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Despite losing, smiles all around for Yosemite girls basketball team

by Anthony Campeau
Sierra Star Sports

SACRAMENTO — Winni-ng isn't everything. Sometimes having fun is a little more important.

Despite losing to some of the country's best talent on the floor. The AAU Yosemite Badgers 13-and-under girls basketball team managed to squeeze a little fun out of their week-long stay in Sacramento.

"The girls had a great time," said Rick Slayton, AAU club president.

Nationals were held this past week in Sacramento, bringing together the top basketball talent from across the country. Before the games began the real fun started.

All the girls where introduced under the lights and music, reminiscent of the way the Los Angeles Lakers are introduced. Afterward, they took part in a pin-exchange where the girls would meet and greet other teams and exchange pins and different gifts as mementos of their first ever trip to nationals.

"It was really great to see the girls having a fun," said Slayton. "We may try to do something like that at our next tournament in Oakhurst."

After the festivities came the knock-out/shoot-out tournament. This free-throw style tournament was played with two girls from each team taking turns shooting free-throws.

If a players misses a shot, she must quickly rebound her ball and put it in the basket before the next girl can make hers. If she fails to do so, she is eliminated.

Yosemite's own, Katie Menton captured first-place in the shoot-out. She only missed one free-throw during the event.

"She doesn't always show it, but she (Menton) was very excited about winning," said Slayton.

Menton received a T-shirt for her efforts and a roar from the crowd.

Also competing with Menton was Ashley Stearns who managed to hang in there into the final minutes of play.

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