and pool tournaments there so they could continue to play pool throughout eternity. (Get the idea these guys liked to play pool?)

Inevitably after 75 years, three months, a couple of weeks, a few hours and minutes one of the men dies. There was a great wake. A couple hundred members from the pool fraternity showed up to pay their final respects. Flower arrangements hung from pool sticks. 'Have a Great Journey' cards were hung from 9-ball racks. 'Trust Everybody but Check the Racks' cards were hung from 8-ball racks. Cube chalk, tappers, a glove, his favorite one-of-a-kind cue stick 'The Rack Runner' especially designed by Doug Patrick was placed inside the coffin. And for a little light reading along the way a copy of "Billiards on Broadway" by Jay L. Carlton was also placed inside the coffin. The coffin was special made resembling a 7-foot bar-box with smooth Simonis cloth and stocked with a box of Vigma Billiard Balls with pictures of family members set in each ball. It was first class all the way for Harry. Miniature jump-sticks were sticking up and out from the pockets each with an '8' ball balanced on top. The man's trophies, plaques and other awards were impeccably arranged around the coffin-pool table. Egyptian Kings being sent off to wherever Egyptian Kings are sent off to, with their most prized possessions, would turn green with envy.

A couple hours later after all visitors paid their respects and left the building, the dead man's friend hung back to say a few parting words. When the friend passed the coffin-pool table he leaned in and said, "Don't forget Harry, you gotta find a way to get back to me. You gotta let me know if there are pocket billiards where you wind up. I'm counting on you." And as an after-thought said, "The team won't be the same without you, pal. I just don't know who I can get to replace you. I've thought of Richie Cunningham and Jeff Ayers and Mayday Rick May, but no. These guys couldn't carry your stick. The Big Ragu is getting on in years. Andy Quinn and Jack and Johnny Neels are about past their prime. Kenny Vaughn and Jerry Terbrock are question marks. Ed Libby, Buddy Evans, Kirkwood Tom, Little Jake, Rusty Brandmeyer, Roger Pheasant, Al Pruett, I mean, Harry, I'm having one heck of a time finding a decent replacement. There's nobody out there. And as far as ladies go, I'd love to add Rhonda Bartram to the roster. Or Julia Peace Gabriel or Julie Hemann or Mary Stillwell. How about Lajuanica Henry or Patty Wells! But you know how jealous husbands and boyfriends are, and not to mention our wives." (I said don't mention the wives.)

The next day Harry was planted in the Rock Road Cemetery. His long-time friend waited. Night after night, week after week he waited for a sign. Then one night as Harry's friend was dozing off he felt a strange paranormal experience. A feeling he hadn't felt before. Then a voice. "Tonto... it's me... Harry."

(Harry's friend was named Tonto.) Tonto was visibly shaken. "Harry... Harry, is that really you?"

"Yes old friend; it is I. I finally broke through. I'm here to give you some GREAT news with a touch of sad news."

"Harry, for goodness sake please tell me there are billiard tables there."

"Tonto, you're gonna cream in your jeans when I tell you this. All the all-time great pool players are here. There's Ralph Greenleaf, Luther Lassiter, Willie Hoppe, Minnesota Fats, Blackie Lesieur, Fat Bill, Willie Mosconi, man... it... is... so... cool. Totally a Who's Who of the Pool World. You'll absolutely flip. There aren't enough adjectives to describe this place."

And most of the world's greatest promoters and hustlers are here, too; Fast Eddie, Titanic Thompson, Bo Belinsky, P.T. Barnum, Jackie Gleason, Colonel Tom Parker, Jimmy 'The Greek' Snyder, Bill Veeck, Nick the Greek, Sam Munchnick and others. I get to watch these characters every day. Every day and night; can you dig it! I'd-a stroked out if I wasn't already dead. You won't believe how great it is to see these guys in action. They're always trying to out-do each other. The money games! The tournaments! The cons! It's outta sight, man. The game certainly has its pantheon of (mostly) upstanding citizens.

"Talk about stories. I've heard some good ones. Here's one they're still taking about. Rumor has it that Louie Roberts, you remember Saint Louie Louie... well... he offered God the '8', the break and two on the wire; and was turned down. Turned down by God! How strong is that!? That happened before I arrived but they swear it's true." Tonto thought for a moment. "Wait a minute Harry. That's all very interesting and I'm very excited about knowing we'll get to play games of pool forever. But did you say something about bad news?"

"Huh, oh yeah."** (You readers have traveled a long way just to get to this part) **

"There's a tournament next Saturday," said Harry. "You're signed up to play Saint Louie Louie. See'ya... wouldn't wanna be'ya."

And Finally – our comment on a sport other than Pool

It would have been on the NHL. But since there was no NHL, we can't very well commit on it. So we'll go this way. Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams after being informed he would have to return 8.6-million: (This is somewhat paraphrased but you'll get the point) "Ya'know, I'm beginning to like football a whole lot more." Ya'thank!!!

See'ya next time. Remember, don't take the game too seriously. Have fun; that's what it's all about.

Rusty Brandmeyer – [Missouri 8 Ball](#) League Operator
[Roger Pheasant](#) – Web site and Internet Coordinator
[Jay L. Carlton](#) – Assistant to the Wheels.....