

Youth hoops team represents Del Norte County in Oregon tourney

May 15, 2022



Coach Elija Brunson is obviously pleased with his team of second- to fourth-grade boys who competed for the first time in an organized tournament this past weekend at the Southern Oregon Open in Medford, Oregon.

The composition of his team was described by Coach Brunson as “two second-graders, one third-grader, and six fourth-graders” who playing up against fifth graders.

“Although we didn’t leave Rogue Valley with the outcome we expected, the team and myself have gained valuable experience, as we were the only boys team representing Del Norte County.”

The team was well dressed for this tournament, thanks to jerseys donated by Fog Bank Clothing Company here in Crescent City. Coach Brunson was also grateful to the Pelican Bay Athletic Association for its sponsorship of tournament fees. More help is needed.

“Overall, my goal is to increase basketball exposure for kids in Del Norte County, as many of the boy noticed they can compete with anyone; they just have to be given the opportunity, and not have finances be a barrier to play.”

This group had previously won the Brookings Hoop Fest in two divisions, K-second grade and the third to fourth grade.

The team normally practices Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Four Square, and Fridays at either Crescent Elk or Smith River Baptist Church, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., schedule permitting.

If interested in his program as a player, spectator, sponsor, or minivan owner/operator, Coach Brunson asks to please contact him directly via phone at (760) 274-4774 or email elijahbrunson2001@gmail.com.

Coach Brunson further expresses his gratitude to Maria Guy, Pastor Roger and staff at “CC Four Square for gym time,” and Steve Alexander, T.J. Whitford “for opening doors when many others didn’t.”