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# Austin Rivers, Winter Park set sights on City of Palms tourney title

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After winning two MVP awards at the City of Palms Classic, Austin Rivers hopes to bring home the tournament championship this year.

**By David Dorsey, Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press**

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The only two-time Most Valuable Player in State Farm City of Palms Classic history, Austin Rivers would prefer that his third such award come along with something else.

Rivers wants his first championship.

The 16-team high school basketball tournament began Friday and continues Monday at Bishop Verot High School's gymnasium. Rivers and his Winter Park teammates, ranked No. 10 in USA Today's Super 25, play [West Palm Beach Gardens Dwyer](#) at 8:15 p.m. Monday in the quarterfinals.

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Rivers, who scored just two points in the first quarter of his first-round game Saturday, finished with a game-high 28 points with [ESPN analyst Dick Vitale](#) in the stands. Winter Park defeated Reserve (La.) Riverside Academy 75-63.

**CITY OF PALMS:** [Elizabeth \(N.J.\) St. Patrick moves on](#)

Rivers, a 6-foot-4 senior guard and the son of [Boston Celtics](#) coach [Doc Rivers](#), signed to play next season at [Duke University](#). Rivers said he revered the Classic, as it's where he became nationally known during his sophomore season.

"I was known in the AAU world, but not really in the high school basketball world," Rivers said of when he entered the 2008 Classic.

That year, Winter Park defeated [Duncanville \(Tex.\)](#), at the time the nation's top-ranked team, in the first round. Winter Park then defeated Los Angeles Westchester, which at the time had been undefeated in winning three Classics over the years. Winter Park fell to Elizabeth (N.J.) St. Patrick in the semifinals and then defeated nationally-ranked Marietta (Ga.) Wheeler for third place.

Rivers scored a career-high 46 points in that third-place game. The career-best still stands.

"Austin has fit in real well here," Winter Park coach David Bailey said. "The tournament has done a super job of showcasing the best talent in the country, and Austin has done a good job of showing he belongs in that category."

Rivers, who enters the Classic fourth among the tournament's all-time scoring leaders, would have to score 143 more points in order to top [Kenny Boynton's](#) career scoring mark of 406.

Rivers would ave to average 48 points over three games in order to top that mark.

"That's not going to happen," Rivers said. "I've never thought about it, but I figure I'd have to be (among the leaders). Not many teams come back year-after-year-after year."

Rivers has never put personal records above the team record, Bailey said.

Rivers helped lead Winter Park to the Class 6A state championship last season, the first title in school history.

"As far as all-time greats, I think when it's all said and done, Austin will be one of the best to ever play here," Bailey said of an event that has included 90 McDonald's All-Americans in it.