

## MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR

### SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2001

#### YEAR #1

The justification of any sports (whether auto racing or tennis) must initially establish a system to rank/rate their competitors based on individual performances. For decades, the handball establishment has renege its responsibilities in creating a ranking system that promote the sport and add legitimacy to tournament draws. The purpose of the "Points Race 2001" is not to glorify any individual but instead, reward those competitors who strive for excellence and in many regards have dedicated their entire lives to playing the "perfect game", handball. Although this system is in its infancy, it is a beginning and worthwhile endeavor.

#### 2001 TOURNAMENTS

##### NON-MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- PHA Coney Island Little Ball June 3, 2001 - PHA 01
- Pedro Garcia Classic July 22, 2001 - PGC 01

##### MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- ICHA Mayor's Cup July 15, 2001 - MC 01
- USHA Nationals August 2-5, 2001 - USHAN 01

#### 2001 POINTS SYSTEM

##### ➤ **POINTS - ACHIEVEMENT**

##### NON-MAJOR TOURNAMENT POINTS

- Quarterfinalist - 10 points
- Semifinalist - 20 points
- Finalist - 30 points
- Champion - 40 points

##### MAJOR TOURNAMENT POINTS

- Quarterfinalist - 15 points
- Semifinalist - 30 points
- Finalist - 45 points
- Champion - 60 points

#### 2001 TOURNAMENT SUMMARY – MEN'S 1-WALL PRO SINGLES (SMALL-BALL)

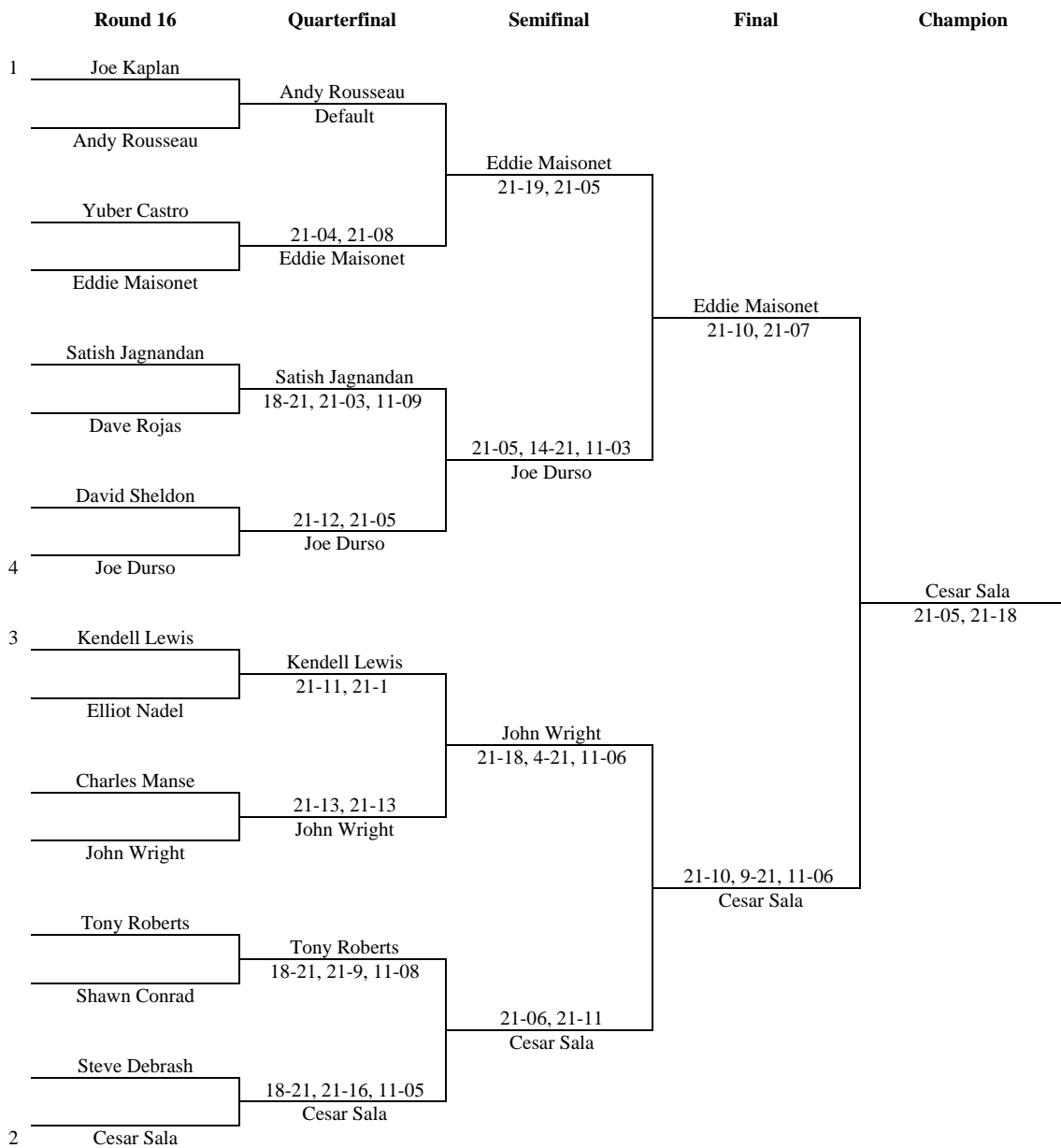
- Pro Stop #1 PHA Coney Island June 3, 2001 Kaplan defeats Apuzzi (02-15, 15-11, 15-02)
- Pro Stop #2 ICHA Mayor's Cup July 15, 2001 Wright defeats Kaplan (15-09, 15-11)
- Pro Stop #3 Pedro Garcia Classic July 22, 2001 Jagnandan defeats Lewis (25-18)
- Pro Stop #4 USHA 1-Wall Nationals August 2-5, 2001 Sala defeats Maisonet (21-05, 21-18)

**MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR**  
**SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2001**

**PRO STOP #4**  
**AUGUST 2-5, 2001 - USHA ONE-WALL NATIONALS (MAJOR)**  
**(CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN)**

**TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET**

*\*\*Rankings were based on the USHA One-Wall Ranking System\*\**



## MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR

### SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2001

#### PRO STOP #4

AUGUST 2-5, 2001 - USHA ONE-WALL NATIONALS (MAJOR)

(CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN)

#### TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

##### Sala defeats Maisonet 21-05, 21-18 to Captures his first USHA Open Singles Title

Cesar Sala defeated Eddie Maisonet to seize the National One-Wall title. Sala, the reigning World One-Wall Champion, was clearly on his game and made a convincing case as to why he should be considered small ball's top one-wall player.

Eddie Maisonet, a three time former National Champion himself, is known for his offensive skills. Cesar played a smart first game intentionally keeping the pace slow to control the tempo and frustrate Eddie. When Eddie finally got the offensive opportunity he couldn't convert. However, the 2nd game was more of a challenge. Eddie stayed in the game forcing Cesar to go to "Plan B", serving low, looking for offensive opportunities and increasing the game's pace. Eddie still played tough, fighting back to within a point, before Cesar made a series of excellent shots to take the win and dash Eddie's hopes for another National Championship.

While the finals went without incident, Cesar's semi final victory over John "Rookie" Wright, the winner of this year's Mayor's Cup was marred by several controversial calls.

Up until the end, it was a great match. Rookie was just awful the first game, gaining several points at the end to make it appear closer than it was at 21-10 Rookie's hand was quite swollen perhaps due to his inexperience in playing a long small ball tournament, where the big blue style of smacking the ball, would take its toll. However, by the second game, Rookie seemed to have adapted to the pain and turned the momentum around to crush Cesar 21 to 9. The tie breaker was a good one when Rookie, down 8-6, lost a contested point and claimed he had been screened. While the crowd agreed, referee Pedro Garcia did not. Rookie, used to more flexibility in arguing calls was not clear that once the ref called the score, play was officially resumed. Still arguing about Cesar gaining the 9th, he failed to turn around for the serve and was then down 10-6. Now in a state of disbelief, Rookie was unable to contain himself, and the scenario was repeated for the final point.

Rookie lost, the crowd was stunned and the game was over. Pedro took heat for the calls and more appropriately for not clearly warning Rookie that play would resume. Some questioned Cesar for making the serves. While you can't beat the script, it should be noted that Cesar did offer to replay the last two points, but was rebuffed by Rookie who said "It's done." Whether it was out of anger and frustration or just choosing to go out in flames in a dramatic ending, Rookie had the opportunity for the replay and chose not to use it.

The Rookie/Cesar theatre was only part of the strange happenings. Robert Sostre last year's National Champ was unable to compete because of a stomach ailment that required medical attention. And in perhaps the most bizarre happenstance, Joe Kaplan, the 1999 National champ was disqualified from his opening match because he arrived too late. Joe's excuse? He was bringing his wife and new baby home from the hospital! Despite his best efforts, he arrived 10 minutes after his match had been defaulted. While the officials seemed to be attempting to be fair, the crowd was not pleased with the result.

With neither the 1999 nor the 2000 National Champ making a tournament appearance the field was a bit weaker than it should have been. Cesar had at least one less major opponent than he would have expected to go through on route to the title.