

## 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)

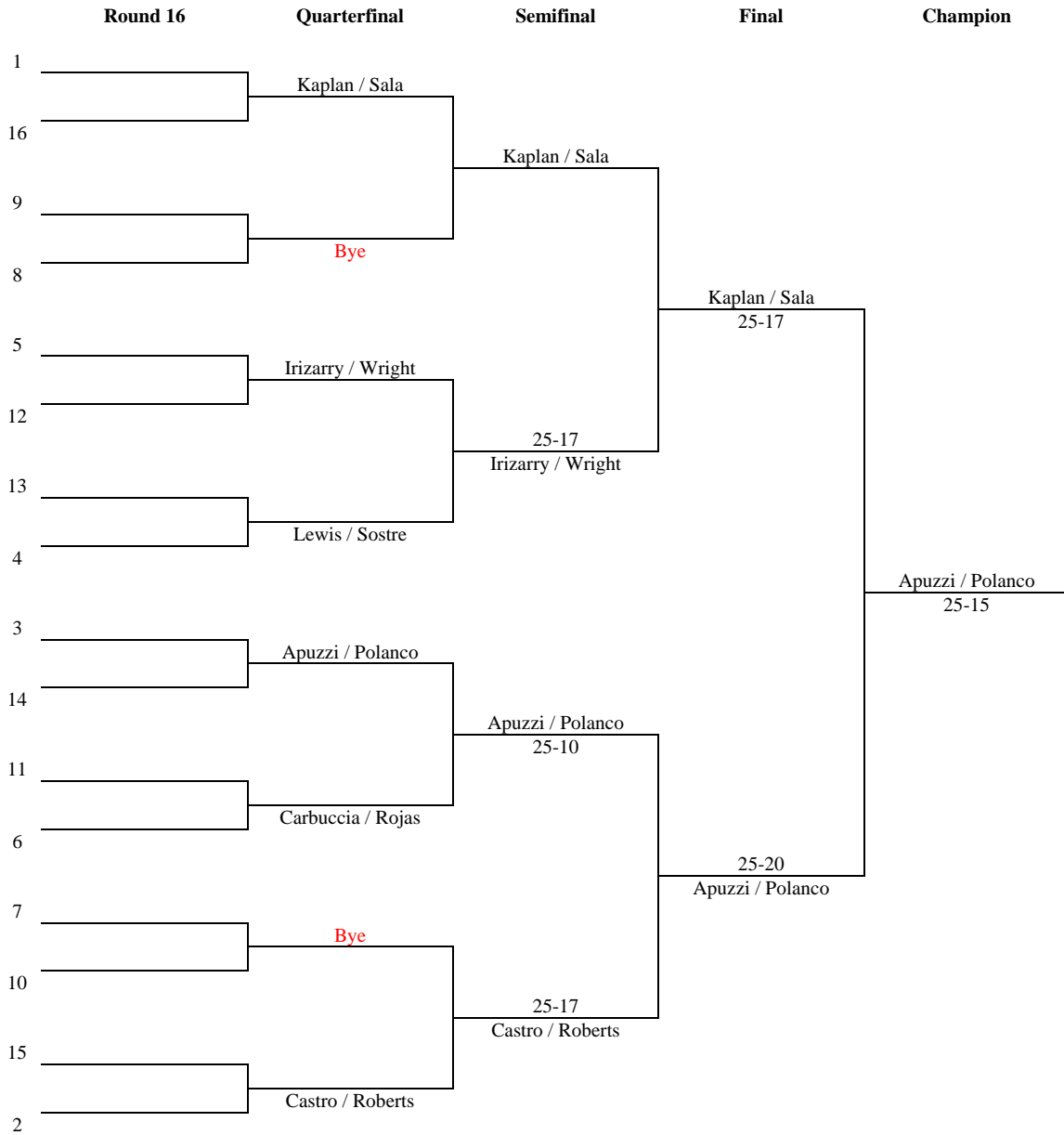


**MEN'S 1-WALL PRO DOUBLES HANDBALL TOUR**  
**SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003**

**PRO TOUR STOP #2**  
**MARCH 16, 2003 – H.E.S, PRO DOUBLES**  
**(SEAVIEW, BROOKLYN)**

**TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET**

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



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

**PRO TOUR STOP #2**

**MARCH 16, 2003 – H.E.S. PRO DOUBLES**  
**(SEAVIEW, BROOKLYN)**

**TOURNAMENT SUMMARY**

*by Ben Brettner*

You couldn't blame spectators for the difficult decision facing them this past weekend. Enjoy the beautiful spring-like weather, following a brutal winter, or go indoors to attend the annual H.E.S. Doubles Tournament. Those choosing to attend witnessed a tremendous comeback in the finals.

Early round action pitted big blue phenoms John "Rookie" Wright and "Lefty Ervin" Irizarry against Kendell Lewis and Robert Sostre. A 25-17 victory propelled Ervin and Rookie into a semifinal match against Joe Kaplan and Cesar Sala. In a slugfest Kaplan and Sala prevailed 25-17.

Albert Apuzzi and "Lefty Willie" Polanco, seeded third, began their climb with a strong 25-10 victory over Francisco Carbuccia and Dave Rojas. In the semifinals they jumped out to a nice lead only to have the current USHA Nationals Champions, Yuber "PeeWee" Castro and Tony Roberts, make a strong comeback falling just short and finally succumbing 25-20. PeeWee and Tony have not recaptured the magic that made them last year's feel good story. But the season is still starting.

In the finals, Kaplan and Sala jumped out to a commanding 16-4 lead. The key to overcoming such a deficit is not to panic or pay too much mind to the score. Each season brings a team trailing by a huge margin mounting a tremendous comeback. I've seen in baseball where a team losing by 5 runs in the ninth inning wins. Apuzzi and Polanco stormed back to take a 24-19 lead only to see Joe and Cesar fight back to 24 all. With plenty of wagers on the line the tension was high. Willie retired Cesar by killing his serve. Joe served and a long deep rally ensued with Albert hitting a fly kill, in the left corner, from deep court. Polanco followed Apuzzi's instructions (to serve deep and go off the wall) and scored the tournament winning point.

That makes 2 consecutive championships for Apuzzi and Polanco. I don't know whether to call this a comeback or a rejuvenation for Albert who is defying the odds and logic by playing tremendous ball against opponents twenty years younger than him. His knowledge of the court, like a fighter's knowledge of the ring, coupled with Willie's strong defense and ever improving offense have produced a winning combination. What Michael Jordan is doing at age 40 on a basketball court Albert is doing at 47 on a handball court.

Willie has been the right ingredient toward reviving Albert's career. Willie's youth and hunger to succeed plus Albert's handball pedigree have produced tremendous results. A future Hall of Fame candidate, Apuzzi's late career success can only leave a positive reaction in voter's minds.



(Winners: Albert Apuzzi and Willie Polanco)



(L to R: Albert Apuzzi, Willie Polanco, Cesar Sala, and Joe Kaplan)