

## Yosemite claims Mock Trial title

### Badgers move on to state competition March 17-19

By **David Richards**

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Madera County Office of Education officials announced last week that Yosemite High School is the winner of the 2005-2006 Mock Trial competition.

Held at the Madera County Government Center, YHS students competed against Madera High School during a fictional court cast known as The People vs. Markson.

Yosemite will now represent Madera County in the state Mock Trial competition, scheduled for March 17-19, 2006 in Riverside.

A statement released from the Madera County Office of Education stated that the Mock Trial is a simulation of a criminal court case in which students are the trial participants.

"The defendant, Jes Markson, was found guilty in both cases," the release stated. "Markson was found to have murdered his wife, Taylor Rodriguez. Rodriguez died by carbon monoxide poisoning."

During the trial, participants from both high schools took on roles as witnesses and attorneys as the case was argued in front of Judge Edward P. Moffat and attorneys from the Valley.

Outstanding students were nominated by the scoring attorneys in each category.

The winners from Yosemite High School included: Raj Srinivasan, outstanding defense pretrial motion attorney; Valerie Woolard, outstanding defense attorney; Britannia Bergan, outstanding defense witness; Tara Rowledge, outstanding prosecution pretrial motion attorney; Karen Urrutia, outstanding prosecution attorney; and Jason Koczanowicz, outstanding prosecution witness.



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