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Point guard Myles Mack commits to Rutgers

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Matt Stanmyre and Steve Politi/The Star-Ledger

Mike Rice has yet to coach his first game at Rutgers, but the new basketball coach continues to score victories where they matter the most this time of year -- on the recruiting trail.

One day after he **scored a blue-chip power forward, 6-foot-8 Kadeem Jack** out of Rice High in New York, the coach added the top-rated guard in New Jersey: Paterson native Myles Mack.

Mack, who will play this season for St. Anthony, averaged 14.8 points and 2.8 steals last year at Paterson Catholic, which closed its doors in June. Mack selected Rutgers over Miami (Fla.), St. John's, Penn State, Connecticut and Providence, among others.

"I'm feeling great right now about my decision," Mack said. "I'm going to stay close to home to play my college basketball. I have a great relationship with coach Rice and that made my decision quite easy."

Mack is the No. 23 rated point guard in the 2011 class, according to Rivals.com, and the top rated guard in New Jersey now that Myck Kabongo (Texas) and Tyrone Johnson (Villanova) have transferred out of state for their upcoming senior seasons. He is rated the No. 119 overall prospect in the country by Rivals.

Mack said Rutgers' 2011 recruiting class was one of the deciding factors that clinched his decision for the Knights. Mack is the fourth player in Rutgers' Class of 2011, including Jack, former Paterson Catholic standout Derrick Randall and **small forward Malick Kone** from the Blue Ridge (Va.) School.

"The program is skyrocketing as we speak," Mack said. "I'm really liking that."

Mack was a part of a Paterson Catholic team that climbed as high as No. 3 in the national polls this past season. The team won its first 28 games and captured the City of Palms (Fla.) Christmas Tournament title during which Mack was named the championship game most valuable player.

"He's outstanding. He's as good a get as Kadeem Jack," said Steve Keller, a talent scout from The National Recruiting Report based in Neptune. "They got the guard they wanted and they got the big kid they wanted within 48 hours.

"The kid's is a tremendous shooter, great ball-handler. He wins. He comes up big in big games. He had games this summer where they couldn't stop him."

Mack was All-Passaic County first team as a sophomore and junior. He scored 979 points in three seasons at Paterson Catholic.

"He was a very unselfish player," former Paterson Catholic coach Damon Wright said. "He became more of a leader as a junior more so than anything and that really helped our team go 28-1."



Tim Farrell/The Star-Ledger

Point guard Myles Mack played for Paterson Catholic last year and this year will play at St. Anthony. In 2011, he will suit up for Rutgers.



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