

BASKETBALL

Miramichi Valley girls bring the thunder to win Woodstock hoops tournament

Miramichi Leader

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The Miramichi Valley Pulamoo senior girls basketball team captured the annual Thunder Valley Classic in Woodstock on Dec. 28. Shown front from

and assistant coach Chris Ingram. Back row: Bailey Black, Hayley Somers, Drew Blackmore, head coach Matthew Sweezey, Jayme Bell, Kaylee Ru Haylie Simmons, Cassidy Hamilton and Erinn Chambers.

Photo: Submitted

The Miramichi Valley Pulamoo varsity girls basketball squad took top honours at the Thunder Valley Classic in Woodstock on Sunday, Dec. 28.

After opening up the tournament with three straight wins, the Pulamoo matched up with the host Woodstock Thunder Valley in the championship game on Sunday, Dec. 28.

Playing in front of a hostile crowd, the Pulamoo found themselves in the middle of an instant classic.

After overcoming a game-tying Thunder three-pointer at the buzzer to force overtime, the Pulamoo maintained their lead. After the first overtime solved nothing, MV finally found an inch of breathing room in the second overtime, hitting down the stretch and eking out a thrilling 81-79 win to capture the banner.

Pulamoo Lindsey Gallant, who was under the weather in this one, gutted it out and was named player of the game in the final.

Miramichi Valley head coach Matthew Sweezey said he was beyond impressed with the way both teams battled.

“The Thunder and Pulamoo put on such a show for the fans that many left from the packed gym considering this was the best game I had ever watched,” Sweezey said.

MV opened up the tournament with three straight victories to earn a berth in the final.

The Pulamoo had a flair for the dramatic throughout the weekend, evidenced by the team just squeezing past St. George's Mariners in a 59-58 nail-biter in the semifinals. The Pulamoo led the game wire-to-wire but were just barely able to fend off the Mariners charge in the second half. Bailey Black was named the team's player of the game.

The Pulamoo girls took out the Carleton North Lady Stars in a comfortable 54-44 decision to open the tournament with a strong guard play from Jillian Harris. They followed up that effort by besting last year's 'A' division provincial champion Caldwell Knights 68-44 with first-year player Hayley Somers named her team's top player following a solid defensive effort.

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