

SIB GOES 5-0, CLAIMS PAPD MADNESS CROWN



Left to Right: Dave Dagastino, Joe O'Leary, Darrel Melvin, Joe Santoli, Brian McGraw, Paul Nunziato, Mike Scarpa, Steve Ditamasso, Tommy Montagne, Jerome Crimi, John Cali..(not pictured: Danny Celano)

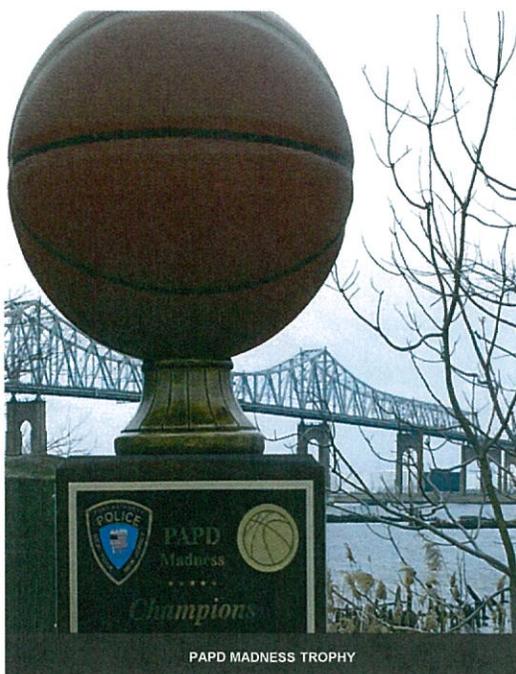
NCAA March Madness has nothing on PAPD Madness, the annual department fundraiser basketball tournament. The SIB team went undefeated on its way to hoisting the PAPD Madness Trophy. The sixth annual PAPD Madness Tournament was held on March 26th at the Fastbreak Basketball Center in Charleston, Staten Island.

The tournament, created by SIB's Police Officer Joe O'Leary, the tournament coordinator, featured 16 PAPD teams representing, in addition to the SIB command, Newark Airport, PA Bus Terminal, JFK Airport, LaGuardia Airport, Holland Tunnel (combined with PAPD ESU), Lincoln Tunnel, Port Newark, World Trade Center and PATH police commands. The teams were led to play by the PAPD Honor Guard and the PAPD Pipe and Drum Band. Police Officer Gill Ramos sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem kicking off the tournament.

O'Leary provided the PBA with an excellent tournament recap. He wrote:

"We enjoyed our best turnout this year, fielding 16 teams and the quality of play was bolstered by an influx of young, recently hired officers into the mix. Appropriately, it was the combination of cagey, crafty veterans and spry, athletic rookies at SIB that took the title. The SIB team was led through the exhausting day by Staten Island hoops legend, PO John Cali and tournament coordinator PO Joe O'Leary. Cali, a two-time CUNY champ and two-time CUNY tournament MVP at the College of Staten Island, and O'Leary surely could not have won the day without the steady play of PBA president Paul Nunziato and two brand new SIB rookies, PO Darrell Melvin and PO Tommy Montagne, both temporarily assigned to the senior command fresh out of the academy. PO Melvin dominated the boards all day and PO Montagne had zero turnovers and two huge buckets late in the day in the title game."

"SIB's 2nd PAPD Madness title, since the inaugural tourney in 2010, ended a three-year run as champions for the Bus Terminal, who again, were led by former Manhattanville College star, PO Brian Fink. The BT lost, in overtime, in the Final 4 to the Lincoln Tunnel on a three- point shot at the buzzer by PO Stan O'Neil. SIB squeaked by LGA and PO Matt Irwin in the quarterfinals to make the Final 4 for the first time in three years. SIB defeated JFK despite the best efforts of Sgt. Sean Dale, PO Kevin Leiter, and PO Sean Murray. Paul Nunziato drained three consecutive second half three-pointers to seal the deal for SIB over JFK advancing them to their first title game since 2010, when SIB beat the BT. PO Cali took on his usual leading role for SIB, in taking SIB to their second PAPD Madness title. SIB defeated the LT, led by PO O'Neil and PO Chris Rothenburger, in their only loss of the day in the championship game. The LT finished 4-1 and the BT and JFK finished 3-1 on the day. PO O'Leary was very happy that "order had been restored in the world of PAPD BB", with SIB on top, finishing at 5-0 while facing five playoff teams."



O'Leary said he had many to thank for their support to make the day a success, especially his brother, Danny O'Leary and the PBA for their consistent and generous support of the tournament. O'Leary also thanked Sgt. Cocodrilli of the PAPD Special Services Unit for arranging the opening ceremony, PO Ray Butler, PO Kenny Sanginari, PO Brian McGraw, and retired PO Paul Rodriguez for volunteering on their own time to help out, Fastbreak basketball center, B&L towing, the law offices of Brian Campbell, W's tavern, Major league Screen Printing, Crown Trophy, and Tottenville bagels for doing their part in making the 2015 PAPD Madness tourney another great success.