

Athletes make trip to Children's

By Earlene Ward - Special to the Sierra Star

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On the football field, they may be tough and fearless, but visiting the patients at Children's Hospital of Central California brought tears to the eyes of some of the Yosemite High School freshmen football players recently.

"It was pretty touching," said Head Coach Dana Minard. "Some of the kids were crying."

This is the second year the freshmen players have visited the hospital and then held a scrimmage on the back lawn so the young patients could watch, some from their rooms and others outside.

The players talked of how much it meant to them to be able to brighten a young person's day.

"It was a great experience, seeing the kids and how much it made their day, talking to them and seeing their smile," said Jesse Lownsbury, one of the captains of the freshman team. Robert Rainey, another captain, felt the same way: "It was fun coming out here to play and make them happy. Today we came here for them and I want to thank them for letting us come."

Cody Shahan, also a captain, said it made him feel good to know he had made someone's day. "I like the way they get happy getting a tee-shirt or holding the football," he said.

The players took Badger tee-shirts, hats and buttons to give to the patients.

Hunter Clark, one of the team's captains, called the visit fun, a good experience and "eye opening." Greg Smith, another captain, agreed that it was a great experience to "make them happier."

After visiting with several of the young people in the hospital, the YHS team divided into two teams and held a scrimmage on the lawn.

Several parents came out on the Saturday morning to watch.



Two freshmen football players pose for a picture next to a Children's Hospital patient recently. For the second year in a row, members of the Yosemite High School freshman football team has visited the hospital during late summer.

Earlene Ward

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