



## Girls gear up for national tournament in Sacramento

by Anthony Campeau  
Sierra Star Sports

Students (and faculty) celebrate end of school year



Kristin Slayton tries to get the ball inbounds to Badger Katie Menton during play against the Antelope Valley Storm. The Storm knocked off the Badgers 57-36.

BAKERSFIELD — The 13 and under AAU girls basketball team took one step closer to the national tournament in Sacramento as the Badgers traveled this past weekend to take part in the North/South Shootout tournament in Bakersfield.

Yosemite took only one team to this tournament which hosted teams from around the state including 18 teams in the 13 and under age bracket.

The Lady Badgers finished in 11th place with two losses and a victory over the Ventura Suns.

“We have improved and continue to improve every week,” said AAU Yosemite President Rick Slayton.

The Badgers opened the tournament with a hard-fought loss against The Benchware Dynamite by the score of 50-44.

Katie Menton led the Badgers with 19 followed by Crystal Lachowicz dropping in 10. Kristin Slayton also added seven points in the loss.

The second game was a much different story for the Badgers as they dominated Ventura from the opening whistle, beating the Suns 39-14. The girls played a full-court press from the get-go and played the Suns with a tough man-to-man defense the entire game.

“We corrected our mistakes from the first game and dominated the Suns,” says Slayton.

Once again, it was Menton pacing the Badgers with 19 points.

Kristin Slayton had a great all-around game with seven points and pulling down six rebounds.

Yosemite opened the third game against the Antelope Valley Storm with a solid offensive performance, jumping out to a 15-2 lead.

But the Storm turned the tables on the Badgers and cracked down on defense with a solid man-to-man defense which shut down the Badgers.

With the score tied 26-26 at the half, Antelope Valley blew past the Badgers in the second half, outscoring them 31-10 to take the 57-36 victory.

The Badgers simply ran out of gas in the second half and it didn’t help when Menton left the game with seven minutes left with a twisted ankle.

But according to Slayton, Menton will be fine and be ready for the next tournament.

Even though the Badgers lost two of three, Slayton feels the team is heading into the right direction.

“We were very competitive in all three games. All the games were battles,” said Slayton.

“If they can keep up their high levels of intensity throughout the game, they will play very well.”

The Badgers will get the final creeks out of their systems with one final tournament this weekend when they travel to Merced.

Copyright © 2002 The Sierra Star  
To report discrepancies with this site please contact the [Webmaster](#).

49365 Crane Valley Rd [426] • PO Box 305 • Oakhurst, CA 93644-8621  
(559) 683-4464 • Fax (559) 683-8102