

Quarterfinal analysis: Guinness slipped past Murphy's with relative ease, thereby advancing to the semifinals. Honestly, I was surprised by Murphy's lackluster performance. Maybe it was fatigue or lack of concentration, who knows? But Murphy's didn't have it tonight. Jameson, on the other hand, came up big. This well-balanced whiskey silenced critics by bitch-slapping the

Shamrock Shake and proving that it deserved the number two seeding. In other quarterfinal action, Bailey's nipped Smithwick's in an exciting battle before a packed pub, while Irish Coffee blew up The Irish Car Bomb's dream of a championship. You gotta wonder if this week's controversy over the name "car bomb" proved more of a distraction than initially thought.



VS.



Semi-final Match-up: Guinness Stout vs. Bailey's Irish Crème
 Venue: Finn McCool's Ale House, 118 S 12th St., Philadelphia, PA 215-923-3090
 Judge: Tim McDonald, patron

"Bailey's is good, but it gets too sweet after awhile. Gotta go Guinness. Guinness out of a clean tap, a nice pint. It's just perfect. It's, it's...it's manna from heaven!"

Winner: **Guinness Stout**



VS.



Semi-final Match-up: Jameson Irish Whiskey vs. Irish Coffee
 Venue: The Cork, Glenside, PA 215-886-2654
 Judge: Tracy Young, patron

"Jameson Whiskey. I like whiskey and Cokes."
 Winner: **Jameson Irish Whiskey**



Semi-final analysis: Guinness remains on cruise control, sailing into the finals without breaking a sweat. Meanwhile, Bailey's was dealt heartbreaking loss. You gotta ask yourself if Bailey's can ever mentally rebound from such a blow. In the other semifinal match-up, Jameson snuck past Irish Coffee in a contest that will forever be remembered for a controversial call. In a post-game press conference, Irish Coffee complained about the officiating and went on to question the experience of the judge. It's a shame that this ugly outburst will mar an otherwise successful season for Irish Coffee.

THE FINALS



VS.



Finals: Guinness Stout vs. Jameson Irish Whiskey
 Venue: McFadden's at 461 North 3rd Street, Philadelphia
 McFadden's at the ball park, 1 Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia 215-334-0254
 Judge: Dave Everitt, bartender at McFadden's BallPark

"Oh...go for the whiskey, brother! Whiskey's good to you all year round. You're not gonna drink a Guinness in the middle of the summer, but you'll definitely do a couple shots of whiskey. And obviously you can mix it with whatever...Jamey and Coke, Jamey and Ginger, all that stuff. Yeah, I'd definitely choose Jameson over Guinness."

Winner and 2006 Champion: **Jameson Irish Whiskey**

Finals analysis: Wow. In a shocker, number two Jameson drubbed number one Guinness to win the 2006 Philly Edge Irish Drink Wars Tournament. Don't worry folks, Guinness will regroup and be a factor for many years to come. But tonight, the spotlight is on Jameson. Through an oftentimes tumultuous and challenging journey, Jameson displayed the true heart of a champion. And for this, we drink to you. Or better still, we drink YOU.

Post-game wrap-up: We want to thank all the drinks, managers, bartenders, pubs, and patrons that helped make the 2006 Philly Edge Irish Drink Wars Tournament a success. Without you, drinking wouldn't be half as fun, (and I'd probably have a job.) Until next year, this is Philly Edge saying good times and good night.