

Friday, July 26, 2002 - Published on Wednesday & Friday


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Yosemite takes best on at nationals

by Anthony Campeau
Sierra Star Sports

SACRAMENTO — After the long hours on the practice court and all the time at the many tournaments, this is what it all comes down to for the AAU Yosemite girls 13-and under-basketball team.

A trip to the nationals in Sacramento to see how they stack up against some of the best talent from across the country.

The Badgers, this week, traveled to the state capital to take part in the week-long event which pits some of the best 13-and-under teams from around the country.

It will be a tall task for the girls to defeat their foes in Sacramento. The girls are long on talent but short on experience with only three girls on the team actually being 13 years old.

"This tournament will be a great learning experience for the team," said Badger head coach Jeff Nichols.

Nichols feels that for the girls to get the job done in Sacramento they are going to have to win four games. A very tough task. But if they play with intensity, they should be able to turn some heads.

"The bottom line is we are going to have to play strong defense," said Nichols. "Defense, for us, is going to be the key to winning."

According to Nichols, the lady Badgers will have to play a tight compression defense and not let the other teams get them into a run-and-shoot type of game.

Offensive play will also be a huge factor for the girls. All-star shooter Katie Menton has played very well as of late and will carry the offense for the Badgers.

"Katie (Menton) is looking awesome. She will be unstoppable," said Nichols.

Nichols added that the bench has played very well in practice and will also be a major factor at the nationals.

"The bench players have really stepped it up. If they play well we will win," said Nichols.

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