

Ruthless Richard Hatch wins 'Survivor' prize

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Richard Hatch, the ruthless strategist on CBS' "Survivor," proved his mettle Wednesday night by wangling the million-dollar prize.

During the two-hour finale, Hatch edged out three rival castaways on the tropical island that served as the setting for this game-show hit. Outlasting Kelly Wiglesworth, Rudy Boesch and Susan Hawk, Hatch became the lone survivor from the 16 who marooned themselves on remote Pulau Tiga at the series' launch in May.

The final choice — between Hatch and Wiglesworth — was handed down by a jury of seven former tribe-mates. Their vote was a squeaker: 4 to 3.

"I wouldn't change anything that I did," Rich told the jury in a final statement.

Then, waiting for the ballots to be tallied, Rich admitted, "I can't breathe."

"Survivor" host Jeff Probst called out his name. There was a sprinkling of applause from the group and Rich looked stunned.

At the Newport Athletic Club in Hatch's hometown, Middletown, R.I., where he trained before going to the island and still works out, the crowd of about 40 who had gathered to watch the final show erupted in cheers.

Jon Smyth, Hatch's personal

trainer, thought back to a moment before Hatch left for the island.

"He looked me dead in the eye and said: 'I'm going to win this competition,' and I said 'I know,'" Smyth said. "It was strange, but he said it with the most confidence I've ever seen."

He said the Machiavellian Hatch seen by millions on TV is not the man he knows.

"That's a side of Rich I've never seen before," Smyth said. "In real life, Rich is a warm, fun guy to be around. He's funny."

He wins \$1 million in cash and a new car. As runnerup, Kelly wins \$100,000.

When "Survivor" premiered three months ago, critics called it "Gilligan's Island" meets "Lord of the Flies." On Wednesday, much of America called it a must-see.

But the TV show more directly comparable was "Dallas."

A half-hour into the show, Susan, the trucker from Palmyra, Wis., was sacked in a tribal vote.

River guide Kelly had won immunity from that vote after correctly answering the most questions about former castaways. She also won the second immunity challenge by standing the longest with a hand on the immunity idol. Her only remaining rival in that contest, Rudy, dropped out after 4 hours, 11 minutes.

Then, in the second tribal council, Kelly was placed in the odd position of single-handedly deciding the fates of Richard and

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Rudy, Rudy, the retired Navy SEAL from Virginia Beach, Va., was picked off by Kelly.

"I never thought I'd come this far," said Rudy, many oddsmakers' favorite to win.

That left Kelly and Rich. By then, "Survivor" buzz, predictions and, most of all, hype had reached epic proportions.

So had festivities by fans who threw "Survivor" viewing parties, complete with tropical costumes and the ever-present threat of getting voted out of the bash.

Jumping on the reality-TV bandwagon, CBS launched the 13-week "Survivor" on May 31 to breathe life into a prime-time schedule largely filled with reruns. The show had been taped during 39 days last spring on the island of Pulau Tiga near Borneo.

On opening night, the 16 volunteers were seen arriving on the tiny tropical isle. By the end of the hour — actually three days later — the first among them had been voted off the island during a solemn tribal council.

All summer, CBS beat the "Survivor" drum, from morning (on its "Early Show," where weekly

castoffs were showcased) to night (on Wednesdays, "Late Show" host David Letterman welcomed the castaways to recite the Top 10 list).

But no newspaper, TV show or magazine seemed able to resist. USA Today on Wednesday featured a full-page color advertisement ("Got Milk?") with the Final Four wearing milk mustaches. Entertainment Weekly pushed back its deadline by a day and prepared four possible covers. NBC's "Today" show even interviewed Dawn Wells who, nearly 40 years ago, played Mary Ann on the castaways comedy "Gilligan's Island."

The first "Survivor" episode drew a healthy 15.5 million viewers, but by mid-August, that number had nearly doubled.

To keep the audience hooked, CBS imposed an information clampdown, even as the castaways resumed their normal lives — and one of them, already the big winner, quietly envisioned life with a million-dollar jackpot. Everyone associated with the show signed a nondisclosure agreement with stiff cash penalties.



Derek Lippincott/DN

Freshman general studies major Isaac Parry takes a nap on the stairs in front of Memorial Stadium. Parry said he likes to relax by the stadium between his morning classes because there isn't much traffic around.

Coaches future looks dim before hearing

Owners of the bar and grill, which leased part of its building to Cheetahs adult club, have little faith in a positive outcome.

BY JOSH FUNK

Though one of his businesses hangs in the balance, this afternoon's liquor license hearing does not worry Duane Hartman.

He already knows what will happen.

The revocation of Coaches Bar and Grill's liquor license by the Lancaster County Commission hearing seems like a foregone conclusion to the bar's owners, who had leased part of their building to Cheetahs strip bar.

"We already know what they're going to say," said Hartman, president of DLH Inc., which owns Coaches. "There is no justice here."

Wednesday, a federal judge denied Hartman's petition to delay the license hearing to take depositions from county officials.

Earlier, County Attorney Gary Lacey had also denied the request to take depositions because he said the legal rules of discovery do not apply to the county commission hearing.

Through depositions, Coaches' owners wanted to establish what the commissioners knew about the statute they were enforcing and their reasons for prosecuting Cheetahs.

"All we're trying to do is get a fair hearing before a body that hasn't already made up their minds," Hartman said.

Today the county commission can recommend to revoke Coaches' liquor license, though the final decision lies with the state liquor commission.

The proposed revocation is based on a 20-year-old statute that Hartman said had never been enforced in the county.

The statute empowers the commission to revoke liquor licenses from any business that allows "any live person to appear ... in a state of nudity, to provide entertainment ..."

At Tuesday's regular commission hearing, the Lancaster County Sheriff's office reported that Cheetahs' dancers had covered their breasts, public areas and most of their buttocks in accordance with the commission's request.

Hartman said there is no reason Coaches' liquor license should be questioned.

"This is just the games the commission plays," Hartman said.

After Cheetahs had been open for a couple weeks, the commission gave the club's owners one day's notice to either cover up the dancers or

lose their liquor license, Hartman said.

Before any of these objections were raised, Hartman said he tried to amend Coaches' liquor license to exclude part of the building, so Cheetahs could get its own liquor license. But the amendment was denied.

Cheetahs, which offers adult entertainment at 640 W. Prospector Ct., opened in July.

The commission will decide whether to revoke Coaches' liquor license at a 1 p.m. hearing today at the County/City building, 555 S. 10th.

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