

MEN'S 1-WALL PRO DOUBLES HANDBALL TOUR

SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

YEAR #3

2003 TOURNAMENTS

NON-MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- YMCA Doubles Championship #1 January 05, 2003 - YMCADC1 03
- H.E.S. Pro Doubles March 16, 2003 - HESPD 03
- Butterhup Pro Doubles June 01, 2003 - BPD 03
- Marty O'Malley Classic June 29, 2003 - MOC 03
- YMCA Doubles Championship #2 December 14, 2003 - YMCADC2 03

MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- ICHA Mayor's Cup July 12-13, 2003 - MC 03
- USHA 1-Wall Nationals July 31-August 03, 2003 - USHAN 03

2003 POINTS SYSTEM

➤ POINTS - ACHIEVEMENT

NON-MAJOR TOURNAMENT POINTS

- Did Not Play (DNP) - 0 point
- Quarterfinalist - 10 points
- Semifinalist - 20 points
- Finalist - 30 points
- Winner - 40 points

MAJOR TOURNAMENT POINTS

- Did Not Play (DNP) - 0 point
- Quarterfinalist - 15 points
- Semifinalist - 30 points
- Finalist - 45 points
- Winner - 60 points

2003 TOURNAMENT SUMMARY – MEN'S 1-WALL PRO DOUBLES (SMALL-BALL)

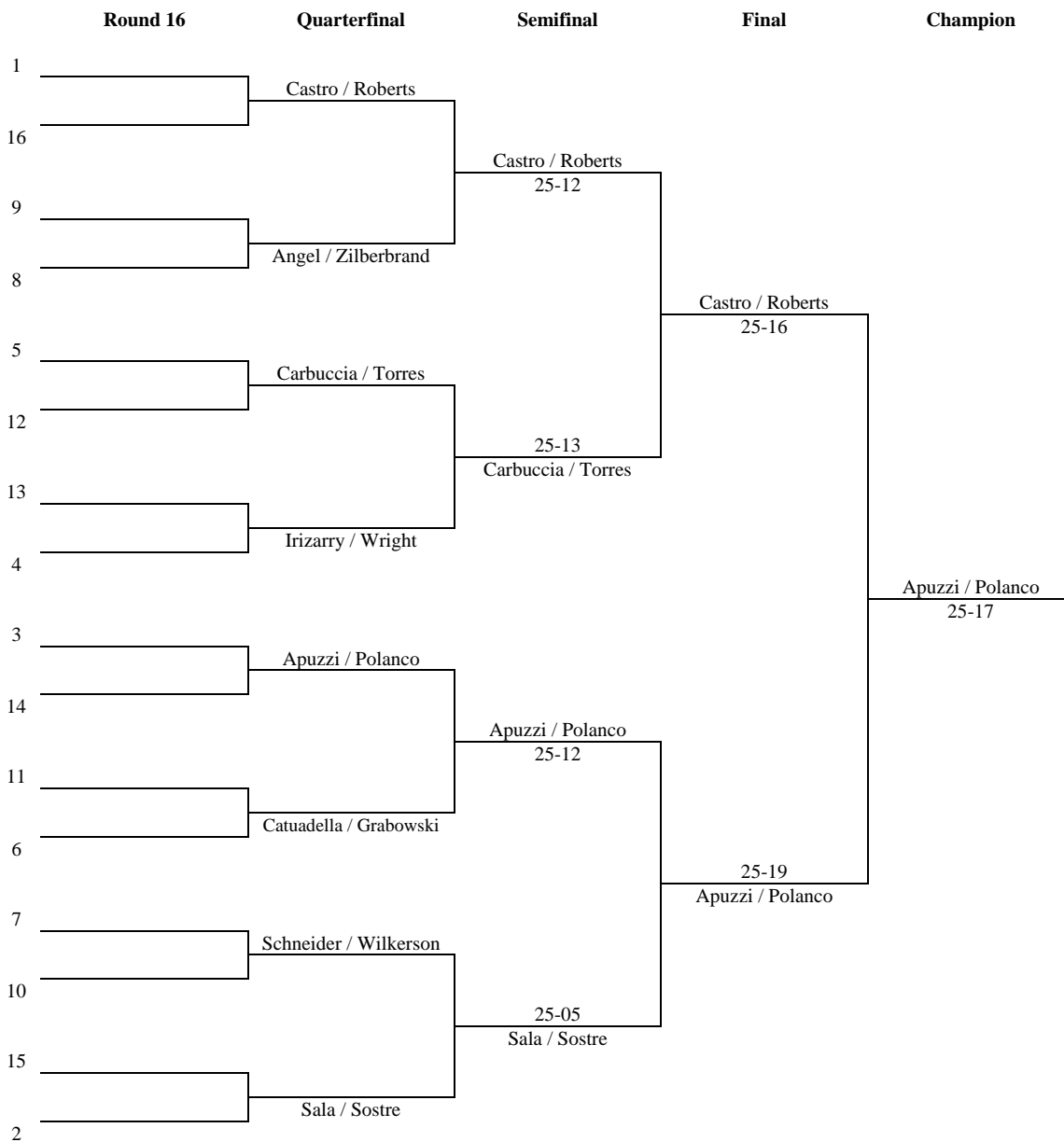
Pro Stop #1	YMCA Doubles Championship#1	January 05, 2003	Apuzzi/Polanco defeat Castro/Roberts (25-17)
Pro Stop #2	HES Pro Doubles	March 16, 2003	Apuzzi/Polanco defeat Kaplan/Sala (25-24)
Pro Stop #3	Butterhup Doubles	June 01, 2003	Durso/Sala defeat Jagnandan/Lopez (25-15)
Pro Stop #4	Marty O'Malley Doubles Classic	June 29, 2003	Castro/Polanco defeats Jagnandan/Lopez (25-12)
Pro Stop #5	ICHA Mayor's Cup	July 12-13, 2003	Castro/Durso defeats Lewis/Sostre (21-10, 21-14)
Pro Stop #6	USHA One-Wall Nationals	Jul 31 - Aug. 3, 2003	Castro/Durso defeats Rojas/Wright (21-11, 21-18)
Pro Stop #7	YMCA Doubles Championship#2	December 14, 2003	Jagnandan/Sostre defeat Sala/Wright (25-19)

MEN'S 1-WALL PRO DOUBLES HANDBALL TOUR
SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

PRO TOUR STOP #1
JANUARY 05, 2003 – YMCA 1-WALL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP #1
(FLATBUSH, BROOKLYN)

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the USHA Men's One-Wall Doubles Ranking System



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SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

PRO TOUR STOP #1
JANUARY 05, 2003 – YMCA 1-WALL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP #1
(FLATBUSH, BROOKLYN)

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY



by Albert Apuzzi

This USHA sanctioned event had no shortage of superstars. With the likes of "Big Blue Handball" sensation John "Rookie" Wright and Ervin Irizarry teaming up again. The last time they teamed up they were victorious in capturing the 2002 Bailey Park Open Tournament. Cesar Sala and Robert "the Iceman" Sostre played together, since both of their doubles partners could not make this event. The strong favorites were this year's USHA Nationals Open doubles Champions, PeeWee Castro and Tony Roberts. The other strong doubles teams were Albert Apuzzi and Willie Polanco, and Francisco Carbuccia teaming up with Al Torres.

All the games were very exciting but the 1st interesting match up of the day was John Wright/Ervin Irizarry vs. Francisco Carbuccia/Al Torres. Francisco's aggressive playing, and the experienced play of Al Torres were just too much for the "Big Blue" players to handle. It seemed like they gave a clinic on how to hook the ball. Although they were playing great they lost to national champions PeeWee Castro/Tony Roberts in the semi-finals. The other semi-final match was Albert Apuzzi/Willie Polanco vs. Cesar Sala/Robert Sostre; this was the best game of the day. Sala/Sostre jumped out to a 10-point lead, the fans thought this would be a blowout. Apuzzi/Polanco finally got up to serve, and they slowly crept back into the game. Apuzzi/Polanco both took turns attacking with their serves and following it up with very aggressive court play. This match had numerous dives, kills, and low volleys by all four players. Wish someone would have had a video camera for this one. Apuzzi/Polanco defeated Sala/Sostre 25-19. The finals were set: Albert

Apuzzi, who holds 8 National Open doubles titles, and partner Willie Polanco, against current National doubles Champions PeeWee Castro and Tony Roberts. Although the strong favorites were Castro/Roberts, today belonged to the sleeper team of Apuzzi/Polanco. Apuzzi/Polanco were down 5-0 at the start, and just like their previous match they roared back. Castro/Roberts played well, but Apuzzi's serves were just too much. This allowed Apuzzi/Polanco to kill the ball, and force them to make many errors. Apuzzi/Polanco defeated Castro/Roberts 25-17.

Albert Apuzzi's experience, combined with the outstanding play of up and coming superstar Willie Polanco. "A recipe for winning."

Threats of a NYC transit strike and predictions of snow storms resulted in the action being rescheduled from December to January.

In the first semifinal match, Al and Francisco were right in the game at 16-19 before Pee Wee and Tony surged to a 25-16 victory. On the other side of the draw, Cesar and Rob took a 10-0 lead. Albert and Willie battled back but quickly found themselves trailing 18-11, before they could gain the momentum and allow their opponents to score just one more point.

In the finals, Castro and Roberts were leading 15-11. Once again Apuzzi and Polanco finished strong giving up just 2 more points.

This one day event awarded \$1,000 in cash prizes among the top four places. Special thanks to Artie Fuchs for being the site director.

Quarterfinals:

Pee Wee Castro/Tony Roberts	d.	Paulie Angel/Felix Zilberbrand	25-12
Francisco Carbuccia/Al Torres	d.	Ervin Irizarry/Rookie Wright	25-13
Albert Apuzzi/Willie Polanco	d.	Sal Catuadella/Mike Grabowski	25-12
Cesar Sala/Robert Sostre	d.	Mike Schneider/Kareem Wilkerson	25-05

Semifinals:

Castro/Roberts	d.	Carbuccia/Torres	25-16
Apuzzi/Polanco	d.	Sala/Sostre	25-19

Finals:

Apuzzi/Polanco	d.	Castro/Roberts	25-17
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Total of \$1,000 in prize money was divided between the top four teams.