

60th Missouri 8 Ball Tournament Highlights, Divisional Results, All-Star Singles Winners and Team Tournaments Winners



The Missouri 8 Ball Pool League concluded 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 our 21st 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 a fair 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 established pool leagues. The 2006 Winter 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 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 Word on the street: It's true! Dennis Agnew is slipping. Anybody can see it. Slowing down! Sure, he won Top Player again. Sure, he led Bartman's first past the post to get to the big show. So how is he slipping? Do the math. The last time he won the award he ran off a perfect 25-0 1.000 record. He dropped .176 on the latest poll. His 28-6 .824 was a mere shadow of what use to be. Is it a sign of things to come? Not really. After all, it is hard to be perfect every time. (And he is getting older.) Tell you what, one more week and teammate Mark Wieland could have rocked Agnew's chances. Mark, that sneaky rascal, never appeared on the All-Star list until the 16th and final week. And like a moon shot he propelled all the way into second place. Mark's 26-6 .813 was only .011 below Agnew's .824. That, my friends, is sneaky. And to pull that on a teammate! No respect, man. No respect at all. This goes to prove once again that all's fair in war and pool!

Dennis and Mark combined to put Bartman's 2-games in first place. Their 13-3 record and 183 wins outlasted runners-up J.R.'s Saloon, Hazzards and JP's Corner #2, all with 11-5 records.

JP's Corner #2 pulled out the division playoffs. With Jim Hopen and five of his players making the All-Star sheet, that might give you an indication of how good their chances were.

Division # 2 Of the 13 players that made the All-Star list ten came out of Woody's, five from Woody's #1 and five from Woody's #2. That didn't leave much room for the other team's players. The Wedge placed two, GED one, and Griffin's was shut out. The brothers Lopez were in their usual battle. This time it was Joe taking the trophy with his 22-7 .759. Teammates Dave Pope was second at 26-10 .722 and Nick Lopez third at 25-12 .676. Although this Woody's trio finished 1-2-3 on the All-Star sheet, it was Woody's #2 taking team honors. Woody's #2 went 13-3, Wedge at 12-4 and Woody's #1 was 10-6.

Now, check this out: Woody's #2 was the only team that had a games won/loss percentage of over .500 (.591 to be exact). The other four were under .500. I checked with my buddy I.Q. Jones to calculate the odds of a team with a 12-4 record and another finishing at 10-6 shooting under par .500.

I.Q. laughed. "You know the distance from here to the planet Pluto?" he said.

I said, "Miles or kilometers?"

"Doesn't matter," he said. "The number is so high you couldn't repeat it with one breath."

"I'd say that was pretty high!"

"Yeah! A rough guess would be a couple trillion to one."

I reminded I.Q. Jones that this was Division #2 we were talking about.

"Oh, in that case" ... said I.Q., "only 2 to 1." I.Q. Jones can be a funny guy.

Pl.	Team	W	L	Game Games		PCT.	
				Wins	Lost		
1.	Woody's #2	13	3	137	95	.591	If you are adding up the wins and losses you will discover that there are 582 wins and 583 losses.
2.	Wedge	12	4	109	118	.480	Even if you gave the extra win to Woody's # 1 or took off a loss, the W/L would still be under .500.
3.	Woody's #1	10	6	128	130	.496	There was a bye-win each week for 16 weeks.
4.	Griffin's	7	9	115	127	.475	That's why there are 16 more wins than losses.
5.	G.E.D.	6	10	93	113	.451	

Now check this out. With all the heavy hitters from Wedge, Woody's #1 and GED... it was Griffin's that took out the division playoffs. And they had no team members on the All-Star sheet. Sneaky rascals!
Kim Fried [Wedge] was top female player. Her 21 wins beat out Michelle Davis' [Woody's] 19. Nice going girls.

Division # 3 From week one through week 16 it was a 2-horse race, Shot Heaven and Wedge #1. There was a couple of weeks when another team fought their way in but they didn't last long, a week or two then they fell by the wayside. Wedge #1 and Shot Heaven. Shot Heaven and Wedge #1. For six of those 16 weeks Wedge #1 was alone in first place. The other 10 weeks they were tied. Shot Heaven was never alone in first place, even at the end. Both teams finished with 12-4 records making the tie breaker go to the games won/loss percentage. Shot Heaven got the call, 174-144 .547 to Wedge #1 160-148 .519.

They may have finished 5th in the standings but Libby's put it together for the division playoffs. Down 10-8, Libby's came back strong by taking the last four games pulling out a 12-10 victory. There obviously was rivalry here between teammates Todd Kippenberger and Dennis Bullock. These guys fought it out for Top Player. Todd (28-7 .800) edged by Dennis' 31-10 .756. Another great race.
Top female player was Lori Love (Foley's SC). Her 25-16 .610 was 13th on the list of 25. Nice shooting, Lori.

Division # 4 Memoreze eked out as divisional champs by a scant game, 12-4. Hazzards and Bartman's ended at 11-5. It's a habit with this team which supports the usual suspects: Tom Davidson, Jerry Dodson, Jack Mayer and Jeremy Allmond, just four of the regulars who continuously secure a spot on the All-Star board. Tom's 31-11 .738 was second best but because first place finisher Jerry Terbrock failed to shoot what was required of an 'A-8' player (.890 for this division) the trophy goes to the next player on the list that qualified. In this case Tom Davidson. This is the 4th time Jerry came up short in this department. He now has the dubious honor of sharing that spotlight with Rich Sager (or does he?) at four times each. Terbrock may have been deprived of the All-Star award for a 4th time, but consider the good news: Jerry is eligible to save a bunch of money on his car insurance by switching to Geico. Phoenix #2 beat their sister team #1 to take out the division playoff. One wonders how Phoenix-2 put six players on the All-Star board and finished up only 4th 3-games out of first place? Hummmmmmmmm!

Division # 5 For the first time in 20 years a division had three teams open the season by winning their first five games. A 12-team division can produce that situation. Hazzards, 21 Rock #1 and JP's Corner #3 were all 5-0 and over .600 W/L percentage. Doing their best to keep pace were Sideline and JP's #2, both with 4-1 records. And that's why I like this division. The competition is just a little different from the others when three JP's teams, three 21 Rock, two Night Sky's, a couple of Memoreze, add Hazzards and Sideline bumping heads for 16 weeks.

It was turning into a great race until JP's #3 shifted gears. They put it in high and didn't stop 'til they were 14-0. By that time they were so far in front they could coast home. They lost week 15 but ended the season with a win running their final total to 15-1, three games ahead of 21 Rock #1, Hazzards and JP's #2, all with 12-4 records.

And here's the kicker: JP's #3 had six players make the All-Star board [nothing unusual] and three were ladies [again, not unusual]. And after talking to Captain Donna Collins, she said, "Julie, Sharon and I were holding back to let the guys come in with the most wins. Gotta watch those guy's egos, ya'know!" Yep! The three guys had a total of 75 wins and the three girls added 65. Pretty spiffy shooting. Donna was top female player with 23 wins followed by teammates Julie Hemann and Sharon Luitjens with 21 each.

Top player was Sam Bevell, another JP's player, from #1. Talk about another race. After week 10 Sam was in second place and Rick Andrade was 7th. Both made their moves at the same time.

They were like Siamese twins going down to the wire. Neck and neck. Shoulder to shoulder. Side by side; joined at the hip. You get the drift. When the final results were in they were only separated (pardon the pun) by .001 of a percentage point. That's close, brother. Sam finished 37-8 .822 to Rick's 32-7 .821. Great chase, guys.

The division playoff team winner was Night Sky #2. They finished 5th at 9-7, the only team not to have double figures in wins plus a 146-149 .495 games record.

Division # 6 Mark Wieland is not a man to take second place so easily. As an also ran on Tuesday, (Division 1), well, no sweat, he'll just take it out on the field on Thursday. Mark wrestled away the top spot on the All-Star sheet at week 12 from Louis Erbe. As it turned out Mr. Erbe wasn't his main rival. In 5th place, making his move, albeit a little too late, was John Porter. John stretched as far as he could by putting together an 11-1 streak. It wasn't quite stretched enough. (Possibly one more week, John?) John's 27-7 .794 was only .011 behind Mark Wieland's 33-8 .805. And the race from the team side went 1-2 also, although there was a little more daylight between them. Mark's JP's #1 [12-3] beat out John's JP's #2 [9-6] by three games.

Top female player: From Bartman's, "You make me dizzy Ms Lizzy" Lammert. For those who may recall the great Larry Williams' hits from many years back: "You make me dizzy Ms Lizzy" was just one of many. Then, again, maybe you don't. [Maybe you do but just prefer not to remember them.] Anyway, if you keep up with these divisional reports, Liz Lammert is a perennial fixture on the All-Star honor rolls. Congrats once again, lady.

The division playoffs produced another team that finished 5th in the standings. HotShots SC went 7-8, 5-games out of first, but their 125-121 .508 was 3rd among the division's teams.

Division # 7 Three of the top five All-Star players shoot'em in from a place called Shot Heaven. Maybe that's why it's called that? Top man was Craig Schmeid with a great 37-8 .822 showing. That was a whopping .105 ahead of runner-up Allen Barnhart's 33-13 .717. Add Craig's teammates Lane Koelling and George Thompson's 27 wins each we're talking 91 wins from just three players. They rode it to an 11-4 team session capping off the division by a single game over Wedge, 10-5, and 2-games over Bada Bing's and Liz's Place, 9-6 each.

Wedge may have run 2nd to the finish line but the division playoffs went their way. They secured a spot in the big show by outlasting Bada Bing's, Liz's Place and Filling Station.

Division # 8 Foley's SC does it again. They jumped off to a fast lead, won their first ten matches and finished up at 13-2. It was like keeping one jump ahead of the law... er... I mean... the competition. G.E.D. [Git'er done] was right on their heels the entire way ending up 12-3. Both teams placed five players on the All-Star list.

Ray Ridenour beat the odds. This Wedge player romped home with 40 wins with only 6 losses for an .870 percentage. Tough Tony Neisz was runner-up with his 26-6 .813.

Top lady shooter was also from GED. Tina Wiedner (28-19 .596) beat out Donna Pope (20-14) and Helen Fenton (19-16). Tina was 10th on the list of 18 honor roll shooters.

How many times has this happened? Wedge won their final match pushing them into 5th place for the playoffs. Even though their team record was 7-8 and their games won/lost percent was also under .500, they beat out GED, Double D's, and Jody T's in the division playoffs. There's something scary about coming in 5th place.

Division # 9 **Never underestimate The Full Monty!** Huh? It has long been an established fact that when Wayne Turner puts IT to bed, IT stays there. That's why it was a shock to many onlookers that IT didn't stay there this time. After 12 weeks into the session it appeared that '8-Ball Burner' Wayne Turner [Classic's] was going to add another top player trophy to his already impressive collection. Then something strange happened: The full Monty. Yep! Monty Caldwell. Monty Caldwell hit a gear around week 10 going from 16-3 to 32-5, a 16-2 spurt which included a 14-game winning streak. Monty's .865 beat Turner's .848 by a mere .017. Turned out that it really was a full Monty. He also led Charlack Pub to a runaway 15-1 record, 3 full Monty games ahead of Cactus Inn.

Top female player was C.J. Galloway from Pete's Place. CJ's 22-8 .733 was good for 8th place on the All-Star sheet that included 30 players. Great finish Ms Galloway. Runner-up was Aleeta Fahrenholz. She helped Monty in putting Charlack Pub across the finish line with her 20 wins.

Coming out of the division playoffs was Classic's #2. Led by Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozzi, they overpowered Cactus Inn, Pete's Place and McDuff's.

Division # 10 After nine weeks of scratching and clawing Mike Lashley finally reached the summit. From 16-5 after eight weeks to a resounding 34-7 finish. It was a great 18-2 run covering the second eight weeks. Mike is just one of many players to profit from the Dave Branstetter School of improvement. His game has elevated much the last couple of years. Positive proof can be seen here. Mike's 34-7 .829 was .034 ahead of Billy Mayhall (31-8 .795) and .075 ahead of Billy Wimberly (43-14 .754). It was not only one race Mike was concerned with. His Airport Billiards #1 team took over first place after nine weeks and held on like a small dog on a big bone. With six members making the All-Star sheet it's no small wonder how AB #1 ran off with a 14-2 record, three games ahead of the pack. Great going, Mike.

Congratulations are also called for to the top female player, Lajuanica Henry. Lou finished 8th out of 30 players with an outstanding 33-15 .688 showing. It goes to show how strong the competition is when a .688 comes in 8th. Conversely, the 29th player on the list is Julia Peace Gabriel, a teammate of Lajuanica. Yes, the same Julia Gabriel that spent time with the Women's Pro Circuit a couple years back. Julia just got back into Missouri 8 Ball competition. Ms Gabriel is one of only four ladies that pack a solid '6' skill level. Do not be fooled by this 22-20 performance [mediocre for her] she handed in this session. I'm going out on a big limb here, because I know this lady, and guaranteeing that you will never again see this poor a showing from this smooth stroking southpaw. It's great to see you back, J.P.

It happened again. Yep, a 5th place team won out in the division playoffs. McDuff's outlasted Cocktails, Gas Light Inn and Fucifinos #1 earning another shot at the big show.

Division # 11 Who says the presence of one person in a division can't make a difference, doesn't encourage others to do better, play above their ability, keep'em on the edge, staying focused, etc? Enter Jake Embry. Not many players want to draw Jake when the pills are rolled. His talents have won him more trophies than Horny Hugh Hefner has teenage sleepovers. So it was no surprise to see Jake at the top of the All-Star list 11 weeks into the season riding a league leading 24-5 .828. And then two things happened. One: Week 12 Jake lost two of the four games he played. Usually Jake won't lose two games a month. Two: Mike Kiwala went 4-0. That brought their records to an identical, 26-7 .788. Mike saw a glimmer of daylight at the end of the tunnel. Problem now was to keep the train rolling until he got through it. From that point to the final 16th week Mike could feel the heat. The more he looked over his shoulder the faster he shoveled coal in the furnace. The final five weeks the pair went Jake 9-4 to Mike's 16-1. It was a great success and a personal high for Mike Kiwala overtaking the best shooter in the division and holding on for the Top Player Award.

There were six players that finished over .700 in this very tough and talented division. Yes, one player can make a difference; and keep you on your toes as Mike will attest.

With two weeks to go it looked like a shoo-in for Tigers Inn. Lehmann's Landing #1 said, "No way, Jose." Bringing the session to a 16-week close the two teams tied with 12-4 records. The games won/lost percentage entered the picture; and Lehmann's 161-119 .575 was .049 higher than Tigers' 132-119 .526.

There may be an inquiry into these teams that finish 5th and then run over the competition in the division playoffs. Yep! It happened again. HotShots NC somehow managed only a 5th place spot across the finish line even though they added four players to the All-Star sheet, and all four hit .612 or higher. Led by new comer Adam Argo, 24-9 .727, then Jason Oberdas, 35-14 .714, then Eric Rackley, 32-17 .653, then add on another new player Lance Abrahamson, 30-19 .612. I'd say that was a pretty fair starting lineup. There must be something mystical about that 5th spot? HotShots NC booted out Tigers Inn, Classic's and Fucifinos to get to the big show.

Division # 12 This division produced two good races. The Top Player award was the first for Jim Raby out of G.B. Field. His 32-10 .762 barely edged out runner-up Larry Foust [Shenanigans] 37-12 .755. Only .007 diff. Kathy Mundt [Kahle's Dog Pound] was the top female player. Kathy's 24-21 .533 was 20th on the list of 25. Fucifinos raced to the wire keeping a nose ahead of the field. Their 13-3 finish was only one game better than GB Field's 12-4, and two ahead of Classics' 11-5.

Fourth place Cocktails, led by Rick Eberenz's 30 wins and Ben Eberenz's 28, throw in another 28 by Dan Young and you can understand the reason they took the division playoffs against GB Field, Classic's and Shenanigans.

Division # 13 Billy Wimberly does it again folks. Yes, he won 30 games, but that's not what I'm talking about. Yeah, he won himself another top-player trophy. But, that's not what I'm referring to either. Want a hint? Okay, you talked me into it. After 11 weeks of play B.W. was in second place with a 27-7 record. The 12th week he goes 3-0 taking over top spot. Suddenly it was vacation time. With trophy in the bag there was no reason to play the final three weeks. There was, however, one consolation; without B.W. in the lineup, the team took over first place and beat the competition by a game. Was it strategy? Only the Shadow knows. Billy's 30-7 .811 was .036 better than runner-up Jerry 'Sting' Ray's 31-9 .775. Jerry, you almost had a chance. Better luck next time.

Here's one that'll throw you. I don't have time or the space to go into the history of it but if you have been keeping up with previous team reports you'll know. Having said that, after 12-weeks of play Fucifinos #4 is 11-1 with a .573 games W/L %. Fucifinos #2 is 9-3 at a .539 games W/L %. As stated above Billy Wimberly did not play the final three weeks. Again, was it strategy? Is B.W. psychic? Can he foresee the future? What goes on here?

'finos #4 losses their last three matches. 'finos #2 win their last three. Now #2 ends the campaign 12-3 and #4 11-4. An incredible turn of events. Three easy lessons on how to make it hard on yourselves!

Had #4 won just one of those matches their games W/L % would have put them over the top. Didn't happen. But, for you #4 fans, their sticks got hot; regained their winning ways, pulled it out in the division playoffs and went to the big show after all. And the talents of one Mr. Maurice Atkins [better known as "Hook", came on as a '7', and there of those who say that isn't high enough] led the way with a 23-7 .767, which was good for third place on the All-Star sheet. The best kept secret in St. Louis is out, Mr. Hook.

Top female player was also from Fucifinos, Nikki Carroll. Her 21 wins and .568 percent led the ladies brigade.

Division # 14 A great run to the wire proved exciting for the top player award. Dave Stafford [GB Field] took over top spot with three weeks to go and barely managed to hang on. Four, count'em, four players ended up with over .800 won/lost percent and seven at .750 or better. Dave's 38-5 .884 was slightly better than former champ Joe Branstetter [Brewskeeze] 32-7 .821. Following very close behind was John Richardson [Homer's #2] 27-6 .818 and Ed Chier [also Homer's #2] 31-7 .816. Fifth place would have won it in most divisions. Don Eggleston [Nuts] went 35-9 .795. Forget the cigar, Don. You don't even get a 'close' for this very tough and competitive division.

Top female player again was Da Da Harton [Cactus Inn]. Da Da shot her way to a resounding 25-10 .714, good for 9th on the list of 25 players. She also was her team's top player. If Da Da keeps this up she may very well become the 5th female '6'. There aren't that many around. Keep up the great shooting, lady.

From the team side: There were two Lindy's Fat Cat teams. They sandwiched in the rest of the division. Lindy's Fat Cat #2 went first past the post with a 10-5 [139-131 .515] record to runner-up Cactus Inn 10-5 [133-139 .489]. The other Fat Cat, #1, finished 10th at 3-12. Can't recall this ever happening in a 10-team division.

Homer's #2 took out the division playoffs. They finished 3rd in the standings but made the big tournament by outlasting Cactus Inn, GB Field and Homer's #1.

Division # 15 New player D.J. Dickmeyer [HotShots O'Fallon] made his presence felt immediately. For the first 10 weeks DJ was leading the All-Star pack with his 21-4 .840. Enter the Full Monty, again. [See division-9] He did it again. Monty Caldwell, this time shooting out of Rufkars, took over first place on the All-Star board the 11th week and held on to a 35-10 .778 winner. Monty bested teammates Garrett Seabolt [31-10 .756] and Dave Leonhard, 23-10 .697. Going 1-2-3 on the board, these guys are a very good argument on why Rufkar's just squeaked past Planet 8 Ball #3. Both teams tied with 11-5 records having to go to the games won/lost percent for the tiebreaker. Rufkar's, 169-148 .533, edged out Planet 8 Ball #3, 145-139 .511. Like Division-9, the Full Monty has a full problem come tournament time. Which team does he choose to play for first?

Here's another 5th place team going to the big show. Planet 8 Ball #2 fought it out with two sister teams, Planet 8 Ball #'s 1 & 3, plus HotShots O'Fallon. Hard to believe that their 6-10 record and games 146-159 .479 played would immerge victorious; but that's the beauty of the playoffs.

Division # 16 Rich Sager is the type who just has to be all alone in the limelight. An earlier report (Division-4) we brought to your attention that Jerry Terbrock tied Sager with four missed All-Star awards by not meeting the required W/L percent. Forget it. Sager missed out again. (Think he does this deliberately to stay ahead of the field?) He should have hit .845 for division-16. Runout Rich had a great season as he so often does, going 33-7 .825, but, ready for this... it was .020 short. Bummer! Think of the positive side of the equation, Rich, you get to use Saturday as a prelude to Sunday's showdown. Cool, huh!

It has long been an (extra) advantage to follow Rich Sager in the All-Star order. This time Mario Webster reaps the reward. His 35-13 .729 was high enough for his '6' skill level. And the added attraction: Mario's Teacher's team (10-5) finished one-game ahead of Rich's Just One More #2 (9-6). Such is life in the pool leagues.

But that's not the end of the saga, oh no. You mean there's more? Yep; lost out in the division playoffs, too. Seems that Just One More #1, with the usual suspects, Walter 'Night Train' Crane (22-10 .688), Gentleman Jim Crosby (24-15 .615), Pat Tobin (20-13 .606), and Mike Donovan (14-13 .519) all making the All-Star honor roll, rolled right into the big show by out-hitting Just One More #2, Planet 8 Ball #2 and Side Pockets.

There are not many light-weights in the very competitive division. Of the 20 players that made the All-Star sheet seven were '5's, 12 were '6's, and one '8'. Very strong! The only female make the sheet was Chantel Davis out of Side Pockets. Her 19-16 .543 was 14th on the board. Chantel shoots a very good '5'. Great going, girl!

Division # 17 The last five weeks Planet 8 Ball #1 and Just One More were tied with only percentage points separating them. It was a good race at 9-2 each, then 10-2 each, then 10-3, 11-3, and finally 12-3. Going to the games won/lost for the outcome, it was Planet 8 Ball (141-108 .566) to Just One More (144-115 .556). Can't get much closer than .010. Just One More held on in the division playoff by out scoring Planet 8 Ball #3 and two teams out of Rich's Place. Looks like they may carry the friendly feud into the championship tournament. We'll see.

It was a double victory from Planet 8 Ball #1. Top Player Mike Heidbreder's 36-10 .783 outlasted runners-up Kevin Drury and Jeff Huelsing, both out of Rich's Place #2 and both with 22-7 .759 records. Two good races.

Top female player was Teresa Davis. Teresa turned in 20 wins for her team Planet 8 Ball #3.

5-Player Div. Champ	Playoff	All-Star Leader	Team	Record
1. Bartman's	JP's Corner #2	Dennis Agnew	Bartman's	28 6 .824
2. Woody's #2	Griffin's	Joe Lopez	Woody's #1	22 7 .722
3. Shot Heaven	Libby's	Todd Kippenberger	Libby's	28 7 .800
4. Memoreze	Phoenix #2	** Tom Davidson	Memoreze	31 11 .738
5. JP's Corner #3	Night Sky #2	Sam Bevell	JP's #1	37 8 .822
6. JP's Corner #1	HotShots SC	Mark Wieland	JP's #1	33 8 .805
7. Shot Heaven	Wedge	Craig Schmeid	Shot Heaven	37 8 .822
8. Foley's SC	Wedge	Ray Ridenour	Wedge	40 6 .870
9. Charlack Pub	Classic's #2	Monty Caldwell**	Charlack Pub	32 5 .865
10. Airport #1	McDuff's	Mike Lashley	Airport #1	34 7 .829
11. Lehmann's #1	HotShots NC	Mike Kiwala	Lehmann's #1	38 8 .826
12. Fucifinos	Cocktails	Jim Raby	G.B. Field	32 10 .762
13. Fucifinos #2	Fucifinos #4	Billy Wimberly	Fucifinos #2	30 7 .811
14. Lindy's Fat Cat #2	Homer's #2	Dave Stafford	GB Field	38 5 .884
15. Rufkar's	Planet 8 Ball #2	Monty Caldwell**	Rufkar's	35 10 .778
16. Teacher's	Just One More #1	** Mario Webster	Teacher's	35 13 .729
17. Planet 8 Ball #1	Just One More	Mike Heidbreder	Planet 8 Ball #1	36 10 .783

** Jerry Terbrock (Div. 4) 34-8 .810. Should have hit .890 for the award.

** Rich Sager (Div. 16) 33-7 .825. Should have hit .845 for the award.

** Monty Caldwell (Div. 9 & 15) only player to win two awards.

An abnormal high percentage of players that led their respective division for All-Star honors also led their team first past the post. Of the seventeen 5-player divisions only 6 All-Star winners were not on the first place team. Almost two to one. It happened only twice from the six Happy Hour teams for a total of 13 of 23.

Division # 101 HotShots SC #5 not only went first past the post with a great 14-2 team record but a very impressive 141-94 .600 games won/lost percent. It isn't often a team hits at a .600 pace. What is just as rare is that only two of their players hit the All-Star roll. Of the 24 players listed only Nick Skrbin (35-9 .795) and teammate Jason Skrbin (25-19 .568) made it. Yes, they're related. Nick came in second on the All-Star sheet behind League leader Dave Collins. Dave (Phoenix) recorded a 26-6 .813 log barely edging out Nick by .018. Can't say that Dave Collins doesn't have his finger on the pulse of the rules. A 16-week schedule calls for 32 game-credits and that's exactly what Dave had. Congratulations, Dave.

Hazzards #1 came out of the division playoffs by knocking off HotShots SC #1, 21 Rock and Phoenix #2.

Division # 102 Bada Bing, Bada Bang, Bada Boom. Just like that a 12-4 first place finish. Sounds easy, but not so 8-Ball breath! It looks good on paper and sounds easy after the final results are in. Bada Bing's had the most team wins (12), second highest game-wins (129), the highest won/lost percent (.556) and the lowest number of losses, 103. Truth is Bada Bing's was always looking over their shoulder. If it wasn't Liz's Place or George's, it was Libby's. In fact they more than likely will meet at the big show as Libby's knocked off Liz's, George's and Wedge to earn the second spot from the division.

And speaking of Libby's, Mike Devers took out the All-Star award by a wide margin. Mike's 43-9 .827 was a whopping .082 ahead a runner-up Allen Barnhart's 38-13 .745. Someone with a sense of humor said, "It's no longer, Mike Devers? Oh, that's Sam's brother. Now it's Sam Devers? Oh, that's Mike's brother."

Division # 103 Another race to the wire that was decided by games won & lost. Fucifino's #2 & #4 ended the campaign tied at 9-7. Games went to #2 118-115 .506 to #4's 123-123 .500. Kind-a close! As it turned out #4 won the playoff contests and went to the big Happy Hour Show after all.

Gentleman Jim Crosby opened up a lead the final three weeks and held on to take the All-Star award. Jim's 38-11 .776 was .109 in front of runner-up (and teammate) Jay Carlton's 30-15 .667. We're all looking for Jay to go down, ha-ha. There is a sad note connected to this division's report. See [Final Thoughts](#) at end of report.

Division # 104 R.G. Ramsey had it made in the shade. The All-Star trophy was his, all sewn up, in the bag. All he had to do was sit out the final week. No sense taking any chances. Check it out: With one week remaining RG (as he's better known) was leading the All-Star parade, 30-3 .909. Next in line was Michael Lehmann at 35-6 .854. Just a slight difference; and the last match certainly could be a switcheroo. They both play for the same team which happens to be Lehmann's Landing. Get the connection? Michael Lehmann, Lehmann's Landing! So when RG mentioned in passing that he may not be able to play the final week (something about a Sky-Diving competition; or was it preparation for the summer Olympic Bobsledding team?) well, that didn't set well with Captain Mike.

If RG played and, God forbid, have a bad 2, 3 or 4 games, and let's say that Michael won, say 3 or 4 games, anyone can figure simple math. So RG put off plans to climb Pike's Peek; or was it Mount Saint Helens? Whatever! Remember, their team had already clenched the top spot and neither really had to play. But, you know what they say: "You don't tug on Superman's cape, you don't ride Evel Knievel's bike, you don't pull the mask off the ol' Lone Ranger and you don't mess around with Captain Mike... dee- dah- du'yah- du'yah- dee- dah- dum."

So, forced to play the final week, RG ran off three more wins to only two for Mike and solidified the award.

"Leave the man be, don't mess with RG!" Final standings: RG 33-3 .917, Michael 37-6 .860. Mount Saint Helens will have to wait another day.

As mentioned, Lehmann's Landing went flying past the post 12-4 to runners-up New Classic's #2 and Cocktails tied at 10-6. Cocktails out shot New Classic's #1 & #2 and Blockhouse for the second qualifier.

Division # 105 Who says Bill Millikan can't take pressure? With two weeks remaining Bill is atop the All-Star chart at .742. Keeping pace are two noteworthy opponents, both at .735. It's kick it up another gear time. While Rick Sutberry (28-10) rose to .737 and Michael Lehmann (31-11) went to .738, Bill jumped even higher. His 28-9 .757 earned him another All-Star award and a free ride to Sunday. Oh, and Bill led his team, Airport Billiards #1, first past the post with a 12-3 showing. Aiding and abetting Bill along the way were two other team members that made the All-Star list, Jerry Jordan with 21 wins and Mo Carlton with 19. Nice going, guys.

Go figure this one: Gas Light Inn #2 earned the second spot from this division. They outlasted Lehmann's Landing #2 & #3, and TK's Pub and Grill. Dale Fallon was the only player from the team to make the All-Star sheet.

Division # 106 When 11 players on the All-Star sheet hit less than a point difference that division is as tough as Mike Tyson's teeth and tight as Star Jones' girdle. From .744 to .843, or .099 to be exact! And the top four were over .800. Fourth place was Pat Row (Classic's #2 35-8 .814), 3rd- Bullet Bob Jeanis (Streiler's 33-7 .825), 2nd- Kelly Ambrose (Classic's #3 31-6 .838), and the winner and new champion: Steven M. Davis. Steve shoots'em in for Streiler's. His 43-8 .843 season was (I'm told) his personal best. It is the first time for Steve and he can't say he wasn't hounded. After a 2-year hiatus, Kelly Ambrose is back in action and obviously in top form. His second place showing proved that he hasn't lost his touch. (And someone said he should be a... what?... a '5'...! Big yuks!)

The top female player is Mary Stillwell, Classic's #4. Mary ran off 25 wins for a .543 percent.

Team honors go to Classic's #3. Their 13-2 match record and 149-118 .558 games percent was the division's best. And, gee, I wonder how that happened? Let's check it out, shall we. There's Captain Dan 'the Man' Tucker, '8-Ball Burner' Wayne Turner, Bobby 'Mow'em Down' Mauer and of coarse returnee Kelly 'ya doesn't has to call me Bros' Ambrose. And these four were in the top nine slots. I'd say that was a pretty fair starting lineup. These guys were Happy Hour champions in the past without Kelly... what do you think their chances are with Kelly?

Of the top five teams three were out of Classic's, one Streiler's and the fifth place went to New Classic's #1.

The 5th place New Classic's #1 pulled it out thus becoming the second team from #106 going to the big show. I wouldn't have thought it possible, but New Classic's #1 had the least amount of losses, only 92. All others were over a 100. Go figure.

4-Player Div. Champ	Playoff	All-Star Leader	Team	Record
101. HotShots SC #5	Hazzards #1	Dave Collins	Phoenix	26 6 .813
102. Bada Bing's	Libby's	Mike Devers	Libby's	43 9 .827
103. Fucifinos #2	Fucifinos #4	Jim Crosby	Fucifinos #4	38 11 .776
104. Lehmann's	Cocktails	R.G. Ramsey	Lehmann's	33 3 .917
105. Airport #1	Gas Light Inn #2	Bill Millikan	Airport #1	28 9 .757
106. Classic's #3	New Classic's #1	Steve M. Davis	Streiler's	43 8 .843

Results of 60th All-Star Singles Tournament. Payout: \$4,488. Side Pot: \$670. Total: \$5,158

Place	Player	Winnings	Side Pot	Total	Place	Player	Winnings
1.	Rich Sager	'8' \$1,013.00	\$268.00	\$1,281.00 & Trophy	9-12.	John Snyder	'6' \$125.00
2.	Mike Kiwala	'5' 725.00	201.00	926.00 & Trophy	9-12.	Jim Crosby	'6' 125.00
3.	Anthony Trevisano	'4' 575.00	0	575.00 & Trophy	9-12.	Mike Heidbreder	'5' 125.00
4.	Dave Stafford	'5' 425.00	134.00	559.00	9-12.	Jerry Smith	'4' 125.00
5-6.	Monty Caldwell	'5' 275.00	33.50	308.50	13-16.	John Porter	'6' 75.00
5-6.	Ron Smith	'5' 275.00	33.50	308.50	13-16.	Mike Lehmann	'5' 75.00
7-8.	Mike Noble	'6' 200.00			13-16.	Ray Ridenour	'4' 75.00
7-8.	Rob Vaughn	'3' 200.00			13-16.	Todd Lamwersiek	'4' 75.00

Once again Planet 8 Ball hosted the All-Star event, Missouri 8 Ball's 60th. It opened up Saturday February 11th, 2006. There were 224 players signed up and play began a few minutes past noon because of side pot entries. Once it got started it went non-stop 'til 8:30 that evening.

For the first time in our tournaments we decided to run a side pot. It went over well as 67 players offered up an extra \$10. The premise was to pay out for 1st place: 40 %, 2nd place: 30 %, 3rd place: 20 % and 10 % for 4th place. As listed above, Runout Rich Sager, by winning the tournament, not only took out the \$1,013 1st place prize, plus the extra \$268.00 from the side pot for a total winnings of \$1,281; and of course the Trophy.

Mike Kiwala was again in the winner's circle finishing 2nd for \$725 plus the \$201 side pot for a total of \$926. The reason Anthony Trevisano didn't score the side pot is because he opted not to get in. He still walked away with a \$575 cheque for his 3rd place finish. Therefore, the next in line, 4th place Dave Stafford, picked up \$425 plus the \$134 extra side pot for \$559 total. When Anthony passed on the side pot that created a tie for the 10 %. Monty Caldwell and Ron Smith split the \$67 for \$33.50 each.

No ladies cashed of the 224 players but Tina Wiedner (G.E.D.) was the last female standing at a tie for 25th place.

5-Player Team Championship Results

The team championships were hosted by Star-Lite Café & Billiards. Formally Action Billiards, now under new management, the rejuvenated establishment proved to be what the players were looking for. A much better floor layout and expanded menu that includes breakfast is now offered for early arrivals.

From the top half of the board Soldiers, out of Fucifino's division #13, made it to the final four by knocking off Charlack Pub 11-6, JP's Corner 11-6, and Libby's 11-5. HotShots, from Bridgeton, defeated McDuff's 11-8, Memoreze 11-6, and Phoenix 11-7. To get to the grand final HotShots got two games on the wire from Fucifino's and parlayed that into a 9-5 heads up victory. The extra two games made the final score 11-5 Rumor has it that HotShots got red hot and should have been giving weight instead of getting it.

From the bottom half of the board the second team out of Fucifino's, also from division #13, edged by Foley's SC 11-10, Airport Billiards 11-5, and Just One More 11-10. That got them a spot in the final four against Hillsboro Billiards who got there by getting 4-games head start from Cocktails and squeaked out an 11-9 victory. From there they got 9-games on the wire from Bartman's and took the contest, 15-13. With 3-games head start from Just One More, Hillsboro Billiards beat them heads up 8-5 [add the 3-games] the final was 11-5. Now to get to the grand final Hillsboro Billiards received 8-games on the wire; and ran off a whopping 13-8 win. It wasn't even close. And that wasn't the end of April fool joke in February. For the championship match Hillsboro Billiards against HotShots received, yet another 8-games on the wire making the "Final" a race to 13.

Six games into the championship match the score stood (would you believe) 12-2. Twelve to two? That's what I sssaaaaiddd-Bunny Bread. Talk about a beating. I thought torturing was outlawed two centuries ago. Actually, what we're talking about is a double dose of torture. First by getting too, too many games on the wire, and second by knocking off opponents heads up or pretty darn close to it. The scenario played out like this: The following eight games went to HotShots. The *contest* tightened up, 12-10. It was just a matter of time. If Hillsboro Billiards didn't come out of their coma, and soon, most watchers thought that they might just out-fumble themselves. But no; as luck would have it captain Chris Haggard took advantage of his opponents mistake when she hooked herself, and he got out with ball-in-hand, one ball on the table plus the '8' ball. It was a close 13-10 championship victory. So, we say *congratulations* to the entire gang from Hillsboro Billiards (and wonder why Johnny Neels' team didn't make it?). Kudos also to HotShots NC for a great tournament and a very close *almost* come-from-behind match. I have a feeling we'll be seeing these guys again.

<u>PL.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Winnings</u>	<u>Side Pot</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Hillsboro Billiards	Chris Rackley	6,017.00	0	6,017.00 & Trophy
2.	HotShots NC	Eric Haggard	3,800.00	0	3,800.00
3-4.	Fucifino's	Charles Burrage	1,950.00	520.00	2,470.00
3-4.	Fucifino's	Billy Wimberly	1,950.00	520.00	2,470.00
5-8.	Just One More	Jeff Ayers	950.00	86.00	1,036.00
5-8.	JP's Corner	Donna Collins	950.00	86.00	1,036.00
5-8.	Libby's	Ed Libby	950.00	86.00	1,036.00
5-8.	Phoenix	Paul Edstrom	<u>950.00</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>950.00</u>
			\$17,517.00	\$1,298.00	\$18,815.00

4-Player Happy Hour Results: Payout \$4,945.00 & Side Pot \$500.00. Total \$5,445.00

It was cut & dried, suppose to happen, in the cards, no way can they lose, and all those other clichés. What I said about Division #106 did come true. This team is murderous row. They had all the guns... er... sticks; three '6's and two '5's and playing a total of 23 points each round. They gave up 4-games on the wire to Cocktails and slammed the door on them, 9-2 (9-6 with spot).

Classic's played heads up (23 points each) against Airport Billiards featuring Jake Embry and out maneuvered them, 9-6. All due respects Jake went 4-0 and Mo Carlton was 2-1. That was their attack. The rest of the team went 0-8. And Jake was right. Before Airport Billiards and Classic's broke open the first rack he said, "this is the championship match right here!"

Those words were very prophetic as Classic's went on to meet HotShots SC for the championship. HotShots got four games head start but managed only two wins on their own for a 9-2 thumping (9-6 with spot). It was the third time these guys finished second. They say they are coming back and win this thing no matter how many times it takes. That, my friends, is perseverance.

Congratulations to Nick Skrbin and gang for their second place finish and to Dan 'the Man' Tucker for another great championship win. Keep it up Tuck, people will be screaming 'break up Classic's'.

<u>Placings</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Prize \$\$</u>	<u>Side pot \$\$</u>	<u>Total winnings</u>
1. Classic's	Dan Tucker	\$3,445.00	\$325.00	\$3,770.00 & Trophy
2. HotShots SC	Nick Skrbin	1,500.00	175.00	1,675.00
		\$4,945.00	\$500.00	\$5,445.00

9-Ball Returns

The Missouri 9 Ball Pool League resurfaced this season after a 10-year absence. A 4-team division operated out of Woody's on Lemay Ferry Road. (Name changed to Crescent Room by new owners Jill and Ryan Frye) It went 15 weeks and deemed successful. The Thursday night division was in-house as no other locations signed up from that area. Hopefully more locations will become interested and a traveling division will begin operating next session.

All-Star player Dave Pope takes out the first award. His 74-31 .705 topped the chart edging out runner-up Ben Pona who finished a very close 64-29 .688.

Two ladies placed on the list. Heather Hampe ran off 54 wins, a 5th place tie for highest wins, and Michelle Davis notched 38 wins. Great shooting, ladies.

The team kicker goes this way: Woody's #3 took the title with a 9-6 record, which isn't bad. But their 215-216 games played percentage of .499 was mediocre at best. But it's the most matches won that count, right guys! Here's a rundown of the first 9-Ball session:

<u>Pl</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>MW</u>	<u>ML</u>	<u>GW</u>	<u>GL</u>	<u>W/L %</u>	<u>All-Star Leaders</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
1.	Woody's #3	9	6	215	216	.499	1. Dave Pope	74	31	.705
2.	Woody's #1	8	7	222	207	.517	2. Ben Pona	64	29	.688
3.	Woody's #4	8	7	205	196	.511	3. Rich Rogers	62	46	.574
4.	Woody's #2	5	10	165	188	.467	4. Ron Hasty	63	49	.563
		30	30	807	807	.500	5. John Debold	54	49	.524
							6. Keith Paulitsch	33	30	.524
							7. Michelle Davis	38	36	.514 **
							8. Heather Hampe	54	52	.509 **

For the introduction of the first 9-Ball session it was a Winner-Take-All event. Ron Hasty captained his team to the first championship thus becoming the answer to a trivia question ten years down the road. The win was by a narrow 17-15 margin and the \$500 prize. Thanks, guys & gals. See you next season.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Total Payout for all Events</u>			
	<u>Winnings</u>	<u>Side Pot</u>	<u>Total Payout</u>	
5-Player Team	17,517.00	1,298.00	18,815.00	38 Teams
4-Player Team	4,945.00	500.00	5,445.00	12 Teams
9-Ball Team	500.00	0	500.00	4 Teams
All-Star Singles	4,488.00	670.00	5,158.00	224 Players
	\$27,450.00	\$2,468.00	\$29,918.00	

Our Joke de jure “Two Convicts”

I want to tell you this fascinating story about two convicts. They were in prison and they were serving identical sentences. They were both doing five years for armed robbery. And they got to know each other because they had both committed the same kind of crime. They had both gone to prison on the same day and they were both scheduled to be released on the same day.

So here they are in the prison yard and it's the day before they're to be released. And one of them comes up to the other one and he says, “Brandy Bottle Bates”, he says, “I have a proposition for you.”

And Brandy Bottle Bates says, “Yes, a, what is it.” And the other says, “Well, here's my idea. We both get out of here tomorrow, right.” Brandy Bottle Bates says, “Yes that's right.”

“Well,” he says, (We'll say Dave the Dude is the other one) “Brandy”, says Dave the Dude, “a week from tomorrow I will meet you in the town of Nerdville, you know where that is...!” (Brandy Bottle Bates says yes) “...and we will hold up the First National Bank on Main Street.”

Brandy Bottle Bates said, “You know that sounds like a really good idea, Dude. We get out tomorrow, and a week from tomorrow we meet in Nerdville, and we'll hold up the First National Bank, okay!” And they made their plans.

But what they didn't know, standing there in the yard, another prisoner, Harry the Horse, heard what they were saying, and he immediately went to the Warden. He said, “Warden, those two armed robbers that are getting out tomorrow, Dave the Dude and Brandy Bottle Bates, a week from tomorrow are going to hold up the First National Bank of Nerdville.”

Well, a week later the two of them in their get-away car drove up to the bank, got out, walked in, pulled out their guns, and there waiting for them were more State Police than you have ever seen in your life, even more than overpaid federal postal workers. They were immediately arrested, taken to trial and sent back to prison.

That's really the end of the story.

There is however, if you think about this story, the one walking up to the other one in the yard the day before they get out of prison and saying, “Look, I've got this proposition for you”, and then the other prisoner overhearing it and reporting it to the Warden: There is a moral to this story.

And I think that it's a moral we should all take to heart; and it's certainly one maybe that some of us need; but not English majors, because English majors through the years have known this. And that is, that you never, ever, ever end a sentence with a proposition.

Breaks & Runouts: During a Saturday All-Star singles match (Feb. 11, 2006) Dan French did the opposite. Dan didn't make the '8' ball on the break. Dan *made* the '8' ball break; literally. Dan broke open the rack and on close inspection it was discovered that two pieces broke off the ball and were lying on and around the spot. Of course a new '8' ball replaced the broken one, but, as one observer wondered, what would have been the call had the '8' been announced for one pocket and part of the ball went in a different pocket? An interesting development indeed. Answer: Not to completely duck the issue but... we'll play that fiddle when the tune is written.

Quotes: ** “These tournaments remind me of Kenny from South Park; I get killed every episode.” Kickin' Kenny Martin, after being eliminated from the All-Star singles tournament, again.

** “Good!” Rich Sager, after he asked if Mountain Man was in the tournament and was told no. (Mountain Man, SKA- A.J. Clemens, beat Rich four games in a row knocking him out of the 59th tournament.)

** “You gotta be crazy to buy what these guys are sellin'.” Several railbirds, watching the Hillsboro Billiards team that took out the 5-Player board with a 14-point team handicap getting a total of 34-games on the wire for the tournament and walking off with the \$6,017.00 first prize. (& trophy)

NOTE: We are assured by the Hillsboro area rep, Mr. Collins, that these skill-levels are right and proper.

** “No question about it; it's absolutely, positively the best graffiti anywhere.” Several patrons describing the men's room at Just Bill's Place, Overland, Mo.

NOTE: Please don't go to your favorite watering hole and start plastering inappropriate saying, remarks and drawings on walls or stalls. This category (if that's what you want to call it) will not be repeated again.

Final Thoughts: Troy Moore passed away Saturday November 12th 2005. He was only 39 years old. Troy and wife Christina have been very staunch supporters of Missouri 8 Ball for many years. Having played on the same team with Troy, and many times against him over the last fifteen years, I can attest that Troy was a gentleman in the very sense of the word. He was a fine 8-Ball player and a great competitor. Win or lose I never heard him make a derogatory remark about or against any of his opponents. He took things as they came. Troy won many All-Star and team trophies over the years and, in fact, was again leading Division #103 when he died. Personally speaking, we meet a lot of people in organized competition, some you wish you hadn't; and then some really good guys like Troy Moore. (*Jay Carlton*)

Our thoughts go out to wife Christina and her two sons, Mathew and 5-year-old Michael.

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: missouri8ball.com

Roger Pheasant – Internet Specialist: free-reference.com

Jay L. Carlton – Assistant to the Wheels: stlmissouri.com/jayscorner