

EDUCATION

Mingus High School wins preliminary basketball game in state finals

By DON DECKER
YAN News

The Marauders of Mingus came before a packed gymnasium in Chino Valley, Friday, February 19 as they met Holbrook high school in a hair-raising game that kept both fans on their feet as the teams started off quickly answering buckets one after another.

At one point, the Marauders were 24 points ahead within the 2nd quarter and this comfortable lead dwindled down to 10 plus points for the last 2 quarters until the 4th quarter when Holbrook caught its second wind and answered the Marauders with some quick steals and baskets.

The Marauders were definitely taller than their opponents but Holbrook wasn't about to give up as they reduced the point spread down to within 6 points into the final 3 minutes of the game.

Holbrook's team was quick and their corner shooter was making most of the baskets.

The Marauders had key players in getting the ball down court and mixing up the offense with some great layups by A-team Navarro, #1 and Loring, #3 and Tapija, #33

With just 40 seconds left, Holbrook made a tireless effort in trying to save their game even stalling the games with defensive fouls and getting within 3 points of the Marauders.

The game ended with a score of 92-89 as #33 Miles Tapija was fouled a few times at the very last few seconds of the game which resulted in 6 points of free throws for Tapija.

"The Hood family was supporting Miles

Tapija who is a Prescott-Yavapai. He is the son of Leslie Hood, a YAN tribal member and Matthew Tapija, along with the Tapija family," said Annette Mendez, YAN tribal member and council member who attended the game. "All in all, we are all supporting the Mingus Marauders Boy's Basketball Team," added Mendez.

Mendez's parents were the late Juan and Harriet (Hood) Mendez. The elder Hood was sister to Harry and Willie Hood and another sister, Katherine (Hood) Marquez of Clarkdale.

Young Tapija is the grandson of Willie and Julia Hood and the late Daniel and Geri Tapija.

Another key player was Ashton Loring, the son of Shane Loring and Jennifer Martinez and the grandson of Yavapai matriarch Sharon Loring. Ashton was a very strong player from the onset as he had many assists and key passes to both Navarro and Tapija. Shane Loring is employed at YAN housing department.

Tapija will be a senior in fall of 2016 and Loring is graduating this May. There is a possibility Loring will be picked up by a college according to reliable sources.

Update on February 29: The Marauders continued in the state bracket and were defeated by Winslow Bulldogs on Thursday, February 25 in overtime with a score of 50-49 with just 3 seconds left in a foul against the Bulldogs.

Both free throws were missed by the Marauders.



#33 Miles Tapija tips one in against Holbrook defenders. (Photo courtesy Greg Macafee, Camp Verde Bugle)



#3 guard senior Ashton Loring comes up center court for a layup. (Photo courtesy Greg Macafee, Camp Verde Bugle)



Crowd cheers-on their team. (Photo by Don Decker)

Yavapai-Apache meets China

By DON DECKER
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Members of the Native American Club at Mingus Union High School with Shelley Kitchen met with 14 Chinese foreign exchange students who visited Mingus Union High School and made arrangements to involve the Nation's cultural departments with the student exchange program.

Kitty Roberts, WIOA director for the Yavapai-Apache Nation, was instrumental in making the connection with the Yavapai-Apache Nation Cultural Departments, both Yavapai and Apache.

Roberts said that she had received e-mail from the high school principal Jennifer Chilton who sent a notice about the impending visitors. That is when Roberts went into action and organized a special presentation for the 14 students and their teacher guide Xuan Hu (who spoke perfect English) to watch and hear Yavapai singers perform the Gourd songs. Troy Kaska assisted by Jordan Lewis both of the culture department, sang the gourd songs as the Chinese students listened.

Other cultural specialists attending were Reba Franco and Gertie Smith from the Yavapai Culture Department.

Kitty Roberts and Sonny Jackson were the only members of the Nation to host a student for the one-week stay.

The Chinese students toured the Grand Canyon and a one-day trip to the discount mall in Anthem north of Phoenix.

Under the auspices of

the Sino-American Youth Ambassadors program sponsored by Ameson Education and Cultural Exchange Program from Washington, D.C., this well-coordinated visit allowed local families to host students into their home.

Kitty Roberts who has 4 children and Mariah who is 15 years old found the perfect match with Xiayon or known as "Sue" for her visit. "The school sent out an itinerary and what it was going to be like and it had all of their attached emails," said Roberts about the 3-week advance notice. Roberts originally was assigned to another girl but due to a mix up, Roberts hosted a different girl. "The girl got accustomed to our family and the other girl did too," said Roberts.

The hosts met their students in the library when the Chinese students arrived in Cottonwood after a grueling 16 hour flight from eastern China. "You're looking at the otherside of the world. She slept really good," said Roberts about her exchange student. The only problem was her daughter Mariah and "Sue" had to be ready each morning to catch the 6:30 bus to school since mother Roberts had to go to work at Yavapai-Apache Nation.

In the evenings Roberts made homemade lasagna. Roberts was told by the Chinese student that she rarely cooked at home in China because her parents wanted Xiayon to concentrate on school. Roberts said the exchange student cooked a meal for the family one night. "She asked me if she could do dishes and

help with cooking as her parents prevented her from helping around the house. On that Friday, she asked if she could cook a meal. I didn't know what it was called but it had fried egg, with vinegar and soy sauce with thinly cut potatoes. It was very tasty," said Roberts. "She only cooked twice in her life so I said you can cook anything you'd like. go for it", I told her," added Roberts.

Roberts said the Chinese student said not to drink coffee but to drink tea. "I told her, 'honey, I have to have my coffee'," said Roberts.

One night, Roberts took her children and Xiayon outside to see the night stars and Roberts said Xiayon was astounded at what she saw: bright shining stars due to lack of horizon vision living in the big cities of China. "She had never been on a rope swing. They do 12-hour school days there starting at 7:30 and ending at 6:30," said Roberts. Roberts said the students get a nap during school as well.

The exchange student wants to return to America after graduating from high school in China. Roberts said she wants to help the student find a university in California since that location is more convenient and closer to China.

Roberts said that the high school principal Ms. Chilton was delighted in the Nation's participation of the cultural exchange at the high school. The Chinese students had brought many traditional gifts from China which were shared with the Nation's members including the Indian students.



Above: Kitty Roberts, WIOA director for the Nation who helped organize the cultural exchange between the Chinese students and the Native American community and the Indian club at the high school, shakes hands with visiting students. (Photo by Don Decker)



Left: Troy Kaska, Yavapai traditional singer and artist, greets Chinese students in the library at Mingus Union High School. (Photo by Don Decker)

Agriculture youth group meets

By YOLANDA TRUJILLO
Director, Agricultural Resource
Department for the
Yavapai-Apache Nation

Saturday, February 6, brought the Nation's youth to the Nation's farm where the Yavapai-Apache Agricultural Resources Department held its first agriculture youth group meeting at the Clover Leaf Ranch across the river from the administration building.

Don Decker, along with the children, blessed the Agriculture Youth Garden. A 20 minute presentation on gardening and composting was conducted by Rodolfo Martinez who is the YAN Invasive Species Coordinator.

Then we headed out to the garden where the youth worked together and made a garden bed under the direction of Martinez.

Next week, the youth will be making more garden beds and planting winter crops such as lettuce, spinach, onions, peas, and other leafy greens.

We encourage and welcome all youth to come and prepare their own garden beds and plant their own produce.

We will meet again next Saturday February 13, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the same location. For transportation, contact this office.

We like to thank Don Decker for the wonderful blessing and message on agriculture. Our Future Farmers of YAN !!!



Nation's youth begin spring-garden beds for vegetables at the Yavapai-Apache Nation Clover Leaf Ranch this past Saturday. (Photo by Yolanda Trujillo)