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78th Precinct Youth Council, non-profit youth sports organization, holds basketball championships

BY [Nick Klopsis](#)
 SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Tuesday, March 29th 2011, 1:56 PM

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[Ricardo Ayuso](#) had the open shot. The final seconds were ticking down, and the [Park Slope](#) native pulled up from beyond the arc and let it fly. As the ball went through the net, Ayuso's teammates sprinted onto the court in celebration, and the crowd of 125 people went into a frenzy.

Forget the [NCAA Final Four](#) - on Sunday, it was [March Madness](#) at [Bishop Ford High School](#) in [Brooklyn](#).

Ayuso's go-ahead three-pointer with 16.6 seconds left lifted his team to a 63-60 victory in the 78th [Precinct Youth Council](#) senior division championship. The shot was one of six three-pointers for Ayuso, who finished with 29 points and 12 rebounds.

This was the fifth year that the 78th Precinct Youth Council held its intramural championships. The Brooklyn-based non-profit youth sports organization is open to children aged 9-16, and runs year-round with intramural and travel basketball, baseball

and football leagues.

Trophy ceremonies were held for both teams after each game, and players enjoyed pizza and snacks after their game was finished.

While the players enjoy competing on the court, the volunteer coaches emphasize character development over wins and losses.

"These kids show a great deal of growth all year," said coach [Jay Dunmore](#), who has volunteered with the organization for seven years. "They're becoming young men that are able to give back to the community and help out in society, and they're doing a great job."

Sunday's victory was bittersweet for Ayuso, who will be too old to return to the league next year.

"I had to do it for the team," said the 16-year-old Ayuso, who led the HS for Graphic Communication Arts to the PSAL Class A playoff quarterfinals this season. "I told them I wasn't going to leave without winning."

Earlier in the day, the junior division championship featured a bizarre ending of its own. Brooklyn Beast guard [Isaiah Rosario](#) put the ball in his own basket with about 30 seconds left in the game, giving the opposing squad a 36-34 victory.

There was a brief moment of confusion in the gym, as players, officials and fans tried to sort out exactly what had happened.

"I didn't know what was going on, but a win is a win," [Javan Stewart](#), 14, said afterward.

Rosario and his teammates appeared dejected afterwards, hanging their heads throughout the post-game awards presentation. The players made a hasty exit after they received their second-place trophies, but not before coach [Sidney Wormsby](#) used the shot as a teaching moment.

"Even though we lost by two points, those two points that we made on the shot had nothing to do with the loss," Wormsby said. "We had too many other opportunities through the rest of the game where we missed layups, where we missed free throws, where we turned the ball over."

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Isaiah played great. It was unfortunate, but mental lapses happen, especially during close games. On the bright side, he will never make the same mistake again, like during a High School championship game when the stakes are higher. Keep going strong, Isaiah! Coach Wormsby might have acknowledged the effort by the opposing team of Coach Miranda's. They played with heart and deserved the victory... all the kids are winners for being in the game!

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