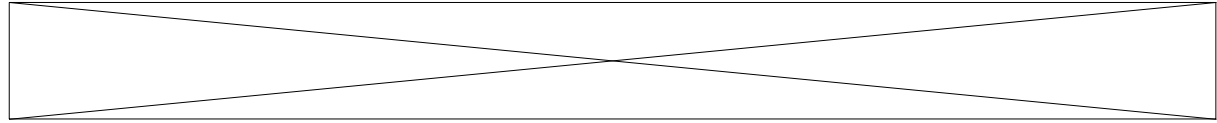


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**Maurice Wingate**  
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The future varsity teams of both Manhattan's Rice Raiders and Brooklyn, NY's Xaverian Clippers played against each other in Sunday's Freshmen CHSAA finals at Holy Cross HS.



M. Wingate

**Da'Shawn Suber & Jeremy Gregg**

With both teams looking to execute their strategy, it would be the Rice Raiders becoming sparked by a third quarter event that would energize them to a victory over the Clippers, 72-60. For the Raiders it would be their second championship in two years.

**Brian Bernardi** and got the offense going with 2 threes early as Xaverian took a 10-5 lead early in the quarter. Point guard **Dylan Burns** ran the Clippers offense well but Rice's point guard **Da'Shawn Suber** began to get his players involved and soon tied the score at 16 apiece with a minute to play. Rice would take a 2 point lead as a Suber pass to **Jeremy Gregg** ended the quarter.

A steal and a basket by **TuShaun Plummer** opened the second quarter tied as Xaverian looked to penetrate the Raiders zone. Another 3-pointer by Bernardi once again gave the Clippers a lead. Controlling both the offensive and defensive paint extended the Clipper lead to 8 points. With 2:35 left in the half, **Jad Dayekh** scored on back-to-back layup to give the Clippers a clear advantage. As the half wound down forced shots by Rice allowed Xaverian to obtain a 38-27.

The Raiders cut the quickly cut the lead to 5 points with 5:58 left in the third as Gregg and Suber ratcheted up their intensity on offense. **Shakell Kemp** came up big in paint with a post up move and a Bernardi 3-pointer pushed the Clipper lead up to double digits. With 2:16 left in the quarter, the Xaverian 2-3 zone had the Raiders settling for outside shots while good ball rotation gave the Clippers high percentage shots in the paint. Down by 6 points with .06 left on the clock a Suber 3-pointer from beyond half court cut the Clippers lead in half.

The miracle Suber shot seemed to invigorate the Raiders who quickly cut the lead to 51-50 as **Edward Correa** scored on a putback. Suber had a chance to give Rice the lead from the foul line but would go 0-2. Gregg, however, would knot the game at 52 points with 6:35 left in the game. Rice initiated a full court press but Xaverian managed to break the press and gain a 4 point advantage.

Gregg stepped up and penetrated and a **Melvin Johnson** 3-pointer had given Rice their largest lead to that point at 5 points. Rice began to milk the clock and on defense, a steal by Gregg extended the lead to 7 points. The Clippers fought back but a Suber put back but the Raiders back up by 7 with 1:47 left in regulation. Xaverian's big man Kemp fouled out as did the Xaverian Coach **Chris Alesi**, with two techs, which made it difficult for the Bronx team to compete in the paint and on the court. Rice would go on to win.

Gregg led all scorers with 28 points followed by Suber with 22. Bernardi led Xaverian with 23 points which included four 3-pointers.