

Macksville survives tight battle of No. 4-5 seeds; Osborne falls, 45-41

DODGE CITY – In the opening quarterfinal match-up of the Nos. 4 and 5 seeds, it would be the norm to expect a shootout of the evenly-matched schools.

Osborne and Macksville delivered on all accounts.

It was No. 5 Macksville's Mustangs coming away with a 45-51 Class 1A-I Boys Quarterfinal victory over the Osborne Bulldogs in a battle of teams that came in with identical 21-2 records.

The game didn't have a separation of more than four points until the final 31 seconds when Macksville broke away from a 39-all tie with 4:21 remaining to outscore the Bulldogs 6-2 in the closing portion of regulation.

Macksville's Hector Gomez had tied the game at 39 with one of two free throws before Lance Lickiss' layup at the 1:43 mark put the Mustangs up for good at 41-39. Rogelio Ibarra, who ended the game a perfect 7-of-7 at the charity stripe, cashed in four straight at the 0:47 and 0:31 marks to put the game out of reach.

Osborne got a pair of free throws with just 0:07 remaining, but it wasn't enough.

Macksville Coach Jeff Kuckelman credit the toughness of his players for pulling through a tightly-played battle.

"We bounced back with a good second half effort," Kuckelman said. "They (Osborne) got a lead and we could have folded, but this group plays hard. We knew anytime you've got the 4-5 match-up, it's going to be a war. Both teams had won a lot of games. We're young, but the group has grown up this season.

Kuckelman got 13 points from Rogelio Ibarra and a double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds from Ryan Kuckelman. Grady Wolters paced Osborne (21-3) with 14 points and also dished out six assists. Doak Guttery scored 10 points coming off the bench for the Bulldogs.

The rebounding battle was nearly as close as points with Osborne winning that stat 29-23. Ronald Thompson had nine for the 'Dogs. Turnovers were plentiful for both teams as Osborne committed 22 miscues to 15 for the Mustangs.

Shooting woes plagued both teams as well, with Macksville hitting 16-of-44 for 36.4 percent compared to Osborne's 35.7 percent (15-of-42).

Macksville will take a 22-2 record into its 2 p.m. Friday semifinal against defending state champion Olpe.

"It will be a big assignment, but it's the state tournament," Kuckelman said. "We're just happy to be playing Friday."

The first half was a see-saw affair with neither team owning more than a four-point advantage. When the first eight minutes concluded, it was Osborne with an 11-9 lead. The roles were reversed in the second quarter with Macksville having a 12-9 edge, making it 21-20 Mustangs at the break.

Ryan Kuckelman and Rogelio Ibarra led the way for Macksville with 8 and 7 points, respectively. Osborne was paced by Grady Wolters' eight points. Neither team shot the ball particularly well in that first half, Macksville at 30.8 percent (8-of-26) and Osborne at 40.0 percent (8-of-20). The Bulldogs had a 15-11 margin in rebounding.

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**MACKSVILLE 45, OSBORNE 41**

**Macksville 9 12 13 11 -- 45**

**Osborne 11 9 14 7 -- 41**

**Macksville (22-2)** – R. Ibarra 3-12 7-7 13, Lickiss 2-5 0-0 4, Gomez 3-4 2-4 8, Barron 1-4 0-0 3, Kuckelman 4-12 2-4 10, A. Ibarra 1-3 0-0 3, Esparza 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 16-44 11-15 45.

**Osborne (21-3)** – Lantz 0-7 0-0 0, Wolters 4-12 2-2 14, Schurr 1-1 0-0 2, Hamel 2-10 0-0 6, Thompson 4-7 1-2 9, Guttery 4-5 2-2 10. Totals 15-42 5-6 41.

3-point goals—Macksville 2-9 (R. Ibarra 0-4, Barron 1-2, A. Ibarra 1-3), Osborne 6-16 (Lantz 0-2, Wolters 4-10, Hamel 2-4). Rebounds—Macksville 23 (Kuckelman 10), Osborne 29 (Thompson 9). Assists—Macksville 7 (Barron 3), Osborne 12 (Wolters 6). Fouls—Macksville 13, Osborne 14. Fouled out—None.