

66th Missouri 8 Ball Pool League Reports

Gene Rader and his fine "Rader's Sports Bar" St. Peters' establishment played host to the 66th Missouri 8 Ball Singles and Team Tournaments. Always a great place to congregate for pool, or just socializing for a couple drinks. The fine courteous staff is always on top of things with food orders, drinks, or whatever. To begin here's a small synopsis of each division for the 66th Fall Season Sept. 10, 2007 – Jan. 8, 2008

Division # 1 Tuesday 14 Weeks

JP's Corner #1 jumped into a first place tie with Fandango's #2 with only two weeks remaining. What happened? Fandangos-2 lost to 21 Rock, 11-8. That turned out to be a very important win for 21 Rock; it saved them a spot in the playoffs. The loss dropped Fan-2 to second place by percentage points. Final standings were 10-4 for both JP's #1 and Fan #2. Games W/L breakdown went to JP's 149-131 .532 to 158-147 .518. Another big help was that JP's #1 starting lineup made the All-Star list. Of the 20 players, five are JP's #1's and they finished in the top 12 positions.

For the Top Player Award... if you had Jerry Terbrock with 42-wins and a .955 W/L percentage to win... YOU LOSE. Huh? Yeah, sad but true. According to Division One breakdown, an '8' level player has to hit .970. Jerry hit a measly .955, just a little short. With numbers like 42-2 .955 he's got to be thinking (we'll keep it clean here) 'shucks, what do I have to do to skip Saturday'?

So we say congratulations to Jerry's teammate, Jesse Sherrell, for being in the right place at the right time. Jesse's 2nd place finish of 26-8 .765 was good for '6' caliber shooting and good for Top Player honors.

I know this is no consolation, but Mr. Terbrock's .955 was .190 better than the runner-up. That's not walking, that's running away with it. Great shooting, Jerry!

The two-week playoffs had a surprise or two. Third place Hazzards #1 knocked out fourth place Hotshots Fenton while 21 Rock downed Fandango's #2. The surprise (except from 21 Rock) is that 21 Rock (the 5th place team) came out firing. Paul Edstrom's 4-0 night led the way to the 11-9 victory

Division # 2 Tuesday 14 Weeks

It happens once in awhile where a team jumps outta the starting gate, goes wire to wire, and gallops home like thoroughbreds. JR's Saloon is such a team. And you know luck is with you when you lose a match and your main rivals are also beaten the same week so you didn't lose any ground. At one stretch JR's enjoyed a 3-game lead. They finished the 14-week campaign, 11-3, two-games over runner-up Libby's.

Putting three players in the top eight positions on the All-Star sheet was a big help. Larry Stuart (3rd) with 33 wins, David West (6th) with 34 wins and Tony Blackwood (8th) with 25, all for a total of 92-36 .719. As those Campbell 66 Trucks advertised... that's 'humpin' to please'.

Libby's team may have finished second, but one of their players didn't. Top Player honors go to Denis Dunbar. Ol' Double D jumped atop the heap the 12th week and held on ending at 27-5 .844. It was .058 better than the next two players who tied at 33-9 .786, Tom Davidson (Phoenix) and Larry Stuart (JR's Saloon). Nice race, guys!

Surprise-surprise... they just keep a-comin'. First week's action saw 2nd place Libby's go down to 5th place Wedge and 3rd place Phoenix went down to 4th place Night Sky. For the right to go to the big show... may I have a drum roll please... Night Sky pulled six rabbits out of their derby. After getting 7-games on the wire Night Sky held on as three players won 2-games each, Larry Buscher, Mike Mann and "Lacy" Traci Poliette and took a 13-10 decision from Wedge. If I'm not mistaken this will be the first time in a couple years we'll get to see Traci and the team at the Team Tournament. Congrats, guys.

Division # 3 Wednesday 16 Weeks

Mike Devers led Fandango's to the division championship again. Talk about lucky! If you don't believe that, ask Mike. You've seen this movie before; Mike Devers is walking on a beach, finds some kind of bottle, rubs it and a genie pops out offering him three wishes. Being the conservative guy he is Mike tells the genie that he doesn't need much. "I'll use one wish now..." says Mike. "... and save the other two."

“That’s fine,” says the genie. “What is your wish?”

“You see that my team wins the division that qualifies for the ‘big show’ and I’ll take it from there.”

The genie says, “Okay, you got it!” And presto, just like that, the fix is in.

“Don’t forget,” says Mike. “I’m saving the other two wishes for later.” The genie says he doesn’t mind because he can use the break from being cooped up in the bottle. But after seeing the BCS playoff fiasco, the genie decided to wait back in the bottle.

Good to see that Jody Zeni (Hotshots SC) is back in town. Also good to see he hasn’t lost his stroke. Jody smoked the field with his 44-11 .800 mark taking out the Top Player Award by plenty. How plenty? This plenty - .134. Yep, runner-up Marc Nease (Fandango’s) 23-11 .676 put up great numbers but good only for second place.

First week of playoffs went this way: Hotshots SC got 4-games head start and rode it out to an 11-6 victory over Hazzard’s #1. Hazzard’s #2 was more fortunate in their match against JP’s #2. Roy Traughber’s bunch gave up one game to JP’s #2, but brought their shooting sticks with them. They literally ran away with the match, 11-3.

Playoff week #2 went double-hill. Hazzard’s #2 gave up one to Hotshots SC, but overcame that and pulled out the match, 11-10. Kris Ross topped off the season with a 4-0 night and Bill Harwell went 3-1.

Division # 4 Wednesday 16 Weeks

A lot of twists and turns throughout this 16-week division. The Phoenix rock & rolled for 14-weeks before finally wrestling the lead away from 21 Rock #1 and Night Sky. Then while those two were defeated the final week, Phoenix added to their lead coming in one-game ahead of 21 Rock #1 and two-games over Night Sky & the Wedge. And it’s a good thing because both those teams had higher games W/L percentages had it been a tie.

Going into the 4th round of the match, Phoenix was trailing 9-8. About an hour earlier 21 Rock #1 took over first place by percentage points. Phoenix came out firing the final round as Rob Rooney tied it 9-9, Steve Bemont put them on the hill, 10-9, and Mike Geary closed it out. The 11-9 win was the 11th for Phoenix and catapulted them straight to the big show.

Top Player Bob Harvey (Phoenix) didn’t jump into the lead until the 14th week. His 34-11 .756 barely edged out runner-up Curt Wisely (Wedge) 33-11 .750. Nice race, guys.

After dropping their first two matches, and about to go down for a third, Wedge pulled a little magic of their own. Down 6-1 the third week against 21 Rock #2, Jimmy Fried and company loaded up with extra power ammo and blew away the next 9-games and 10 of 11 for a must come-from-behind victory. They needed more magic the following week against JP’s #1. Once again they found themselves down; this time 10-5 after two. They woke up – loaded up – and locked up the next 7-games and snatched a 12-10 victory from the jaws of defeat.

These two matches meant more than just getting into the win column; it revamped the team and put them on the road to a 3rd place finished in the final standings. And for the first week of playoffs Wedge gave 2-games to Night Sky and edged by them 11-8.

Talk about a struggle? If there’s a group of guys that fit that definition perfectly it’s 21 Rock #2. Look up ‘struggle’ in the dictionary. Don’t be surprised if you see a picture of Bill Keith and the boys showing a sigh of relief. Outside of being 1-1, and 3-3, they were always on an up-hill grind.

When they reached 5-8 with only three weeks remaining, someone yelled, “Hey, guys, it’s the second half. Don’t you think it’s about time you made your move?”

That they did. They began by taking an 11-7 decision from sister team 21 Rock #1, then followed that up by edging out Night Sky, 11-10, and then romped home over JP’s #2, 11-4. And with that 8-8 finish Bill Keith and gang had a tie for 5th place. The games W/L percentage had Bill’s boys on top by a mere .027.

And if that wasn't bad or good enough (depends on your point of view) 21 Rock #2 had to face their other team 21 Rock #1 the first week of playoffs. Big hitters Jamie House (4-0) and Bill Keith (3-1) led the way to the 11-10 win. (It doesn't get any easier, does it?) For 21 Rock #2, it was their 4th win in a row, the best they've done all season. That win put them against Wedge for the right to go to the championships. With all the great come-from-behind victories and the weekly pressure of knowing the next loss would eliminate you from playoffs... the players on these two teams did a great job. It's just too bad that only one of these teams could make it and the other will have to wait until next season.

And the 11-10 final nail-biter went to Wedge. Giving up 4-games on the wire to 21 Rock #2 made for another great comeback for the Wedge. And it all started with those two come-from-behind victories from weeks 3 and 4. Nice shooting, guys.

Division # 5 Wednesday 16 Weeks

With percentage points separating the battle for first place, both Shot Heaven and Libby's needed to win big the final week. Libby's chances of winning big weren't as good because they had to give up 5-games to Rec Room. The 11-8 victory was sweet but now they had to wait the outcome between Shot Heaven and Wedge who were playing even.

Shot Heaven barely escaped. Up 10-8 after three frames, they dropped the first three games in round four and suddenly found themselves down 11-10. With first place on the line (as Libby's had already downed Rec Room) Shot Heaven needed resurrecting. They got it in Ricky Lipe and Josh Smith to pull out the last two wins for a tough, but rewarding 12-11 battle.

Both Shot Heaven and Libby's ended at 13-3 but the games W/L percentage went Shot Heaven's way, 153-119 .563 to Libby's 161-132 .549.

Ricky Lipe's three wins also put him over the wire for Top Player. His 27-6 .818 was a little better than Ed Libby's 28-7 .800. In addition to Ricky leading the All-Star parade, three teammates also made the honor roll; Josh Smith (25-15 .625), and two new comers to Mo-8-Ball, Mike Ermert (17-13 .567) and Kenny Gerwitz (23-21 .523). Nice going, guys.

On a do or die mission Jack Patrick's also needed a win the final week to finish in 5th place for the playoff spot. As Some Other Place was already assured of their 8th win via a bye, pressure was put on Jack P. to win or else. They overcame Cotters to the tune of 11-7, largely due to the 4-0 night from Robby McDonald. C.J. Woods and Steve Galloway each contributed three wins, and ended the session a mere .017 higher than S.O.P.

First week of playoffs had Libby's once again giving weight (3-games), plus one forfeit win to Jack Patrick's. Even though Libby's scored 9-times, those four games kept Jack P's in front the entire match as they won the seven needed for a first-round win, 11-9.

Cotters luck went about the same as Libby's. Getting 3-games on the wire almost got them to the second week. Wedge fought to overcome the deficit and got to the hill. Once there the momentum changed and Wedge pulled it out, 12-11.

The final playoff match was another good one. Jack Patrick's got 3-games head start from Wedge and made them stand up. It was really too much to overcome as Jack P's held on for the 12-10 squeaker.

Division # 6 Thursday 15 Weeks

After 10-weeks of play the only difference between 1st and 2nd place was a miniscule .003. Libby's #2 and Wedge was 9-1 in the standings. The games W/L percentage was... wait for it... Libby's .592 to Wedge's .589. Fast forward to the final week's standings. Libby's #2 has a 156-122 .561.1 and Wedge came home at 138-108 .560.9 – a very slight difference of .0002. Libby's #2 takes first place with their 13-2 finish, one-game over Wedge, 12-3. But the fact that .0002 would have been the lowest difference separating two teams had there been a tie. Ironically, of the eight teams in this division, these were the only two teams over the .500 mark in games played.

Sneaking under the wire the 15th week was Liz's Place. When it got down to the nitty-gritty two players (neither on the All-Star sheet) turned on and put their team in the playoffs. It was the John and Lanny show; or, maybe Lanny & John? Anyway, Lanny's 3-1 night and John's 4-0 accounted for 7 of Liz's 11 wins. Down 6-4 after two, Liz's Place took 7 of the last 8 games for the 11-7 come-from-behind victory.

For the 4th time in two years Ed Libby finished atop the All-Star sheet only to be informed his numbers weren't good enough. Actually, they were good, very good, just weren't 'high' enough. Ed's got to be wondering the same thing Jerry Terbrock is wondering: What does it take? Well, for this division, an '8' level player has to hit .920. Ed Libby landed with .870. The best left-handed shooter in the business dropped forty '8' balls, seven more than the next guy; but still .050 short.

So who was in the right place at the right time? Greg Martin gets the call up for the photo-shoot. Greg's 27-6 .818 was above the limit for a '6' rated player. Congrats to Greg and Ed for some great shooting.

To set the stage, the playoff match that would send a second team to the tournament, Libby's #1 knocked out Jody T's 11-6, and Wedge outlasted Liz's, 11-8. For the final week each team were missing one of their big guns. Ed Libby couldn't make it for Libby's and Curt Wisely was missing for Wedge. Receiving one-game head start, Wedge held on for an 11-7 victory with Chuck Hunter leading with three wins.

Division # 7 Thursday 15 Weeks

Foley's #2 went wire to wire either in first place or tied for first the entire 15 weeks. Their 11-4 finish was 2-games over Cotters, Slo Toms and Foley's #1, all at 9-6. One third of the 15 players on the honor roll was a big factor in Foley #2's success. And four filled out the top six spots with runner-up for Top Player honors Rick Hess (19-9 .679) leading the way. He was followed by teammates Steve Gambill 23-11 .676, Jim Nuelle 28-14 .667, John Brewer 18-10 .643 and Pat Pollihan 17-13 .567.

As those 9-6 teams made the playoffs, the 5th position was up for grabs. Wedge came home 4-11 to G.E.D.'s 3-12. So what happens the first playoff week? Fifth-place Wedge knocked out 2nd place Cotters, 11-9. Go figure! Wedge got 2-games on the wire and made them stand up for the difference. In another part of town 4th place Foley's #1 soundly defeated 3rd place Slo Tom's, 11-2. Go figure, again!

To make the session a complete success for Foley's... #1 would have to knock off Wedge. They did. Foley's #1 overcame the 3-games they gave Wedge and eked out a 12-11 slugfest. Terry 'drop the 8-ball' Hall led the scoring with his 4-0 night followed up with Mike 'the real deal' O'Neill's 3-0. For the first time in awhile both Foley's teams from the same division will put in an appearance at the big show.

It happens once every two or three years that a new player to Missouri 8 Ball takes out the Top Shooter Award their first time out. Such is the case of Mike Mosquedo. Mike shoots out of Cotters with a brand new team. In addition to Mike's great first place finish (35-9 .795), two teammates also hit the honor roll, 7th place Randy Heisner, 29-19 .604 and Erin Valentine's 20-14 .588 was good for 11th.

Division # 8 Thursday 15 Weeks

Hotshots SC moved into a first place tie the 11th week, and took over the division lead the 13th week. They liked it so much they decided to hold it. They did, with only three players making the All-Star sheet. Jim Stevens, 28-13 .683, John O'Farrell, 19-9 .679 and Dan Lemond, 15-11 .577. Hotshots SC (12-3) ended up 2-games ahead of three rival teams that finished 10-5, JP's #3, JP's #1 and Phoenix #1. Fandango's #2 rounded out the 5th playoff spot.

First week of playoffs saw Phoenix #1 jump all over JP's #1, 11-5 with Craig Foster and Dennis Agnew taking 3-wins each. Not to be out-done, JP's #3 gave Fandango's #2 one-game head start but overcame that for an 11-8 victory. Both Mark Wieland and Justin Willenbrink made statements each having a great 4-0 night. That set the stage for the Roger Pheasant (JP's #3) – Dave Braley (Phoenix) shootout.

This time Justin and Mark won only 3-games each. However, they were aided and abetted by Ed Medlock's 3-wins as JP's #3 took an 11-8 victory over Phoenix. I think this will be the first time in years

Dave Braley's Phoenix team didn't make the championship tournament. That no doubt will throw a sigh of relief for several teams there.

There are times when getting a bye hurts a player. Example: Matt Cox riding on the heels of Jack Mayer for Top Player honors could do nothing but wait. Matt's team (Fandango's #2) was down for a bye the final week of play. And Matt was shooting a 33-13 .717. Jack's 29-11 .725 was barely leading the parade and his team was out of the running. No way could Jack's team get into the playoffs. Mr. Mayer could have taken the night off and assured himself of the award. Remember, Top Players do not have to compete Saturdays in the All-Star tournament.

"What! Take a night off?" says Jack. "This is my night to howl; I'm playin'." Jack played three games. He won two, lost one and finished at 31-12 .721. Talk about gamesmanship and fair play. Nice going, Jack. But wait, there's more... the Top Player spot was still up for grabs. How? Mike Renick caught a break; a very BIG break. Mike (Phoenix #1) was 6th on the list. Their opponent this final week was Night Sky. Because Night Sky got 10-games on the wire, that took the race from 11 games to 16 games. That allowed Mike Renick a chance to play and win four times. That raised his 30-13 .698 to 34-13 .723, just .002 over Jack Mayer's totals. Had Phoenix been scheduled to play any team other than Night Sky, the match would have been the normal race to 11, or maybe 12, but defiantly not 16.

All these factors entered into the 'last man standing'. Matt Cox got no chance to improve his record because his team had a bye. Jack Mayer could have sat out but elected to play even though his team was out of the running, and lost one game that cost him the Award, and Mike getting four chances to play and took advantage of them going 4-0. The pool gods were kind.

In addition to Mike, Dave Braley and Tony Syzhowski also won four games each. Such a rarity, three players winning 4-games each in a single match. That can happen when the race is to 16.

Division #9 Monday 14 Weeks

Significant highlights and details begin as early as the third week for Pirates Cove. They spot Cactus Inn 8-games on the wire. Coming back to win 13-11 proved a very big match.

Week #6 was just as big for Hotshot NC. Giving Jennings Station 2-games head start was no big thing, but when J.S. jumped out to a 6-1 lead after the first round, then increasing their lead to 8-2 by taking 2 outta 3 to begin the second round, you could have put a fork in most teams; they were done.

But the gang of Hotshots settled down, rolled out the big guns and took the last two in round two, closing the gap, 8-4. They blasted their way to all five in round three to take away the lead, 9-8. After reloading, these hotshot Hotshots came out firing for round four. They closed it out with the first two games making it a 9-game run. This 11-8 come-from-behind victory turned out to be very big. Because it kept Hotshots just a single game in front the rest of the way. They took over the division lead the 11th week and outlasted the heavy hitting lineups of Pirates Cove and Charlack Pub.

The loss affected Jennings Station quit a bit! That blown 8-2 lead contributed to their downfall. They were 3-2 going into that match. Their season ended 5-9, missing out of the playoffs by mere percentage points.

The race for Top Player went to Pirates Cove's Rich Norris. His 29-7 .806 edged out teammate Tony Gregory, 24-7 .774. Other Cove teammates on the list were Waddell Whitehead and Mike Noble. Division leaders, Hotshots, placed three, Bill Lottman, Jonny Schaljo and Chris Reno.

The first week of playoffs showed Pirates Cove giving up 6-games to Kahles Bar & Grill. Kahles had to play without one of their big guns, Pete Potthast. It reflected in the 11-8 Cove victory.

While that was going on Charlack Pub was getting 3-games against Classic's. Joe Lombo's guys did what they could to overcome the spot but it wasn't going to happen. Charlack played even for the match winning nine games for a 12-9 victory and the right to hook up with Cove.

The second week of playoffs Charlack Pub received 5-games on the wire forcing the Buccaneers to haul out big cannons. Waddell Whitehead blasted out 4-wins. Mike Noble and Rich Norris added 3-wins each for a come-from-behind 12-11 win and a shot at the big time. It's the first time for Pirates Cove.

Division #10 Monday 14 Weeks

It's hard knocking off a team that puts six players on the All-Star sheet. That's what New Classic's #3 did. Their 11-3 record was 2-games better than both New Classic's #2 and Clubhouse #2's 9-5. NC #3 moved into first place the 4th week and never really looked back except to wave bye-bye to the rest of the field. Their 144-game wins (most), 110 losses (fewest) and .567 W/L percentage (highest), coupled with most team wins (11), fewest team losses (3) and most players on the All-Star sheet (6), and a free ride to the big show makes for an outstanding season.

Turning points and matches that helped get them into first place and kept them there began the third week. N.C. #3 gave Clubhouse #2 two-games on the wire. Down 5-1, N.C. #3 took off like Mach 1 taking out the next 10 games for an 11-5 victory. Two weeks later they took on sister team N.C. #1. The 11-10 victory was highlighted by both Dave Hollinshead and Tony Nugent going 4-0 for the night.

One more time we say congratulations to Mike Remiger. For the second straight season Mike captured Top Player honors. This one was a bit harder than the last. It literally went down to the very final game of the season. Going into the final nights play, Jim Davis (Clubhouse #1) was on top 40-5 .889 and Mike was percentage points behind at 42-6 .875.

While Davis was going 3-1 the final night, Remiger went 3-0. That one loss for Jim turned the season around to benefit Mike. Mike ended up 45-6 .882 to Jim's 43-6 .878. Jim says he's going to keep playing until he gets a Top Player trophy even if it takes another 20-years. Go Jim, go Jim Dandy, go.

First week of playoffs saw New Classic's #2 meet and knock out Jennings Station, 11-6. Top Player Mike Remiger picked up in the playoffs where he left off from the regular session. He scored his usual three wins. But he was out-scored by teammate Calvin Niehaus who, for the first time ever, beat Mike at his own game by having his own 4-win night.

Not to be outdone runner-up Top Player Jim Davis, firing a 4-1 night, took his team Clubhouse #1 to an 11-10 win over Clubhouse #2. One of his four wins included the double hill game that sent C.H. #1 to week-2 for another showdown with Mike Remiger, Calvin Niehaus and company. Helping Jim get there were teammates Randy Toles, Jr. and Cindy Niebling tossing in 3-wins each.

It was another close call for the right to go to the big show. Clubhouse-1 received 3-games head start in a race to 12. Randy Toles, Jr. did his part winning three, but Randy was out-gunned. New Classic's-2 took the mach 12-11 thanks in part again to Mike Remiger's 3-wins and, look, it was Calvin Niehaus with another 4-wins. For the second time in history Calvin outshot Mike. And isn't it amazing that Mr. Niehaus goes 8-0 in the playoffs when it counted and didn't make the All-Star sheet? Undercover agent?

Division # 11 Tuesday 14 Weeks

Someone stopped me the other day and asked, "How did Fucifino's #4 finish in first place without a single player of star quality in their lineup? They don't have anybody that can play!" I had to admit the answer defies the principals of reasoning. It's like asking for an explanation of Justin Timberlake's enduring popularity. I don't get it either. And what to do about it is for another time. This is about rejoicing in another unexpected first place finish.

Fucifino's #4 surprised about 11 teams and 88 players (including themselves), assuming each team has eight players. Fu-4 jumped ahead of the class the 7th week and amazed everyone in the division when they finished at 10-2, plus 2-byes. That was a surprising 2-games over Charlack Pub, 3-games ahead of both Airport Billiards and Suwallers and 4-games over Fu #2. The smart money was on any one of those four teams to win the division, but as they say in books, 'you can't beat luck'.

For one thing (no disrespect intended), Fu-4 has never had a bona fide superstar in the lineup, and don't have one now. Most teams going to the wire have a couple '6's and/or two or three good '5's to throw at you every week. Not so with Fu #4. What they do have are four guys and two gals. One '5' and five '4's is what make up the precarious arsenal of this fortuitous six, and two of those are over-rated.

These examples come from the All-Star sheet: Charlack Pub, two '6's & two '5's, Airport Billiards, three '6's & one '5' and Fu-#2, one '6' & three '5's. Here are three powerful lineups.

It would seem that Fucifino's #4 is strictly a 'smoke & mirrors' troupe. It's been rumored that Fu-4's captain Greg Tebeau wanted to bring in Dusty Brandmeyer to spice up their 'slight of hand' act. But as you know, Dusty, the magician is the son of Rusty, adept at decision, and wouldn't give his permission, really couldn't take sides for one Missouri 8 Ball team over a whole division. That idea went down about as fast as Hillary's poll numbers in Iowa and other caucusses.

So, until they con, connive or kidnap a good '6' or killer '7', they'll just have to plug along mystifying other teams in their division like Penn & Teller mystifies their audiences.

It's another Top Player Award for Airport Billiards' Joe Branstetter. Joe's 29-3 .906 was third highest of all players this season. Runner-up was Bob Ackley (Charlack Pub) 23-7 .767 and Fucifinos #4's Mike Warfel's 21-7 .750 was good for third.

First week's playoffs had a couple surprises. Airport Billiards showed up to play with only four players and went down harder than the New England Patriots. They had to spot Suwallers 3-games head start and then gave them four forfeit wins. For the race to 12 match, that 7-games was too-too much to overcome. Final score was 12-7 Suwallers needed only to win five games to earn their way to playoff week two.

Charlack Pub played host to Fucifino's #2 and offered them 3-games on the wire. Not because they were friendly hosts, because the rules say they had to. And it almost cost them. Fu #2 was cruisin' going into the third round with a 9-5 lead, needing only two 'little' wins for the match. How big is 'two'? At times it can be pyramidal. Charlack Pub rallied big time taking the next six games for a great come-from-behind 11-9 victory.

The "unbelievables" continued for the second playoff week. Suwallers got 3-games on the wire and rode it out for an 11-10 squeaker. But not before the double-hill match was taken by Terri Bartlett-Hopfer, who was up against an opponent who had already won three games. It was the only round Terri was scheduled to perform... and perform she did. Talk about pressure! The whole season got down to her and this one last game. Congratulations, Terri. Strange, strange turn of events!

Division #12 Wednesday 16 Weeks

Pirate Ship #1 outta Pirates Cove immersed from seclusion the 8th week and scuttled the division. These roustabouts plundered their way to the top and, like D.B. Cooper, were never caught. Always staying just one jump ahead, their 14-2 rampage was one cannon blast over Classic's #2's 13-3. Using cue sticks like cutlass's, these buccaneers cut and slashed out 167 wins for a big .590 W/L percentage. How much buried treasure awaits them remains to be seen? With four scaly-wags on the All-Star sheet they have a chance at the booty. Allen Lewis (26-8), Adam Argo (32-10), Jim Davis (30-12) and Mac McCormack (23-17) led the charge. Nice waylay job, guys.

New Classic's #1 was assured of a playoff spot when the final week arrived. Win or lose made no difference. They didn't finish high enough for home table advantage, so here's what happened: Since Aaron Akers (28-wins) and Mike Sperla (18-wins) couldn't make it, only four players showed up to take on Clubhouse. Giving Clubhouse one-game on the wire plus another four forfeit wins, it didn't look too promising. Just goes to show what can happen with determination. John Sperla and Bill Levine picked up the slack by winning 4-games each. Jim Benner won one and Adrienne Sperla won two. And the second one brought home the 11-10 victory. Talk about being focused. Nice comeback Adrienne.

Unfortunately the following week was the start of the playoffs and New Classic's #1 had another hill to climb. Again, with only four players they did what they could do but went down 11-6 to McDuffs. Tiger's Inn pulled an upset over Classic's #2. Tigers got 7-games on the wire and rode it to a 13-7 victory. The second playoff week saw Tiger's again getting weight. This time it was 3-games from McDuffs. That didn't upset McDuffs as they came back for an 11-9 win and a ticket to the big show. Hellen Kinast took out the final game for the guys. Nice shooting, Hellen.

For those who may not remember last season's Top Player, it was Mary Stillwell. It seems the ladies are taking over this division. Now it is Mary's teammate Julia Gabriel in the limelight. Julia tuned in a great 35-5 .875 season that tops the "Chicks with Sticks" list by far. Actually Julia has the top two positions. (And check out her position from the over-all list.) She had to out-run teammate Wayne Turner (29-6 .829) who was just inches off Julia's soft heels throughout the campaign.

Mary Stillwell knows how to fuel a friendly team rivalry. When Marland Choy was once again asked to fulfill state commitments, the sneaky Classic's Captain conjoined Wayne Turner (with Julia Gabriel) for replacement duties. The move was as smooth as a Bill Clinton dodge.

Both Choy and Turner are solid team players and bring first-rate power to any roster. But that's where the similarities end. They are as different as EZ-102 and Kshe-95. For the reticent Mr. Turner, the volume of the world is turned down to its lowest decibel. He says only two words an hour and that's after he drops the '8', turns to his opponent and says "nice game." Where for the loquacious Mr. Choy, logorrhea is one of Marland's trademarks. He will relive the entire game to anyone within 50-feet with added details of why he zigged when most would have zagged.

And speaking of Julia, it's not everyday you can add a semi-pro talent to your roster the caliber of this smooth-shootin' southpaw. When the opportunity presents itself you seize the moment. You grab hold and squeeze tighter than a Boa constrictor with a grip on Sunday brunch.

Two things other teams from Division #12 don't want to do next season: Play Mary Stillwell's Murderous Row lineup when she's *in* town, and facing Mary Stillwell's Murderous Row lineup when she's *out* of town. If you're on the schedule bob and weave all you want, you can't duck them. You might as well try to start a Conga line in a Cathedral.

And if the schedule is long enough and too few teams - you'll have to take you lumps twice. But look at the weight you'll be getting. Big deal, right!

One team captain has a 2008 'wish' list. Number one was a plea to Rusty, "please don't put us in the same division with those women from Classics. It's embarrassing."

With Julia taking out the Top Player Award this season and Mary taking Top Player honors last session, could be these two gals have that division sewn up tighter than the Mitchell report. One opponent was overheard to say "the only chance we got is if those gals get in a convertible, drive to a high cliff and pull a Thelma and Louise."

(Message from the Missouri 8 Ball office: "Come on guys. You aren't gonna let a couple little girls scare you... are you? Heh, heh, heh.)

Division # 13 Wednesday 16 Weeks

This was one of those divisions the entire session came down to the final week where the top two teams faced each other for bragging rights. True, after 15-weeks TJ's Aliby-Inn and Houdini's were 12-3, with TJ's ahead only by games W/L percentage. Houdini's did more than pull a few rabbits out of a hat; they reached in for 11 and most of it behind the clutch wizardry of Bruce Littlefield beating great odds and knocking off TJ's heavy hitter David Smith three times. This very important match allowed Houdini's to escape the rigors of playoffs and head straight to the big show.

Another important factor was teammates Jackie Austin and Bob Heideman went head to head for the Top Player Award. That final night Bob went 2-1 and Jackie was 2-0, and Jackie took over the lead 27-8 .771 to Bob's 26-8 .765. Talk about two close races. Great shooting, guys. See you next session.

For playoff week one: TJ's spot Airport Billiards 3-games head start. A.B. was up 6-2 after one round and up 9-4 after two. TJ's Jackie Austin opened up the 3rd with a win and the rest followed. TJ's took the next seven games for an 11-9 come-from-behind victory with both Wayne Halterman and Bob Heideman tossing in three wins each.

Cactus Inn received one-game on the wire but didn't really need it. They outshot Hotshots NC 11-5 with Dan Young and Howard Lentz each having 3-wins.

Second playoff week opened up with Cactus Inn getting 4-games on the wire. With confidence high and a 4-game spot, Cactus Inn breezed through TJ's like Grant took Richmond for an 11-2 walkover.

One wonders if this was considered "pay-back" time. Cactus Inn never forgot the 11-zip shellacking they took from TJ's the 8th week of the season when TJ's came to their house and embarrassed them in front of the home folks. This time Cactus stuck a thorn in TJ's side in TJ's house in front of TJ's crowd.

If I know TJ's they'll be out for revenge next season. Ah, the makings of a great rivalry.

Division #14 Thursday 15 Weeks

Fucifino's #1 escaped the playoffs by barely staying ahead of Mi Familia. The deal was, as long as they won, they stayed in first place. That's profound, isn't it! Listen, this is what I mean, Mi Familia's games W/L percentage was always higher than Fu-1's. Even at the end Fu-1's .535 was only 3rd highest. That's what I'm talking about! The 12-3 finish beat out the Mexican connection's 10-5 by 2-games whereas their .535 didn't.

The first week of the double-feature playoffs had something that had never been done before. Fucifino's #2 knocked out Just Bill's #2, 11-3 while Mi Familia disposed of Just Bills #1, 11-4. The thing is... no member of any team won more than two games. And only one lost three games. The second week was different. Fu-2 gave Mi Familia-2 three-games on the wire and pulled out the 11-9 victory. Three members of Fu-2 won three-games each, Ed Enders, Jim McCarthy and Dan McVey.

Here's a well known "stranger" to the All-Star sheet, Leon Young. We say congratulations once again to Leon "the Neon" for another fine performance in winning the Top Player Award. How close was it? Think newlyweds their first night of marriage. Any pictures come to mind? That's close, brother. Here's the play-by-play on Leon's 5-10-15 plan: 5th week: teammate Billy Wimberly took over first place. 10th week: Leon pulled into 2nd and snuggled up so close percentage points were minuscule. 14th week: Billy was 26-7 .788 to Leon's 32-10 .762... which brings us to the 15th week: Billy goes 1-2 for the last match of the season and Leon has a 2-1 night. Leon's final record was 34-11 .756 and Billy's dropped to 27-9 .750. Talk about working a plan! Leon, you da man! Nice race, guys.

Division #15 Thursday 15 Weeks

Talk about a "shocker"... after 9-weeks of play Aftershock was in 3rd place. The 10th week they moved into first and rode it out. What makes this story a little unbelievable is that only two of their players made the All-Star sheet. Marty Petrie was 5th with a great 23-10 .697, and Jeanine Dunn was 19th of the 25 listed. Jeanine fired home a 19-14 .576. Talking about making it count when they had to! After the shock wore off (pardon the pun), their 12-3 finish was 2-games over runner-up Pirates Cove.

First playoff week saw Pirates Cove get 3-games on the wire and beat out a 12-7 victory over Seansie's Pub. Meanwhile BrewskeeZ gave Fucifino's 3-games head start but overrode that and snapped off a 12-6 (12-3) win with Glenn Hegger, Bob Zorich and Tim Zeman leading the way with 3-wins each. The Brew-guys (plus one gal) gave Pirates Cove 3-games to start the second playoff match. In the race to 12, Glenn Hegger stepped up for 4-wins this time leading to a 12-9 (12-6) victory. The "Z" squad added five more.

BrewskeeZ led the division in two categories this season, having the most players on the All-Star sheet (5) and having the most players with last names beginning with "Z".

If you put money down on Gas Light Inn to make the playoffs knowing ahead of time that the first two players on the All-Star sheet would come from Gas Light Inn... YOU LOSE! What are the odds? Rick J Peters brought home the Top Player Trophy with a great 36-8 .818. His teammate, Dan Canaday shot a runner-up 28-9 .757. That's it. That's all that can be said, except Gas Light Inn finished 7th with a 6-9 team record. I'm not in the predicting business, but I think, only think, that if these guys come up with a couple more hitters they will be a contender. I mean, just these two players alone knocked out 64-wins against only 17-losses. If they find backup... LOOK OUT!

Division # 16 Wednesday 16 Weeks

Tommy Arcobasso, come on down! This little 5-team division had more surprises, more plots, more twists and turns than a "Law and Order" segment. First, HotShots ruled first place for 4-weeks, then Just One More #4 locked on for 7-weeks, and looked to be the winner. But wait! J.O.M. #3 jumped in the 15th week and held on for a 13-3, one-game lead over J.O.M. #4. And it was a battle. J.O.M. #3 put four players on the All-Star sheet and J.O.M. #4 put five. That's nine of the 13 that made it.

The playoffs brought more surprises. J.O.M. #4 gave 9-games on the wire to J.O.M. #1. With Top Player Chip Schmidt and 5th place Elmer Sargent kicking in 4-wins each, Joe Schmidt with three and Tim Mislark and Tom Gordon at 2-each, J.O.M. #4 scrapped out a 15-12 (15-3) victory. Meanwhile J.O.M. #2 allowed HotShots-94 two-game head start and eked out an 11-10 squeaker. Team captain Mario Webster led the charge with 4-wins and Melissa [you don't have to call me Nancy] Drew adding three. The second playoff week saw J.O.M. #4 give up 3-games but fought back to take an 11-7 (11-4) win over J.O.M. #2.

For Top Player honors Chip Schmidt was the man. The division is balanced out with enough good '4's, '5's and '6's to go around. But Chip really stood out. His 44 wins with only 5 losses and .898 W/L percent was 5th highest of all divisions this session. Great season, Chip. To give an idea of how great a season this was for Chip, the runner-up was .179 below. Second place went to Pat Guittar with a 23-9 .719. Nice shooting, guys.

Division # 17 Thursday 15 Weeks

It was wire to wire for Gene Rader's Raiders, Just One More #3. They were like outlaws waiting for a train. At one stage of the race they enjoyed a 4-game lead. They still finished 3-games over JOM #1 and JOM #4. And they did it with only two bandits making the All-Star wanted posters; I mean honor roll, Gene and, who?... not Tom Vogt? Oh, yeah. Kirkwood Tom is back shootin' and raisin' hell like a cow-poke hittin' town after a long hard cattle drive. Look out for this sidewinder. He'll drop 4-slugs on you faster than it'll take you to ask "who was that masked man?"

Second place JOM #1 spot JOM #5 two-games ahead and knocked them off, 11-8 (11-6). Division leader, Top Player Dustin Dunham fired in three '8' balls as did runner-up Eric Rackley. Fourth place JOM #6 gave JOM #4 three games and came back for an 11-8 (11-5) victory. The second playoff week was closer than the 11-6 score shows. Brian Hedrick's boys took advantage of rolls and once again showed why they will be a force at the big show.

It happens occasionally where three members of one team finish 1-2-3 for Top Player honors. From JOM #1 Dustin Dunham (31-12 .721) held off teammates Eric Rackley (28-13 .683) and Jon Williams (30-14 .682) to by-pass Saturday's All-Star Singles qualifying rounds. Another team member Dennis Gallagher also finished 6th (26-15 .634) on the 15-player listed.

Division # 18 Thursday 15 Weeks

Seems we have two rarities here. And there's a good chance you haven't seen these two things happen from the same division at the same time. Took no research for the first one; a team goes undefeated; sure, that's happened several times, but number two: Two teams hitting over .600. What does that do to your confidence? Hitting .603, ending with a 12-3 team record and coming in second from both sides! That's

what happened to HotShots 94 #2. Kind-a hard to take but when you figure it took a team to go undefeated to beat you out... well, it's still kind-a disheartening. It takes a lot of great playing mixed in with plenty of luck, a few sweet rolls at the right time and down right gutsy performances up and down the lineup. It's all part of the game!

Congratulations to Just One More #2. It's been awhile since we've seen a team go undefeated. With three players coming in 2nd, 3rd and 4th on the All-Star sheet putting up video-game numbers; it's easy to figure how they ran roughshod over the division, 15-0, clobbering other teams to the tune of .614. Mike Heidbreder (36-6 .857), Jim Sander (33-6 .846) and Jim Monahan (25-8 .758) rang up a total of 94-20 for a great .825 W/L percentage. Throw in 21 wins from Steve Deromedi... pal, that's kick-ass shootin'.

So what became of HotShots 94 #2? They did what all good teams do, they regrouped. For openers the first playoff week they edged by Allstars #1, 11-10, with Jeff Routt having his best night of league competition going 4-0. Mike Rose helped with 3-wins of his own. Meanwhile JOM #1 disposed of Rich's Place #1, 11-4.

In a totally team effort, HotShots remained hot shots for the second playoff week. Giving up 3-games to JOM #1, the guys from 94 #2 brought home an 11-9 (11-6) victory with no less than seven team members chipping in with at least one win. Great shooting under pressure, guys.

Top Player Award was taken by HotShots-2 Phil Steimel. Phil's 27-3 .900 was a slight .043 ahead of Mike Heidbreder's 36-6 .857. Good race to the finish line. Phil's .900 was 4th highest of all players.

Division # 19 Thursday 12 Weeks

This little 4-team division was created for the newly established "Call 'Ur Shot", formerly known as "Players Pub". This place brings back a lot of fond memories when then owner Al Pruett basically ran pool from the Overland-Breckenridge area. A lot of great matches were played out of this Woodson Road location in its hay-day, and there's good reason to believe many more will be again by new owners Lorelei O'Rando and Judy Lindblad.

For the first official session Call 'Ur Shot #2 took the first place position. Jeff Ford, Kurt 'Slick' Liliensiek, Steve Mitchell and Dan Nelson made the All-Star sheet and brought home a 10-2 showing. It was 3-games over CuS #1, who got the bye the first playoff week.

CuS #3 got 3-games on the wire from CuS #4 and held on for a 12-8 win. Billy Mayhall won 4 games and Leonard Beyerback had three for CuS #4, but was outgunned. Larry Stafford led CuS #3 with three wins. Playoff week two was a tussle but CuS #1 pulled off an 11-9 victory over #3. Dan Young led the charge with four wins.

Call 'Ur Shot's resident gunslinger Billy 'the Kid' Mayhall led this newly formed division with a whopping .920. Bill's 23-2 .920 was the second highest of all players this season. (Only Jerry Terbrock's .955 from division one was higher.) Jeff Ford's 33-6 .846 ran second to Billy.

Top Players from 5-Player Divisions

Player	Team	Record	Runners-up	Team	Record
Div. #19 Billy Mayhall	Call 'Ur Shot #4	23 2 .920	Jeff Ford	Call 'Ur Shot #2	33 6 .846
Div. #11 Joe Branstetter	Airport Billiards	29 3 .906	Bob Ackley	Charlack Pub	23 7 .767
Div. #18 Phil Steimel	HotShots 94 #2	27 3 .900	Mike Heidbreder	J.O.M. #2	36 6 .857
Div. #16 Chip Schmidt	J.O.M. #4	44 5 .898	Pat Guittar	J.O.M. #3	23 9 .719
Div. #10 Mike Remiger	New Classics #2	45 6 .882	Jim Davis	Clubhouse #1	43 6 .878
Div. #12 Julia Gabriel	Classic's #2	35 5 .875 @	Wayne Turner	Classic's #2	29 6 .829
Div. # 2 Denis Dunbar	Libby's	27 5 .844	Tom Davidson	Phoenix	33 9 .786
			Larry Stuart	JR's Saloon	33 9 .786
Div. # 6 Greg Martin	Libby's #2	27 6 .818 @	Ed Libby	Libby's #2	40 6 .870***
Div. #15 Rick J. Peters	Gas Light Inn	36 8 .818 @	Dan Canaday	Gas Light Inn	28 9 .757
Div. # 5 Ricky Lipe	Shot Heaven	27 6 .818	Ed Libby	Libby's	28 7 .800
Div. # 9 Rich Norris	Pirates Cove	29 7 .806 @	Tony Gregory	Pirates Cove	24 7 .774
Div. # 3 Jody Zeni	Hotshots SC	44 11 .800	Marc Nease	Fandango's	23 11 .676

Div. # 7 Mike Mosquedo	Cotters [b]	35	9	.795	Rick Hess	Foley's #2	19	9	.679
Div. #13 Jackie Austin	TJ's Aliby-Inn	27	8	.771	@ Bob Heideman	TJ's Aliby-Inn	26	8	.765
Div. # 1 Jesse Sherrell	Fandango's #2	26	8	.765	@ Jerry Terbrock	Fandango's #2	42	2	.955***
Div. # 4 Bob Harvey	Phoenix	34	11	.756	Curt Wisely	Wedge	33	11	.750
Div. #14 Leon Young	Fucifino's #1	34	11	.756	@ Billy Wimberly	Fucifino's #1	27	9	.750
Div. # 8 Mike Renick	Phoenix #1	34	13	.723	Jack Mayer	JP's Corner #2	31	12	.721
Div. #17 Dustin Dunham	J.O.M. #1	31	12	.721	@ Eric Rackley	J.O.M. #1	28	13	.683
					@ Jon Williams	J.O.M. #1	30	14	.682

***Div. #1 As an '8' level player - Jerry Terbrock had to hit .970 for Top Player

***Div. #6 As an '8' level player - Easy Ed Libby had to hit .920 for Top Player

@ Players from same team finished 1-2 for Top Player (plus # 17 for 3)

[b] Div. #7 Mike Mosquedo- first time player

[c] Div. #107 Scott Brewer- first time player

[d] Div. #110 Don Comer – first time player

Top Players from 4-Player Happy Hour Divisions

Player	Team	Record	Runners-up	Team	Record
Div. #105 Rick J. Peters	Cocktails #1	26 4 .867	Gary Bayless	Lehmann's #2	28 9 .757
Div. # 107 Joe Branstetter	Kitty's #2	37 6 .860	Scott Brewer	BrewskeeZ	24 8 .750 [c]
Div. #104 Jim Crosby	Fucifino's #4	35 8 .814	Bob Pendergrass	Fucifino's #1	29 11 .725
Div. #101 Joe Curlee	Phoenix #2	26 6 .813	Gene Dix	Phoenix #2	29 8 .784
Div. #106 Dan Tucker	Classic's #3	25 6 .806	Pat Row	Classic's #2	27 7 .794
Div. #108 Dale Fallon	Suwallers #2	29 7 .806	@ James Jensen	Suwallers #2	28 8 .778
Div. #102 Russ Alewel	AMVETS #1	24 7 .774	@ Derrick Pickles	AMVETS #1	26 9 .743
Div. #103 Mac McDonald	Wedge #1	37 11 .771	John Doyle	Pardella Club #2	27 9 .750
Div. #109 Brian Kroeger	J.O.M. #1	26 9 .743	@ Wayne Ferrell	J.O.M. #1	21 11 .656
Div. #110 Don Comer [d]	J.O.M. #2	16 6 .727	Ed Smith	Rich's Place	23 10 .697

Division # 101 Monday 14 Weeks

Five teams from this division played their matches out of The Phoenix. It really isn't surprising that three made the playoffs including the number one team. Phoenix #4 closed it out 11-3, a short one-game lead over Phoenix-3 and HotShots #1. And of the 24 players on the All-Star list only two, John Legens (31-10 .756) and Joey Diaz (26-18 .591), showed up. Huh?

First week's playoff matches went to Phoenix-3 over Phoenix-1; and 21 Rock-2 outshot HotShots-SC-1. The second week had Bill Keith's guys outlasting Dave Collins' gang, 9-5. Charles Campbell led the Rockers with four wins. Four members from 21 Rock-2 made the All-Star sheet. In addition to Bill Keith, Charles Campbell, Dan Lemond and Steve Raymo found spots. Nice comeback in the playoffs.

Top Player trophy once again goes to... may I have a drum roll please... thank you, Joe Curlee. For a guy that complains of aches, pains, poor eyesight, rheumatism, arthritis and a myriad of other discomforts, Joe sure hasn't slowed down his '8' ball makin'. Joe banged out a 26-6 .813 record which earned him another, "what-da-mean drop Joe to a '5' " routine?

By the way, last I heard South County took up a "make Joe a '7' ", petition. Any truth to that? Anyone? Call the Missouri 8 Ball Pool League office 636-940-9091 to submit your request. It'll be taken under advisement. Heh, heh, heh!

Two players from Phoenix #2 finished 2nd and 3rd; Gene Dix (29-8 .784) and Bill Ray (28-9.757).

Division #102 Monday 14 Weeks

From the 4th week to the finish line AMVET #1 was either tied or led the division. Kinda easy to figure when you notice that of the 12 players on the All-Star list five are AMVETS-1's. And the Top Player and

runner-up are teammates from the same place. Russ Alewel (24-7 .774) outlasted Derrick Pickles (26-9 .743) for the Award. Other AMVETS-1 members are Rob Conner (21-12 .636), Shane Launius (19-11 .633) and Jim Kelly (17-11 .607). A couple nice races.

First playoff week results: Sportsmans Bar knocked off Liz's Place, and Filling Station outlasted AMVETS #2. For the second slot, Filling Station pumped up and barely out ran Sportsmans Bar, 9-8.

Division #103 Monday 14 Weeks

Because I get a lot of readers saying they are always in the market for a good story, try this one. There are as many twists and turns as in an episode of CSI: Miami. After 13-weeks of play Wedge-2 and Pardella Club-1 have 10-3 records. Wedge-2 has a games won/loss record of 109-82 .571 to Pardella Club #1's 110-86 .561. Tight race indeed; only a mere .010 diff. One week left to play, right! Wedge #2 is up against their sister team Wedge #1, and Pardella Club #1 is also playing their sister team P.C. #2. Now, Wedge #1 and Pardella Club #2 can't advance. They are stuck. Basically what they will be doing this last week of play is going through the motions. Of course there's an extra 30-dollars to the winner. Both Wedge #2 and Pardella Club-1 need to win and win big to raise their games W/L percent. Wedge-1 gives Wedge-2 a little trouble, not much, but do win four games. That 9-4 score did bring Wedge-2's W/L percent up from .571 to .578.

Now, get this, there's one way and ONLY one way Pardella Club #2 can take first place, they have to take this last match 9-0. Guess what? They did. Who'd a thunk it? I mean, this stuff only happens in fantasy pool. Incredible as it might seem, they pulled off a miracle 9-0 win and took first place by a very stingy margin, .002. As Harry Carey would intone: "Holy Cow!" Pardella Club #1 finished the season 119-86 .580 to Wedge-2's 118-86 .578. A single win was the diff. Had they lost just one game... well...

Congratulations to Pardella Club #1 for doing the "impossible" the last week of the campaign.

See, I told you it would be a great story.

Pardella Club #2 fans are asking: John Doyle, where were you when we needed you?

Another thing or two that came out of those two matches... Mac McDonald plays for Wedge-1, and as mentioned his team wasn't going anywhere. But Mac isn't going to sit out because he had a chance to take Top Player. Mac played and won three games. Wedge-2's Curt Wisely was the leader and naturally he wasn't going to sit out for two reasons; one, and most importantly, to improve his team's record. Secondary would be to maintain first place on the All-Star sheet. Curt fell behind by losing three games. This brings us back to John Doyle. He could have made this last week so interesting. John was the only one of the top three players in single digits on the lost side with nine. Both Wisely and McDonald had 11 and 13 losses respectively.

So we say congratulations to Mac McDonald for hanging in there taking out the Top Player Award, 37-11 .771. Mac edged out John Doyle 27-9 .750. Great race, guys.

And one more honorable mention goes to Pardella Club #1: Of the 16 players on the All-Star sheet, four were theirs; Dave Pope (38-13 .745), Dave Wiederhold (20-9 .690), Mike L. Jones (18-13 .581) and John Pope (19-17 .528). Whew...when it gets down to the nitty-gritty, I want these guys on my side. Good luck in the big tournament. The playoffs went this way: Mary's Blue Ribbon defeated Wedge-1 and Pardella Club-3 knocked out Wedge-2 the first week. The second week Mary's overcame a 3-game head start to Pardella Club-3 and took a 9-7 decision.

Division # 104 Tuesday 14 Weeks

There was only three games difference between first place and last in this 14-week session. And when it got down to the final week's play, games W/L percent meant nothing. The top two teams were tied 9-4 and had to play each other. And that's the way it should be. Let'em go at it. Jay's Fucifino's #3 pulled off a 9-6 upset over Lisa's Fu-#4 for top place honors. Of the 10-players on the All-Star list four were Fucifino's #3's - Jay Carlton (24-11 .686), Victor Day (22-11 .667), Mike Warfel (18-9 .667) and Joe "Cozy" Lombardoizzi (17-13 .567).

For the first week of playoffs Fu-#1, John McCrary's gang, took a 9-5 decision over John Shield's Fu-2 bunch. Meanwhile Lisa Crosby's hit squad, Fu-#4, romped over Kickin' Kenny Martin's Fu #5, 9-2. The second week was close but Lisa's gang again came home a winner for the second slot to the big show. Steve "Sharpshooter" Schultz stroked home four '8' balls and Jim Crosby made three. But it was Wayne Kreder's win that brought down the 9-7 victory. Top Player honors once again go out to Jim Crosby. Gentleman Jim ran off with a 35-8 .814 outlasting runner-up Bullet Bob Pendergrass, 29-11 .725.

Division #105 Tuesday 14 Weeks

Tiger's Inn #2 moved into first place the 9th week and rode out the season for an 11-3 tie with Cocktails #1. The games won-lost percent put Tiger in front 124-75 .623 to Cocktails-1 111-90 .552. And isn't it amazing the only two players to make the All-Star sheet from Tiger's Inn #2 was the father-son act, Harold (25-9 .735) and Jared (20-17 .541) Seider!

Playoffs went this way: Cocktails-1 beat Lehmann's-1, 9-4. Cocktails-2 knocked out Lehmann's-2, 11-4. It was obvious a Cocktails team was going to the show. Number Two took a 9-6 win from Number One. Top Player honors went to Rick J. Peters, 26-4 .867. Rick jumped into first place from 6th place the sixth week and never really was challenged. His .867 was .110 over runner-up Gary Bayless, 28-9 757.

Division #106 Thursday 15 Weeks

If there ever was a case showing the difference of "giving or getting" this is the division. A first place tie with Classic's #3 (giving) and Lehmann's #2 (getting), both at 10-5, went to games W/L percent for the tie breaker. Classic's-3 still managed to come out slightly ahead, 119-92 .564 to Lehmann's-2, 118-102 .536. Three very good reasons Classic's-3 held on were Top Player Dan Tucker (25-6 .806), 3rd place Steve Monko (31-9 .775) and 6th place Wayne Turner (31-12 .721). That's a team trifecta hard to beat.

Conversely, Lehmann's Landing #2 had two players land on the All-Star sheet, and the leader is Carrie Jones. Carrie brought home an even 16-16 .500 record followed by Paul Fitzgerald's 21-22 .488. What? Tyler Jones was outshot by Carrie? Who's giving whom lessons here?

The first week of playoffs had Lehmann's #2 getting 5-games on the wire from Slammy's. They rode it to an 11-2 victory. Huh? That's right! This is the same Slammy's with the murderer's row lineup of Kelly Ambrose, Devin Mayes and Tim Woodrome. Somebody must have brought a voodoo concoction with them. Lehmann's actually outshot Slammy's 6-2 on their way to week two.

Classic's #4 got 1-game from Classic's #1 and walked home, 9-6. For the second playoff week Lehmann's-2 saved some of that potion and literally waltzed to a 9-1 non-thriller over Classic's #4.

As mentioned, Dan "the Man" Tucker out lasted Pat Row for Top Player. Dan's 25-6 .806 was a skinny .012 over Pat's 27-7 .794. Nice race, guys.

Division # 107 Thursday 15 Weeks

Kitty's Korner #2 took off like a heat-seeking missile winning their first 10 matches. From there they kind-a coasted to the finish line by taking three of the final five for a final 13-2 record. That was 2-games ahead of Brewskee's 11-4. And it's a good thing because the Brew Crew led the division with a great .573 games W/L percent. Kitty's was led by captain and Top Player Joe Branstetter (37-6 .860) and his usual gang of roughnecks, Skip Barnum (29-wins) and Chris Deering (20-wins).

For the first playoff week Brewskee knocked off New Classic's #1, 9-7 with Tony Zerilla having a 4-0 night. Our Place defeated Kitty's Korner #1, 9-5 behind Kirk Kozma's 3-0 effort.

For the outcome, Our Place got 3-games on the wire plus a 3-game run from Ron Claggett and rode it out for a 10-7 victory over Brewskee.

As mentioned, Joe Branstetter brought home another Top Player Trophy. Joe's 37-6 .860 was .110 ahead of runner-up Scott Brewer's 24-8 .750. This is Scott's first Missouri 8 Ball season. Nice race, guys.

Division # 108 Thursday 15 Weeks

They're gonna be hollering 'break up Suwallers' if they keep this up. Suwallers #2 (13-2) waltzed home 4-games ahead of Suwallers #1 and Bottle Cap #1, both at 9-6. It was wire to wire for Suwallers #2 and with three of the top four All-Stars on the sheet it's easy to see how they ran away with the division championship. Top Player Dale Fallon (29-7 .806) edged out teammate James Jensen (28-8 .778) and 4th place Kevin Rawson (26-10 .722).

Playoff matches saw Bottle Cap #2 knocking out sister team Bottle Cap #1, 9-6. Over at Suwallers #1, they spot Airport Billiards 2-games on the wire and pulled out a 9-7 win; Randy Turnbough and Mike Kotyk dropping three '8' balls each. The second playoff week Suwallers #1 met Bottle Cap #2. This time Mike Kotyk went 4-0 and teammate Tim Carey added three wins on their way to a 9-6 victory.

Division # 109 Wednesday 16 Weeks

Just One More #3 led this 4-team division in team wins (11), game wins (137), fewest team losses (5), fewest game losses (107) and highest W/L percent .561. Two members, Jason Helmholz with 28-wins and Jeff Davenport with 24-wins helped lead the way. As they go straight to the show, J.O.M. #1 got a bye for the first week of playoffs. J.O.M. #4 (with no players on the All-Star sheet) knocked off J.O.M. #2, 9-5. It was a different story for week two. J.O.M. #1 (with four All-Star players) spot J.O.M. #4 four-games head start and then erected a brick wall. By allowing J.O.M. #4 only two wins, J.O.M. #1 cruised to a 9-6 win. Speaking of the four All-Star players, numbers one & two on the list are teammates. Brian Kroeger (26-9 .743) outlasted Wayne Ferrell (21-11 .656). Also 5th and 6th were John Bissell (26-wins) and Larry Ferrell (24-wins).

Division # 110 Monday 11 Weeks

This little 4-team Monday Happy Hour division was picked up several weeks into the season. After 10-weeks three teams were tied with 6-4 records. Rich's Place occupied the top spot with a hefty .596 games W/L percent. And for whatever reason Rich's Place forfeited the last week to Just One More #3. Meanwhile, J.O.M. #1 knocked off J.O.M. #2, 11-4 to move into first place. With J.O.M. #1 taking the top spot Rich's Place dropped to second and still received a bye the first week of playoffs. When J.O.M. #2 defeated J.O.M. #3 to meet Rich's Place for week two, Rich's Place once again did a no-show. Just One More #2 backed into the second slot for the big show.

The All-Star Top Player Award goes to another first-timer, Don Comer. Don and teammate Jay Hines were neck and neck going into the final week when Don went 3-1 and Jay went 0-2 dropping to third place. Runner-up Ed Smith (Rich's Place) ended the season 23-10 .697, just a little behind Don's 16-6 .727. Nice race, guys.

"Chicks with Sticks"

<u>Division</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>.</u>
Div. # 12	Julia Gabriel	Classic's #2	35 5	.875 *** Top Player
Div. # 17	Julia Gabriel	Just One More	17 9	.654
Div. # 14	LaJuania Henry	Fucifino's #1	26 14	.650
Div. # 12	Mary Stillwell	Classic's #2	13 7	.650
Div. # 10	Caroline 'C.J.' Jones	New Classic's #2	19 12	.613
Div. #108	Donna Zamarripa	Bottle Cap #1	24 16	.600
Div. # 11	Mandi Tebeau	Fucifino's #4	10 7	.588
Div. #105	Rhonda LaPointe	Cocktails #2	21 15	.583
Div. # 11	Tina Foust	Fucifino's #4	18 13	.581
Div. # 15	Jeanine Dunn	Aftershock	19 14	.576
Div. # 15	Tina Wykoff	Pirates Cove	20 15	.571

Div. # 16	Melissa Drew	Just One More	22	18	.550
Div. #106	Mary Stillwell	Classic's	18	15	.545
Div. # 6	Lanny Blackburn	Liz's Place	18	15	.545
Div. # 15	Aleeta Fahrenholz	The Office	17	15	.531
Div. # 19	Jan Clark	Call 'Ur Shot #3	12	11	.522
Div. # 12	Hellen Kinast	McDuff's	20	20	.500
Div. #106	Carrie Jones	Lehmann's #2	16	16	.500

All-Star Singles Results - \$4,725 Payout

Place	Player	Skill	Winnings	Place	Player	Skill	Winnings
1.	John Bissell	'6'	1,025 & Trophy	9-12.	Jim Crosby	'6'	125 ***
2.	Devin Mays	'7'	800 & Trophy	9-12.	Jesse Sherrell	'6'	125 ***
3.	Dave Vaughn	'5'	600 & Trophy	9-12.	Mike Heidbreder	'5'	125
4.	Marc Nease	'4'	450	9-12.	Randy Heisner	'4'	125
5-6.	Dustin Dunham	'7'	325 ***	13-16.	Gene Rader	'6'	75
5-6.	Brendon Sullivan	'4'	325	13-16.	Jay Carlton	'6'	75
7-8.	Jim Stevens	'5'	200	13-16.	Jason Roman	'5'	75
7-8.	Allen Fetsch	'4'	200	13-16.	Chris Deering	'4'	75

*** - Top Players

154 players signed up for the 66th Missouri 8 Ball All-Star Singles event. And the man of the hour is John 'the Missile' Bissell. John came out of the one-loss side from Saturday's qualifying rounds making it to Sunday, and then blew away the field. It really wasn't as easy as it sounds. First John had to beat Top Player Leon Young. From there he defeated Jay Carlton, Al Hale and Jim Stevens to get to the final four on the winner's side.

Coming up to challenge John was Devin Mays. On his way to the final four Devin ran up against some big names. All three opponents were Top Players from their respective divisions, beginning with Billy 'the Kid' Mayhall, Dustin 'double D' Dunham and Jim (you doesn't have to call me Bing) Crosby.

From the lower half of the board Dave Vaughn knocked over to the one-loss side Todd Davis, Jason Roman, Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozzi and Mike Heidbreder.

Brendon Sullivan rounded out the final four by k.o.-ing Dave Probst, Larry Reifsteck and Allen Fetsch. The following matches witnessed John Bissell sending Devin Mays to the one-loss side as Dave Vaughn did to Brendon Sullivan. After Mr. Bissell disposed of Vaughn, John had a little wait on the 'Hill'. From the one-loss side Marc Nease defeated Brendon Sullivan and Devin Mays defeated Dustin Dunham where Sullivan and Dunham tied for 5-6 place taking away \$325 each. Devin came out on top of Marc Nease and Marc took away fourth place money, \$450.

Devin moved up to meet and knocked Dave out. Vaughn finished third place good for \$600. Devin advanced to once again meet John, this time for the championship. Knowing Devin Mays would have to beat him twice to take the trophy John wasn't going to let it get that far. But the match had an interesting finish. When John missed a straight in '9' ball to the corner pocket allowing Devin another chance, Devin's group wasn't what one would relish taking a chance at. On an attempt to play safe and hide Bissell, the cue ball rolled a silly inch too far that gave John a window on his '13' ball. John sliced the '13' into the corner pocket, zeroed in on the '9' he missed before, and pulled back for a slice on the '8' down the cushion into the opposite corner pocket. Game, set and match, Mr. Bissell.

Devin Mays takes away \$800 for the runner-up spot.

We say congratulations to a great guy who did some great shooting. John takes away the first place check for \$1,025 and first place trophy for his first All-Star championship.

Team tournament Results

Team events began 11a.m. Saturday February 23, 2008. Forty-two teams qualified from the 5-player board and twenty from the 4-player Happy Hour divisions. First the 5-player results:

On their way to their first team Championship Tim Mislark and his Rader's raiders would have several close calls. For their first match they drew two-time champions Fandangos. Most thought that Fandango's winning a third consecutive championship is about heartwarming as Bill Gates winning the lottery. Playing even at 26-points – Rader's had a 9-6 lead going into round four. Mike Devers group showed why they were defending champs by taking 4 of the 5 games in round four bringing the contest to a 10-10 situation. The number one pill rolled out for Mike Wills for Fandangos and Tim Mislark for his raiders. At this point both players were 3-1 going into this final game. After a little maneuvering, Tim got to the '8' ball and dropped it for the 11-10 squeaker. It was the first loss in championship play in three seasons for Fandangos. Their defeat opened up the tournament for a new champion.

In almost a carbon copy of the first match, Tim's gang met Tony Napoli's Rader's team. After Mislark's guys jumped off to a 5-0 lead from round one, things were looking better than Britney Spears chances of getting her kids back.

It got better after round two at 7-3. Two more wins in round three the score now stood at 9-6. Then Tony's guys applied the pressure. When Tony's gang took 4 of the 5 games in the 4th round, Tim found his lead disappear faster than Barack Obama's lead over Hillary thanks to pastor Jeremy Wright. It came down to another double-hill situation. The number one pill rolled out for both team captains. And as before both players were 3-1 at this point. Tim outshot Tony for his second 4-1 match and again dodged the silver bullet.

There would be no relaxing for these guys in Sunday's match vs Pirates Cove, a team of seven players all shooting 6-speed. To get here the Pirates defeated another Rader's team and Hotshots NC. After three rounds and down 10-8, Rader's would once again have to regroup. The Cove made it to the Hill first for an 11-9 lead. Rader's was almost toast. Pirates Cove had their finger on the lever pushing it down... but didn't quit get it there. Tim's guys lapsed into a state of emergency. They pulled out of the tailspin when brothers Chip and Joe Schmidt muscled up and brought the match to a double hill situation, 11-11. It was Chip's 4th win. For the third consecutive match Rader's was involved in a double-hill shootout. The final matchup was Elmer Sargent for Rader's and Billy Wimberly for the Pirates. At this point Elmer was on a 6-game losing streak. Billy was 5-1. Where do you think the smart money was? Wrong 8-ball breath! Elmer surprised the skeptics by pulling out the most important game of the day for a tough 12-11 win.

The 4pm match had Tim's team meet and defeat another Rader's gang. Pat Guittar's guys got here by defeating Suwallers, Jack Patrick's and Hotshots. Up to now Tim and the group was shooting .500 with 31 wins and 31 losses. But 26-12 .684 was being shot by only three of the five players. The other two were 5-19 .208 collectively. Major things were about to change in a big way. Mislark's guys outlasted Pat's gang 11-8 as Elmer Sargent won two games and Tom Gordon chipped in with two wins breaking a 7-game losing streak.

For the Championship match the home town boys would take on visitors Call 'Ur Shot, a new team that was literally thrown together on a prayer by Ed Chier. Doing what he could to get five players... the way Ed explained it... one guy was hopeless but gung-ho, one was contemplating suicide, one was living in a cardboard box under a bridge... one was a bail jumper... or looked like a bail jumper... I can't remember... and I forgot the rest. I think Ed Chier was showing his unique and atypical sense of humor and was putting me on. Proof was how the players kept loose as they plowed their way through several tough teams getting to the finals. Their first match was against Fucifinos. Giving them 2-games on the wire 'fino's had a 6-2 lead when Call 'Ur Shot came back with nine wins in a row for the 11-6 victory.

JP's Eureka received 3-games on the wire and went down 11-6. Mike Heidbreder's Rader's group also got 3-games head start and went down 11-7. After that, playing even with Hillsboro Billiards, Call 'Ur Shot fought off Johnny Neels' guys for an 11-7 upset. I say upset because most thought Hillsboro was destined to play in the finals. Someone forget to tell Call 'Ur Shot. Kurt Liliensiek led the attack with four wins with Ed Chier and Jeff Ford kicking in three each.

For the finale it was easy to see that confidence was high on the Rader's team. They took three games in rounds one, two and three for a 9-6 lead. The pills rolled out perfectly for the final round as Joe Schmidt and Tim Mislark rolled over their opponents and walked off with their first Championship Trophy.

And let me add this... it was a pleasure to see a winning team received less than 20-games on the wire from opponents. This is a legitimate team whose players have legitimate skill levels. Tim Mislark and the gang received only three games on the wire. They figured in the 12-11 squeaker over Pirates Cove. On the flip side they gave up two games to another Rader's team and played a uniform total of 26 points each match as they had only five qualified players.

This brings us to a category many overlook; "All Purpose Wins". All purpose wins are those where a player wins either the penultimate game or the double-hill game for the match.

There was a tie between three players with four each. Ironically the three players were from two teams that played only five players throughout the weekend.

The three leaders for this 66th competition are, from Rader's Sports Bar, Tim Mislark and Joe Schmidt. Joe put the team on the hill three times and won a match once. Tim put the team on the hill once and won three matches. The other two were shared by Chip Schmidt (on the hill), and Elmer Sargent winning the match. The third player is Kurt 'Slick' Liliensiek from Call 'Ur Shot. Kurt put his team on the hill once and also won three other matches.

1. \$6,001.00 & Trophy Rader's Sports Bar (St. Peters) Members – Captain Tim Mislark, Joe Schmidt, Chip Schmidt, Elmer Sargent, Tom Gordon and Randy Horst [NE].
2. \$3,400.00 Call 'Ur Shot (Breckenridge) Members – Captain Ed Chier, Jeff Ford, Steve Mitchell, Dan Nelson, Kurt 'Slick' Liliensiek and Chris Zugmaier.
- 3-4. \$1,700.00 Hillsboro Billiards (Hillsboro) Members – Captain Johnny Neels, Brian Daniels, Elliott Kite, John Kite, Dave Braley, Dave Luster and Mike White.
- 3-4. \$1,700.00 Rader's Sports Bar (St. Peters) Members – Captain Pat Guittar, Ross Hammond, Mike Moore, Steve Foppe, Tom Arcobasso, John Hefner 3rd and John Hefner 4th.
- 5-8. \$855.00 Hotshots (South County) Members – Captain Dave Collins, Jim Stevens, John O'Farrell, Duane Coberly, Chris Collins, Doug Forrest, Dan Lemond and Joe Curlee.
- 5-8. \$855.00 Pirates Cove (Florissant) Members – Captain Tony Gregory, Mike Noble, Rich Norris, Billy Wimberly, Waddell Whitehead, Charles Burrage, Jeff Shelton.
- 5-8. \$855.00 Rader's Sports Bar (St. Peters) Members – Captain Mike Heidbreder, Jim Sander, Steve Deromedi, Jim Monahan, Dave Reisinger, Jeff Williams and Matt Wiegert.
- 5-8. \$855.00 JR's Saloon (South County) Members- Captain David West, Tony Blackwood, Craig West, Tim Landwehr, Larry Stuart, Bob Blackwood and Chip Schmitt

Leaders from the 5-player teams for outstanding shooting

Team	W.	L.	PCT.	Captain	Player	W.	L.	Team
Hillsboro Billiards	56	32	.636	Johnny Neels	Johnny Neels	15	2	Hillsboro
Call 'Ur Shot	50	29	.633	Ed Chier	Chip Schmidt	15	3	Rader's
Rader's Sports Bar	37	31	.544	Pat Guittar	Tim Mislark	15	7	Rader's
Rader's Sports Bar	53	43	.552	Tim Mislark	Kurt Liliensiek	14	2	Call 'Ur Shot
					Brian Daniels	13	4	Hillsboro
					E Chier	12	3	Call 'Ur Shot
					Elliot Kite	12	6	Hillsboro
					Joe Schmidt	12	8	Rader's

Players with 4 Wins in a Single Match

Leading off with **Tim Mislark** from Rader's Sports Bar; Tim had three matches where he won 4-games. Tim was 4-1 vs Fandangos, 4-1 vs Rader's and 4-0 against Call 'Ur Shot.

Others are: **Chip Schmidt** (Rader's), **Kurt Liliensiek** (Call 'Ur Shot), **Johnny Neels & Brian Daniels** (Hillsboro Billiards), **Charles Burrage** (Pirates Cove), **Darryl Anderson & Dave Lehner** (Hotshots NC), **Steve Galloway** (Jack Patrick's), **Tim Powers** (JP's Corner - Gravois), **Dave Delbrugger** (J.P.s - Eureka) and **Rob Rooney** (Phoenix).

Consecutive Winning Streaks

Winning Streaks are rare in these competitions because teams that make it past the first and second rounds usually are balanced enough to where players of equal ability bump heads. And since it is only for one game at a time and not a race it's who gets the first opportunity that wins the game. There are many with 4, 5 and 6 straight wins, but this weekend only four stood out with 9 wins or more.

1) Kurt 'Slick' Liliensiek (Call 'Ur Shot) won 14 in a row. Kurt lost his first game and lost his last game but sandwiched in between were 14 consecutive wins. Four were all purpose wins.

2) Chip Schmidt (Rader's Sports Bar). Until Chip started his run he had a 5-3 record. Then turned on and won his last 10 games for a final total of 15-3. Four were all purpose wins.

3-4) Johnny Neels & Brian Daniels (Hillsboro Billiards) each had a 9-game run. Both John and Brian had two all purpose wins each.

20 teams qualified for the Happy Hour tournament

1. \$2,609.00 - Rader's Sports Bar (St. Peters) Members - Captain Gene Rader, Jason Roman, Richie & Trophy Bryan, Walter Crane Jr. Jason Helmholz, Jeff Davenport and Jason Erikson.

2. \$1,300.00 - Fucifino's (Berkeley) Members - Captain Lisa Crosby, Jim Crosby, Steve Schultz, Wayne Kreder and John Belcher.

3-4. \$600.00 - AMVETS (St. Louis) Members - Captain Rob Conner, Jim Kelly, Shane Launius, Marty Cooley, Derrick Pickles and Russ Alewel.

3-4. \$600.00 - Phoenix (South County) Members - Captain Sam Joseph, Jim Kiwala, John Legens, James Brown and Joey Diaz.

Some say it was (almost) justifiable that Gene Rader's team won the Happy Hour 4-Player tournament. Why? Read on. They opened up by giving 21 Rock 2-games on the wire and came back for a 9-7 win. They followed that up by giving Lehmann's Landing 1-game then ran over them 9-2.

Giving 5-games head start to Adam Argo's guys, also from Rader's Sports Bar, created a big hill to climb. Down 10-7 after three rounds, Gene's gang rallied for all four games in round four for a great come-from-

behind 11-10 victory. Jeff Davenport won his 4th game for the match win. And giving AMVETS 1-game, Rader's beat up on them 9-4.

The only match where they got a chance to play even was the championship match against Fucifino's. But they couldn't relax their efforts now. Rader's raiders came out firing and took a 9-5 match for their first championship trophy. Big ups, guys! I would say they earned every right to be the champs.

As you can see Gene and the boys fired at a .712 won/loss percentage. Now add on the 9 games they had to give up. That would chance their playing record to 47-28. Now their W/L % is .627 which is still far ahead of 2nd place Fucifino's.

Leaders from the 4-player teams for outstanding shooting

Team	W.	L.	PCT.	Captain	Player	W.	L.	Team
Rader's Sports Bar	47	19	.712	Gene Rader	Jeff Davenport	12	4	Rader's
Fucifino's	32	23	.582	Lisa Crosby	Jason Roman	11	2	Rader's
The Phoenix #2	20	18	.526	John Legens	Jim Crosby	11	3	Fucifino's
AMVETS	24	31	.436	Rob Conner	Richie Bryan	9	5	Rader's
					Derrick Pickles	8	6	AMVETS
					Lisa Crosby	8	7	Fucifino's

Players with 4 wins in a single match: **Jim Crosby** (Fucifino's) leads the Happy Hour 4-player teams. Jim had two matches where he won 4 games which led to Jim being the only player to have a 9-game winning streak. No other player had more than six.

Others with 4-wins in a single match are **Jeff Davenport** (Rader's Sports Bar) and **Derrick Pickles** (AMVETS) with one each.

Odds and Ends:

Week-9 Jennings Station's **Willie White** losses 10th game to Cactus Inn's **Bob 'Nichols'**, making it a double hill situation. Willie draws the #1 pill for the wrap up, and his opponent is... **Bob 'Nickles'**. Yeah, there are two on this team, but spelled different. Willie won this one.

Week-13 Talk about guts and sheer determination: **Ten Mile House** showed up to play a match against **Rec Room** with only three players. And almost pulled off what most deem as the impossible task; and that is to win a 5-player match with only three players. Winning with four players has been done numerous times, but to date no team has been successful with only three players. Ten Mile House came as close as possible, losing 11-10.

Rec Room won only three games. As forfeit wins and losses aren't figured in neither team nor players averages, the 8-forfeited games they received only count as for as the final total. Therefore, Rec Room's win goes into the books as an 11-10 win, but the official score is 3-10.

Ironically, this same night **Jack Patrick's** was at **Sideline** for a match. The Sideliner's managed to have only three players and tried their best against the much stronger visitors. Jack P's gave up four-games on the wire. The Sideliner's didn't win an official game. Jack P's won six and received five forfeit wins. The final score was 11-4 (11-0), officially in the books at 6-4.

Week-15 **Marins** ended the season with a bang. They finished dead last 2-13 in the 8-team division, but no last place team ever went out in style like Marins did. Sure they got 5-games on the wire, but still out-shot Libby's #1, 7-1 for a 12-1 slaughter. They were up 10-0 before **Ed Libby** stopped the bleeding. It was team Libby's only win. Hey, **Tony Chagolla**, where was all this power in the beginning?

Jamie House, 21 Rock #2, won 5-games in an 11-10 win over JP's Corner #1. Ironically **Sharon Luitjens** was 4-0 in a losing cause for her team.

Undercover Agent **Calvin Niehaus** for New Classic's #2 was the X-factor this playoff season. He was a little short of making the All-Star sheet but probably didn't mind. He more than made up for it the two weeks of playoffs that got his team to the championship tournament. Calvin went 4-0 in the 11-6 win over Jennings Station the first week then, nailed another four-bagger in the 12-11 come-from-behind squeaker the following week against Clubhouse-1. Like the Calvary, Cunning Calvin was there in the nick of time.

Speaking of X-factors, here's one: In the final match for the 5-Player Team Championships **Tom Gordon** slammed in two '8' balls in the 11-6 victory. Tom's overall 5-13 weekend record is less than spectacular, but for two very important matches he was "the Man". There's no truth to the rumor that Tom Terrific is holding out for a new two-year extension on his contract.

Terri Bartlett-Hopfer may never become a household name, but chances are Gary Kuhn won't be forgetting her any time soon. Going into the final round of the Suwallers-Charlack Pub playoff match January 8th, Suwaller's captain Mike Waller thought, "Awe, what the heck, let's put some pressure on Terri; she hasn't played yet; we'll put her in." And wouldn't you know it, Terri's spot called for playing the double-hill game. If that wasn't pressure enough for her first playoff match, it was against the Pub's hottest shooter, Gary Kuhn, who already had three wins under his belt. So with the score 10-10, and this match and the entire season riding on Terri's pretty shoulders, she carried her team to the next level, the team championships. What a secret weapon!

And while we're at it will someone please explain to me again how **Classic's #2** lost to **Tiger's Inn** in playoffs? I know Tiger's got 7-games on the wire. I also know that throughout the entire session, week after week, Classic's was giving opponents 5, 6, 7, 10-games on the wire and flicked them off like little fleas on a big dog. This is the word I got from an inside source: "They changed their M.O." (That's modus operandi to those who don't watch cop shows). It's as simple as that. Every week Classics would give up a ton of games. That didn't bother them; they took it as it came. They'd down a few drinks, relax and play pool. Everyone was loose. But then the playoffs came, and they made a change; they decided to get serious. Why? Everything was going so smooth the other way. You don't change horses when you're riding a good race. By doing so, they actually put pressure on themselves.

So, the moral of this story is... you don't change a successful game plan. Down a few brews, get blurry-eyed and when you begin to see two '8' balls, shoot between them. One is bound to go... somewhere!

Joe Branstetter has become [as far as we can remember] the only player to win Top Player honors from both the 4-Player Happy Hour and 5-Player divisions in the same session. Joe's Happy Hour Division #107 team plays Thursdays out of Kittye's Korner. He went 37-6 .860. The 5-Player Division #11 is Tuesdays from Airport Billiards and was a whopping 29-3 .906. Total: 66-9 .880. Great shooting, Joe!

When **Robert Zamarripa** joins mom and dad, **Ricky and Donna**, next session, they will become the second "three generation" family to be playing Missouri 8 Ball Pool. Grandfather **Bill Sneed**, mom & dad **Donna & Ricky** all play out of **Bottle Cap** now. The other is the Fallon Family: In addition to parents **Jim and Vera**, are sons and grandson **Dale, Scott and Brent Fallon**, playing out of Houdini's.

By the Numbers: All are new records

"11" – the total number of divisions where Top Player and runner-up player are teammates.

"8" – the number of 5-player divisions where Top Player and runner-up player are teammates.

"3" – the number of 4-player Happy Hour divisions where Top Player and runner-up are teammates.

This just in from **New Classic's** from our roving reporter **Dawn Fiordimendo**: News Flash; we have it from a very reliable source that "**Becky Hart** drank a beer." Film at eleven...

Someone asked the burning question: "Is there a new era in Missouri 8 Ball Pool?" What they are referring to is this: Five teams from **Rader's Sports Bar** qualified for the 5-Player tournament and four teams qualified for the 4-Player board. Considering somewhere throughout the event some of them would meet and be eliminated by a sister team. There would still be plenty Rader teams at the end. Even though, it was still possible for more than one or two to cash. And that's what happened. At the conclusion we find that three of the five Rader teams from the 5-Player board cashed including the winning team, and one team from the 4-Player board. They also were the Champion.

Could it be that the new tables Gene Rader brought into his establishment afforded a slight edge?

"No," said a visiting team member. "They gain a *greater* advantage." That seemed to be the consensus of many players. However, everyone agreed that these tables played better, the bumpers banked more equal, the cloth freer of rips and tears, played smoother, was more level, ran straighter and anything else associated with the playing of a pool table.

"It was a pleasure playing on these tables," said more than one visiting player. "They ran true and they all played the same." That, too, was the consensus of opinion.

Members of one Fucifino team wanted to leave you with this:

When Mike Warfel was asked about mushrooms he answered, "A good place to keep your mush."

About the term fiddlesticks, St. Louie Howard Lentz said, "What you say when your fiddle gets stuck."

When Joe 'Cozy' Lombardozzi was asked about his career as a poker player he responded, "I lose way less money when I get bad cards."

I.Q. Jones remembers aftermath, "English on Tuesdays and World History on Fridays."

And finally this story about two strangers at a resort

A fella went to a resort... was kinda lonely... was there all by himself... and he saw another fella around there about his age and decided he'd start up a conversation. He said... how do you do, my name is Mr. Smith and I'm here at the resort and I see you aren't doing anything. Would you like to go for a walk?

No, the other fella said, I went for a walk once and I didn't like it.

The other fella said... it's kinda quiet around here... would you like to play a little backgammon?

No, the other guy said, I played backgammon once and I didn't like it.

Well, you want to go over and play some gin rummy?

No, I played gin rummy once and I didn't like that.

They got a billiard room, you wanna go play billiards?

No, I played billiards once, he said, and I didn't like that either.

You want to go swimming?

No, I went swimming once and I didn't like that.

Well, is there anything you like to do?

No, he says, not really. As a matter of fact it's almost lunch time and after lunch my son is coming out to visit me.

Oh, he said, your son... I'll bet it's your only son!

That's about it for now. Hope to see all at the next showdown. From everyone at the Mo-8-ball office... keep on strokin'.

Rusty Brandmeyer – Missouri 8 Ball Pool League Operator

Dusty Brandmeyer – Mo-8-ball Magic Man

Roger Pheasant – On line and Internet Specialist

Jay L. Carlton – Assistant to the wheels