

Scott cements Rice legacy; wins CHSAA “AA” Intersectional MVP

Written by Dylan Kitts



Throughout Rice head coach Maurice Hicks' tenure it always seems as if he possesses a Division-1 bound guard who takes over games when needed. Each year one guard seems to pass the torch to another.

In 1996, Intersectional MVP Bevon Robin passed the torch to Ken Satterfield. Satterfield won two finals MVP awards in 1998 and 1999 before passing the torch to Andre Barrett. After a brief hiatus and winning a championship in 2002, the torch was given to Edgar Sosa, who dominated at the Harlem school and won a CHSAA Intersectional championship in 2006. Sosa then passed it to Kemba Walker. Last year, Walker, a McDonalds' All American, passed the torch to 6-foot-5 guard Durand Scott.

Scott had his chance to cement his legacy among these historic guards by winning an Intersectional Championship. He did that and a little bit more, scoring a game-high 27 points on 10-15 shooting and winning MVP honors.

With 6:00 minutes to go and an eight point lead, 50-42, Rice began to deteriorate while Christ the King began to make their run. Sophomore Corey Edwards stole an inbounds pass and knocked down a 3-pointer from the top of the key to cut the lead to five, 52-47, prompting a Rice timeout.

"I told him he had to take the game over," Hicks said. "This is Durand's team. It was time for him to handle his business."

"I needed to hear that," Scott said. "After that, I was more confident. I just kept trying to play with composure."

After a Shane Southwell offensive foul and an Edwards lay-up off the glass, the lead was cut to three. Scott, however, answered with a mid-range jumper.

A few minutes later, Edwards hit another 3-pointer at the top of the key to slash the once 15-point deficit to one, 59-58, with 1:25 remaining. Scott then answered, again, driving to the lane hitting a floater in traffic.

On the ensuing possession, the Royals missed two 3-pointers in a row and Scott grabbed the defensive rebound. He was immediately fouled and drained both free-throws, icing the game and his MVP award.

"That's one of the reasons he's going to Miami. He's a prime-time player," Rice senior James Stukes said. "He stepped up at the end."

With the way Scott was handling the pressure, encouraging his teammates, and answering nearly every attack the Royals had in-store, he played like an all-time great. He was the leader and go-to guy, just like those other great Rice guards before him. "I never thought it was my turn," Scott said. "But I didn't want to leave without [the championship]."

"He's right up there with the rest of them. He has his unique style of what he does, he defends the ball well. He's a different type of point guard than a Kemba or Edgar Sosa, but he gets the job done," Hicks added.

The Intersectional MVP will now look to bring his winning brand of basketball to Miami, who went 18-12 and earned a bid to the NIT.

"This is his team," Hicks said. "I think there's no better way to go out than the way that he did. I think it was great."

With the newly acquired hardware, Scott officially cemented his legacy as one of the all-time greats at Rice.

Now there is only one question: Can he do it at Glens Falls?

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