

The Davis Enterprise

Estimated printed pages: 2

July 1, 2007

Girls team made best of its trip

The Harundale Hornets from Glen Burnie, Md., were all set for the 2007 West Coast Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics. They had raised money from sponsors, bought their plane tickets and practically had their bags packed. Just one problem. There was no girls basketball.

The **Junior** Olympics in Davis had planned to have girls hoops for the second straight year but were forced to scrap the sport due to a lack of sign-ups. Hornets coach Joe Gray said they were informed eight days before the **games** started that there would be no girls basketball **games**.

That didn't stop the Hornets. They came anyway.

Despite not having any teams to play in Davis, the 13-and-under team participated in the Independence Bash in Rancho Cordova. The rest of the time, they made a trip to San Francisco, walked around Old Sacramento and rode the roller coasters and checked out the animals at Six Flags Discovery Kingdome in Vallejo.

"Of course we were disappointed," Gray said. "We did a lot of fundraising, so I'm sure a lot of people wanted to know about our trip. We were pretty much stuck and we would have felt guilty about taking people's money."

Dana Welch, sponsorship and events coordinator at UC Davis Office of Campus Events and Visitor Services, said the **Junior** Olympics most likely needed at least three or four teams per division. Only nine teams signed up overall.

Welch said the Hornets and the other eight girls teams should be refunded their \$650 entry fee sometime in the next 10 days.

The Hornets are a year-around team that averages about two **games** per week. For the year, they probably 50 to 60 **games** overall.

Gray said his team won't participate in the East Coast **AAU games** in Knoxville, Tenn. this year.

"We really wanted to come this way," he said about California. "Last year, we were supposed to go to a tournament in Reno but we couldn't make it happen."

The Maryland team wasn't left out of the West Coast **games** entirely. They participated in the "March of Athletes" with the other teams on Wednesday at Central Park in Davis.

Gray and his team have made the most of it.

"I think it was educational," he said. "A lot of the girls have never been to California."

Maybe the next time the Hornets come this way, the **Junior** Olympics will have a place for them.

— Matt O'Donnell is sports editor of The Davis Enterprise. Reach him at modonnell@davisenterprise.net or 747-8049.