

Columbia is also popular for the MISSOURI TIGERS, even though the Tigers Football game was out of town that week-end; they still had great entertainment while watching their favorite teams on the BIG SCREEN. Starting on Saturday, Mizzou football, followed up by baseball with St. Louis Cardinals, then on Sunday the Kansas City Chiefs, and NASCAR held in Kansas City, with the points leader changing hands to a driver from Columbia, Carl Edwards.

Yes none of these sports was played in town on this particular week-end, but SHUFFLEBOARD, was the big home entertainment.

Columbia Elks Lodge, are truly great host. With a menu to select from their great kitchen, but on Thursday everyone in this Lodge must have carried in a dish or 2, there was a large variety of food, and desserts. They also had a lot of different sponsors to help support this big event, with \$500.00 added moneys. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Ben, an intern with a local paper, of course attending Missouri State, had pencil and paper in hand to get knowledge of this game, and what it is all about. Interviewing several of the players, taking in each game..(I think by next year, he will be playing) I saw him setting on the edge of his chair, really getting involved in the game. If this was for a grade, I will guess he got an A, because he was very impressed how the game and how each player strategically put their game in motion for a win.

On Thursday evening, there was an ABC draw tournament, which included 23 teams.

Friday was the main event, Singles with 3 different divisions. A total of 58 players battling their division, to be a STATE CHAMPION.

In division 1 there were 15 players,

Division 2 had 16 players,

Division 3 had 27.

Saturday was a Bring partner also with 3 divisions, with a total of 76 players

Division 1, had 10 teams,

Division 2 had 11 teams,

Division 3, 17 teams.

The overwhelming attendance was great. There were a total of 84 registered players. People traveling from all over the state.

Columbia area had 21 players (most of which was 1st time tournament players)

Houston area had 17 + 1 Melissa Dunn helping run the brackets, thanks a lot Melissa you done an outstanding job

Kansas City area had 16 players

Stockton area had 13 players

St. Louis had 10 players

Springfield area had 4 players

Potosi had 1

LaGrange had 2

This tournament was played on Hudson Boards, built by Danny Sapp of Columbia, Missouri.

This was the first games ever played on them. There were a lot of 1st tournament players as well. Apparently, each town, is helping to promote the game of shuffleboard, this is what it will take to keep this game alive, and growing. After watching some of the newer players getting so involved in this sport, maybe they will start promoting too. Last year, wasn't sure if there would be enough interest to even have a DIVISION 3 this year. Well somebody did a lot of work, Thank you who ever you are. There is a place for everyone in this game.

Woodie Cockrum, Missouri's 1st Hall of Famer recruited 20 Division 3 players from Columbia to play in the ABC, which all being a little nervous, enjoyed so much decided to Challenge there Division throughout the rest of the week-end. Good Job Woody.

From the President of the MSPA Mark Gray

I would like to add that it takes all of Missouri to make this tournament a success. It takes tournaments like this one to get the word out and next years will be larger. Also I would really like to thank everyone who helped make this tournament a success a special, THANKS to Melissa Dunn for running the brackets" all three of them", Charlie Riley for early registrations, and Keitha Ellison for keeping the money and registrations going. Congrats to all you winners, and look forward to seeing all of you next year.