



Itty Bitty Beach Party, see details, page C-3

Time Out



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Packer-Backer

The following is an email I received this past week in response to last week's column about the Mesa Southern Little League and legendary football coach Vince Lombardi.

Mr. Baker,
I have been a resident of Apache Junction for a little over five years. The paper you write for comes to my driveway each week for free and I pretty much read every issue from cover to cover. Being a sports fan, your section is always the one I go to first and until yesterday I had always found your *Time Out* ("editorial") to be interesting and informative. I also have enjoyed brief conversations with you at football and baseball games you covered.

Vince Lombardi has become one of my favorite individuals in the history of mankind and I thought I was pretty knowledgeable about the way he lived his life. Never had I heard or read anything that even suggested that Coach Lombardi CHEATED or broke the rules to win! Please tell me what I need to read that made you say Lombardi would have loved the efforts of the Mesa Southern Little League. I do not want to continue my open admiration for anyone that would stoop THAT LOW to win. I feel like the young boy saying "say it ain't so Joe, say it ain't so" to Shoeless Joe Jackson upon hearing the Sox threw the 1919 Series. Heal my heart by providing documentation of Vince Lombardi cheating or please, please, please...."Say it ain't so Chuck, say it ain't so!"
Sincerely,
Michael Balthazor

Sports Editor's Reply: It ain't so, Michael. However, Coach Bill Belichick would have loved the efforts of the Mesa Southern Little League. And since we're being truthful about Coach Lombardi, who never actually said, "winning isn't everything - it's the only thing," here is a portion of that famous Coach Lombardi's speech.

"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while; you don't do things right once in a while; you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing.

"There is no room for second place. There is only one place in my game, and that's first place. I have finished second twice in my time at Green Bay, and I don't ever want to finish second again. There is a second place bowl game, but it is a game for losers played by losers. It is and always has been an American zeal to be first in anything we do, and to win, and to win, and to win."

Vince Lombardi

(to read more Lombardi quotes, visit the official website, www.vincelombardi.com.

Minor All Stars In District 7 Tournament Play

10-11 Baseball All Stars play this week; Majors and Juniors Baseball All Stars start next week; Majors and Juniors Softball open up on July 7th

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Minor Baseball and Softball All Stars from Apache Junction Little League competed in their District 7 Tournaments this past week and more local All Star teams will be starting up tournament play this week.

The Minor Baseball All Stars lost all four of their tournament games this past week but played with a great effort in each game. On Tuesday, the Minor Baseball All Stars lost

to Mesa American by the score of 21-8, on Wednesday, the All Stars fell to Mesa Southern 19-7, on Thursday, the A.J. All Stars lost to Mesa Eastern (no score reported), and on Friday, the A.J. All Stars fell to they still had to play Red Mountain National (again, no score reported).

In the game against Mesa Southern, Apache Junction held a 6-5 lead after two innings and a 7-6 lead after three innings but Mesa Southern rallied in the late innings.

Ian McIntyre ripped a triple

and a single and also reached base via a walk, scored two runs and drove in two runs for the Apache Junction All Stars. Matt Battle crushed a three-run double to deep left center field, Clayton McCarthy had a single and RBI, Hunter Fonseca had a single, Matthew Turner reached base safely with three walks, Hunter Villa walked and was hit by a pitch and scored a pair of runs, and Trevor Kelley walked and scored.

McCarthy, Shea Casarez, Hunter Paul and Prescott Horn all pitched for A.J. in the Mesa Southern game. The defense was led by the play of catcher Kelley and McIntyre at shortstop.

Other team members for the Minor Baseball All Stars were T.J. Duarte, Dayton Fowler and Brendan Murphy and the All Star team was coached by Mike Turner, Leonard Soto and Bob Horn.

The Minor Softball All Stars played three round-robin tournament games this past week, losing to Red Mountain 12-2, and falling to Mesa American and Mountain View (no scores were reported).

In the loss to Red Mountain, see **All Stars**, page C-6



Apache Junction Minors Baseball All Star pitcher Clayton McCarthy delivers a pitch to home plate in last Wednesday's District 7 Tournament played at Countryside Park in Mesa.

Passing League Continues At Gilbert Mesquite

Linemen Olympics coming up this Thursday, June 26 at Davis Field

By Chuck Baker
The News

There is no official score kept during the Summer Passing League and even though Gilbert Mesquite found the end zone seven times in their five offensive scrimmages compared with four scores by Apache Junction in their five tries, one might say that, overall, Apache Junction more than held its own against the 5A school this past Thursday at Mesquite.

In their five offensive series, Mesquite quarterbacks completed 24 of 51 passes for 477 yards, seven TDs and three interceptions, one each by AJHS defensive backs Jeff Wyman, Ray Banda and Derek Hoffman.

By comparison, in five offensive series for Apache Junction,

quarterback Nate Scola, who will be a junior this coming season, completed 26 of 48 throws for an even 500 yards, four scores and also was intercepted twice.

Apache Junction wide receiver Kyrel Parker, who is quickly climbing the depth charts for a starting wide-out position this Fall, caught two of Scola's touchdown throws. McCullen and Hoffman caught the others.

The first offensive series last Thursday for both teams was a virtual tie with Scola completing 4-of-10 passes for 60 yards with one touchdown and one interception and Mesquite QBs completing 3-of-10 passes for 60 yards, one score and one interception.

In the second offensive series, see **Football**, page C-2

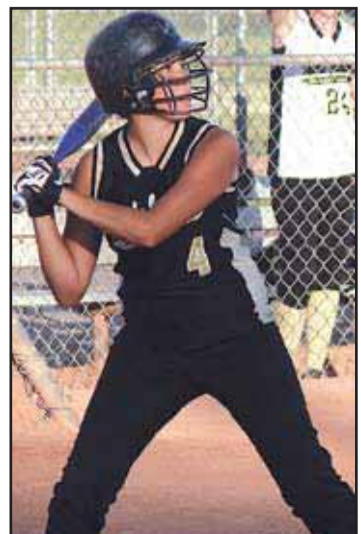


At the right, Prospector safety Jeff Wyman arrives just in time to break up this pass attempt in last week's Summer Passing held at Gilbert Mesquite HS. Wyman also had an interception during the scrimmages.

AJHS Summer Softball Results

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector "Gold" and "Black" Summer softball teams were in action this past week at Kiwanis Park in Tempe with the Black (16-and-under) squad defeating Scottsdale

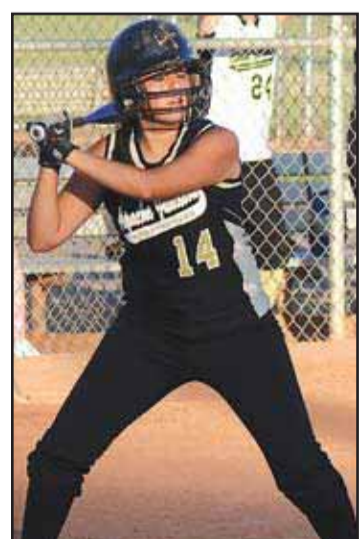


Melissa Ochoa

Saguaro 4-3 and tying Mesa Dobson, 5-5, while the Gold (18-and-under) squad edged Cave Creek Cactus Shadows 4-3 and lost to Scottsdale Desert Mountain 13-3.

In the Black's win over Saguaro, Taylor Izbicki was the winning pitcher while Sierra Aulik went 1-for-2 at the plate with a homerun, two RBI and two runs scored. Also for Black on offense, Katie Nickerson had a RBI and Lindsey Skinner walked, stole a base and scored a run.

In the 5-5 tie with Dobson, Ashley Gonzales went 2-for-3 for the Black, Izbicki ripped a two-run triple, Skinner hit a solo homerun, Aulik was 2-for-2 and scored twice, Melissa Ochoa also had a triple, Nickerson was 2-for-2 with a RBI, and Jennifer Gallina, Khyana Soper and Angelica Montgomery all had a base hit.



Jennifer Gallina

In the Gold's win over Cactus Shadows, Shelby Olson allowed just one earned run and struck out five batters to get the win on the mound. On offense for Gold, Skinner was 2-for-3

see **Softball**, page C-3

Girls Volleyball Camp Starts Up Today

Apache Junction High School girls volleyball coaches and players will be hosting their annual Summer Camp this week at AJHS. The camp, for girls in the 4th through 8th grades, will be held Monday through Friday this week from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. inside the north gymnasium.

The camp is designed to teach the basic fundamentals of volleyball from serving to playing various positions.

Late registration is available



at the Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department. The cost for the camp is \$30 per child and all proceeds benefit AJHS volleyball.

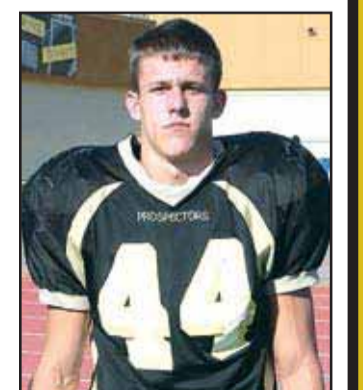
McCullen Commits To Arizona State

By Chuck Baker
The News

Apache Junction senior-to-be football star running back Shane McCullen had a "wish list" when it came to college recruiting with Stanford, California and Arizona State on the top of that list.

McCullen had already received official offers from both California and Stanford and when ASU came through with their offer this past week, Shane jumped at the opportunity to becoming a future member of Sun Devil football.

Verbally committing to ASU last week will end the recruitment battle for McCullen, which is many ways a relief for the Prospector football star who can now concentrate on his upcoming



Shane McCullen

senior season. According to AJHS football coach Rich Milligan, ASU is recruiting Shane as a defensive safety but Coach Dennis Erickson, in an "up-front" meeting with Shane last week, didn't rule out the possibility of Shane also getting a look at running back, where he has

see **Shane**, page C-3