

## 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)

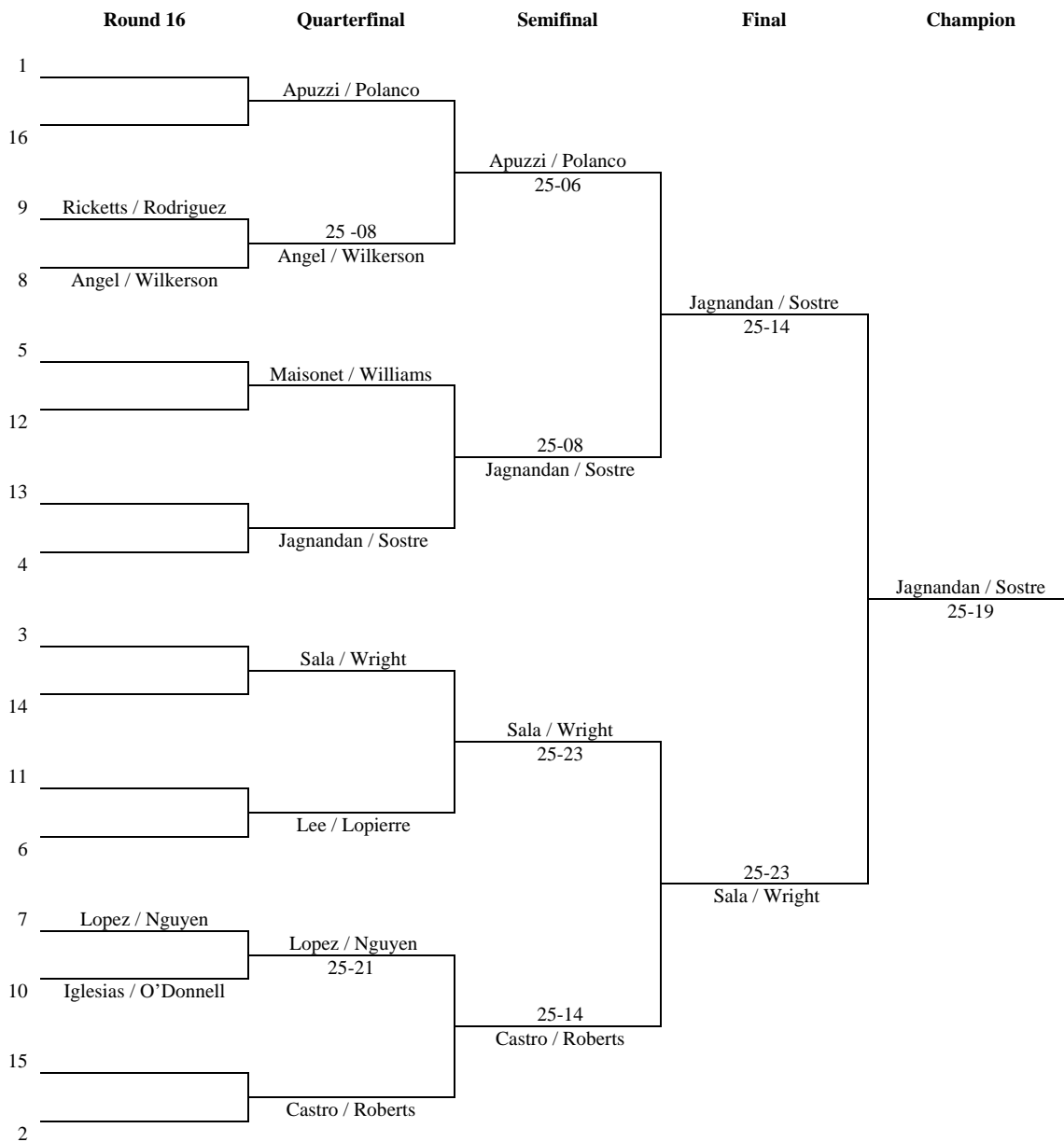
**MEN'S 1-WALL PRO DOUBLES HANDBALL TOUR**  
**SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003**

**PRO TOUR STOP #7**

**DECEMBER 14, 2003 – YMCA NATIONAL ONE-WALL PRO DOUBLES**  
**(MANHATTAN, NY)**

**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 #7**  
**DECEMBER 14, 2003 – YMCA NATIONAL ONE-WALL PRO DOUBLES**  
**(MANHATTAN, NY)**

**TOURNAMENT SUMMARY**



*by Ben Brighton*

New Yorkers are perhaps the most knowledgeable sports fans in the country. We have harried lives; always rushing somewhere, trying to accomplish as much as we can everyday. We work and go to school and during our lunch hour try to fit in a dental appointment or shop for a gift.

So when it comes to our leisure time, when we travel to one of the major sporting arenas, putting up with traffic and outrageous prices we have certain demands of our athletes. Win; of course, but at least give us a maximum effort. Leave the playing field dirty, sweaty and bloody if necessary. Too often we read about spoiled millionaires not trying enough. That's unacceptable to us.

Those brave enough to venture outdoors on snowy Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> to the McBurney YMCA were treated to a showcase of many of the finest 1-wallers. The men and women gave everything they had not allowing barriers such as walls, chairs or bleachers stand in the way of their pursuit of the ball.

In the men's field Satish Jagnandan and Robert Sostre never trailed in any of their matches in winning the men's doubles. With a string of top performances in the past year Satish, who like Anna recently returned after a long lay-off from his days as a junior player, is a rising star with skills that will make him a dominant player and future champion. Possessing a great serve, power, quickness, and a strong off hand; he is a threat to win any event he enters.

For Robert Sostre it was a welcome return to the winner's circle. Once a prodigy with greatness predicted for him, he had seemed to peak. There was the real possibility that instead of being a contender he would become a name opponent. His support on the right side was excellent and should rejuvenate Sostre's career. Rob and Satish opened with a 25-14 win over Albert Apuzzi and Willie Polanco, who dominated last year's indoor 1-wall events.

In an exciting opening round match Cesar Sala and Rookie Wright won a 25-23 nail bitter over up and coming Jonathan Lee and junior standout Victor LoPierre. The kids did not let the reputation of their more famous opponents frighten them and almost pulled off a major upset.

PeeWee Castro and Tony Roberts, 2002 National Champions, beat Carlos Lopez and Phong Nguyen 25-14 to set up a fan-pleasing semifinal match against Cesar and Rookie. Four of the best, performing skillfully resulted in a 25-23 win for Sala and Wright.

In the finals Jagnandan and Sostre opened up with a nice lead. Cesar and Rookie kept digging up seemingly irretrievable balls to stay within striking distance. Wright kept encouraging Cesar to keep fighting because we can still win. He even had the fans believing they could do it. They fell just short 25-19; and both teams received a rousing ovation.

A special thanks must be extended to Adam Gruberger, of the McBurney YMCA, for making the facility available. Those in attendance received a t-shirt, a free guest pass (for use in the future) and were allowed to play pick up games until the Y closed. The ICHA (Inner City Handball Association) donated the mailing, bagels, chips, Gatorade, etc and Karl Muchow used his site director fee to cover the cost of lunch. Jimmy Russo, from HandballCity.com was on hand taking dozen of digital photos, which will be forwarded to the Y for display on their bulletin board. The Y is located within walking distance of mass transportation. The draws were made using the current USHA rankings.

The success of this event bodes well for the McBurney YMCA to be the site of future events. Adam has already offered additional court time so that the number of divisions can be increased.

As we exited the building the early morning snow had turned to rain. But nothing could dampen the mood of the people who had just spent an enjoyable afternoon watching some great handball.



(Final: John Wright/Cesar Sala, in action against Satish Jagnandan/Robert Sostre)



(L-R Karl Muchow, John Wright, Cesar Sala, Satish Jagnandan, Robert Sostre, and Adam Gruberger)