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## St. Patrick of Elizabeth, N.J., wins City of Palms Classic, beating Georgia power at buzzer, 69-67

BY CHRISTOPHER LAWLOR  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Thursday, December 23rd 2010, 4:00 AM

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FORT MYERS, Fla. - The waiting is over for St. Patrick, and it ended in dramatic fashion.

The Celtics wiped away nearly two decades of futility at the City of Palms Classic on Wednesday, edging nationally ranked Milton (Alpharetta, Ga.), 69-67, in the championship game at sold-out Bishop Verot High School's Nevins Gymnasium.

The elusive hardware is finally heading back to the small Catholic school located a bounce pass from the Port of Newark.

Guard Jarrel Lane drained a 3-pointer from 25 feet as time expired, rallying St. Patrick. Lane, plagued by early foul trouble, took just one shot all night but made it count.

"I knew it was good when I let it fly," said Lane, who signed with UMBC. "We pulled together and didn't give up at the end."

With 5.3 seconds left, Lane inbounded to Chris Martin, who returned the ball to the right wing where Lane's game-winning shot was launched.

The play was originally designed for Kentucky-bound forward Michael Gilchrist, the tournament Most Valuable Player, but broke down.

"Sometimes the defense forgets to cover the inbounder on plays like this," coach Kevin Boyle said. "We wanted to throw it at the rim for Michael, but Jarrel had an open look. We were good tonight but sometimes you need luck."

Gilchrist showed why he's the nation's top-rated player, contributing 25 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots.

It's the third time in four years and second straight that a Garden State school has won the tournament, including St. Benedict's (2007) and Paterson Catholic (2009).

Since debuting at the COP in 1992, the Celtics had failed in five previous championship games. But that drought ended Wednesday before a national television audience on ESPNU. In 10 tournament appearances, St. Patrick has a 24-10 record.

St. Patrick (4-0) built a 13-point lead in the third quarter but Milton, Georgia's defending Class 5A state champions, chipped away after switching to a 1-3-1 zone. Georgia-Tech-bound Julian Royal (20 points) gave the Eagles their first lead in three quarters, 59-58, hitting two free throws with 4:01 left.

After that the game concluded with nine lead changes, including Lane's game-winner, which whipped the crowd into a frenzy. Ohio State-recruit Shannon Scott (17 points) sank a pair of free throws with 10 seconds remaining, giving Milton a temporary 67-66 lead.

Lane's last-second heroics trumped Scott's pressure-packed effort.

Joining Gilchrist on the 10-player, all-tournament team was St. Patrick's senior guard Derrick Gordon, who had 20 points. Freshman center Dakari Johnson, formerly a Brooklyn resident, added nine points and nine rebounds.

**FUTURE PLANS:** Donnie Wilkie, the vice president of the City of Palms Classic, said several area teams are in the mix for the 2011 tournament. Among the locals under consideration are St. Anthony of Jersey City; Hudson Catholic of Jersey City, Mount Vernon and St. Raymond.

"There are no slouches here," said Christ the King coach Joe Arbitello, whose squad went 1-2 in the tournament this year.

CK won't likely return because it will play at the Bass Pro Tournament of Champions in Springfield, Mo., in January 2012.

**EMPTY GARDEN:** The Jordan Brand Classic is moving from Madison Square Garden to the Time Warner Cable Arena in Charlotte. The 11th senior all-star game will be played April 16, along with a regional game featuring the top players from North Carolina in an East vs. West matchup and an international game, with the top 17-and-under players globally. The teams will be announced in February.

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**The Schoolyard**  
Bergtraum changes style but not results

Bergtraum's run-and-gun style of play got a bit congested on Wednesday. Gone were the soaring three-pointers, as well as four starters from last season's team. In their place is a more grounded, diverse attack that is still as effective as any approach Bergtraum used in winning 12 straight PSAL .....[Read More](#)

### EDITORS' PICKS



**Lupica: Rex is turning into a punch line**

Rex is officially the elephant in the room, and not just because he's a big loud coach.



**Devils fire MacLean, Lemaire returns to bench**

Lou Lamoriello finally pulled the trigger Thursday and fired rookie head coach John MacLean.



**NCAA suspends Pryor, four other Ohio St. players**

NCAA investigates Ohio State players for trading memorabilia for tattoos, other favors.



**Gola: Smith has Falcons flying under radar**

Very quietly, the Atlanta Falcons and head coach Mike Smith have NFC's best record.



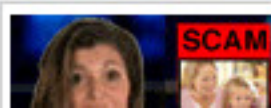
**Myers: Rex forced to do sole searching**

The Jets have been through so many distractions like FootGate, they are virtually immune.



**Vacchiano: Tom might not last past another collapse**

At some point, Giants may have to consider why Coughlin's teams often crumble late.



**Fort Myers: Job Scam (EXPOSED)**

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