

Macksville's fast start ends with 3rd place trophy

Macksville's Mustangs used a fast start in Saturday's third-place game of Class 1A-I Division boys state basketball tournament en route to a 66-54 triumph over the Solomon Gorillas.

The victory enabled the Mustangs to complete a 23-3 season while Solomon finishes its campaign at 17-9.

The Mustangs stormed out to a 26-8 lead after one quarter, only to have the Gorillas go on a 13-5 second-quarter spree to make it 31-21 at intermission. A 17-15 edge in the third trimmed the lead to just eight, 46-38, heading to the fourth.

The Gorillas would close to as little as six points, but would get no closer. Macksville extended the lead back to double-digits beginning at the five-minute mark to finish out the contest with a 20-16 performance in the final period.

Macksville had a balanced scoring attack with four players reaching double figures. Rogelio Ibarra topped the list with 13 while Lance Lickiss, Alexis Barron and Diego Esparza all contributed 12 points. The Mustangs hit 45.3 percent from the field (24-of-53). Solomon got a game-high 19 points from Makaen Hastings while Spencer Coup and Dylan Hynes added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

MACKSVILLE 66, SOLOMON 54

Solomon 8 13 17 16 -- 54

Macksville 26 5 15 20 -- 66

Solomon (17-9) – Krause 0-2 1-2 1, Coup 4-18 3-6 11, Robomspm 1-1 0-0 2, Hastings 6-17 7-8 19, Hynes 4-13 2-2 10, Baxa 1-2 0-0 2, Smith 3-5 0-0 6, Duran 1-4 0-0 3. Totals 20-62 13-18 54.

Macksville (23-3) – R. Ibarra 4-15 2-3 13, Lickiss 6-7 0-0 12, Mendez 1-3 0-0 2, Cleveland 1-2 0-0 2, Gomez 2-6 1-2 5, Barron 3-8 4-4 12, Kuckelman 3-5 2-2 8, A. Ibarra 0-1 0-0 0, Esparza 4-6 3-3 12. Totals 24-53 12-14 66.

3-point goals—Solomon 1-16 (Krause 0-1, Coup 0-7, Hastings 0-5, Hynes 0-1, Duran 1-2), Macksville 6-15 (R. Ibarra 3-7, Lickis 0-1, Gomez 0-2, Barron 2-3, A. Ibarra 0-1, Esparza 1-1). Rebounds—Solomon 33 (Hynes 9), Macksville 44 (R. Ibarra, Lickiss 8 each). Assists—Solomon 11 (Hastings 5), Mackville 12 (R. Ibarra, Kuckelman 3 each). Fouls—Solomon 13, Macksville 14. Fouled out—None.