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Buck Dopp photo/For the News-Herald

'Balls in my Hand' the billiards team of Dayna Street, Deb Van Dyk, Lisa Pierucci, Vicky Hadaway and Kim Roe pose with their trophy.

HAVING A BALL

Havasu women take 2nd place at national billiards tournament

By **BUCK DOPP**
FOR THE TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Lake Havasu City's women's pool team, "Balls in My Hand," placed second in the American Cue Sports (ACS) national 8-ball tournament in Las Vegas on May 19. Dayna Street, Lisa Pierucci, Deb Van Dyk, Kim Roe and Vicky Hadaway won five matches in a row on the way to the finals,

before losing two matches to a team they had beaten earlier.

According to Sheri Lawrence, the ACS pool league's co-commissioner, the five ladies achieved something no Lake Havasu team, male or female, had ever accomplished—second place in a national pool tournament.

Team captain Lisa Pierucci recruited the team from the qualified ACS shooters in Havasu to take on some of the best amateur pool players in the country.

"Every win was a highlight," Pierucci said. "We enjoyed the camaraderie and made a lot of new friends." She declined

to share individual statistics because win or lose, "we did it as a team." However, she did reveal that Dayna Street had the highest winning percentage.

For Dayna Street the win/loss record didn't matter either. "I really enjoyed all the teams we played," she said. "Everyone was there to have fun. We all had a good time." Since they kept winning, most of their matches were late afternoons and evenings, which Street felt gave them the advantage of playing at times they were accustomed to playing.

Fifth team member Vicky Hadaway said the team, "relaxed and shot well." The

overall strategy centered around having fun, taking their time shooting and playing defense by using safety shots.

When she moved to Havasu a few years ago, Deb Van Dyk made new friends fast by playing in the pool league. She loves the people and shooting pool.

For Kim Roe, whose husband Jeff also plays, pool has been a great way to enjoy competition after she could no longer compete in volleyball and softball. Kim and Jeff have also competed in Las Vegas as a Scotch Doubles team.

The "Balls in My Hand" team achieved their goal in Las Vegas—they had fun.