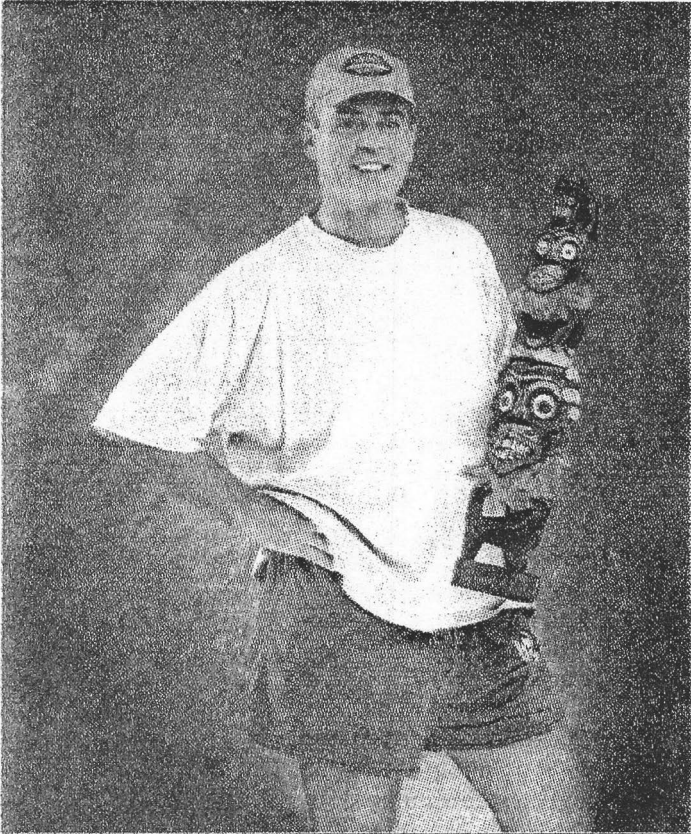


~~Richard Hatch~~
Hawk, Susan

8-24-00

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2000



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He couldn't be too rich or too thin: A svelte Richard Hatch of Newport, R.I., shown in a recent photo, is \$1 million richer for his stint on the island of Pulau Tiga.

Richard survives

Woman from Eagle booted in finale as trainer wins \$1 million on 'Survivor'

By TIM CUPRISIN
Journal Sentinel TV & radio columnist

Wisconsin's chance for a trickle-down share of \$1 million was doused like a tiki torch Wednesday, as Susan Hawk, the truck driver from Eagle, got the boot a half-hour into the two-hour finale of CBS' "Survivor."

Instead, the most manipulative jerk on the island, slimy corporate trainer Richard Hatch, won the money on a 4-3 vote of

the last seven castaways voted off Pulau Tiga. He beat out finalist Kelly Wiglesworth, a river guide from Las Vegas, in the most closely followed TV mystery since America tried to figure out who shot J.R. Ewing on "Dallas" two decades ago.

Since its debut May 31, "Sur-

Please see **SURVIVOR** page 4

Back home, friends, family and strangers follow Susan's fate on "Survivor"4A

Survivor/Susan is booted, and dreaded Richard is richer

vivor" has become a staple of talk shows, stand-up comedy acts, bar chatter and water cooler talk. It began with 16 contestants marooned on an island in the South China Sea to compete for cash. One by one they were voted off by their fellow castaways, and week by week the ratings grew. The audience neared 30 million last week, and Wednesday night's finale was expected to lure up to 40 million.

"Survivor II," set in Australia's Outback, premieres on Super Bowl Sunday. By that time, it will be joined by a slew of other "reality" shows that "Survivor" has spawned.

The biggest surprise in Wednesday's finale saw crotchety septuagenarian Rudy Boesch, the favorite of Internet polls and TV writers, follow Susan off the island. Runner-up Kelly figured she'd do better against Rich when they faced a jury of the seven most recently cast-off castaways.

The interplay of the 16 personalities — and the politics that ensued — drove the story and kept the suspense going each week.

Kelly and Susan had once been close friends, at least in the drama constructed by the savvy producers of the 13-week summer series. But the conniving trucker had turned against Kelly a few episodes ago.

"I regret trusting Sue," Kelly told the camera after Susan was cut. "That hurt me a lot."

But Susan seemed more hurt by Kelly's duplicity in turning against the alliance that Richard and Susan had forged early in the show's run.

While Susan's friends and relatives say she's much nicer than her character on the show, she showed a vicious side in a monologue to fellow castaways who were to pick the winner.

Susan compared Richard to a snake and Kelly to a rat — and backed the snake. If Kelly were "laying there dying of thirst, I would not give you a drink of water," she said with characteristic bluntness and her classic Wisconsin accent. "I would let the vultures take you and do whatever they want with you."

In the one-hour live show after the episode ended, Susan told host Bryant Gumbel, "I was pissed at the time," and she seemed to have made her peace with Kelly.

The twists and turns of the last episode of the pop culture phenomenon started with Kelly earning immunity from being voted off the island. She won a trivia quiz on previously axed castaways, beating Susan, crusty old salt Rudy Boesch and slimy corporate trainer Rich.

In the first vote of the night, Susan and Rich were tied in the balloting for eviction. A tie-breaker by Rudy and Kelly knocked Susan out of the game.

"Cool. Hey, no problem," she said after the vote. "I'm ready to go."

After extinguishing her torch in the ritual of the show, she said, "I said, 'Aw, it'd be great if I could finish in the top four or five.' That's good enough for me."

Kelly went on to win immunity a second time by holding on to a wooden "idol" longer than did Rudy, the 73-year-old retired Navy SEAL. Rich had dropped out of that competition early, hoping to earn the vote of the winner in the next round.

That worked for Rich, and Rudy was bounced.

Then it was up to a group of the last seven castaways voted off the island to decide between Kelly and Rich for the first place \$1 million and \$100,000 for No. 2.

In the parade of former castaways, youth basketball coach Gervase Peterson, who was voted off a couple of weeks back, voted for Kelly, ripping Susan as a sore loser.

But Sean Kenniff, who cast most of his votes in some weird alphabetical order before being bounced himself last week, said the contest came down to "who was the least objectionable." He voted for "out and out scoundrel" Richard.

One of the sweetest of the 16, college student Colleen Haskell, voted for Kelly, hoping that she would "do something nice" with the money.

Rudy stayed loyal to his old ally, Rich. "I'm fulfillin' my obligation," he said as he cast his vote.



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Susan Hawk (left) and Kelly Wiglesworth make up while fellow "Survivor" contestants Rudy Boesch and Richard Hatch (right) look on during a town hall meeting Wednesday at CBS Studios in Hollywood.

The deciding vote was cast by perhaps the strangest contestant, Greg Buis, who pretended a coconut was a telephone while on the island and was the only castaway to refuse interviews after being voted off. He asked Richard and Kelly to pick a number between one and seven.

Richard's seven was closer to his nine than Kelly's three.

When the votes were tallied, it was 4-3 for Rich.

"Wow, I've won," he said as the final credits rolled. "It's an amazing place to be. A heck of an opportunity, I'm not exactly certain what I'm gonna be doing with the million dollars. I hope to make the lives of my family and friends and those I care about happier."

"I hope to remain who I am. It's a wonderful feeling."

Not that everything has gone smoothly for Rich since returning from the island. He's facing charges of second-degree child abuse, to which he has responded with his own lawsuit against police and child welfare officials.

Meanwhile, he has reportedly lost 80 pounds since he returned from the 39 days of filming this spring. He has shaved off his beard and has hired an agent as he tried to turn that Machiavellian mind toward a post-"Survivor" career.

He starts a one-week talk radio gig in Providence, R.I., on Monday.