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Milton High loses on buzzer beater in ESPNU-televised championship basketball game

12:01 am December 23, 2010, by Michael Carvell

Milton's **Shannon Scott** and **Julian Royal** were named to the all-tournament team at the City of Palms Classic in Ft. Myers, Fla.

New Jersey's St. Patrick defeated Milton High 69-67 on a buzzer beater in Wednesday night's tournament championship game which was televised on ESPNU.

Royal (signed with Georgia Tech) finished with 20 points, while Scott (Ohio State) scored 17.

Here's more on the game from Adam Fisher of the [Naple News](#) ...

It was only fitting that in the strongest field the tournament had ever assembled, the State Farm City of Palms Classic had one of the best finishes in its 38 years.

Jarrel Lane swished a deep 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds left for Elizabeth (N.J.)-St. Patrick, and time expired before Alpharetta (Ga.)-Milton could inbound the ball as the Celtics won 69-67. The lead changed hands 10 times in the final four minutes, and St. Patrick trailed in the final seconds after leading by 13 in the second half.

"When I let it go, I knew it was good," Lane said. "Once it went through and I saw the clock was zeros, I was excited. I was excited I hit the shot and excited for the team that we finally won the trophy and can take it back to Jersey."

The drama made the Celtics' first City of Palms championship all the more sweeter. St. Patrick made its record 10th trip to the tournament, but before this year had never won the title. The Celtics had finished runner-up five times before finally breaking through Wednesday.

"Anyway to win it," said Celtics coach Kevin Boyle, who had led St. Patrick to all 10 of its tournament appearances since 1992. "I'm a little bit upset we let a 13-point lead get away, but you've got to give (Milton) a lot of credit."

Division I recruits Michael Gilchrist and Derrick Gordon combined to score 45 points for St. Patrick, but Lane was the hero. Lane's game-winning 3 was the only shot he attempted in the game.

It was the first time a City of Palms championship ended on a buzzer-beater since Falls Church (Va.)-Flint Hill won in 1989. In that game, future Wake Forest star Randolph Childress drained a game-winning 3-pointer in triple overtime.

"We've not seen a finish like that in 21 years," Classic Basketball Inc., vice president Donnie Wilkie told the crowd immediately following the game.

The winning shot wasn't designed to go to Lane. Lane inbounded the ball with 5.3 seconds left, and the play was designed to be a lob pass to the 6-foot-7 Gilchrist at the rim. The Milton defense focused on Gilchrist, however, leaving Lane open.

"The play broke down, to be honest," Boyle said. "We got a break because (the defense) forgot about the inbounder."

For more on the game, click [here](#)

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