



**Lost Dutchman
Marathon
Connects
Gold Canyon To
Apache Junction,**
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Time Out



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**Lost Dutchman Days
Golf Tournament**

The annual Lost Dutchman Days scramble golf tournament will be held on Sunday, Feb. 10 at Apache Creek Golf on Ironwood Drive just south of U.S. 60 and golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate.

The four-player scramble will feature a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. with player check-in and registration beginning at 11 a.m. The cost to play is \$75 per player and includes your golf and lunch and the chance to win some great prizes.

To sign up for the tournament, contact Hux Russell at 480-250-2628.

Grand Canyon Games

The 2008 Fulton Homes Grand Canyon State Winter games kicks-off Jan. 12 and runs through April 27. With more than 36 sports in the competition, over 7,000 participants of all ages will be competing in various events around the state.

The Fulton Homes Winter Games kicked off with an equestrian competition at Westworld in Scottsdale on Jan. 12 and continues during the next few months with sports competitions ranging from jump rope to soccer.

"I'm thrilled with becoming the largest winter event of its kind in the country," says Erik Widmark, executive director of the Fulton Homes GCGS. "We truly have something for everybody regardless of age or ability."

Events will take place in Apache Junction, Avondale, Flagstaff, Laveen, Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, Tucson and Waddell during the next three months.

If you are interested in entering any of the Fulton Homes Winter Games competitions, there is still time. Entry books may be picked up at various locations statewide, or for the first time, participants may enter online at www.gcsg.org/events/winter-games/index.html. For a complete list of sports, rules, deadlines, dates and locations, visit www.gcsg.org.

NJROTC Tops At All-Navy AZ Qualifier

Marksmanship squad to represent AJHS at Southwest Regionals in California

By Chuck Baker
The News

The NJROTC Marksmanship team from Apache Junction High School placed first at the All Navy Arizona qualifier match held Jan. 12 at Ben Avery Shooting Range and will now advance to the Southwest Regional Championships held next month in Santa Ana, Calif., hoping to qualify for the Navy nationals held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The team is comprised of Richard Lange, Alex Mahana, David Terock, C.J. Zanella and alternate Austin Kennedy and is coached by Senior Chief Instructor Dave Patti.

The squad, which finished first during the 10-team Pellet

Apache Junction 2, Shadow Mountain 1

January 16, 2008 – First-ever win for AJHS varsity soccer

By Chuck Baker
The News

Behind a tenacious defense, a solid team effort and a couple of timely goals, the Prospectors defeated the Shadow Mountain Matadors 2-1 last Thursday at Davis Field recording the first-ever win in varsity soccer at Apache Junction High School.

It took the AJHS boys seven tries in their first varsity campaign to get that first victory and the heroes were aplenty.

After Shadow Mountain had taken a 1-0 lead scoring on a penalty kick just six minutes into the match, AJHS senior Luis Ruiz answered with his own penalty kick for a goal at the 29:40 mark of the first half.

Then, with a little over two minutes to go until halftime, freshman David Gamboa sent a perfect corner kick out in front of the Matadors goal and senior Israel Chavez found a loose ball and booted it into the goal for what proved to be the game winner.

During the entire second half, the Prospector defense, led by juniors Casey Althoff and Jorge Valenzuela, sophomore Matt Horton, Gamboa and sophomore goal-keeper Ray Banda did their job shutting down the Shadow Mountain offense. The defense had plenty of help from mid-fielders, seniors Ricardo Jimenez, Manuel Redondo and Chavez and freshman Jesus Godinez, who dropped back deep into coverage and even the offense, including seniors Patrick Cheek and Ruiz and junior Manny Medina, were content to play defense over the final minutes to preserve the one-goal edge.

Banda came up with eight saves in the match, Medina had three decent shots on goal for AJHS and Althoff, Gamboa, Jimenez and Cheek were particularly impressive playing some defense and not giving the Matadors too many good looks in the second half.

Also last week, the Prospectors dropped a 6-0 decision to Peoria on Tuesday to finish the



The AJHS boys varsity soccer team poses for a team photo moments after beating Shadow Mountain 2-1 last Thursday, recording the first varsity win in school history. Team members are seniors Patrick Cheek, Ricardo Jimenez, Eddie Medina, Luis Ruiz, Manuel Redondo, Israel Chavez, and Uriel Uriarte, juniors Manny Medina, Casey Althoff, Braulio Lerma, and Jorge Valenzuela, sophomores Ray Banda and Matt Horton and freshmen Jesus Godinez, Jair Ortiz, David Gamboa and Antonio Juarez. The coaches are Jeff Roach and Josh Babcock.

week with a 1-6 overall record and a 1-3 record against Desert Sky Region opponents.

Other team members for this history-making AJHS soccer squad include seniors Eddie Medina and Uriel Uriarte, junior Braulio Lerma and freshmen Jair Ortiz, Jesus Godinez and Antonio Juarez. The team

is coached by Jeff Roach and Josh Babcock.

Apache Junction will wrap up their inaugural varsity season this week, playing at Scottsdale

Saguaro on Tuesday, January 22 and hosting Tempe McClintock in its season finale on

see **Soccer**, page C-6

**AJHS Wrestlers Runner-ups
At Own Invitational**

Jake Bennett wins individual title at 160 pounds; Worth (140 lbs.) and Schroeder (189 lbs.) place 2nd

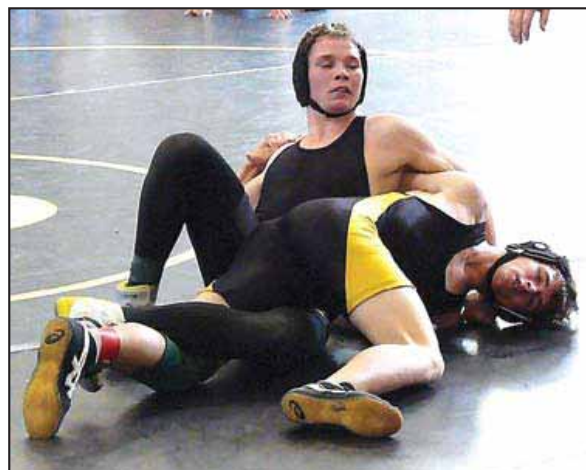
By Chuck Baker
The News

Apache Junction's three-year reign as champions of its own wrestling tournament came to a halt on Saturday, Jan. 12, with a 48-25 loss to Queen Creek in the title match of the 10th A.J. Invitational.

After going 7-0 in their eight-team "pool play" matches Friday, Jan. 11, and on Saturday morning, the Prospectors faced Queen Creek, who also went 7-0 in a separate eight-team pool, in the championship match Saturday afternoon.

Because of injuries to two of their wrestlers during Friday's action and because Apache Junction didn't have a wrestler in the 152-pound weight class, the Prospectors gave up an automatic 18 points to Queen Creek with three weight class forfeits, each one worth six points. That made it difficult for AJHS to repeat as champions.

The Prospectors jumped out to a 9-0 lead after the first two matches, an 11-8 decision victory by



Prospector senior Tim Worth appears calm and in control against this Queen Creek wrestler during the A.J. Invitational. Worth won the match with a 15-7 decision.

Dallon Bush at 103 pounds, and victory with a first-period pin by Nate Galvan at 112 pounds.

But in the next four weight classes, Queen Creek picked up 22 team points to grab 22-9 lead. Apache Junction's Chase Converse lost a 9-0 decision at 119 pounds, Apache Junction's Emerson Tucker lost via pin at

125 pounds, the Prospectors forfeited the 130 weight class due to injury, and Thomas Eckhardt lost via pin at 135 pounds.

Tim Worth added four points to Apache Junction's team score with his 15-7 decision victory at 140 pounds but Rocco Agerone

see **Wrestlers**, page C-3



Apache Junction senior Israel Chavez (white jersey, fourth from left) kicks the ball past the Shadow Mountain goal-keeper in the game-winning goal in last Thursday's match, giving the AJHS boys the first-ever varsity victory in school history.

**Prospectors Drop
A Pair In Hoops**

By Chuck Baker
The News

Short a full team roster due to illness, injury and poor grades, the Prospector varsity basketball team ran out of steam against Scottsdale Chaparral last Tuesday at home, dropping a 58-43 decision.

Apache Junction, missing three players, ran neck-and-neck with Chaparral through much of the first half and the game was tied, 25-25, with 1:30 left until intermission before the Firebirds closed out the first half with a 9-0 run, including two baskets via slam dunks, for a 34-25 half-time lead.

The Prospectors still trailed by just 11 points heading into the final quarter but couldn't keep pace with Chaparral, who ended up winning by fifteen points.

Senior Andrew Cranmer tossed in 15 points and had four rebounds, two assists and two steals to lead the Prospectors. Senior Jimmy Cowles added 10 points and

four boards, senior Robert Bohr finished with 7 points, five rebounds and five assists, sophomore Colt Grandstaff contributed 7 points and three boards, sophomore Ravi Patel added a bucket and three boards and junior Medhi Noudali scored a bucket.

Chaparral went to the free throw line 12 times in the game while the Prospectors never visited the charity stripe. The Firebirds also held a commanding 38-19 edge in rebounds. Apache Junction also played Friday at Tempe McClintock and came up with one of its better efforts of the year in a 57-52 loss to end the week with a 3-13 overall record and remains win-less in the Desert Sky Region, at 0-5.

Grandstaff tossed in 16 points to lead all scorers. Cowles netted 14, Bohr hit for 8 points, Cranmer and Robbins both had 6 points and Noudali added a bucket.

Apache Junction will play region games this week, at

see **Hoops**, page C-3



Sophomore guard Colt Grandstaff (#22) drives the lane for a shot in last Tuesday's game against Chaparral while senior teammate Jimmy Cowles (#50) looks on