

# SHARKY'S BREAKING NEWS

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Where the Shooters play in Sedalia

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## 2009 Missouri State 10 Point Handicap 8 Ball Team Championships

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Teams from Illinois, Kansas, and Missouri converged in Sedalia, MO, this past weekend at Sharky's Billiards to determine the 2009 Missouri State 10 Point Handicap Championship Team. This tournament is fast becoming one of the favorites to compete in across the Midwest. Teams from all leagues are eligible, including local city leagues, as long as their handicap can be converted to a 10 point equivalent. This year, for the first time, a Pool's Amateur Tour, TAP, team participated with the American Cue Sports, ACS, and Billiards Congress of America, BCA, teams and they came prepared. The Sedalia Sharks were knocked into the B bracket after their first match,

losing to Columbia, Missouri's Mid-MO TAP team, No Excuses. No Excuses then defeated the Kansas City BCA Stokers, shooting for Neighbors. The No Excuses' run in the A bracket was brought to a halt in their third match against the Tonganoxie, Kansas BCA team, Tuna Helper. That win left Tuna Helper sitting on the hill waiting for the B bracket to battle it out to determine who they would play for first and moved No Excuses to the B bracket. In the B bracket, the Chenoa, Illinois ACS team, Finish Line, had originally been defeated by the Tuna Helpers. Finish Line fought back to defeat the Sedalia ACS Working Stiffs  
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1<sup>st</sup> Place L to R: Josh Blaylock, Jeff Paxton, Steve Allee, Brad Blankenship, and John Blaylock, all of Sedalia, MO. Not pictured: Lee Baldwin, Sedalia, MO.

## 10pt cont...

and moved on to also defeat the Kansas City Stokers. Meanwhile, the Sedalia Sharks beat their co-team, Sedalia ACS Lady & Crew, to move on to defeat BCA Neighbors Two. It was then time for the Chenoa Finish Line to face off against the Sedalia Sharks, a match they had both been looking forward to,

as members of both teams take turns traveling to each other's tournaments to compete. Because they do have so much fun playing each other, the teams agreed to go head to head and ignore handicaps. The Sharks won the first two rounds, but Finish Line wasn't ready to lay down their sticks. They battled back and took the third round with a decisive 41-34



2<sup>nd</sup> Place L to R: Steven Reese, Brian Iron Whiteman, Bill Boles, Norman Jepson, and Vernon Dempsey, all of Tonganoxie, KS, except Boles of Sedalia, MO.

score. Sharks won the next round, 40-35 and Finish Line won the fifth round 37-35. The first two rounds taken by the Sharks, though, had tipped the match their way. Finish Line finished fourth and the Sharks moved on to play No Excuses. Sharks gave up 25 points in handicap before their match with No Excuses even started. They came out blazing, taking the first round 50-22. No Excuses seemed to be caught off guard by the Sharks' determination, since they had already beat the Sharks once in the A bracket, but they quickly recovered and took the second round 46-32. From there on it was a coin toss who would win. The third round went to the Sharks 40-39 and the fourth to No Excuses 46-33. The Sharks didn't hesitate at this point. They took the first three games in the fifth round and closed it out with a score of 42-31, handing No Excuses third place. The Sharks would now have to defeat Tuna Helper twice in a row to win first. And, if the Sharks thought they had their work cut out for them giving up 25 points in their previous match

they were shaking their heads when they saw the 8.95 points per round they were giving up going against Tuna Helper in the match for first place. The Sharks didn't let any grass grow under their feet, though, and they came out shooting taking the first round 45-44. Tuna Helper took the second round 46-43 in spite of Sharks' team member, Josh Blaylock's outstanding jump shot. Blaylock had to jump over the opponent's ball to cut the eight ball into the corner pocket for the win and the Tournament's Spectacular Shot Award. Sharks took the third and fourth round and the total score for the match win. Tuna Helper took the fifth round. This put both teams back on level for the final match. The winner would take the tournament championship. As handicaps are figured after every match in this tournament, this meant new handicaps for both teams. Now the Sharks were giving Tuna Helper 9.22 points per round for a total of 46.10 handicap points, and you could hear the Sharks groaning out loud while Tuna Helper just grinned.

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Once again the Sharks came out strong, taking the first round 56-34. Tuna Helper let the Sharks know they hadn't traveled from Tonganoxie to play nice, though, and they took the second and third rounds 49-35 and 45-33. The Sharks squeaked out a win in the fourth round 43-39. With the score tied 167-167, the fifth round would be the deciding factor. Sharks won that round 45-39 to win first place. Tuna Helper took second. Sharky's Billiards will host the Armed Forces Day 8 Ball Tournament, May 16<sup>th</sup>, in honor of all veterans.



3<sup>rd</sup> Place L to R: Nathan Cain, Rocky Myers, Robby Kirkpatrick, Shannon Sexton, Darren Darby, and Jerry O'Laughlin, all of Columbia, MO.



4<sup>th</sup> Place L to R: Buddy Long, Albert Torrez, Chris Wilder, Eric Naretto, and Rob Shepherd, all of Chenoa, IL.



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