

The

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SIERRA STAR



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YHS girls basketball players host play-off game Thursday



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Varsity Badger No. 4 Kristen Slayton takes a pass and starts for the base line during the Women's Basketball game Thursday night at rival Sierra High. Yosemite won 75-37.

The Yosemite Badgers girls basketball teams went undefeated in North Sequoia League action, winning championships on the varsity, junior varsity and frosh levels. The varsity was awarded the first seed in the Division 3 playoffs with home court advantage through the finals which will be held this season at the Selland Arena in Fresno on Saturday, March 5.

On Thursday night, Feb. 24, in the Yosemite High School gym, the Badgers will host the winner of the Wasco/El Diamante game at 7 p.m.

The Badgers clinched the varsity league championship last Tuesday at home with a convincing 79-35 victory over Chowchilla in a game featuring the five Badgers seniors; Karras Blate, Amanda Gordon, Petra Hetherington, Alyssa Sayre and Amber Terlesky. All these seniors have played varsity for three years, winning league championships each year and a CIF Division 3 championship last season.

In the Chowchilla game, Blate led all scorers with 26 points while Sayre contributed 17, 12 of which were scored in the third quarter. Sophomore Katie Menton added 11 points. The following Thursday, the Badgers traveled to league rival Sierra. The Chieftains were second place in league and ranked second in the CIF Division 4. The Badgers jumped out to a 20-8

first quarter lead which extended throughout the game, culminating in a 75-37 victory. The Badgers showcased their balance and teamwork with five scorers in double figures led by Blate with 19, junior Ashley Stearns with 17, Menton 13, Gordon with 11 and Sayre 10 points and eight assists. In addition to the seniors, members of the championship squad included juniors: Sonya Eggleston, Dori Jenkins, Terah Sonderland and Stearns. The sophomores playing varsity were Menton, Emily Richie and Kristin Slayton.

The "mercy rule" was applied this season to high school basketball games which called for a running clock in the fourth quarter whenever a team led by more than 40 points. The Badgers showed their league dominance with the mercy rule being invoked against all seven league opponents at least once. In the non-mercy league games, Yosemite never had less than a 20 point lead going into the fourth quarter.

Yosemite was 14-0 in league and is 23-5 overall going into the playoffs. The Badgers lead the CIF Central section and are second in the entire state (over 1,200 schools) in made three point shots with 199 for the season. Blate also leads the section and is third in the state with 83 made three-point shots. Menton is second in the section in steals and Sayre is among the leaders in assists.

The Yosemite J.V. girls basketball team also went 14-0 with an overall record of 24-2. The J.V. team, consisting of all sophomores, also won the Selma and Clovis Tournaments. The mercy rule was invoked in 10 of their 14 league games. Leading team scores were Darylyn Dierberger, Crystal Lachawicz, Ashley Nichols and Patricia O'Neill with Erika Bustamente, Anna Hetherington, Michelle Lalev, Heather Lycke, Lindsay New and Liza Schlosser all contributing to the championship season. The J.V. team was coached by Sarah Williams, assisted by Natalie Martina and Sabrina Ressler.

The Badgers frosh team, coached by Teri Blea and Dale Blea, pulled out a close victory at Sierra in their final game to win a championship in a league abbreviated by an absence of frosh teams at five of the schools. The frosh won their last seven games and were led by leading scorers Lauren Rolph and Whitney Williamson. Solid efforts were turned in by Alyssa Barigan, Jessica Burghardt, Valerie Gee, Hayley Hyatt, Jodee McMillan, Christina Mudrick, Samantha Norberg and Kortney Yoder.

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