

## Tournament Results

### \*Jaime Paredes Over Roberts

\* Minus Alvarado

#### Joins Select Group of Pro Winners!

#### Spalding/Gatorade Pro Stop And Canadian Nationals

Club Le Bourgneuf, Quebec City, Canada

Jaime Paredes became the first "new" person to win a pro stop in four years with a final, 21-20, 21-13 win over Vern Roberts. Roberts was the last new winner in 1980 in Austin, Texas, but hasn't won a pro stop since. Roberts was a heavy favorite coming into the final with a convincing semifinal win over Fred Lewis, but Paredes quickly jumped to a first-game lead, a lead he wouldn't relinquish.

Jumping on everything he could get his hands on in the front court, Paredes out-rallied the bewildered Roberts. Each time Roberts closed the gap in points with his steady play, Paredes would spurt for three or four points with deadly serves and flat kills.

Paredes has a very deceptive service motion. It takes total concentration to read whether he's going left or right and it's even more difficult to read whether he's hitting a natural or reverse. Coupling his serve with an aggressive front-court attack, Jaime's capable of scoring in bunches.

Roberts and Paredes had just played in the first round of the Houston Pro Stop with reversed results, but Jaime was still strong going into the Alvarado-less final. In fact, it was the first pro final without Alvarado since he lost to Dennis Hofflander in the quarters four years ago in Austin, the only pro win for Roberts. Alvarado cancelled out of the Quebec stop with a sprained ankle.

Both Paredes and Roberts started a little tentative on the tough Le Bourgneuf glass court. Paredes played with more patience than in his previous outings. Jaime returned Vern's serves to the ceiling and waited for the high-percentage opportunity. Paredes held leads of 8-3, 13-8, 17-13 and 20-17.

Each time Roberts battled back with great defense and finally tied the score at 20-all, but Paredes allowed Roberts just one serve at 20.

The second game was all Paredes. He controlled the entire game as the wear and tear showed on Roberts. The confidence of his first-game win seemed to relax Paredes as he grooved into his title-bound form to roll to the 21-13 win.

#### Pro Stop Winners, 1973-1984

Naty Alvarado	43
Fred Lewis	16
Dennis Hofflander	6
Stuffy Singer	3
Paul Haber	2
Terry Muck	2
Gordy Pfeifer	1
Dave Graybill	1
Vern Roberts	1
Jaime Paredes	1



Paredes was on top of everything Roberts left in the front court.

Jaime felt very good about his change in game plan against Roberts after their last encounter in Houston. Paredes stated, "I wanted to play him like a lefty, staying away from his left fist that hurt me in Houston. I also

wanted to return his serves to the ceiling. I knew he (Vern) could volley, but he killed me with back-wall kills in Houston." Paredes is a smart young player as the results show.



Kendler out-dueled Hofflander.



Roberts had his punch shot working against Lewis in the semis.

Jon Kendler, coming off his quarter-final upset over Dennis Hofflander, was Jaime's semifinal victim. Kendler had trouble adjusting to Jaime's serve and front-court attack in the first game. Kendler has yet to play up to his ability against the aggressive front-court style of game, but he came back well in the second. Paredes held on the win the second, 21-18, but Kendler is on the tour to stay.

Kendler and Dennis Hofflander duplicated their tremendous match in Seattle where Hofflander won, 11-10, in the tie breaker. After splitting the first two games, it looked as though Hofflander would pull through again as he held a 9-5 lead. However, the ball broke and a new "jackrabbit" was brought into the game. Kendler reversed the momentum and ran the game out, overpowering Dennis with rocket serves and drive passes.

Paredes has now won two matches out of three encounters with John Sabo. For those of you who are wondering where Jaime came from, he's from San Diego and he burst onto the tour with his semifinal finish in last year's nationals. Through the last year, Jaime has only lost to the game's best. Since the nationals, he has lost once to Alvarado, once to Lewis, once to Roberts, and once to Sabo. Trailing 12-4 in the first game, Paredes came back against Sabo in the Quebec quarters with errorless play. Paredes won that first game, 21-12, and the second, 21-15.

Each round brought more confidence for Jaime. In the first round, he eliminated another rising handball star, No. 6 seed Poncho Monreal, 21-8, 21-17. Sporting the same game plan, Paredes performed better in each category. Paredes served much better than Monreal in the first game for the easy win. In the second game, Poncho

started returning the serve better, but Paredes displayed a better all-around game for the win.

While Paredes was working his way through the top half of the draw, Roberts and Lewis were advancing to their semifinal showdown. Lewis punished Ken Ayube in the first round for a 21-12, 21-10 win. Lewis appeared even more comfortable with the glass in his second-round win over Mike Gardner, 21-3, 21-8.

Roberts has been playing with a renewed vigor for the last two pro stops. In the first round, he went right to work on Gerry Kabala, racing to a 21-1 first-game win. In the second, Roberts held a large lead before letting off on the gas and coasting to a 21-13 win. Hard-hitting Frank Postillion never got anything to hit in his strike zone in the quarters against Roberts. Roberts took a 21-6 first-game win before the fireworks started. Roberts took a Postillion smash in the beginning of the second game that shattered his glasses in four places. From that point, it was a heated affair that saw Roberts mount a 19-9 lead before Postillion untracked himself to finally tally 16.

Lewis and Roberts hadn't met in a pro stop for a full year going into the Quebec semifinal. Everyone, including the two players, expected another of their marathons where percentage handball is played to the grueling conclusion. Each and every volley did go the distance, but Roberts scored most of the points. After 45 minutes, the score stood at 10-5 in the first game. However, from that point, Roberts converted all of his opportunities, while Lewis couldn't end the volleys in his favor. The 21-12, 21-3 scores clearly aren't indicative of the physical and emotional drain of a two-and-a-half-hour match.

Lewis came back much better on Sunday for the third-place playoff. Kendler complained of a strained neck muscle and could only go through the motions. Lewis won 21-1, 21-3, for third-place points and prize money.

Each of the four qualifiers, Danny Bell, Tim Sterrett, Charlie Kalil and Todd Worrell, proved to be capable tour players. Quebec's own Danny Bell, just 21 years old, thrilled the hometown fans by taking John Sabo the distance in the opening round. Bell won the first game, 21-19, just hanging on to a large early lead. In the second and third games, Bell proved he wasn't intimidated by the "Baby Bull's" powerful attack. Bell came back in the second to tally 17 and then came back from a 9-2 deficit in the third to tally nine against one of the tour's best.

Todd Worrell had another good showing, too. Worrell beat Postillion, 21-13, in the first game and narrowly lost the second, 21-19. Postillion grabbed a large lead in the tie breaker and coasted to an 11-6 win.

Both Sterrett and Kalil came back from first-game blowouts to come oh-so-close in their second games. Sterrett tallied 18 in the second game against Hofflander. Lake Forest College alumnus Charlie Kalil came back against LFC junior Jon Kendler in their second game to knot the score at 20-20. Kendler showed his advanced tour experience with an "ace" for No. 21.

It was a great week for handball in Quebec. The Le Bourgneuf club was a perfect site, comfortably seating the 300-plus Canadian Nationals entrants. The 80-plus Junior entrants were treated to a clinic conducted by Fred Lewis, Vern Roberts and Bo Blinski. The tremendous enthusiasm exhibited by the Canadians for pro handball has