

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 2002" 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 2001 - PHA 01
- Pedro Garcia Classic July 2001 - PGC 01

MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- *Mayor's Cup June 2001* - *MC 01*
- *USHA Nationals August 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 June3, 2001 Kaplan defeats Apuzzi (02-15, 15-11, 15-02)
- Pro Stop #2 Mayor's Cup (Major) 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 Nationals (Major) August 2-5, 2001 Sala defeats Maisonet (21-05, 21-18)

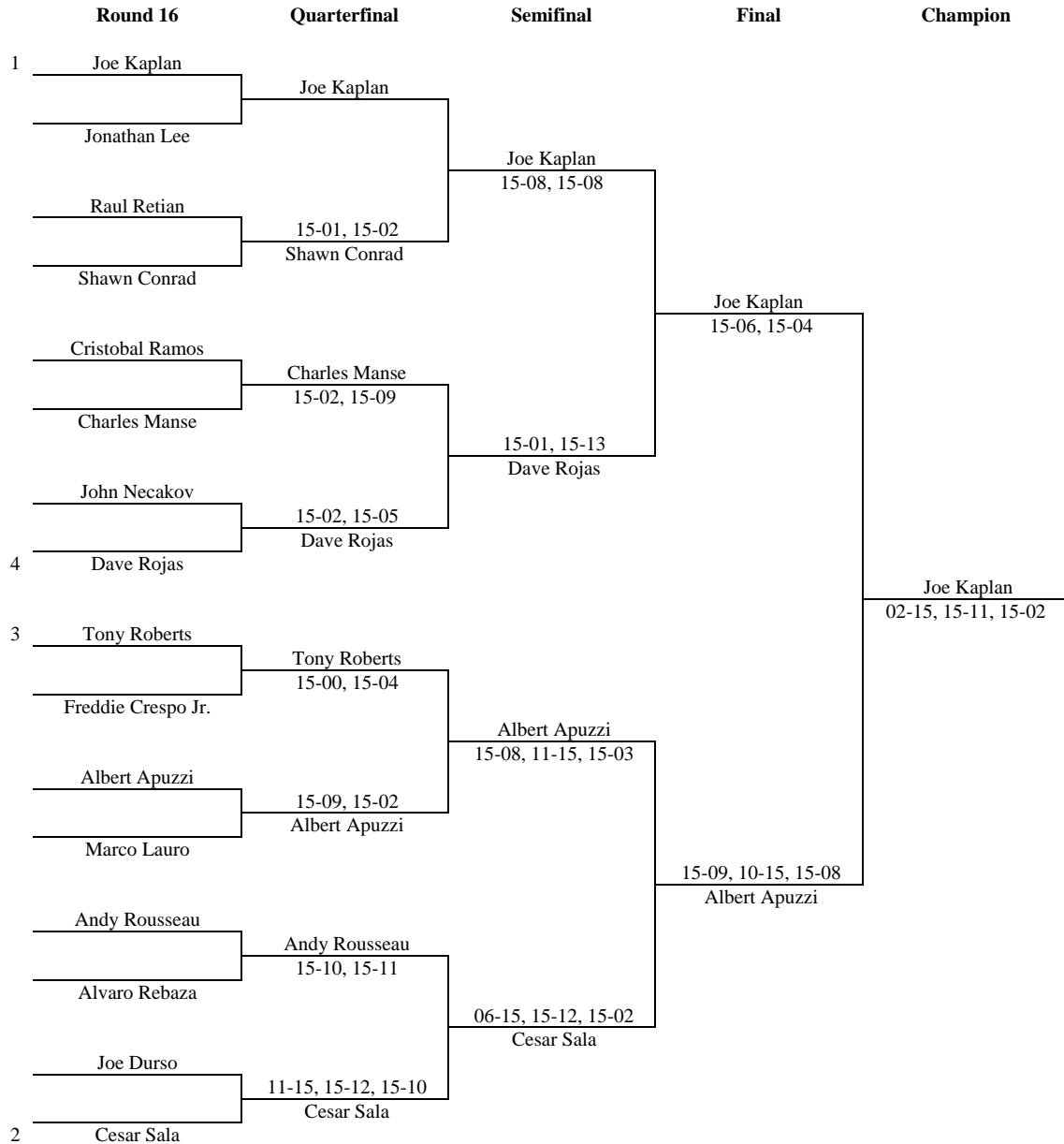
MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR
SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2001

PRO STOP #1

JUNE 3, 2001 – PRO HANDBALL ASSOCIATION CONEY ISLAND INVITATIONAL

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the USHA One-Wall Ranking System



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SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2001

PRO STOP #1

JUNE 3, 2001 – PRO HANDBALL ASSOCIATION CONEY ISLAND INVITATIONAL

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

Kaplan takes PHA Singles

Joe Kaplan edged Albert Apuzzi in a three-game final to capture the championship of the PHA Coney Island Little Ball Singles on June 3. The veteran Apuzzi survived tiebreakers against Tony Roberts and Cesar Sala to reach the final, while Kaplan advanced with wins over Conrad and Rojas. All games were played to 15 points.

This event was organized by the Pro Handball Association (PHA) a newly formed organization.

Pros

Round of 16:

Cesar Sala	d.	Joe Durso	(11), 12, 10;
Andy Rousseau	d.	Alvaro Rebaza	10, 11;
Albert Apuzzi	d.	Marco Lauro	9, 2;
Dave Rojas	d.	John Necakov	2, 5;
Charlie Manse	d.	Cristobal Ramos	2, 9;
Shawn Conrad	d.	Raul Retian	1, 2;
Joe Kaplan	d.	Jonathan Lee	
Tony Roberts	d.	Freddie Crespo Jr.	0, 4.

Quarterfinal:

Sala	d.	Rousseau	(6), 12, 2;
Apuzzi	d.	Roberts	8, (11), 3;
Rojas	d.	Manse	1, 13;
Kaplan	d.	Conrad	8, 8.

Semifinal:

Apuzzi	d.	Sala	9, (10), 8;
Kaplan	d.	Rojas	6, 4.

Final:

Kaplan	d.	Apuzzi	(2), 11, 2.
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Juniors

Quarters:

Alvaro Rebaza	d.	Paul Angel	12, 12;
Marco Lauro	d.	Theresa McCourt	12, 8;
Sal Coticelli	d.	Kareem Wilkerson	(3), 7, 4;
Sal Maldonado	d.	Freddie Crespo Jr.	14, (3), 8.

Semis:

Rebaza	d.	Lauro	14, 10;
Coticelli	d.	Maldonado	5, 11.

Final:

Rebaza	d.	Coticelli	14, 11.
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PRO STOP #2

JULY 14-15, 2001 – ICHA MAYOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT (MAJOR)

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the 2000 ICHA Mayor's Cup Tournament



MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR
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PRO STOP #2
JULY 14-15, 2001 - ICHA MAYOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT (MAJOR)

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY
Major Small-Ball Upset as Rookie Takes 2001 Mayor's Cup

by Ben Brighton

It's part of human nature to aspire to test one's ability in new areas. For example, comedians love to try their hand at acting; singers try to write songs; actors try to paint. There is an immense satisfaction in excelling at something different. The same is true in sports. Many athletes think they could succeed in other sports.

Michael Jordan tried baseball, Ed "Too Tall" Jones tried boxing, and many others are proud of skills developed (in other sports) during their "off season".

Well the same desire to excel and test oneself in new waters exists in the world on one-wall sports. In many paddleball players there is a handball player waiting to come out. In handball there is "big blue" and "small ball", and the line separating the two is becoming blurry. Many stars have attempted to cross over with mixed results.

I would have to rank Rookie's performance on July 15th, at the ICHA Mayor's Cup, as one of the most amazing displays of handball I've seen in many years. During his visits to W5th Street I'd seen him play small ball singles several times. He played "Lefty" Pete, an "A" doubles player and looked pretty good. But then I saw Joe Durso spot him 10 on 25 and beat him. My conclusion, a "B" player, with the small ball, who could not elevate to the tremendous level he has achieved with the big blue. But like any great athlete, who is hungry to succeed, he might have learned more from his setbacks than his victories.

That all came to fruition at the Mayor's Cup. In the first round he met Tony Roberts, a top doubles player with either ball and a formidable challenge. Surprisingly, Rookie squeaked by Tony in the tiebreaker.

Spectators said that the matches would only get tougher and Rookie's next match, against reigning National Champion Robert Sostre, would be his last. Much to everyone's surprise Robert fell 25-16. I saw the match as Rookie being as adept at volleying as Rob, with Sostre being forced into uncharacteristic errors. Next up was World Champion Cesar Sala. A see-saw battle ensued with Rookie's backers paying off their bets. This immediately put the jinx into effect and Rookie outscored Cesar 4-0 the gain a 15-8, 7-15, 11-10 victory. Now all that stood between Rookie and glory was Joe Kaplan.

The atmosphere was charged with electricity. You have to understand that there is a fierce rivalry between small and big blue players. Each group thinks that their game is better and more deserving of recognition and respect. The two factions, while having mutual respect, have not always lived in harmony. The finals was like a championship fight with the crowd divided in it's loyalties for Wright and Kaplan. Kaplan, the last chance for the small ball establishment to assert it's superiority over big blue, fell 15-9, 15-11.

The way I saw it, Rookie gained confidence with each match. As a further testament to his stamina he also participated in the doubles with Emmitt Fitzpatrick beating Kendell Lewis and Robert Sostre. His chance for a "slam" ended with a 15-13 loss to Joe Kaplan and Cesar Sala. After his dramatic victory it would have been appropriate if Rookie had said "Now I'm going to Disneyland", like the super bowl MVP states on TV.

The best thing about Rookie's win is that it makes next month's National Championship much more interesting. There are going to be a lot of players looking to take Rookie down. His dramatic showing will only benefit the sport. What's next for Rookie? 4-Wall? 3-Wall? He has unlimited potential and nothing he does will surprise me.

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PRO STOP #3
JULY 21, 2001 - PEDRO GARCIA CLASSIC

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the USHA One-Wall Ranking System



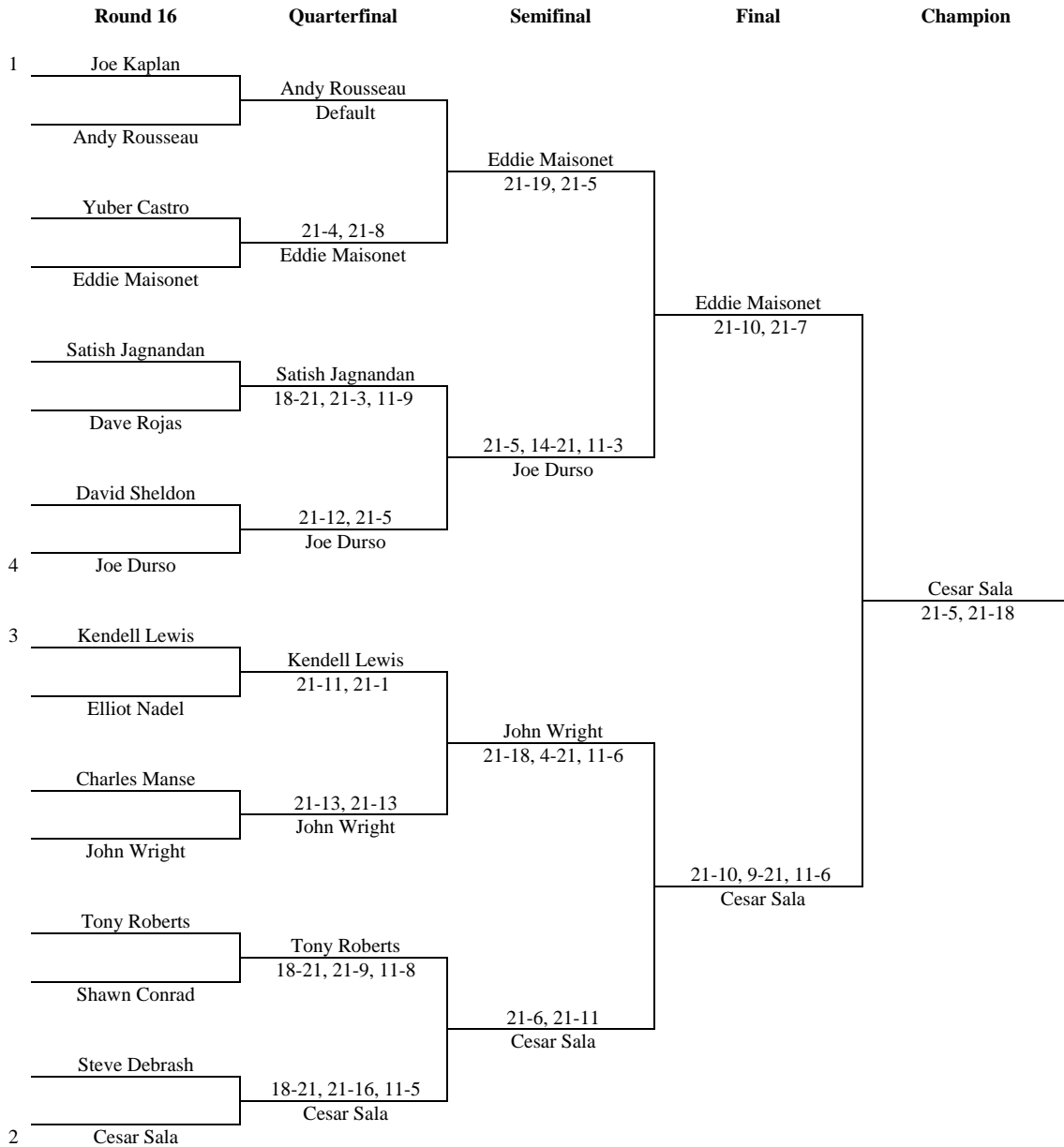
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SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2001

PRO STOP #4

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

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)

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

Sala defeats Maisonet 21-5, 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.

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YEAR #1

<u>Rankings (Jan 2001 to Sept 2001)</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u># Tournaments Won</u>	<u>Park, Borough</u>
1. Cesar Sala	120	1 (Major)	Coney Island, Brooklyn
2. Joe Kaplan	105	1 (Non-Major)	Coney Island, Brooklyn
3. John "Rookie" Wright	90	1 (Major)	West 4 th , Manhattan
4. Eddie Maisonet	65	0	Sunset Park, Queens
5. Kendell Lewis	60	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
6. Satish Jagnandan	55	1 (Non-Major)	Bailey Avenue, Bronx
7. Albert Apuzzi	40	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
8. Joe Durso	30	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
9. Tony Roberts	25	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
9. Andy Rousseau	25	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
9. Robert Sostre	25	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
10. David Rojas	20	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
11. Eddie Archival	10	0	Bailey Avenue, Bronx
11 Yuber PeeWee Castro	10	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
11 Shawn Conrad	10	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
12 Charlie Manse	10	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn

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	Non-Major	Major	Non-Major	Major			
Players	PHA 01	MC 01	PGC 01	USHAN 01	Total	Rankings	Players
Albert Apuzzi	30	0	10	DNP	40	7	Albert Apuzzi
Eddie Archival	DNP	0	10	DNP	10	11	Eddie Archival
PeeWee Castro	DNP	0	10	0	10	11	PeeWee Castro
Shawn Conrad	10	0	DNP	0	10	11	Shawn Conrad
Joe Durso	0	0	0	30	30	8	Joe Durso
Pedro Garcia	DNP	0	0	DNP	0		Pedro Garcia
Satish Jagnandan	DNP	0	40	15	55	6	Satish Jagnandan
Joe Kaplan	40	45	20	0	105	2	Joe Kaplan
Jonathan Lee	0	0	0	0	0		Jonathan Lee
Kendell Lewis	DNP	15	30	15	60	5	Kendell Lewis
Eddie Maisonet	DNP	0	20	45	65	4	Eddie Maisonet
Charlie Manse	10	DNP	DNP	0	10	11	Charlie Manse
Willie Polanco	DNP	0	0	DNP	0		Willie Polanco
Cesar Sala	20	30	10	60	120	1	Cesar Sala
Dwayne Sampson	0	0	0	DNP	0		Dwayne Sampson
David Sheldon	0	0	0	0	0		David Sheldon
Robert Sostre	DNP	15	10	DNP	25	9	Robert Sostre
Alvaro Rebaza	0	0	0	DNP	0		Alvaro Rebaza
Dave Rojas	20	0	0	0	20	10	Dave Rojas
Tony Roberts	10	0	0	15	25	9	Tony Roberts
Andy Rousseau	10			15	25	9	Andy Rousseau
Danny Vera	DNP	0	0	DNP	0		Danny Vera
Paul Williams	DNP	0	0	DNP	0		Paul Williams
John Wright	DNP	60	0	30	90	3	John Wright
Players	PHA 01	MC 01	PGC 01	USHAN 01	Total	Rankings	Players
	Non-Major	Major	Non-Major	Major			