

**59th [Missouri 8 Ball](#) Tournament**  
**Highlights, Divisional Results All-Star Singles Winners**  
**and Team Tournaments Winners October 2005**



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The Missouri 8 Ball Pool League is two-thirds into our 20th year of operation. Time really does fly when you're having fun. And that's what we here at the Mo-8-Ball office hope our teams and players are doing, having fun. It's supposed to be a relaxing evening away from the kids or (hard) day's work or whatever. Calm down, kick back, chill out, defizzle your sizzle; whatever it takes. Enjoy the camaraderie; enjoy the competition. As we begin the final phase of our 20th year we would like to take this opportunity to once again thank those of you whom participate and remain 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 Summer 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.

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. 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.

**Division #1** Three-player races to the finish line are always fun (when you come out on top). John Doyle (Kelly's) and brothers Joe and Nick Lopez (Libby's) were 1,2,3 with two weeks remaining. Who was going to give first? All three played every round. John went 6-0, Joe shot at 5-1 and Nick was 6-0. The outcome showed John Doyle holding on ending at 29-4 .879 for the trophy. Brothers Joe and Nick tied for second/third with 26-6 .813 records. Great race, guys.

Team honors went to Little Nikki's. Their first place 9-2 showing was two games ahead of Kelly's. Pay attention because five years from now I'm going to ask the burning question 'which was the last 5-Player team to go to the championships out of Little Nikki's?' Extra points for naming the captain and players. Hint: David West was at the helm and a foxy East German transplant with a soft Marlene Dietrich accent, Sina Ecke, was one of nine players. Sina has a way of being very reserved but not evasive, shy but not secretive, and about as friendly outgoing as anyone you would ever have the pleasure of meeting. Chances are you'll remember Sina before you remember Dave. Sorry Dave, but facts are facts.

**Division #2** How many times has only one game, a single win or a hard-luck loss decided the outcome of an entire season? Case in point: With two weeks remaining on the schedule Tom Davidson looked a shoe-in for the All-Star award. After all, he led the division the entire way; coast to coast. His 25-10 .714 was .010 ahead of second place's 19-8 .704. And that reminded me of something a friend once said: "You got all the way up to the front door... and it was locked." Locked hell, it was triple bolted. Tom played 5-2 the last two weeks keeping his .714 at 30-12. However, Gene Dix came on like Tony Stewart at the Brickyard 400, fast and furious. The tenacious Mr. Dix said "nix to bricks" and played 6-1 those two weeks. That two-week run not only raised his record to 25-9 sending the .704 up to .735 but unlocked the door to capture the title. It was a great come-from-behind victory for Gene. Just don't remind Tom Davidson. And...a... don't remind him of the following division either.

JP's Corner #2 took team honors, 8-3, led by Ken Adams' .607, two games ahead of JP's #1.

**Division #3** For the third time in two sessions Jerry Terbrock finished atop the All-Star list only to find he's come up short again. As an 'A-8' skill-level player Jerry had to hit .845 to take the trophy for this division. His 26-9 .743 was quit a bit short. Runner-up Chad Deshurley's 18-7 .720 beat out the nearest competition, Tom Davidson's 21-9 .700. I believe it is Chad's first All-Star trophy and the second time Tom came up short.

As usual the top female from the division is Rhonda Bartram. Nice shooting, girl.

Team results: The first eight weeks of the schedule saw Memoreze in the top spot. Week nine saw a new sheriff in town. Hazzard's #1 took over and maintained the lead the final three weeks. And check this out; they have the dubious distinction of becoming the first '5-player' team ever to finish first past the post with a losing games won-loss record. Sure, their match record was 8-3, one slight game ahead of the next three teams that ended the session at 7-4, but

Hazzard's #1 won only 68 games while losing 75 for a W-L percentage of .476. Somebody really took the time to figure that out. Think there might be an inquiry here? Let's see, there's Greg Martin and Jim Wanner... nah, they wouldn't do that... would they!?

**Division #4** 'C' player Rob Royer (21 Rock #3) is the man of the hour. His 23-7 .767 was .053 better than runner-up Sam Bevell's 15-6 .714. Since week 5, Rob was out of first place on the All-Star sheet only once. That was to former winner Justin Pennycook who finished 3rd 22-9 .710. Great race, guys.

Top female player once again was Julie Hemann. Ain't no stopping this chick.

Team Results: 21 Rock #3 took over the top spot beginning week 5 and held off JP's Corner #4 to the very end. True they tied at 8-3 for matches, but the games W-L breakdown went to 21 Rock #3 115-89 .564 to JP's 110-89 .553. By the way if you had JP's Corner in the two-week playoffs for the second team to qualify for the big tournament, YOU WIN. No problem here. All four playoff teams were out of JP's; in order, numbers 4, 1, 3 and 2.

**Division #5** For the first seven weeks he wasn't even on the All-Star sheet! Who? The terror of Division 5. That cool, collected double 'C' shootin', sagacious thinking house pro from the Wedge; the one and only Curt Wisely. Was it by luck or design that Mr. Wisely played the minimal amount of 22 games for a 17-5 .773 record? Don't know! What I do know is he needed three wins going into the final week, played, and got them. It was enough to beat out Shot Heaven teammates Craig Schmeid and Tough Tony Chagolla that tied at 19-7 .731. Good timing or dumb luck? You be the judge. Whatever, it worked.

Team results: It was Wedge and Foley's, Wedge and Foley's, Wedge and Foley's for nine weeks. Then it was Foley's and Wedge for the finals. At 8-3 matches each the games W-L percentage was the deciding factor. Foley's 116-101 .535 knocked out Wedge's 100-90 .526 by only .009. Great race.

**Division #6** When I double checked the figures for both team and All-Star honorees I knew going in that [JP's Corner](#) #2 had something to prove. If you read last session's report (#58 – Division #7) JP's #2 fell out of first place by a scant .0004 percentage to JP's #1. That was then, this is now. New season, different story. JP's #2 got all humped up and led the division border to border and did it undefeated. That's right; 11-0. Think these guys were bitter, disgruntled? I think pissed off is more like it. So now it's time to make believers out of them. Show what we can really do. Okay, they did just that. Not only did JP's #2 go 11-zip in matches and run away with the field by a full five games over the second place team, the top four players on the All-Star sheet were from that same team. And these four battled each other every week for the trophy.

Check it out: 4th place, Mark Wieland- 15-3 .833, 3rd place, Tony Chagolla- 24-4 .857, 2nd place, Roger Pheasant- 18-1 .947 (yeah, 2nd place) and 1st place- Dennis Agnew, 25-0. You can't get much better than that. Collectively these four players were 82-8 for an incredible .911 W-L percentage. What a great showing. And Dennis becomes the only undefeated player that I can recall. And here's another side to Agnew's sportsmanship, after ten weeks Dennis was 22-0. He could have set out the final week and backed into the award. After all, the top player gets a free ride to Sunday in the All-Star singles tournament. And believe me there was at least one player and possibly two that did just that; put personal gain ahead of their team and teammates. But Dennis played, won three more games and set a standard (we hope) for future players to emulate. Oh... wait a minute. Maybe they forced him to play (after what happened last time?). Just kidding, Dennis. Great theater. Keep up the great shooting.

**Division #7** Another coast to coast standout was Jody T's. After opening the season 4-0, Jody T's suffered their only loss but remained in first place. Running off the last six matches put them over the wire 10-1, two games ahead of Kelly's #2. And leading the parade of five Jody T's players that made the All-Star honor roll was division champion Tim Robinson. Tim's 26-6 .813 edged out newcomer George Thompson from Shot Heaven, 24-6 .800. And there's a story that goes with it. In a nutshell Mr. Thompson led the All-Star parade the first ten weeks. The first half of the season George was 14-1 .933 while Tim was languishing in 11th place with an 11-5 .688 mark. As the weeks progressed Tim shot his way up to 6th, then 4th, then 3rd, then 2nd for the 9th and 10th weeks.

At this point George was 21-5 to Tim's 22-6. The final week would tell the tale. George went 3-1 while Tim closed it out 4-0. For the second half of the season George went 10-5 while Tim was shooting at a 15-1 clip. Both competitors deserved the title but the rules say differently. It was a very impressive come-from-behind triumph for Tim. I'm not being facetious here George, but look at this way, if you won it the first time out you wouldn't have anything to look forward to. It's nice to see Semir Ekic (Filling Station) back in stroke. His 21-9 .700 was good for 3rd place and another newcomer to Missouri 8 Ball, Chas Thompson (Filling Station), finished 4th, 20-9 .690.

**Division #8** Here we have another case where a first-timer to Missouri 8 Ball is in the middle of having a very successful season and (almost) had the rug yanked from under him. Jeff Landherr (Planet 8 Ball #1) landed in first place on the All-Star sheet at week five. This unknown was smokin' at 15-1 and 18-2 after seven weeks. Three weeks later Pat Guittar (no relation to Bonnie) shows up with thoughts of snatching the award from Jeff. "Ain't gonna happen," says Jeff, as he chalked his cue preparing for the final week's showdown. The final match for Pat went 1-2 while Jeff closed his out, 4-0. Final results, new guy 27-5 .844 to Pat Guittar's 18-5 .783. Hey, some new players do it and some come close. It's all in the banks and rolls. Congrats to Jeff Landherr.

Team results: Planet 8 Ball #3 and Just One More played even the final four weeks. When neither pulled ahead (both finished with 8-3 records) their games won-lost percentage had to break the tie. Planet 8 Ball #3 came out on top 116-90 .563 to Just One More's 96-95 .503.

**Division #9** Following Melissa King's progress throughout this season I may change my opinion about her chances should she and Rhonda Bartram hook up. With half the season gone Melissa had a good 10-4 record but was mired down in 13th place. Melissa had to make a move fast if she was to challenge for the All-Star award. She did. Ms King cranked it up match after match moving up in the standings each week to 10th, then 7th, then 3rd. Meanwhile her major opponent was Jon Pecoraro from Jennings Station #1. With one week left to play Mr. Pecoraro was in first place, 18-4 .818. Second place was Larry Baker, 24-6 .800 and Melissa was third, 17-5 .773.

Two questions here: Who would play the final week and try to elevate their team in the final standings, and who would pass hoping the other two would make a couple of mistakes? May we have the envelope please!

Cactus Inn was in 7th place and had to win to have a chance to finish 5th for the playoffs. Larry Baker did what he could do going 3-1 but it wasn't enough and Cactus Inn went down, 11-10. Larry finished third at 27-7 .794.

Across town the most important match of the season was taking place, Fucifinos against Jennings Station #1. It would be a showdown between Jon Pecoraro and Melissa King for bragging rights. Fixed in 6th place, Fucifinos had to win to make the playoffs and you can bet the tournament tough Melissa King would be in every round. And maybe if luck was with her the pills would roll out matching her and Jon against each other. It would be a fitting resolution to the season; numbers one and two going *mano a mano... er... seniorito a seniorita*. What happened? There were no match-ups between Melissa and Jon. In fact there were no match-ups between anyone and Jon. While Ms King was leading her Fucifinos team from 6th place into the number four spot, Jon was nowhere to be found. The 11-10 victory qualified Fucifinos and Melissa for the playoffs. Ms King shot a 4-0 that raised her season record to 21-5 .808.

Jennings Station #1 had an outside chance to finish first; very slim but a chance nonetheless. Because Jon didn't play his team lost by one game. More importantly, I guess, Jon remained in first place. His 18-4 .818 record takes home the trophy. Say congratulations to Jon Pecoraro?

Melissa, you got all the way up to the front door, girl, and discovered Jon double-bolted it. Great effort, kid. And... a... I meant what I said about your chances against Rhonda.

Team results: Classic's #2 finished at 9-1, two games ahead of Jennings Station #1 and Charlack Pub. Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozzi led the team with 20 wins followed by Uncle Pete Mocca and Roger Ellis with 19 each.

**Division #10** After extensive research I have uncovered a similar situation to the previous report. It not only affected the outcome of the All-Star race but a significant team turnaround. With three weeks remaining on the schedule three players were in a very tight race for the All-Star trophy. Billy Wimberly- 21-3 .875, Art Lohnes-18-4 .818, and newcomer to Missouri 8 Ball Troy Vineyard- 13-4 .765. Troy played all three weeks winning 7 of the 8 games he played. His team, Airport Billiards #2, won two of those three matches and went from 6th place to 4th and a shot at the big show. (Wait for it, there's another story here.) Those 7 wins pushed Troy's record up to 20-5 .800. It was a gallant try but he had to settle for third place.

Trying to keep his team, Fucifinos #3, in first place Art Lohnes also played the final three matches going 8-2 for his 10 trips to the table. The team lost two of those matches falling out of first place into third; but still made the playoffs. Art's 26-6 .813 was good for second place on the All-Star honor roll.

For his three remaining matches Billy Wimberly played only 5 games. He won 4 of the 5 games running his totals to 25-4 .862. But the kicker is Billy sat out the final week. I'm wondering if his teammates are disappointed. It's got to be disheartening to have the best player in the division on your team and not show up for the most important match of the schedule. Because Billy was a no-show his team, Fucifinos #1, dropped to 6th place. They missed the playoffs by (ready for this) .004 of a percentage point. Airport Billiards knocked Fucifinos #1 out of the playoffs by taking their final match, 11-2. A fantastic comeback.

Team results: First past the post was Gas Light Inn. They overtook the division the final three weeks and stayed atop the heap with their 10-1 record. The highest Gas Light Inn player on the sheet was 11th place. Go figure.

**Division #11** What we have here sports' fans is another first in the long line of firsts from a divisional list of All-Star standings. Not only didn't the first player on the sheet hit high enough to take out the award, but the second player listed also failed to hit the required won-lost percentage of 1.000. Both players are 'A-8' skill-level talent; and for this division anything less than going undefeated was not acceptable. Paul 'Hit Man' Hopfer came closer than anyone in the last twenty years. (See Division #6. Dennis Agnew was 25-0 for 'B' skill-level.)

Being an 11-week session an 'A' player had to finish with at least a 22-0 record. Paul was 21-1 .955. It did look like history was going to be made when the Hit Man was 20-0. But then it happened, his only loss. Give a standing 'O' for a great effort.

Next, A.J. Clemens (bka: Mountain Man) was runner-up. He, too, failed to meet the required stat. A.J. ended the session 17-5 .773. This was Mountain Man's introduction into the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League. Both Hopfer and Clemens played on different teams out of Action Café and Billiards.

So we say congratulations to the man who has the dubious distinction to be runner-up to the runner-up, 3rd place finisher out of McDuff's, Dave Lehner. Dave exceeded the skill-level requirement for 'CC' players and wins his second All-Star trophy. In fact, it is Dave's second in a row. You got to go for three straight now Dave. Let's see how many you can string together.

Team results: McDuff's located the number one spot the 4th week, liked it so much they decided to hold on to it. Their 10-1 record was two games ahead of runner-up Action Billiards. In addition to Dave Lehner, four team members made the All-Star sheet.

**Division #12** If you had Rich Sager winning the All-Star trophy at 21-2 .913, YOU LOST! Earlier in the report I mentioned that Jerry Terbrock tied Sager at three times leading a division but failing to hit high enough for the award (see Division #3). Runout Rich recaptured that dubious title. Yep! For the 4th time Runout Rich didn't run out enough victories. He had to hit at .980, or .067 more than the .913 he finished with. At least we know he hasn't lost his touch. So what up? This! Rich's Fucifinos' teammates Billy Wimberly and Bill Parrot tied for second place with, ironically, the same 21-2 .913 records. Therefore, since they were teammates, they will split the award. I believe this is only the second time this has happened. For the record, the first four players on the honor roll were out of Fucifinos. Kurt 'Slick' Liliensiek was 4th with a 22-6 .786 showing. There were two others for a total of six from that team. So how did they finish in the standings?

Team results: TJ's #1 was first past the post with an 8-3 record. That was only one game ahead of the next four teams, Cocktails, Action Billiards, Fucifinos, and Lehmann's Landing, who tied at 7-4.

**Division #13** It was a 4-horse race 'til the final two furlongs. Jake Embry was in the saddle ridin' high wide and handsome when Todd Berry came up on the outside. Jake was making his first run since returning to league play and making his presence felt. Can't say he lost his stroke but even he'll tell you he is probably only 90-95-percent. Jake's 95-percent is still better than most 150-percenters. Even so, Jake's 22-4 .846 was second on the All-Star list. Give him a couple of sessions and Jake's 'BB' will be back up to 'A-level' where it was for many years. Who beat him out? Say congratulations to Todd Berry. It has been a couple seasons since Todd took out the award but he certainly deserves this one. In addition to Jake, Todd had to contend with Marland Choy (19-5 .792) and (here's that man again) Billy Wimberly (26-7 .788). One thing we can say about Todd and Jake, they play to the bitter end. No sitting out the last match for them. Todd played and went 3-0 for a final record of 25-3 .893. Big ups, Todd.

Team results: Wonders never cease. Dig it: Of the many outstanding teams that make up this division, Fucifinos #1, Fucifinos #2, Action Billiards #1, Action Billiards #2, Just Bill's #1, and Just Bill's #2 etc, who would have put money down on Cactus Inn? All due respects to Cactus Inn, I mean, come on. All these other teams had people flooding the first nine spots on the All-Star sheet. And then, in the 10th spot, we find a Cactus Inn representative; a 'CC' called Doug Gibbons with a 19-9 record. Down a little further in the 14th spot there's someone named Da Da Harton. This 'C' player went 16-9. Dropping down to the 25th spot we find another 'C', Dan Abrams, who shot a whopping 15-11. Outside of Cactus Inn they aren't exactly household names. When I called Cactus Inn for a little information, the person I talked with said, "Da Da who?"

Moving right along, some fast math gives us a total for these three players of 50-29. Where did the other 63-wins come from? A first place 9-2 record with 113 wins, against only 87 losses, and a division leading .565 percentage, one can say they certainly deserve the title and recognition.

## Division Winner (5-Player Teams) Top player & his/her team with playing record.

Div.	Team	Top Player	Team	W	L	Pct.	
1.	Little Nikki's	John Doyle	Kelly's	29	4	.879	
2.	JP's Corner #2	Gene Dix	JP's #1	25	9	.735	
3.	Hazzard's #1	Chad Deshurley	Hazzard's #2	18	7	.720	** Jerry Terbrock 26-9 .743 not high enough for 'A' winner.
4.	21 Rock #3	Rob Royer	21Rock #3	23	7	.767	
5.	Foley's	Curt Wisely	Wedge	17	5	.773	
6.	JP's Corner #2	Dennis Agnew	JP's #2	** 25	0	1.000	** Team also 11-0
7.	Jody T's	Tim Robinson	Jody T's	26	6	.813	
8.	Planet 8 Ball #3	Jeff Landherr	Planet 8 Ball #1	27	5	.844	** New Player
9.	Classic's #2	Jon Pecoraro	Jennings Sta. #1	18	4	.818	** 2. <b>Melissa King</b> 21-5 .808
10.	Gas Light Inn	Billy Wimberly	Fucifinos #1	25	4	.862	
11.	McDuff's	David Lehner	McDuff's	26	8	.765	** 1. Paul Hopfer 21-1 .955 and ** 2. A.J. Clemens 17-5 .773 not high enough for 'A' winner.
12.	TJ's #1	Billy Wimberly	Fucifinos	** 21	2	.913	** Rich Sager 21-2 .913 tied but not high enough for 'A' winner.
		Bill Parrot	Fucifinos	** 21	2	.913	
13.	Cactus Inn	Todd Berry	Action #2	25	3	.893	

**Division #101** Jimmy Fried had a legitimate excuse for not playing the final week; His team, Wedge #1, had a bye. And that could have proved his bad luck. There were two races going on by the same players. First: Their teams, Little Nikki's and Wedge #1 were one-two the last four weeks. Little Nikki's coming out on top 8-2 to Wedge #1's 7-3. Second: The All-Star title was on the line. Uncle Ben Wanner (Little Nikki's) was having a great session; the best in many moons. After the final week's results were in it showed Uncle Ben with the leading record of 18-3 .857 to Jimmy's 18-4 .818. How close can you get? As mentioned, Jimmy's team had the bye so he had no chance to possibly overtake Ben. Congrats to both players for two outstanding races.

By the way I covered the last 5-Player team out of Little Nikki's to take the title, now here's the last 4-Player team to take the title. It was captained by Sam 'Tiger' Joseph.

**Division #102** If you are really a far-out gambler and liked to play impossible odds, brother, here's your meat. If you had Hotshots #3 winning the division by two games and at the same time put an extra buck down that they would finish with a games W-L percentage under .500, – YOU WIN! I want to meet the nut... er... long-shot better on this one! Facts are facts and I got'em here in black and white. Hotshots #3 takes the team title with a 7-3 record as I said, two games in front of the next four teams that finished 5-5. Do the math, if one team had a 7-3 record and the next four were all 5-5, how did the last place team do? Easy, 3-7. Ready for another one? This last place team (last now) was 74-72 hitting at a .507 clip. That .507 was second highest, SECOND! And they didn't make the playoffs. (You read it right, did not make the playoffs.) Conversely, the first place team was 71-75 at .486, dead last. Those 75 losses also led the division. On the bright side this '4-player' division is the most balanced of all Happy Hour divisions. And when they are this equal in ability anything can happen, and that you can bet on.

Ready for another one? So who took the All-Star award? Someone from The Phoenix, where else! Here we have a great competitor. Brent Dantone had the award sewed up with one week left to play. His 19-4 .826 was within reach of two players. "Sit out!" says Brent. "Get outta town. Anybody can back into it. I'm playing." And he did play knowing that he could lose the free pass into Sunday. And he lost all four games he played. Hey, "ya'pays you money and ya'takes ya'chances", right! But the next two players went 2-1 and 2-2 respectfully. Can't say Brent Dantone doesn't give his opponents a fair shake. And when the final stats were in Brent still finished on top 19-8 to Tony Chagolla's 18-8. Big ups, Brent, for being a fair competitor.

**Division #103** There's an old saying in division 103, 'You can't lock the door on Troy Moore.' You can try, many opponents have tried, but somehow Troy manages to fine the key. Case in point: Of the weeks the All-Star sheet is printed showing where each player is positioned Bob Pendergrass is first place for four of those weeks. Then Don Rash held the spotlight for the 8th and 9th weeks. That's it; hang it up, it's over. Troy Moore busted through running a late

season streak that went 9-1. That took his record up to a 22-6 .786 finish. Art Lohnes also was making his move but was a little late. Art finished 22-10 .688 for second place. Nice going, guys.

Team results: Fucifinos #4 finished 8-3, three full games ahead of the field. Veterans Al Pruett (20-10) and Jim Crosby (24-15) led the way.

**Division #104** There are two types of drivers in a race; those that bolt from the starting line once the flag has dropped, crank it up to 60 in 5-seconds and strive to maintain control throughout the course of the race. To jump out in front and stay there lap after lap after lap... well... nothing wrong with that concept! Then we have those who eaaaassssee their way onto the track, haaannnggg back awhile and when the time is right, gradually, at such a leisurely pace, sneak up on the leader, who is totally oblivious to the fact that he is being challenged, and overtakes him. And that's kind-a neat. But then we have a third type. We have Mike Welker. Mike who, Walker? Not Walker – Welker, Welker – pay attention, get it right. Mike Welker... from Lehmann's Landing? Nothing, huh? Well, Mr. Welker pulled the ol' Professor John Griffin trick. You remember the noted scientist from the H. G. Wells story who came up with the formula making himself invisible! First he wasn't there... then he was. For the first eight weeks no one knew Mike was even in the league much less the All-Star race. Reason being, his name never appeared on the sheet. And like the Invisible Man, Mike was just a silhouette lurking in the corner waiting for the right time to appear. Clever rascal.

Then, like Professor Griffin, Mike materialized. It was week nine. Mike's .824 not only appeared on the sheet for the first time but jumped right to numero uno. Week ten Mike raised his W-L percent to .850. By this time Mike Welker had no intention of doing a vanishing act. The final week's play Mike went 2-1 for an award winning total of 19-4 .826 barely edging out teammate P.J. Rogers who came on strong to take over second place, 18-4 .818. Smooth move, Mike! Oh, the team first past the post... Lehmann's Landing, who else!

**Division #105** \*Two-dollars, two cigarettes and an autographed picture of Elvis?\* Isn't it amazing what will turn a player's game around? Someone in the throes of a three-year slump suddenly does a 180 and runs up wins like the second coming of Saint Louie Louie. To push the right button at the right time that will make him perform to his true ability? What does it really take? If we knew the answer to that secret, team captains would use the knowledge on all their players before every match.

After eight weeks of play a teammate of Pat Row (Classic's #2) challenged him to win the All-Star trophy. At the time Gary Blanks was on his way of taking out his 200th M0-8-ball award. But anyone who knows Pat Row for very long knows he doesn't give much thought to material things. Besides, the team winning was top priority. But the teammate offered: "If you win - the team wins – right?" Pat thought for a minute. I need motivation, an incentive to go for it. Something that will make me keep my head on every shot, in every game. Okay said his teammate; tell you what; I'll give you two-dollars, two cigarettes and an autographed picture of Elvis. 'Nough said.

Week nine results show Pat Row's .828 in first place on the All-Star list and Classic's #2 was 4th. Week ten Pat was still in first but only by .043 of a percentage point. The team moved into a tie for second place by matches played (7-3) but was third by games won-lost percentage. Classic's #2 would not only have to win their final match but both teams in front of them would have to lose, and Classic's didn't play either of them. Pat led the 9-5 attack going 3-0 raising his record to 31-6 .838. Mr. Blanks finished second, 28-8 .778.

Team results: Both teams in front of Classic's #2 did lose but a first place tie at 8-3 meant the games W-L percentage would become the deciding factor. Pat's team showed 87-75 .537 to runner-up Fucifinos 86-79 .521. Two great races, two great come-from-behind victories. Hey, Pat, call Jay at the office, 636-940-9091. I'll take the autographed picture of Elvis... before he leaves the building.

**Division Winner (4-Player Happy Hour Teams) Top player & his/her team with playing record.**

Div.	Team	Top Player	Team	W	L	Pct.	
101.	Little Nikki's	Ben Wanner	Little Nikki's	18	3	.857	
102.	Hotshots #3	Brent Dantone	The Phoenix	19	8	.704	** Team 71-75 .486
103.	Fucifinos #4	Troy Moore	Fucifinos #2	22	6	.786	
104.	Lehmann's	Mike Welker	Lehmann's Landing	19	4	.826	
105.	Classic's #2	Pat Row	Classic's #2	31	6	.838	

All-Star Singles Dates: October 1 & 2, 2005 Place: Planet 8 Ball St. Peters, Mo.

If you weren't there you missed it. If you qualified for the event and didn't feel it worth playing on Saturday, that's your decision and I respect that, nevertheless... you should have been there. If for no other reason, you could have witnessed the final showdown of 'A' talent vying for the only spot on the board. If you thought the wait between matches was too long, it wasn't. It was the summer session, remember, and only 125 players registered. With 15 tables available the event went off as smooth as a prom dress.

In fact, the final match on Saturday was completed at 4-o'clock, still plenty of time to get to the boat... for... a... dinner. Yeah, that's it, dinner. Player cooperation was first class as ever.

Sunday's matches were played with only 41 players of which 12 cashed. The 59th Missouri 8 Ball All-Star singles tournament is one that players and spectators will remember far down the road for several reasons.

Only three 'A' players signed up. There was 6-time winner Runout Rich Sager (yeah, he's back in town), Paul 'Hit Man' Hopfer (previous champion) and first-timer A.J. Clemens, bka: Mountain Man. It was known going in that only one 'A' player would qualify for Sunday. Paul drew the bye and waited to play the winner between Sager and Clemens. Runout Rich lived up to his rep by sending Clemens to the elimination side right away. Sager, obviously in stroke, took no time in dispatching Hopfer to join Clemens. The 'Hit Man' and the 'Mountain Man' fired at each other from every direction, nook and cranny. It wasn't exactly the O.K. Corral, but when the smoke cleared A.J. came out ahead. Now Mountain Man had a real mountain to climb. He would have to outshoot Sager two sets to secure the only 'A' spot for Sunday.

If A.J. was to have a show-down, he would have to slow-down... the man; the man who won this event three consecutive times and six overall. And slow the process he did. Clemens won the first set 2-0. Sager won the toss for the second set. Not making a ball on the break cost him. A.J. ran off the stripes for a 1-0 lead. Clemens broke the second game and methodically ran out his group for another 2-0 win. If anyone in the house thought that Sager could or would lose four straight games, well, nobody laid any cash down. When two bystanders overheard Rich complaining about allegedly getting bad racks from Clemens, one remarked to the other, "Who is that complaining?" The friend glanced over and said, "It looks like Rich Sager... but it sounds like Earl Strickland."

The Sunday elimination rounds saw the final four players representing four different skill-levels, 'A', 'CC', 'C' and 'DD'. All 'B's and 'BB's were gone by this time. A.J. Clemens and Dave Luster were the final two players undefeated. Clemens won 2-0 to become the lone survivor. Curt Wisely knocked out 'Kickin' Kenny Martin for the trophy rounds and Ken took home \$300 for fourth place. Curt now had to meet Dave Luster. Since being knocked into the elimination side Curt was on a winning tear. Dave would be his seventh victim. Dave finished third for \$425 and third place trophy. Curt moved on to face A.J. Clemens for the championship. He would have to beat A.J. two sets for the grand prize. He didn't. It got only as close as 1-1 in the first set. Then Clemens took control forcing Curt into an error thus becoming the 59th Missouri 8 Ball singles champion.

Curt Wisely finished second for \$575 and trophy and A.J. (Mountain Man) Clemens walked off with \$750 and the first place trophy. It was a great weekend. Congratulations to all that participated, cashed or not, but most of all we hope you had a fun weekend and qualify for the next singles and team tournaments.

All-Star Singles Tournament Results - \$3,000 Paid Out

Player	Rank	Winnings	Player	Rank	Winnings
1. A. J. Clemens	'A'	750.00 & Trophy	7-8. Dennis Agnew	'B'	125.00
2. Curt Wisely	'CC'	575.00 & Trophy	7-8. Darrell Wisely	'C'	125.00
3. Dave Luster	'C'	425.00 & Trophy	9-12. Mario Webster	'B'	75.00
4. Ken Martin	'DD'	300.00	9-12. George Chaffin	'CC'	75.00
5-6. Anthony Keefe	'CC'	200.00	9-12. Anthony Trevisano	'C'	75.00
5-6. Brent Dantone	'CC'	200.00	9-12. Brian Walker	'C'	75.00

## 5-Player Team Results October 8-9th, 2005 \$8,325 Paid Out

<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Winnings</u>	
1. Action Billiards	Todd Berry	\$4,325 & Trophy	<a href="#">Planet 8 Ball</a> was where the action was for the <a href="#">Missouri 8 Ball</a> championships. Of the 30 teams that qualified for the 59th shootout only 27 showed up. Three teams had players with other commitments and had to bow out rather than play shorthanded.
2. Hazzard's	Greg Martin	2,000	
3-4. JP's Corner	Bill Ray	1,000	
3-4. Hillsboro Billiards	Johnny Neels	1,000	

From the top half of the board Hillsboro Billiards and Hazzards made their way to the final four. As usual Hillsboro was led by Johnny Neels. Their ride to the final four went like this. Giving up three games to McDuff's, John's gang rallied for an 11-9 victory. This is the match where four Hillsboro players tallied three wins apiece.

Hillsboro had to give 8 games on the wire to Foley's before the first rack was broken. Then Hillsboro Billiards runs off 11 games in a row for an 11-8 lead. Then, without warning, Foley's Robert Froesel steps to the table to put a damper on the situation by snapping the '8' on the break. It was a short lived rally, very short, as Hillsboro ran off the next three games for a crushing (14-1) 14-9 victory.

Round three was a great match. Roger Pheasant and his JP's Corner crew hung in there taking Hillsboro to double hill. For the final game H.B. Johnny Neels got the lucky one pill and ran out the game for the 11-10 win. At this point they had a thousand bananas in the bank and a return trip Sunday.

Hazzards route to the final four opened at noon with a close 11-8 win over Matt Auclair's JP's Corner team. The followup was another JP's Corner gang led by Pat Damico. Greg Martin with backup had little trouble as they fired early and fired often taking an (11-3) 11-4 final. Round three was against Jeff Ayers and the Just One More group. Just One More just came off a match where they gave 7 games on the wire to Cactus Inn. It was tight but they pulled off a 13-11 pulse-pounder. And now, the incredible part about this match-up with Hazzards is Just One More had to spot Hazzards 4-games start. Railbirds were asking "what's wrong with this picture?" After round one the score was 7-2 and looking like Hazzards would waltz off to an easy touchdown. But then Jeff's junto came out with a 7-game salvo taking a 9-7 lead. For all intents and purposes now it figured to be Just One More's match. Not so 8-ball breath. Greg's gang came right back with a 4-stringer of their own taking the match 11-9. It was the 4-game head start that put Hazzards over the wire but enough can't be said for Jeff's guys making a heck of a run. This put Hazzards in the money for the showdown Sunday.

From the lower half of the board another [JP's Corner](#) squad was inching their way up the ladder. They were led by 73-year-young long-time billiards player Bill Ray and Tattoo John Snyder. They drew a bye for round one; but certainly made their presence felt in round two by totally whitewashing another JP's Corner team, (11-0) 11-4 with the 4-game spot. Bill's next match would be a little harder against Airport Billiards. Rich Peer's group opened up by giving Fucifinos 5-on-the-wire and bumped them (12-5) 12-10. The follow up was almost a repeat. Giving 5-on-the-wire to Little Nikki's, Airport outclassed them to the tune of (12-2) 12-7. This third round would put one of them in the money. Both teams shot very well and the match was a lot closer than the 11-7 score indicates. JP's advanced to the one-thousand dollar bracket.

Action Café & Billiards may have closed their doors but the team didn't shut down. Captained by Todd Berry Action provided just that, not just action, but top-grade action. They opened round one giving JP's Corner a 6-games lead. Once they overcame that Action went on to an (11-3) 11-9 victory. Jack Patrick's got 8-games on the wire but couldn't contain the Berry Brigade. One of Jack's players had to go leaving them short one man the last three rounds. Even with the five games difference Jack Patrick's put up a tussle. Action had their hands full and barely pulled out the (11-4) 14-12 squeaker. And it wasn't over yet. For round three Action gave up 6-games-on-the-wire to 21 Rock. Talk about playing under pressure. They had more pressure than a 32-pound tire with 50-pounds of air in it. Doing the math tells us that Action gave up a total of 20-games on the wire to their first three opponents and outlasted them 33-9 (action received 3 bye wins). These guys couldn't and didn't let down for a moment. Every game was as vital to Action as novocaine is to a guy about to have root canal. Action pulled off the (11-2) 11-8 win for a spot in the money round.

Sunday's match-ups were Hillsboro Billiards (Johnny Neels) vs Hazzards (Greg Martin) on table six. Over on table 17 we had JP's Corner (Bill Ray) against Action Café & Billiards (Todd Berry). In case you haven't noticed three of the final four teams came from the south end and Jefferson County area. For the first time this tournament there would be

a round where all matches played heads up, no spots. Three hours, a few minutes and some nail-biting later Hazzards upset Hillsboro Billiards 11-8. Jim Wanner closing it out with three wins advancing Hazzards to the grand-final round. Hillsboro Billiards took home one-thousand dollars - tied for 3-4th place.

As good a match as Hazzards-Hillsboro put up the real question was could Todd Berry's bunch do it again? Do what? There was no spot, right! Technically you are right, sir. Literally... well, check it out. If you were a betting man and had JP's Corner #3 and 5 games... YOU LOSE!

JP's jumped out with both feet and gobbled up the first round for a fast 5-0 lead. As they say in books 'no rest for the weary or wicked' or somebody. It was time for Action to go to work again. After two rounds JP's still maintained a comfortable 7-3 lead, if there is such a thing as comfortable in these tournaments. Action sprang into action the third round taking four games closing that wide gap to 8-7. Incredible as it seems the mixture was right for the final round. Action pulled off a great come-from-behind victory by taking the final five games for a great 11-8 win. They won 11 of the last 14 games and secured a spot for the grand-final. JP's Corner #3 took away a thousand dollars and a third place tie.

Getting down to the nitty-gritty was Hazzards, playing 28 points vs Action's 27 points. No spot. Here we go. Neither team came out smokin'. But then no players missed opportunities when handed to them. Round One: Action was ahead 3-2. Round two: Hazzards tied it at 5-5. Round three: Action up 8-7. At 2-2 in the fourth round and a 10-9 Action lead Larry Reifsteck was up for the tie against Lonnie McGregory. Larry got to the '8' first but hooked himself. Lonnie made a ball or two then played a safety on Larry forcing him to kick. Larry made a good hit and Lonnie played safe again. A couple of shots later Larry had a backward cut on the '8' at the far end of the table but didn't cut it enough. Lonnie, with three balls on the table ran them off and put the '8' away for an 11-9 win and the championship.

It was a fine turnout and great shooting from both sides. Hazzards taking second place and \$2,000 while Action Café & Billiards took the Trophy for the 59th Missouri 8 Ball Championship and \$4,325. Congratulations to all teams and players for making this a great tournament. (Lonnie, I'd ask for a raise.)

### Players with 4 Wins in a Single Match

Only two from the 5-Player teams; Jeff Shelton (Action Billiards) and Johnny Neels (Hillsboro Billiards). Five from the 4-Player Happy Hour teams; Mike Welker (Lehmann's Landing), Pat Row (Classic's) and three from Fucifinos, Troy Moore, Al Pruett and Art Lohnes; all three from a different Fucifinos team.

### 4-Player Team Results October 9th, 2005 \$2,030 Paid Out

<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Winnings</u>	<u>Pay Out all Tournaments</u>	
1. Lehmann's Landing	Mike Lehmann	\$1,530 & Trophy	All-Star Singles	3,000
2. Fucifinos	Lisa Crosby	500	5-Player Board	8,325
			<u>4-Player Board</u>	<u>2,030</u>
				<b>\$13,355</b>

Because it was the summer session there were only nine Happy Hour teams that qualified from the limited divisions. Seven of those received byes for the first round. The two teams that drew the noon schedule were Art's Fucifinos and The Phoenix led by Brent Dantone. Unfortunately only three players showed up from The Phoenix and they had to forfeit one game per round. Because Phoenix received two games on the wire, they still could have pulled an upset had the pills rolled out to their advantage. They did not. Fucifinos, with Al Pruett winning four of those games, came out 9-5 winners to move into the second round against another Fucifinos team.

As an added thought I would like to confirm to the skeptics once again that all teams are put into a pool and come out where they come out. In this case there were three Fucifino teams that earned tournament births and lo and behold all drew spots from the top side of the board. So when Art's team pulled off a 10-7 victory, (\*Art winning four games) you guessed it; they went up against their third sister team.

The third group led by Lisa Crosby just bumped off Little Nikki's 9-6 to meet Art's gang. Even though Troy Moore took four wins he didn't get much backup. Playing heads up Lisa turned on and won three games that led to the 9-7 victory. Two of those three wins were against a very tough '6', Steve Schultz. That could have very well been the turning point that put them into the finals.

Meanwhile, for their opener, Lehmann's Landing landed hard on Hotshots, 9-5, Mike Welker winning four of the nine games. A sultry redhead sitting at the counter with Jennifer Wilbanks' eyes was asking "who is that guy?" Lehmann's second round turned out to be another classic match-up with Classic's. It went to the wire, 9-8. Once again Mike Welker pulled the final pill and took the bows after winning the double-hill squeaker. Again that same redhead at the counter with the come-hither look was overheard to say "who is that guy?"

For the 4-Player Award Lehmann's Landing got one free game head start. After six games played Fucifinos had a precarious 4-3 lead. And then, let's see... how does that go?... oh yeah... the roof caved in. Lehmann's landing party took the next six skirmishes finishing off the conflict with a convincing 9-4 victory. Take a wild guess who put an end to the contest? No, not Mike Walker, it's Welker... Welker. Get it straight, Mike Welker. I thought we covered this. And again the redhead following the action asked "who is that guy?"

There is no denying this was Mike Welker's session to shine, his turn to turn-on, his 15-minutes of fame, etc, etc. Mike's 15-minutes lasted more like 15 weeks. First it was the divisional top player award (see-104). At the same time he was leading Lehmann's Landing to the big show. And for the coup de grace, the Happy Hour championship. Mike was one of only seven players to have a 4-win match and a 5-game winning streak. He led his team and all HH players with a great 10-2 record. Big ups Mike. Keep up the great shooting.

### Say what? Hair cuts at Jack Patrick's?

As a rule we here at the M0-8-Ball offices don't pass along negatory reports pertaining to our locations that house a pool or dart team. But those of us who were 'blessed' to see I.Q. Jones' new 'do we felt compelled to warn others about the master disaster that befallen him. As the story unfolds it'll become obvious that it was his own fault. And to keep the record straight the League office disavows any knowledge or malicious wrong doing; remember, these words come from I.Q. Jones, "Don't be gettin' no haircuts down at Jack Patrick's!"

Now let's reflect on that statement for a moment. Okay, long enough. Question: Why would anyone even consider getting a hair cut at Jack Patrick's? Okay, first things first. Jonesy is referring to the Jack Patrick's on the corner of 9th and Olive Street downtown St. Louis. I know of this place. It is a fine restaurant that does a land-office business. The food is excellent and the salads taste great. The crowd of fine-looking dolls that dine and grace the place for lunch is reason enough to patronize this fine establishment. But, as many times as I have been inside Jack Patrick's I have never once thought about getting a trim. Therefore, I asked Jonesy. for an explanation. It came forthwith.

"As you know..." says I.Q. Jones, "...on the door of entrance there is a decal. On said decal there are four things that read: No one under 21, No public phone, No public restroom, and no change, or something, I can't remember now what that fourth one says. So I goes in. I don't get ten full steps inside the door that I spots a barber chair. I try out the barber chair, you know, just for comfort and all. As a joke I says to the waitress passing by... 'I'd like a haircut please.' This doll looks at me like I just got off the boat with an outdated tweed sport coat with thin-striped lapels and a broken down port mantle. I point to the decal on the door and say, "If I can't use the restroom can I at least get a haircut?"

I knew I shouldn't have but I had to break in, "A little far out don't-cha think?"

"Hey, I was very polite and courteous and all; and besides, I didn't think she'd really take me serious. Then, the next thing I feel is one of those barber bibs or sheets or something being fitted 'round my neck."

"She's really going to do it, huh?"

"I thought she was just goin' along with the joke. How'd I know she was a frustrated barber in a waitress uniform?"

"I don't ever recall seeing this style of cut before," I said. "What did she use, a blender?"

"Yeah, that's cute, Jay. I don't know the name of the goop she put on, but once it sets, three weeks passed before I could do anything with it."

"Didn't hit-cha up for too much did she?"

"For your information it was compliments of the house, thank you very much. But then she said something that put me on my cautious guard."

"Oh, *now* you have a cautious guard?"

"She said next time I'm in town she'd give me a free shave."

"Check to be sure the blade isn't dull."

"That would be a good idea! Thanks."

MO-8-Ball Note: There are times like this we think I.Q. Jones needs his I.Q. re-evaluated. We'll let you know how many toilet-paper nicks he got after the shave.

### The Rumor Mill

According to the latest rumor circulating from the pool rooms supposedly Rich Sager has issued an unbelievable ultimatum on himself. It stems from what happened Saturday October 1st when he lost four straight games to A.J. Clemens, which, as reported earlier, resulted in his being knocked out of the All-Star tournament. Although I haven't confirmed this, it is said that if he ever again, that's ever, loses four games in a row... ready for this... he (Sager) says he will enter the priesthood.

Note from the Missouri 8 Ball office: At present there have been no takers on the astronomical odds we are giving against this happening.

### Help Wanted

When it was obvious that The Phoenix had to start their Happy Hour noon match with only three players Willie White said he thought he saw captain Brent Dantone out in the parking lot holding up a sign: 'Will trade two River Dance tickets for a good 'CC' or a shutdown 'C'.'? Equal opportunity drinking team.

### Looking for an Edge

By the way, someone from 21 Rock with a wry sense of humor called the Missouri 8 Ball office and asked: (With only five weeks into the current session) "Is Todd Berry's team mathematically eliminated already?" (Todd captained the team that defeated 21 Rock from the 5-Player championship.)

### More to Come.....

**9-Ball Leagues: New for 2006 in all or most areas 9-Ball divisions will be offered one or two nights weekly. Also a Scotch-doubles tournament will be added in the middle of the session. Look for more details later in weekly packets or you may call Rusty at the office. At this time official dates have not been set.**

That's about it from here, sports fans. Keep you powder dry and your cue chalked. Don't be needin' no miscues at this stage of the game. See'ya next time.

[Rusty Brandmeyer](#) - Missouri 8 Ball League Operator

[Roger Pheasant](#) - Internet Specialist

[Jay L. Carlton](#) - Assistant to the wheels