

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 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.

2003 TOURNAMENTS

NON-MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

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

MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

- Mayor's Cup June 03 - MC 03
- USHA Nationals August 03 - 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)

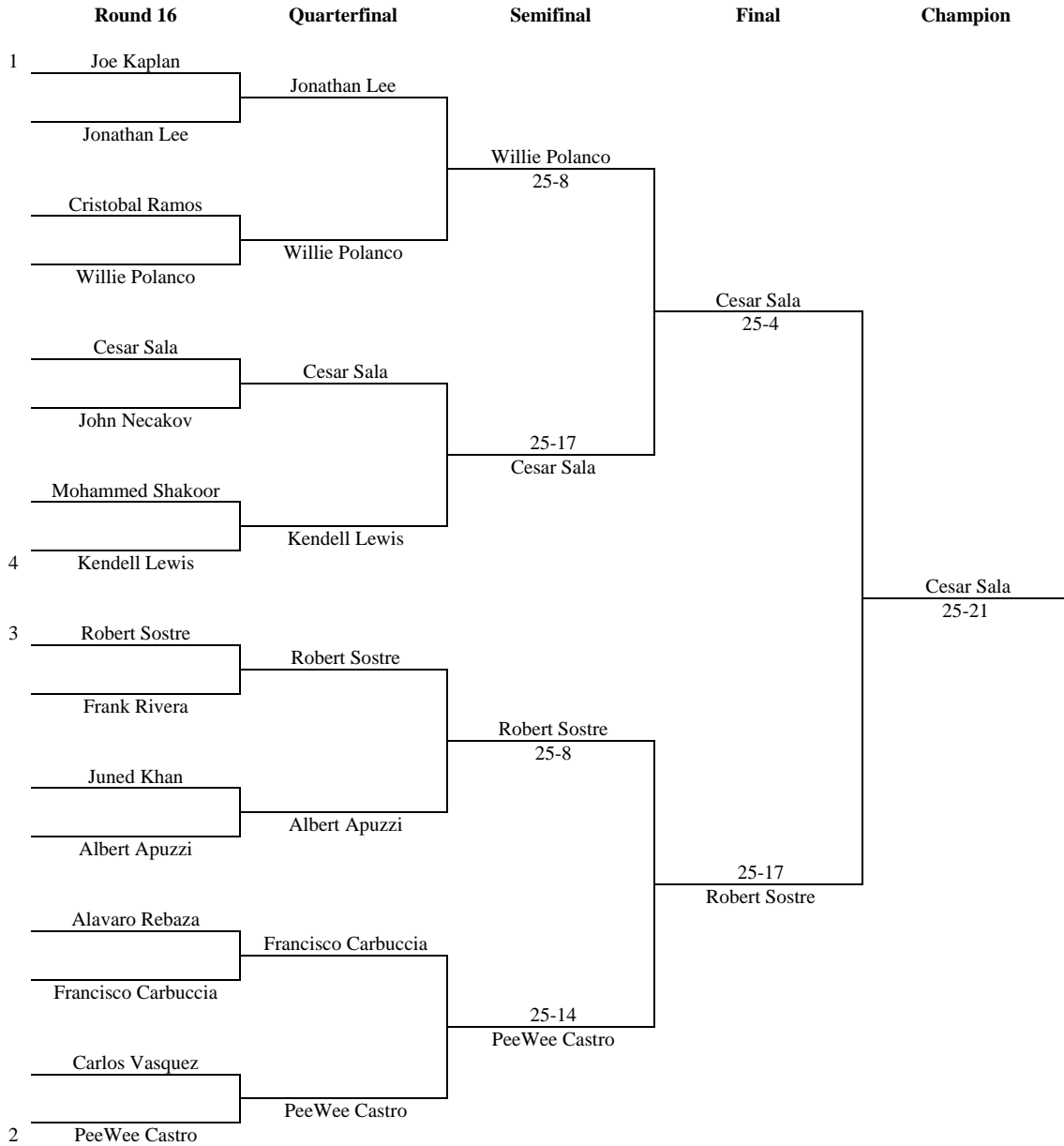
- Pro Stop #1 YMCA Invitational March 30, 2003 Sala defeats Sostre (25-21)
- Pro Stop #2 Mayor's Cup (Major) July 12-13, 2003 Sala defeats Kaplan (21-10, 12-21, 11-8)
- Pro Stop #3 Marty O'Malley Classic July 19, 2003 Jagnandan defeats Lewis (25-13)
- Pro Stop #4 USHA Nationals (Major) August 1-4, 2003 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)

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

PRO STOP #1
MARCH 30, 2003 - YMCA INVITATIONAL

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the USHA One-Wall Ranking System



MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR

SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

PRO STOP #1

MARCH 30, 2003 - YMCA INVITATIONAL

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. 2002 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.

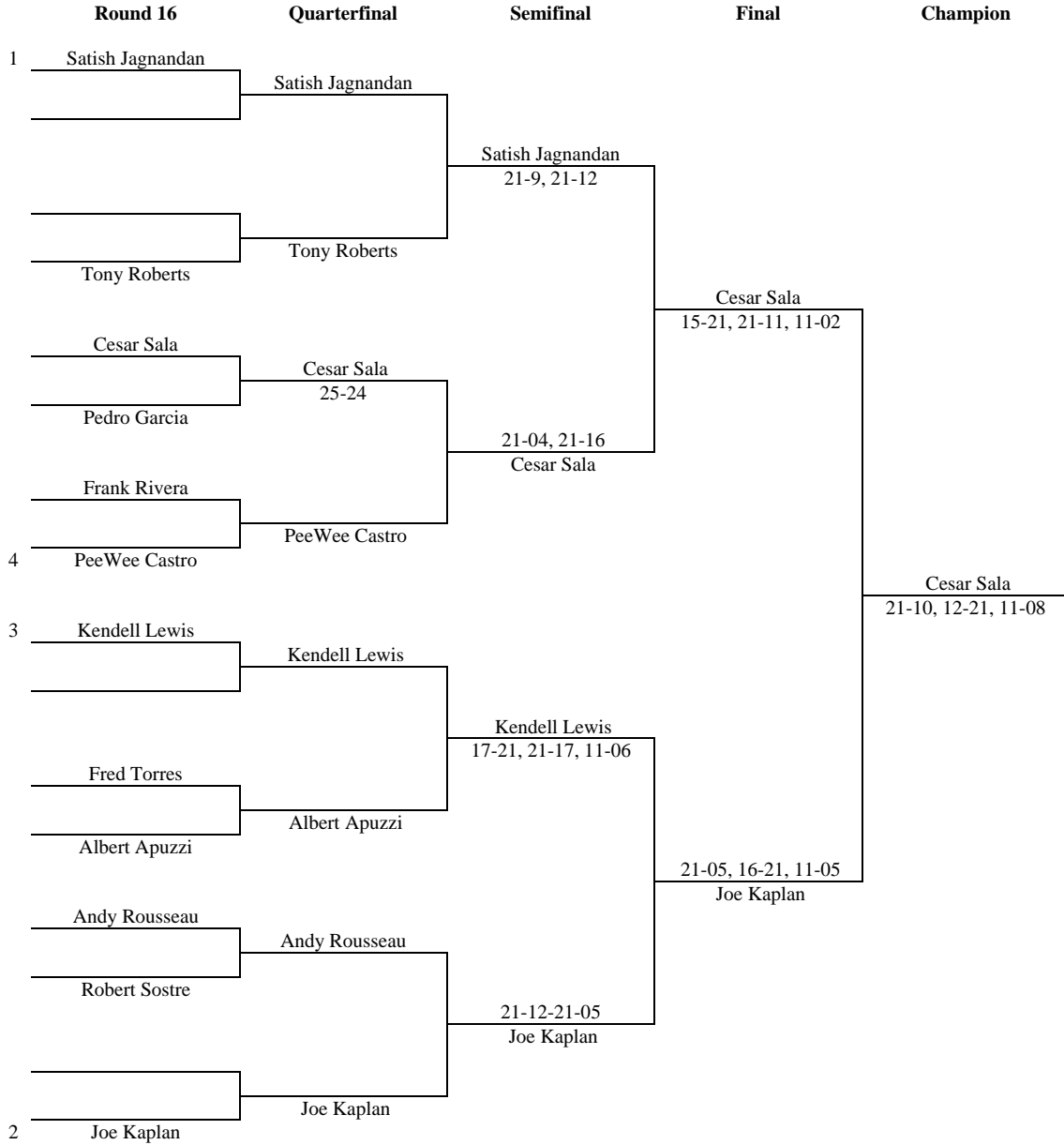
MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR
SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

PRO STOP #2

JULY 12-13, 2003 – ICHA MAYOR'S CUP (MAJOR)

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the 2002 ICHA Mayor's Cup Tournament



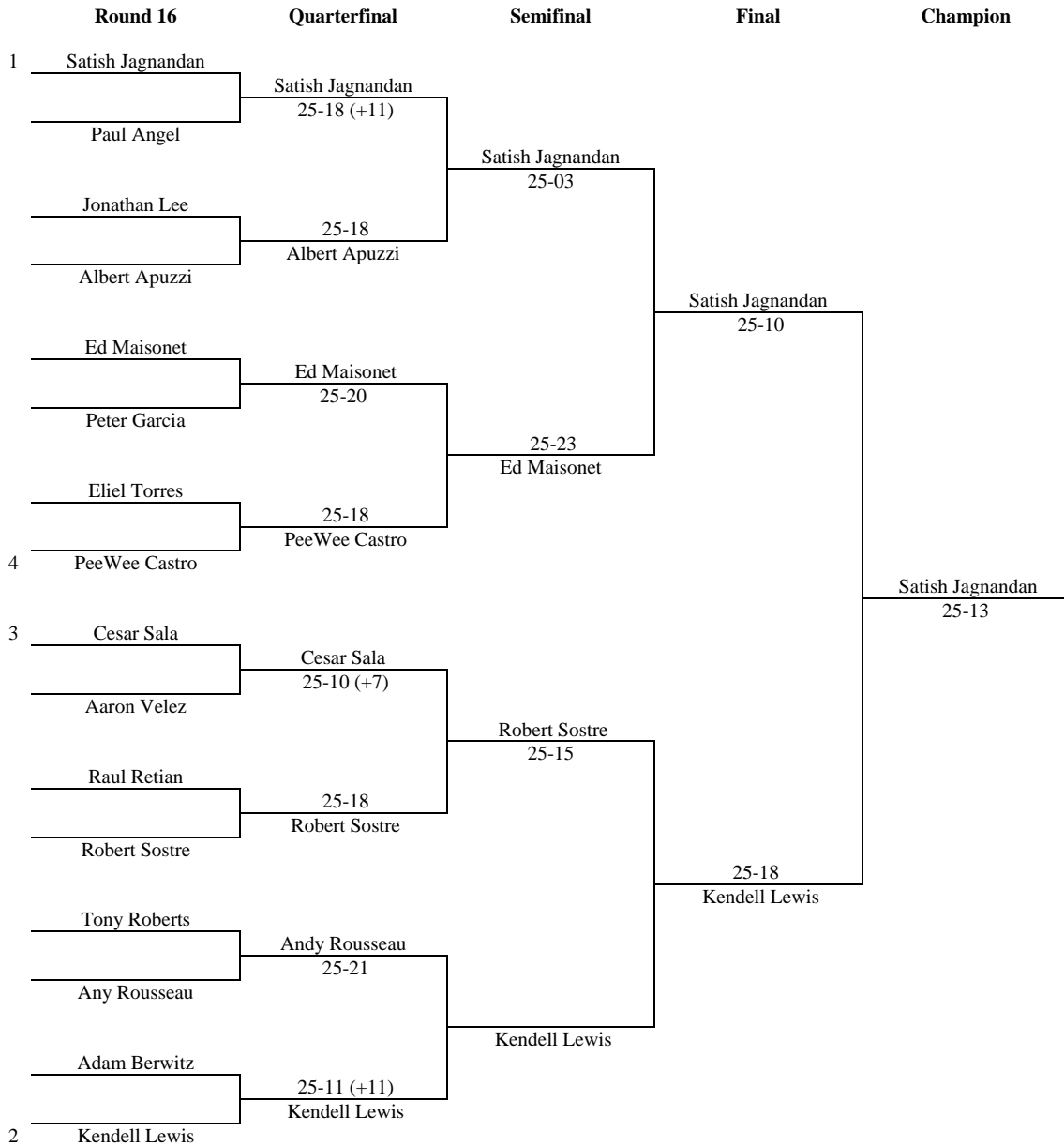
MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR
SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

PRO STOP #3

JULY 19, 2003 - MARTY O'MALLEY CLASSIC (FORMERLY PEDRO GARCIA CLASSIC)

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

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

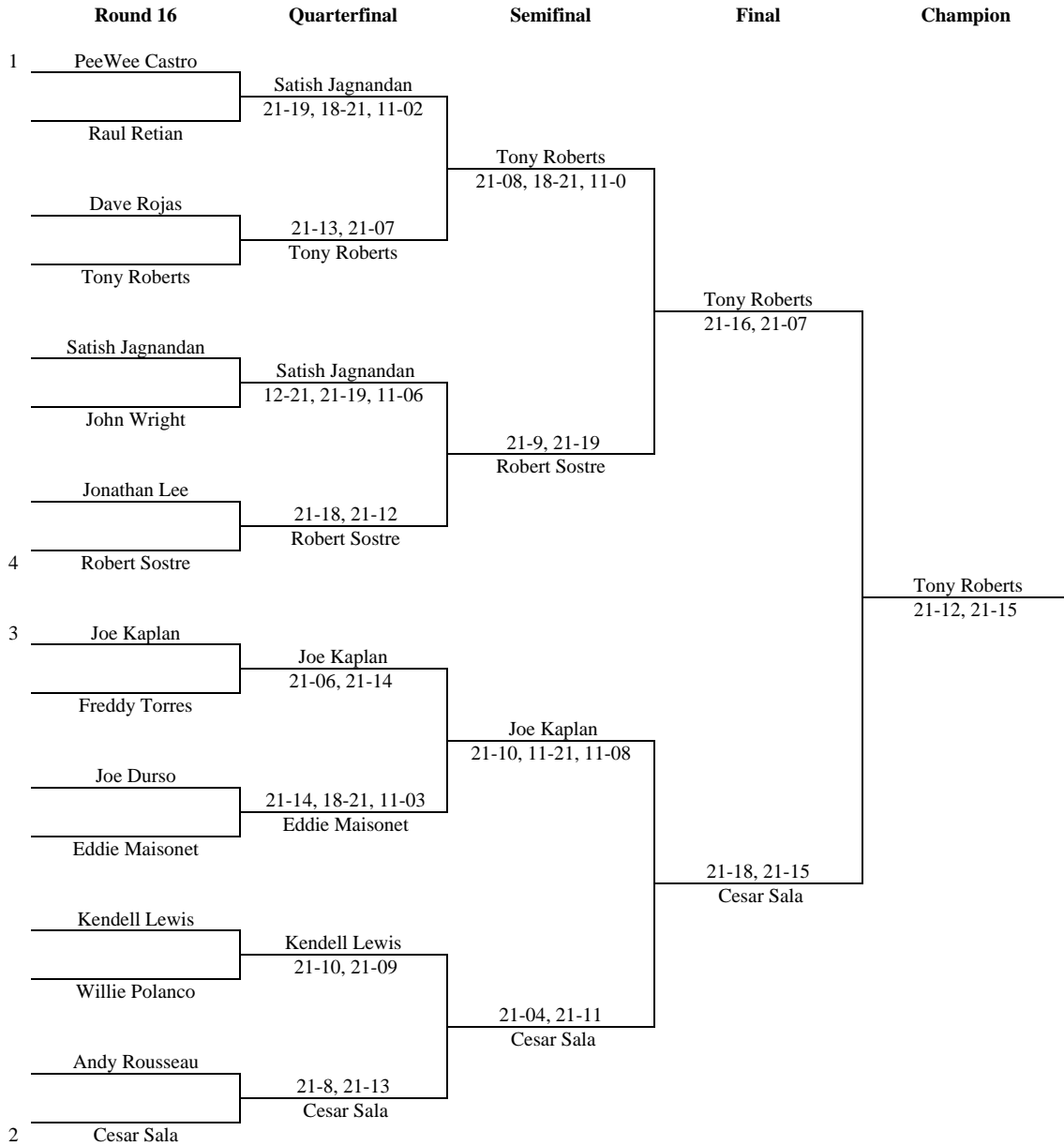


MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR
SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

PRO STOP #4
AUGUST 1-3, 2003 - USHA ONE-WALL NATIONALS (MAJOR)

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the USHA One-Wall Ranking System



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

PRO STOP #4

AUGUST 1-3, 2003 - USHA ONE-WALL NATIONALS (MAJOR)

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

Roberts defeats Sala (21-11, 21-15)

by Ben Brettner

Two men took vastly different paths to meet in the finals that produced one of the most startling results in tournament history. Sports has a language all its own with many expressions that have found their way into ordinary use. "It's hard to win the first time, but harder to repeat". "In order to be considered great you have to beat someone great". Both of these sayings came into play as Tony Roberts began his incredible journey through the draw. His first obstacle was Dave Rojas former National doubles, World singles and current World doubles champion. In workmanlike fashion Tony won 21-12, 21-7. Current champion PeeWee Castro was extended to a tie-breaker by Raul "monster" Retian.

Pre-game consensus was that PeeWee would dispatch Tony in two straight games. When Castro won the first game 21-9, showing skills that brought him to national prominence, spectators turned their attention to other games. When word circulated that Roberts had rebounded to take game two 21-18, they wandered back for the tie-breaker. Surely the spectators opened that the younger and faster Peewee would make the necessary adjustments to keep his trek toward a second title in place. To the shock of those in attendance Tony continued to vary his serve and killed everything in sight. Castro wasn't able to score a single point as Roberts burst to an 11-0 shutout.

PeeWee's failure to repeat just makes you appreciate that much more those teams and athletes that have been able to sustain brilliance over a long period of time. Another common saying in sports is "he has great hands". In football that's used to describe a receiver who can "cradle" the ball into his hands in traffic or a shortstop who can handle any difficult ball hit at him and make it look easy. Well Tony Roberts has long held the reputation of having perhaps the "best hands" in handball. The only thing lacking, which all top singles players possess, was speed. Surely that deficiency would cost him in his semi-final match against the multi-talented and former champion Robert Sostre. Rob caught everyone off guard by opening the game by serving an ace with his left hand. That was pretty much the highlight for Sostre who fell 21-16, 21-7 much to the disbelief of the crowd.

While all the drama was in the top of the draw, Cesar Sala was methodically working his way through the bottom. Cesar has long been acknowledged as one of the top one-wallers since the late 90s. But despite a resume that includes National and World titles Sala hasn't sustained a period of dominance that will stamp him with the label of "greatness". Wins over top 4-waller Kendell Lewis and former champion Ed Maisonet, himself a victor over the legendary Joe Durso, pitted Cesar against his partner Joe Kaplan. With a 21-18, 21-15 Sala was peaking at the right time. The match featured many terrific rallies. Those who watch Sala regularly have come to expect punch shots, retrieves, and sprinting to all corners of the court.

As I watched Tony and Cesar warm up on Sunday morning, I compared Roberts's ascent to the finals to a video game player finding each level more difficult than the previous ones. A succession of champions had fallen at his hands and now lay his toughest task. Pre game butterflies gave way to periods of excellent play with long rallies often ending with a kill shot by Roberts. A 21-11 first game victory was attributed to Sala being a slow starter. In game two, Cesar took a nice lead and seemed to have matters under control. The crowd was hoping for a tie-breaker, but Tony rebounded and closed the match out 21-18 with a final winner.

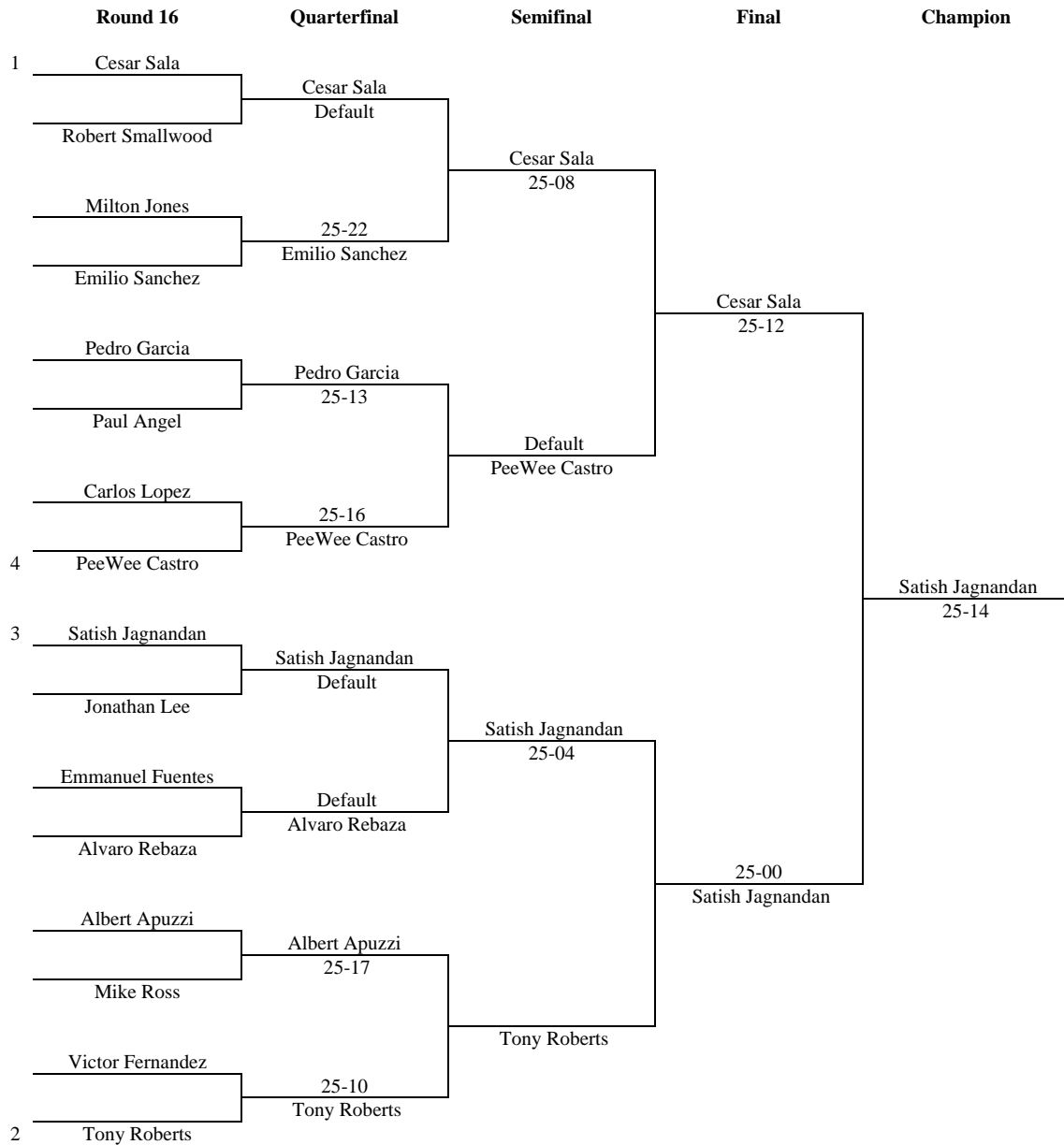
While most modern athletes have an entourage tending to their every need, Roberts has a nutritionist, trainer and cheerleader all in the person of longtime girlfriend Melody Ruiz. While Cesar is left to contemplate how to mold his immense physical talents into championship form, Tony took the cheers of the crowd while a teary eyed Melody embraced him.

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

Pro Stop #5
October 2003 - Bailey Park Fall Classic

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

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

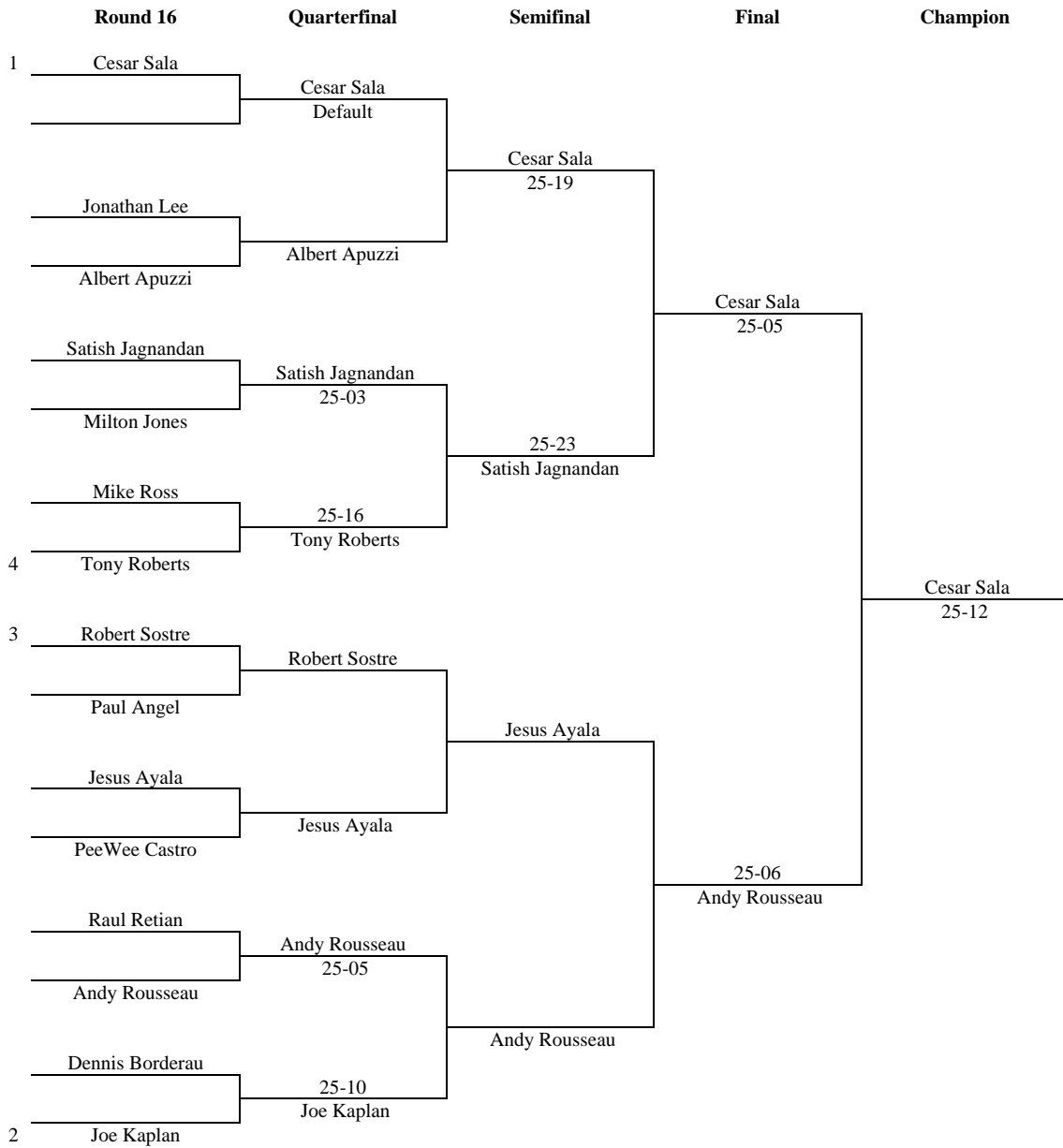


MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR
SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

PRO STOP #6
NOVEMBER 9, 2003 - H.E.S. INVITATIONAL

TOURNAMENT DRAWSHEET

Rankings were based on the USHA One-Wall Ranking System



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

PRO STOP #6

NOVEMBER 9, 2003 - H.E.S. INVITATIONAL

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

Sala defeats Rousseau (25-12)

The winter pro season opened today at the HES YMCA in Brooklyn NY with Cesar Sala defeating surprise finalist Andy Rousseau 25-15. in a rather interesting display of handball. Rousseau played very well to give Sala something to think about and step up his level of play. Rousseau battled Sala in the beginning taking a small lead. But Sala stepped up the play and unleashed the hook serve once he did this the match was his. Rousseau gave his all, making great gets, exciting the crowd with his lunging dives and crushing power, but not consistent enough in the second half of the game.

Sala began to open up the court by handcuffing Rousseau with deep hook serves at the long line. The returns Rousseau made were hanging enough for Sala to put away. Match point and game point were earned when Rousseau hit both shots out with his left hand.

Road to the Finals

Rousseau's run to the finals may have been a surprise to everyone but well deserved. He played every match today with great tenacity. Rousseau defeated Raul Retian 25 -5 pretty handily. Retian looked off today not sure of the movement of the ball. Rousseau was able to build confidence for the next match by really hitting out on every swing. Rousseau went on to defeat Joe Kaplan 25 -13 though Kaplan has been away for a while. Rousseau display some good ball play by running Kaplan and plastering the high volleys. When Kaplan did get his hands on the ball, he just hit the shots out. Hopefully he will be back on track soon. Rousseau has never beaten Kaplan before today so he truly has overcome a hurdle that can elevate his game. Rousseau's semi final match was Jesus Ayala and in the same form as the previous matches Rousseau took it to him 25 - 18. Ayala played OK but seemed hampered by an injury. But never the less, Rousseau sent another opponent home to earn his birth in the finals. We hope to see more of this high level play from Rousseau.

Sala defeated Larry Tse 25 - 2 in an easy opening match. Went on to defeat Albert Apuzzi in a hard hitting battle of the serves. Cesar's semi final match against Satish Jagnandan was a rematch of there Bailey Park Open Singles final a few weeks ago where Jagnandan defeated Sala 25-14. Jagnandan scored 14 before Sala scored a point and 22 before he scored another. Today was just the opposite. This time it was Sala with a 22 point to zero lead before Jagnandan could score. But to no avail could Jagnandan compete with Sala today. The serve was just too strong and Jagnandan's returns were sitters in Sala's hands and he just put shots away, still a great match to watch.

Other Matches

Other matches throughout the tournament were just as exciting as the feature matches. Former National champions and reigning national champions alike tried to display their best on the slippery gymnasium floor. Jesus Ayala defeated the 2002 open singles national champion Yuber Castro in a great opening match. Ayala's low serve to both sides was on fire in this match. Crushing the returns into the right corner with his left hand. Castro held on as long as he could but missed some key shots to keep him in the game. Ayala went on to win the match 25-18.18. Ayala's wave of low serves continued in his next match when he defeated Robert Sostre 25 - 19. Sostre with out a doubt has the best hands in the game looked a little out of practice but still played a great match. Ayala's serve had pinpoint down the line accuracy. A lot of aces against a great defender. Albert Apuzzi faced 2002 B national champion Jonathon Lee in his opening match. This was a match worth watching, as Apuzzi started off with a handy 8 point lead. Point by point Lee eased his way to an 8 - 8 match. Both players were making great shots, especially Apuzzi kneeling to the ground and hitting flat line killers off Lee's power drives, it was nice to watch. This match had some huge cross court angle rallies with either Apuzzi or Lee finishing off the play with a kill shot. At 14 all, Apuzzi was finally able to pull ahead in the match. At 24 - 18, Apuzzi served a low serve behind him down the left line and the serve was called out, obviously a good serve but there was a point replay and Apuzzi ended the match with another kneeling dive roller. Great effort to entertain the crowd from both players. Satish Jagnandan against Tony Roberts again, with Jagnandan defeating Roberts 25 - 23 in a close controversial match. This time Roberts let Jagnandan know we are not at Bailey Park and there will not be another 25 - 0 game. Another match worth watching, because both of the players serve and return well. These guys were pounding the ball. Roberts's left hand kill shots both underhand and natural were awesome. A few calls on both sides went into controversy especially on the serve. Those of us that have good low serves want all of our serves to be good, but it is tuff calling that short line. If you want more on the controversy you will have to purchase the video. Still a great match between these two and Jagnandan went on to win 25 - 23. Jagnandon defeated Milton Jones 25 - 3. Jones started out ok, but seems to lose his rhythm as the match went on but still a great effort. We hope to see more of him on the pro circuit. Roberts defeated Mike Ross 25 - 1 in his opening match. Ross could not even get up to serve the ball. I think Roberts felt bad for him and gave him a serve on match point and then donated a point to the cause. We look forward to the next pro event and more exciting matches. Overall a great day at the HES Pro Singles Tournament.

MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR

SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003

YEAR #3

<u>Rankings (Jan. 03 to Nov. 03)</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u># Tournaments Won</u>	<u>Park, Borough</u>
1. Cesar Sala	225	3 (Major, 2 Non-Majors)	Coney Island, Brooklyn
2. Satish Jagnandan	145	2 (2 Non-Majors)	Bailey Avenue, Bronx
3. Tony Roberts	125	1 (Major)	Coney Island, Brooklyn
4. Robert Sostre	90	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
5. Kendell Lewis	85	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
5. Joe Kaplan	85	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
6. Yuber "Pee-Wee" Castro	80	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
7. Albert Apuzzi	55	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
8. Andy Rousseau	45	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
9. Eddie Maisonet	45	0	Sunset Park, Queens
10. Jesus Ayala	20	0	Bailey Avenue, Bronx
10. Willie Polanco	20	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
11. Francisco Carbuccia	10	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
11. Joe Durso	10	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn
11. Pedro Garcia	10	0	Bailey Avenue, Bronx
11. Emilio Sanchez	10	0	Coney Island, Brooklyn

MEN'S 1-WALL PRO HANDBALL TOUR
SMALL-BALL POINTS RACE 2003
YEAR #3

	Non-Major	Major	Non-Major	Major	Non-Major	Non-Major		
Players	YMCAI 03	MC 03	MOC 03	USHAN 03	BFFC 03	HESI 03	Total	Rankings
Joe Agosto	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Paul Angel	0	DNP	0	DNP	0	0	0	
Albert Apuzzi	10	15	10	DNP	10	10	55	8
Jesus Ayala	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	20	20	11
Adam Berwitz	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Dennis Bordeau	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	0	
Yuber "PeeWee" Castro	20	15	10	15	20	0	80	6
Francisco Carbuccia	10	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	10	
Joe Durso	10	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	10	
Pedro Garcia	DNP	0	0	DNP	10	DNP	10	
Victor Fernandez	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	0	
Emmanuel Fuentes	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	0	
Satish Jagnandan	DNP	30	40	15	40	20	145	2
Milton Jones	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	0	0	
Joe Kaplan	0	45	DNP	30	DNP	10	85	7
Juned Khan	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Steve Kraft	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Jonathan Lee	10	DNP	0	0	0	0	10	
Kendell Lewis	10	30	30	15	DNP	DNP	85	5
Carlos Lopez	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	0	DNP	0	
Eddie Maisonet	DNP	DNP	20	15	DNP	DNP	35	10
John Necakov	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Willie Polanco	20	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	20	11
Christobal Ramos	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Alvaro Rebaza	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	0	
Raul Retian	DNP	DNP	0	0	DNP	0	0	
Frank Rivera	0	0	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	0	
Dave Rojas	0	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	0	
Tony Roberts	10	15	10	60	20	10	125	3
Mike Ross	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	0	0	
Andy Rousseau	0	15	0	0	DNP	30	45	9
Cesar Sala	40	60	10	45	30	40	225	1
Emilio Sanchez	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	10	DNP	10	
Mohammed Shakoor	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Robert Smallwood	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	0	DNP	0	
Robert "Iceman" Sostre	30	0	20	30	DNP	10	90	4
Eliel Torres	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Dennis Uffer	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	

Carlos Vasquez	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Aaron Velez	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Frank Vignola	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
Paul Williams	0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	
John "Rookie" Wright	DNP	DNP	DNP	0	DNP	DNP	0	
Players	YMCAI 03	MC 03	MOC 03	USHAN 03	BPFC 03	HESI 03	Total	Rankings
	Non-Major	Major	Non-Major	Major	Non-Major	Non-Major		