



Another Fishing Report From Local Angler Vince Deadmond
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Time Out



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Grudge Mismatch

Remember John, the grumpy old hacker I told you about last week who, along with his equally age-challenged partner, took on me and my yip-stricken partner in a grudge match last Thursday on the golf course?

Well, John and his partner – actually John had very little to do with it – defeated me and Yippy last Thursday at Toka Sticks and we begrudgingly forked over \$15 each to the food pot following the loss.

After his partner single-handedly won the match, John, who joked afterwards that he had to hurry home so he could call of his relatives and report on the victory, demanded that I write a retraction.

Retraction? For what? I told you last week John was grumpy, old and a hacker. All true. He shot the same score Thursday as my partner, who makes Charles Barkley's golf swing look flawless.

The Chuckster and I were seven-stroke underdogs heading into the match. We lost the front by two only after I choked with my tee shot on number nine, and

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Overcoming A Handicap

Seventy-four-year-old George Hornick picks up second career hole-in-one at Apache Creek

By Chuck Baker
The News

Ask George Hornick what his handicap is in golf and you might be surprised by his answer.

"I'm about a twenty to twenty-two from the white tees," George says without hesitation.

You might find that a little surprising for a golfer who just recently recorded his second career hole-in-one at Apache Creek Golf Club, where he says he plays three times a week and rangers twice a week.

Two weeks ago, using a four iron, George double-bounced his tee shot into the cup on the seventh hole at Apache Creek. This one, he saw go in the hole.

"I never saw my first hole-in-one," George says, which took place five years ago, also at Apache Creek. "I was bending over to pick up my tee and one of my playing partners told me it went in the hole."

The first hole-in-one by George took place on the old third hole at Apache Creek, now the twelfth hole ever since the course switched nines.

Given his handicap, you might also be surprised by his age. George will turn seventy-five this October and at the rate his is going, might be on pace to shoot his age in another fifteen years or so.

Perhaps most surprising about George's answer to the handicap question is

that he never mentioned his two prosthetics he uses for legs.

Because of circulation issues, George lost his left leg in 1983 which was replaced with an artificial one, called a prosthetic. He lost his right leg in 1991 and plays golf today wearing prosthetics as his legs.

Even more surprising is that George didn't even take up the game of golf until he lost his first leg.

"I was a pretty good athlete when I was younger," he says. "I played a lot of ball in high school and during my time in the Army. But it has been challenging for me with golf."

George says that every hit he makes comes from the waist up. He particularly



George Hornick, 74, a ranger and regular player at Apache Creek Golf Club, recently scored his second career hole-in-one, acing the par three, seventh hole. Not bad for a golfer who will turn seventy-five this October and plays the game on two artificial legs.

has difficulty when a ball is either above or below his feet.

"The one thing I have to have to make a really good swing is proper balance," he says. "Without it, I'm in trouble."

George also says that deep sand traps can be a problem for him, mostly just being able to get in and out of the trap. He also can't bend down to read putts because if he did, he says he would never be able to get back up.

A few years ago, while playing in a three-man scramble at Apache Creek, both of George's prosthetics broke with six holes still to play.

"I can be pretty rough on them," George says of his artificial legs. "I don't think they were made for playing golf."

"George says he stayed in the golf cart and watched the last six holes of the tournament and when it was over, his partners carried him to

his car which is specially equipped so he can operate and control the vehicle with his hands, placed the prosthetics in the seat beside him and off he went.

"I got about half way home and it donned on me that I didn't have use of my prosthetics. How am I'm going to get from the car to the house?"

When he reached his house, he sat in the car for awhile trying to figure out what he was going to do next.

"I remembered that I left a pair of crutches inside the storage shed, which was closer to the car than the house. So I crawled to the shed, retrieved the crutches and somehow made it home."

George was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. He worked for years in the heating and ventilating business and when that company went belly up, started his own business,

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Seventy-four-year-old George Hornick tees off on the fifth hole at Apache Creek Golf Club during a round played last Friday morning

AJHS Football Gearing Up

Prospector fivesome take first ever Linemen Olympics title

By Chuck Baker
The News

Equipped with new high tech devices, the Prospector football team took to the practice field this past week in preparation for the 2008 season.

Apache Junction now possesses a "ground shoot" training device for linemen, a fumble prevention training device for running backs and also looked to have some new linemen sleds on hand as they are

getting ready for their pre-season scrimmage against Phoenix Washington High School slated for Thursday, August 21 at Davis Field.

The official 2008 season kicks off on Friday, August 29 when AJHS travels to Flagstaff to play Sinagua High School inside the Walkup Dome on the campus of Northern Arizona University as one of four games scheduled that day, all part of the 2008 Kick-off Classic, presented by the Arizona Interscholastic

Association.

Last year, Apache Junction played Sinagua in the last of the four Kickoff Classic games at 7:00 p.m. It has yet to be determined what time AJHS and Sinagua will play each other on August 29. Apache Junction easily won last year's game by the score of 55-0.

Like they did last year, Apache Junction will play an eleven game schedule in 2008 with five home games and six away games, including the Kickoff Clas-

sic.

The Prospectors are also scheduled to open at home on September 5 against Avondale Agua Fria, play at Glendale Raymond Kellis on September 12, host Queen Creek on September 19, host Scottsdale Chaparral on September 26 in what will be the Homecoming Game, play at Glendale Independence on October 3, host Phoenix Shadow Mountain on October 10, play at Paradise Valley on October 17, host Scottsdale Saguro on October 24, and will close out the season with away games October 31 at Cave Creek Cactus Shadows and November 7 at Tempe McClintock.

Playing their first season of football in the 4A-I division in 2007 and their first in the Desert Sky Region, Apache Junction went 6-6, which included a first round loss to Goodyear Millennium in the State Tournament.

The seven teams that make up the Desert Sky Region are Chaparral, Shadow Mountain, Paradise Valley, Saguro, Cactus Shadows, McClintock and Apache Junction. Saguro won the 4A-I State title in 2007 and Chaparral, Paradise Valley, McClintock and Apache Junction all qualified for the tournament as one of

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A few weeks back during the Summer Passing League, the Apache Junction fivesome of (above, left to right) Rusty Fernando, Cy Maughmer, Danny Flores, J.J. O'Malley and Stephen Hughes won the Linemen Olympics event that featured competition amongst several schools in weight lifting repetitions, swimming, tug-of-war, medicine ball toss, a van push and an obstacle course. It was the first time that the AJHS linemen won this event. Flores will likely be the starting center this Fall for AJHS while Maughmer and O'Malley will line up at guard and Fernando and Hughes will play tackle.



(above) Apache Junction running backs have a new fumble prevention training device to run through as this Prospector back demonstrates during a practice held last week



(above) All-State senior running back Shane McCullen takes a hand-off from junior quarterback Nate Scola during last Thursday's practice with the offense. McCullen, who has committed to attend Arizona State University, comes into his senior season with 3,473 career rushing yards and 34 touchdowns.