

# Joe Kaplan

**In 1999, 2001, and 2002 Joe Kaplan won the Albany State Open Doubles Championship. Joe had branched out from his brilliant 1-wall play. When a student at Lafayette High School, Kaplan played first singles for two years, and, as a senior, was the best high school singles player in New York City.**

In 1999 he won the USHA National Single crown by defeating National Hall of Famer Joe Durso in the final. In 2002 he was National Singles Runner-up, a status he attained again in 2012 and 2013, at 38 and 39 years of age, a time when most athletes begin losing their ability to compete on a high level.

Kaplan excelled in doubles even more than in singles. Teamed with Cesar Sala, he won the USHA National Doubles title in 2000, 2006, 2007, and 2011. He and Cesar were finalists in that major event in 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2008.

Joe was impressive to watch. Fleetness of foot made him an excellent retriever. A powerful serve coupled with a high percentage kill shot made his offense formidable. His intense focus separated him from most of his competition. Carl Porter Award Winner Artie Fuchs once said that of all the top players he observed, Kaplan was his favorite because "he plays hard every point with no nonsense. He's totally focused on the game."

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