

MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR

SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

YEAR #3

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 2003" 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.

2003 TOURNAMENTS

NON-MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- YMCA Invitation March 30, 2003 - YMCAI 03
- Marty O'Malley Classic July 12-13, 2003 - MOC 03
- Bailey Park Fall Classic October 7, 2003 - BPFC 03
- H.E.S. Invitational November 9, 2003 - HESI 03

MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- ICHA Mayor's Cup July 12-13, 2003 - MC 03
- USHA 1-Wall Nationals August 1-4, 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
- Champion - 40 points

MAJOR TOURNAMENT POINTS

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

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

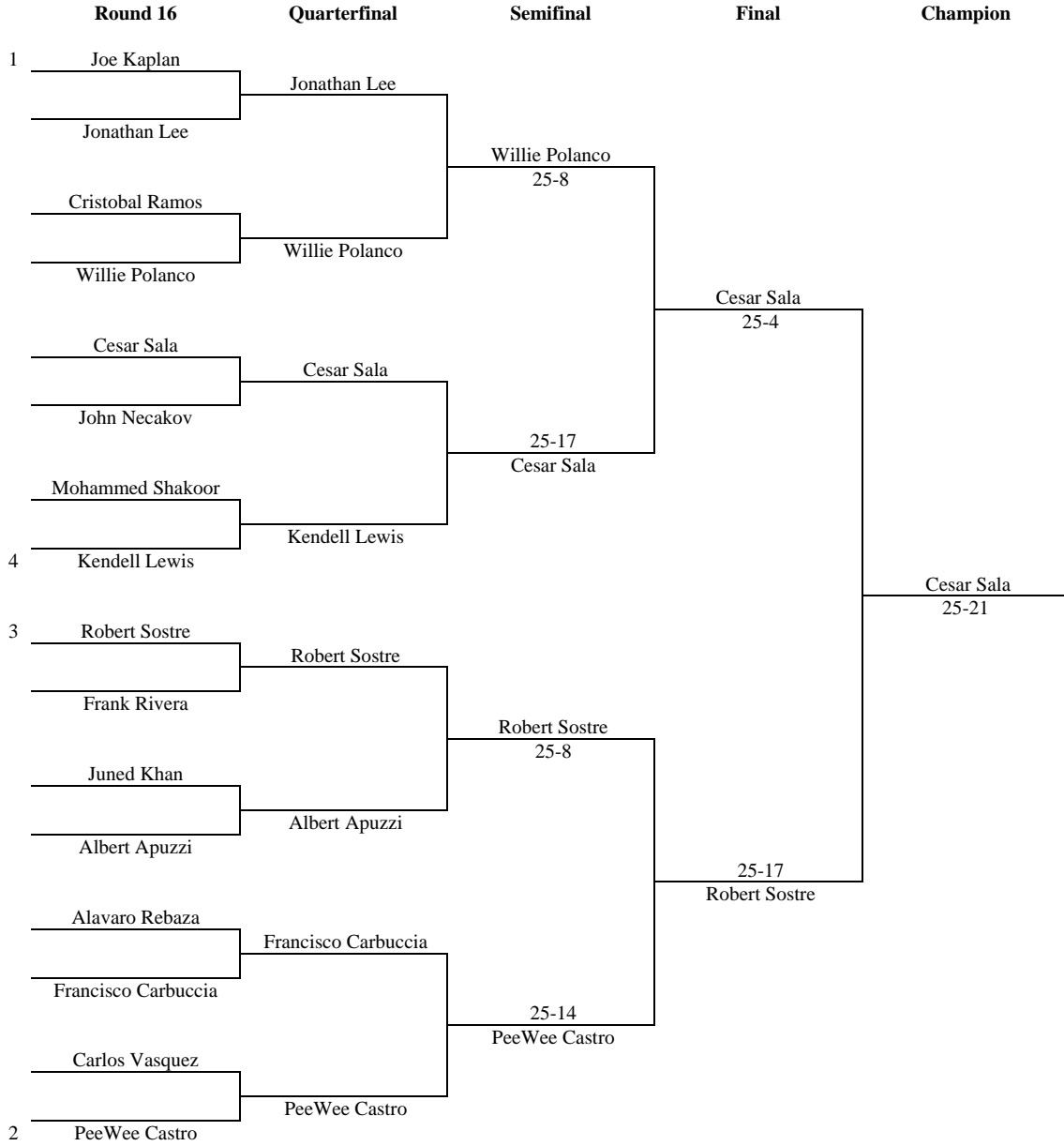
- Pro Stop #1 YMCA Invitational March 30, 2003 Sala defeats Sostre (25-21)
- Pro Stop #2 ICHA Mayor's Cup July 12-13, 2003 Sala defeats Kaplan (21-10, 12-21, 11-08)
- Pro Stop #3 Marty O'Malley Classic July 19, 2003 Jagnandan defeats Lewis (25-13)
- Pro Stop #4 USHA 1-Wall Nationals August 1-4, 2003 Roberts defeats Sala (21-11, 21-15)
- Pro Stop #5 Bailey Park Fall Classic October 7, 2003 Jagnandan defeats Sala (25-14)
- Pro Stop #6 H.E.S. Invitational November 9, 2003 Sala defeats Rousseau (25-12)

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PRO STOP #1
MARCH 30, 2003 - YMCA INVITATIONAL
(CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN)

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the USHA One-Wall Ranking System



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PRO STOP #1
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TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

Sala defeats Sostre (25-21)

by Ben Brettner

One familiar and one new face were the stories of the 2003 YMCA Men's Singles. Cesar Sala bested Robert Sostre 25-21, but Jonathan Lee stole the show when he knocked out the number one seed, Joe Kaplan. Kaplan had moved into a new house on the previous day. While he felt fine before the match, his body started showing the effects once the match began. Lee impressed the crowd with his serve and kill shots. The spectators made a mental note to remember the young man's name, despite his 25-8 quarterfinal loss to Willie Polanco.

Cesar Sala survived a comeback by Kendell Lewis, who had tied the score at 17 all, to earn a 25-17 victory and then handled a tired Polanco in the semifinals, 25-4. Meanwhile Robert Sostre defeated the multi-talented Albert Apuzzi 25-8. Apuzzi, coming off a successful indoor season where he and Polanco captured the HES & YMCA doubles back-to-back, wasn't looking sharp for singles play yet. 2003 National Champion PeeWee Castro beat Francisco Carbuccia by a respectable 25-14 score.

The win matched Castro against Sostre in the semifinal. Sala said he expected to face Castro in the finals and was preparing himself mentally for Castro's tough serve. Sostre started out gaining a 10-point cushion, but Castro closed the gap to 14-16. At this point Sostre regained the momentum and ended the match 25-17.

Two well-matched athletes with a friendly rivalry and similar styles were now slated to square off in the finals. Capitalizing on his opponent's early season mistakes and making quality serves resulted in a hard fought 25-21 win for Sala over an obviously fatigued Sostre.

Sala was jubilant after capturing his first singles tournament in a year, and said that he is dedicating himself to recapturing the National title. His latest performance shows that he is the man to beat in 2003.

Cash awards were split between the top four places. Thanks to Artie Fuchs for serving as the site director.