

## The Davis Enterprise

Estimated printed pages: 2

June 24, 2007

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For the under-13 Davis Hoops Wildcats boys basketball team, playing in the 2007 West Coast Amateur Athletics Union Junior Olympic Games brings a different challenge to the table.

The team will occasionally see teams it has never played before but has seen a majority of its opponents multiple times in various **AAU** tournaments. So to have the chance to not only play teams it has never seen but squads from outside of California is a welcomed change.

"We're used to playing the same teams usually from the Sacramento area," said player Ilapko Natarajan.

For example, Natarajan and his teammates had the opportunity to play a taller Portland Kings team on Saturday evening. And even though the Wildcats fell 79-44 at The Pavilion, they enjoyed the challenge.

"It's really different (playing teams we've never seen before) but it's also fun," said Natarajan. "It's more intense because the teams don't know each other."

The 13-and-under team is one of four Davis basketball teams in the event, which began Friday and runs through July 1. Baseball, diving, wrestling and jump rope are also featured in the second year.

Because it brings in teams from outside of the area, the **AAU Junior Olympic Games** also has more competition than the Wildcats have seen this year.

"This tournament is tougher because it's the best one we've played in all year," Wildcats coach George Sousa said. "The team has been looking forward to this tournament because of that."

Another big advantage of playing in the **Junior Olympic Games** is that, for the second year, it is being hosted by UC Davis.

This is significant because the Wildcats don't play any **games** at home up until this point. This is the only **AAU** tournament that takes place in Davis.

"Every tournament we play in, we travel," Sousa said. "It could be Sacramento, Fresno or the Bay Area. We never get a chance to play here so it's fun for the kids and the parents because it's like a home **game**."

Added Natarajan, "It's kind of fun to not have to go anywhere. It's in our hometown and we have to represent for Davis."

In their morning **game**, the Wildcats fell to the Central California Storm 36-30. Today, the Wildcats will face the Hustlin T-Wolves from Fresno at 9 a.m. at Davis High and YBA Blue at 3:40 p.m. at the Pavilion.

In other boys basketball action, the 11-and-under Davis Wildcats fell to Team California 26-20 and 45-26 to the Nor Cal Pharaohs. The 12-and-under Davis Hoops Wildcats lost 59-45 to the Diablo Valley Cardinals. The 14-and-under Davis Hot Shots lost to the Antelope Warriors 55-37 and to the Santa Rosa Ballers 84-62.

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