

All-star game a way to give back

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ST. GEORGE - Hurricane's Mitch Hoyt saw a couple of positives in playing in the March Mayhem in the Desert all-star game on Saturday.

"I thought it was for a good cause," said Hoyt of the event at Snow Canyon High School.

The School of Life Foundation sponsored it with the money raised going to the T.E.A.M. R.A.W. Youth Outreach Program and Impact of Southern Utah.

"It's fun to play ball and it's pretty special when kids like us can contribute," said Pine View's Louis Garrett.

"Bear" Aliialo, who is director of the outreach program, said, "We try to spend more time with kids at risk through basketball, boxing, dance. We're trying to keep them away from gangs by giving them the family they don't have."

Aliialo said the program has been operating for six years. However, he said, it isn't well-known.

"Today was a happy day," Aliialo said. "It's the first time we've gotten any recognition."

Tami Fullerton is Aliialo's boss as program administrator for the Youth Crisis Center of Washington County.

"The exposure was good, letting the community know we're there," Fullerton said. "We want the parent of any teen who's struggling to know that we're there."

Impact, like Team RAW, is an outreach program designed to help provide youngsters with positive role models and good things to do. The School of Life Foundation offers tips on ways to live through a small book of advice.

March Mayhem featured two games, one between a group of Washington County high school all-stars and Team RAW and another between the St. George Fire Department and Impact's Men From the Hood. Both games went into overtime and provided fans with several hours of exciting entertainment.

Garrett had 30 points and Snow Canyon's Dalton Groskreutz added 28 as the all-stars edged Team Raw 104-98.

Hoyt had four points in the overtime to help the all-stars. Tyler Stout, of Enterprise, hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to send the game into the extra period.

"I've been playing against these guys all my life," Hoyt said. "It was fun to play with them. And my last game in high school I fouled out so it was good to contribute here."

Pine View's Trey Ping scored 13 points and Panther teammate Jordan Rex added 11. SC's Kurt Henderson had eight points while Dixie's Ben Challis added four.

Nazari Yates led Team RAW with 35 points while Kenny McAllister had 15 points and Joe Colley had 13. Dwayne Bright added 10.

"We're just a bunch of guys who have had hard times in our lives," said McAllister. "And just made a big stand against the all-stars of Washington County. Hopefully everybody else will see the positives."

In the second game, Shawn Mitchell scored 27 points as the Men from the Hood edged St. George's firemen 77-75. Matt Stargell added 15 points while Joe Graham had 12 and Ben McCormick 11. Greg Sampson paced the firemen with 15 points while Justin Snyder and Devin Dixon had 12 points each.