

## **Burton's buzzer-beater give Pitt Guaranteed Rate Gotham Classic title**

**NEW YORK (AP)** – Jamarious Burton's runner with 0.4 seconds remaining broke a 57-57 tie and gave Pitt a 59-57 win over St. John's in the Showcase game of the Guaranteed Rate Gotham Classic at Madison Square Garden.

After St. John's had tied the game on two Dylan Addae-Wusu free throws, Burton took the inbounds pass and stormed down the court before lifting the game-winning shot from the left side.

Burton, named Player of the Game, led all scorers with 20 points. Mouhamadou Gueye added 15 for Pitt (4-7, 0-1).

Despite having three players finish in double-figure scoring, St. John's (8-3) had its three-game winning streak snapped. Addae-Wusu led the Red Storm with 12. Posh Alexander added 11, and Joel Soriano had 10 points.

What transpired on the Madison Square Garden court in the matinee was an ode to Big East Conference basketball. Which was fitting since St. John's was among the conference's founding members and Pitt was a member from the 1992-93 season through 2012-13.

Nothing came easy for either the Red Storm or the Panthers. Seemingly every shot was contested, and seemingly every body dove onto the court to retrieve loose balls.

St. John's led 34-31 at the half. The Red Storm had a 23-13 lead with 10 minutes left in the half, but Pitt ended the opening 20 minutes by outscoring St. John's 18-11. Soriano led the Red Storm with eight points and four rebounds in the first half. Gueye's seven points paced the Panthers, who were led in rebounding by Femi Odukale's four.

The back-and-forth nature of the game continued in the second half.

Pitt took its first lead since early in the first half on Burton's left corner 3 with 11:55 left in the second. The 45-44 lead lasted for all of 17 seconds as Soriano responded with a jump hook to allow St. John's to regain the advantage.

After Alexander knocked down a pull-up jumper with nine minutes left in the second half, the teams combined to not score nearly 3 1/2 minutes. The drought ended with a John Hugley jump hook which let Pittsburgh close the gap to two, 50-48.

After Hugley's jump hook, the Panthers outscored St. John's 8-5 to take a 56-55 lead. Burton's two free throws with two minutes left gave Pittsburgh the advantage.

Alexander had an opportunity to give St. John's the lead, but Hugley blocked his jumper. The Panthers extended the lead to three on a Jeffress free throw, but Addae-Wusu tied the game with two free throws of his own.

With the win, Pittsburgh improved to 25-35 in 59 meetings between the programs. Pitt has won four straight meetings, the last occurring on Feb. 24, 2013.