



BERISTA
On His Way

Berista Rebounds At Dania

Plagued by an injured leg, Berista was slow in getting started this season. But once the Basque youngster crashed the Dania Jai-Alai Palace lineup, the results have been impressive.

Players' Manager Jose Cruz Salsamendi has moved him up to the middle games where he has recorded a .500 in the money mark.

Born Jose Maria Beristain in the small town of Motrico in northern Spain, Berista began to play jai-alai in earnest when he was 12. His shipbuilder father persuaded him to take a business course in school.

When he was 18, Berista decided to forsake a business career for the life of a professional jai-alai player. He traveled a long distance from home to make his professional debut in Tampa in 1955.

From there, Berista traveled to Acapulco, Mexico, West Palm Beach and Daytona Beach before coming to Dania.

"Berista has a smooth style," says Salsamendi. "Now that he has become accustomed to the court, he should be tough competition for the rest of the season."

Berista, who has two sisters, is single and lives with Ituarte in Dania. His favorite form of relaxation is going to the beach.