

Five games; nine hours. It's a wrap

Some final thoughts from Monday's MLK holiday tournament at Wells Fargo Arena:

Best game: Mesa's 54-52 overtime victory over [Mountain View](#).

The Toros were without their second-best player, guard Jordan McClelland, and had a four-point lead and the ball late in the game but committed four straight turnovers to let Mesa escape with the win.

Point guard Jahii Carson, who is bound for Oregon State, was dominant for Mesa, scoring 33 points, and 6-foot-9 Tulsa-bound forward Blondy Baruti swatted away a last-second layup attempt that would have sent the game into double overtime.

The post-game handshake between Mountain View coach Gary Ernst and Mesa coach Shane Burcar was interesting to watch. Ernst was almost Belichick-like in the way he shook Burcar's hands and then turned and walked away.

Now, Ernst is as competitive as they come, and he was incensed about the officiating late in the game, thinking the Toros' turnovers were a result of Mesa fouls that were never called. But it's also apparent that, for whatever reason, the two men don't exchange Christmas cards.

Best player: It's tough not to pick Carson, but I'll go with 6-5 McClintock junior forward Cameron Forte, who upstaged Sunnyslope's [Royce Woolridge](#) by putting up 34 points and 12 boards in the Chargers' victory.

Forte isn't being highly recruited because he sat out last year after transferring from [Marcos de Niza](#), but that will change quickly. He needs to get stronger and work on his defense, which is inattentive at best, but he has a chance to be a Division I prospect next year.

Best team at its level: The Tolleson girls' team, which routed Phoenix Pinnacle and has a good chance to repeat as [state champions](#). The Wolverines are athletic, deep and they can shoot the ball.

Well, that's about it. Time to head home.