

Girls Rule!

by Cynthia Chappell



It was Tuesday, December 13, 2011. About 35-40 [TAP Las Vegas](#) 9-ball players met at the Cheyenne Saloon to collect their trophies and cash, to share some food and play pool, of course. Twenty-six of these players competed in the open 9-ball tournament. Of the 26 players, there were just 8 women competing. That's just about 30% of the field, which is pretty typical. In a sport dominated by men, the results were anything *but* typical.

As the tournament progressed and we entered the money rounds, still competing were Debbie Evans, Donna Schwitters and Dawn Holland-Williams! Debbie ended her reign in 7th/8th place. Julie Cannon just barely missed the money round.

Just before the hot seat round, Donna and Dawn joked about how if they both won, they would be competing against one another! Well, they did it and we found Donna Schwitters and Dawn Holland-Williams competing for the hot seat!

They were so excited and surprised, each wanting the final victory. The match was tough between these two ladies. In the end, it was Dawn who made it to the hot seat and Donna moved over to the "1 loss side" to await her competition, her chance at victory and a second chance to compete against Dawn.

As Donna waited for her opponent, the battle for 3rd place between Ray Mattison, Jr. and John Walker began. John wasn't missing and won rack after rack. Ray played well and won a couple of racks, but it was John who would press on to compete for 2nd place against Donna.

The ladies could taste the victory and weren't about to stop now! The match between Donna and John began. Donna made a valiant effort, but the late night was just a bit much. John was still on fire and he made some amazing shots to win the match. Still proud of what she accomplished, Donna danced away with 3rd place.

Dawn was so proud to be where she was at in this tournament. There was no force that could convince her to do anything but compete in the final match! There was no giving up and splitting the cash. I can't say I blame her and I have to say, the right choice was made. She eagerly stepped up to the table and against all odds, beat John Walker! She was amazing!

In all, aside from the session winnings, \$360 was awarded to these awesome TAP Las Vegas pool players:

- **Dawn Holland-Williams** - 1st place
- John Walker – 2nd place
- **Donna Schwitters** - 3rd place
- Ray Mattison, Jr. - 4th place
- Craig Shaver/Brad Steinbach – 5th / 6th place
- David Button/**Debbie Evans** – 7th / 8th place

So the next time you think you can't beat the boys, think again and be *awesome*!