

MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR

SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2002

YEAR #2

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.

2002 TOURNAMENTS

NON-MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- YMCA Invitation March 10, 2002 - YMCAI 02
- Pedro Garcia Classic July 20, 2002 - PGC 02

MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- ICHA Mayor's Cup July 13-14, 2002 - MC 02
- USHA 1-Wall Nationals August 1-4, 2002 - USHAN 02

2002 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

2002 TOURNAMENT SUMMARY – MEN'S 1-WALL PRO SINGLES (SMALL-BALL)

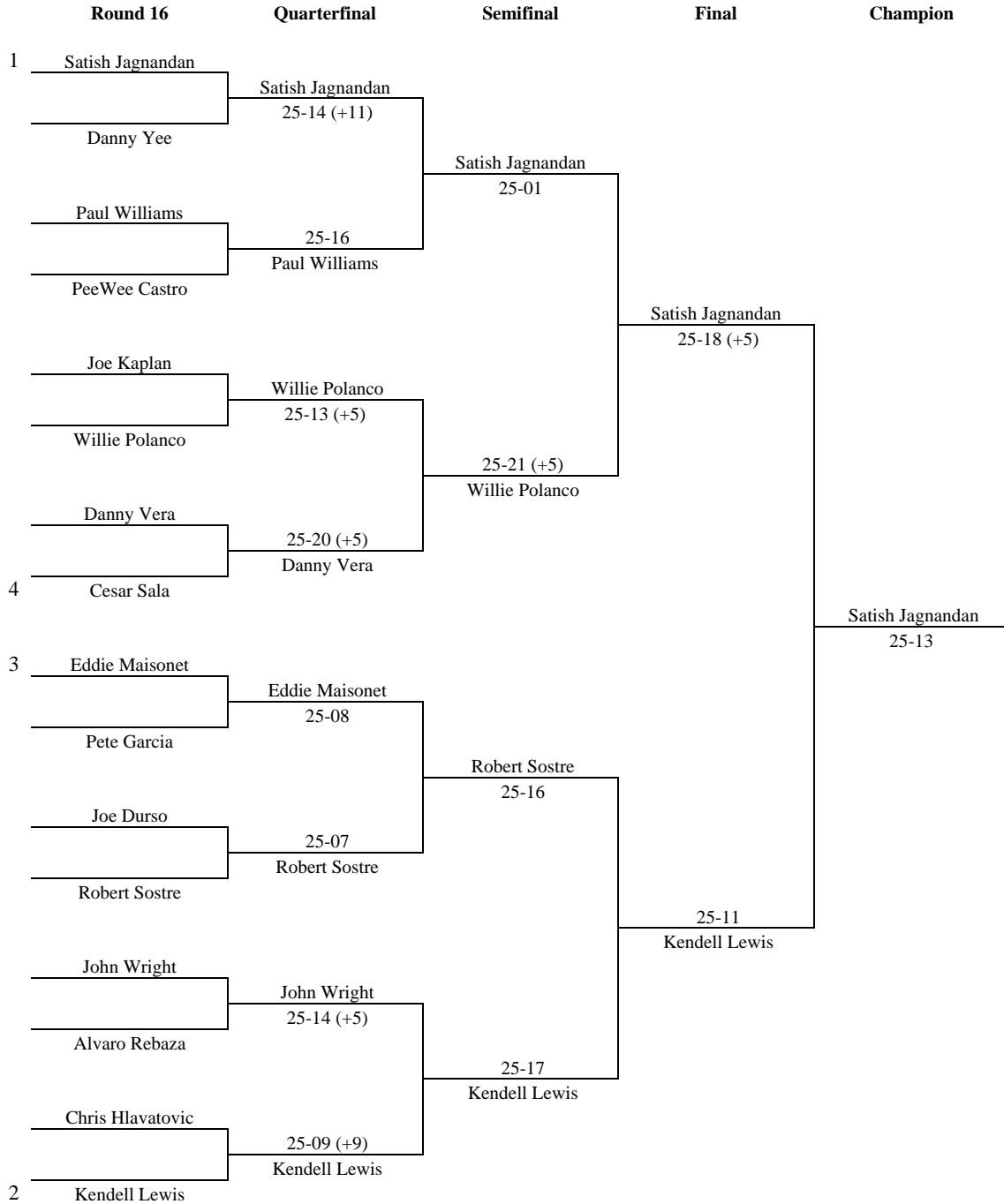
- Pro Stop #1 YMCA Invitational March 10, 2002 Sostre defeats Kaplan (25-23)
- Pro Stop #2 ICHA Mayor's Cup July 13-14, 2002 Jagnandan defeats Maisonet (15-05, 05-15, 11-3)
- Pro Stop #3 Pedro Garcia Classic July 20, 2002 Jagnandan defeats Lewis (25-13)
- Pro Stop #4 USHA 1-Wall Nationals August 1-4, 2002 Castro defeats Kaplan (12-21, 21-14, 11-10)

MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR
SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2002

PRO STOP #3
JULY 20, 2002 - PEDRO GARCIA CLASSIC
(BAILEY PARK, BRONX)

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the Men's One-Wall Pro Singles Handball Tour Ranking System



MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR
SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2002

PRO STOP #3
JULY 20, 2002 - PEDRO GARCIA CLASSIC
(BAILEY PARK, BRONX)

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY
Jagnandan defeats Lewis (25-13)

By Pedro Garcia

In what promises to be an artillery showdown of two of the top one-wall handball players in the world today, Satish Jagnandan, the reigning Bailey Park Open champion, will face Kendell Lewis, last year's runner-up, in the final championship match of the Bailey Park Open this Sunday, July 27th, at Bailey Park in the Bronx.

The tournament, which was played July 21st, featured an outstanding field of the best one-wall handball players in the world today, including Fast Eddie Maisonet, Robert "Ice Man" Sostre, the legendary Joe Durso, the current national champion Cesar Sala, the former national champion Joe Kaplan, and a veritable who's who of former champions. The women's singles event also featured the top female handball players in the world, including Dori Ten, Tracy Davis, Brenda Pares, and Teresa McCourt.

On a day that opened with overcast clouds in the morning and settled into a glorious sunny afternoon with no humidity, the men's open singles draw proved exciting and fast to the standing room only crowd. Robert Sostre, former national champion known for his accuracy and indomitable will to win, weathered the diatribes and histrionics of 9 time national open singles champion Joe Durso, as he punished Joe 25-8 in the first round by picking up Joe's cross-court ace serves and firing kill-shot returns with his left hand, disabling Joe's best offensive threat. At one point Joe extended his arms towards the heavens pleadingly and burst out "Why does he get nine lucky shots and I get one." The crowd, accustomed to Joe's well-known and historic outbursts, gave him sporadic sympathy calls but generally simply enjoyed the sight of Joe playing Robert.

Satish Jagnandan, the highly skilled product from the Bronx, cruised to the finals, dispatching along the way veteran Paul Williams (who won an upset over the hard-hitting Pee-Wee) and newcomer Willie Polanco. The ever-surging Satish, who has been dominant in the one-wall circuit this year by winning the city-wide Mayor's Cup Tournament, credits his success to constant practice and dedication to mastery of the serve. His serve, a low-flat shot that skips over the service line with laser-like precision, enables him to dominate games. The drive to win has enabled this mathematical doctoral candidate to hone his skills so as to execute extremely accurate shots. The fear that Satish causes in players now has the draw-makers in any tournament entertaining plaintive requests from players to be seeded on the opposite side of the draw.

The other finalist, the powerful Kendell Lewis, overwhelmed John "Rookie" Wright, last year's National's semi-finalist and Mayor's Cup Champion, 25-17, before downing the Ice-Man in a match of sheer athletic grace and stamina, 25-11. Kendell, a professionally ranked four-wall player and a top three-wall player, wowed the crowd with his lightning retrievals of Rookie's shots from all over the court without ever losing his coordination, causing disbelief and people to shake their heads in amazement. He followed that by outlasting the unnerving Ice-man, a credit to Kendell's unflagging stamina.