

*Time Out*



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**Gimmee A "C"**  
(for Coming around)

A long time ago when sports editing was a work in progress for me, I was sometimes cynical about whether cheerleaders were truly athletes participating in a sport or merely cute girls wearing cute outfits hanging around the football field hoping to land a date with the team's quarterback. But now, I'm singing to a different chant.

Today's cheerleaders just may be the toughest athletes around. According to a *Fox News* report that aired last Friday morning, and based on data collected by the University of North Carolina's National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research (NCCSI) and a subsequent *Time.com* report, "there have been 67 fatal or life-threatening injuries due to the sport of cheerleading since 1982, making it by far the most perilous sport for high school and college-aged athletes."

Cheerleading injuries also accounted for nearly two-thirds of severe school-sports injuries and cheerleaders suffered see *Speak Out*, page C-6

**Prospectors Impressive In Pre-Season Scrimmage**

By **Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

If last Thursday's scrimmage with Washington High School is any indication of what we can expect in the upcoming football season, All State senior running back Shane McCullen might not be the featured back in the Prospector offense.

McCullen, who has rushed for 3,473 yards and has scored 34 touchdowns in his two previous varsity seasons, was used mostly as a decoy in the scrimmage. The senior rarely lined up in the backfield and was usually split wide as a flanker, coming in motion on most offensive plays but carrying just one time for a nine-yard gain in AJHS' new "flex-bone" offense.

I know what you are thinking. Prospector head coach Rich Milligan has had one too many two-a-days. But hold on black and gold bleeders. Don't cancel your season tickets. And please, no more protest at AJHS just yet and hold off with the anonymous "speak-outs" for now.

First of all, using McCullen as a decoy in Thursday's scrimmage worked to near perfection. And secondly, there appears to be a method to Coach Milligan's madness.

"I saw little need to get Shane many touches as I know what he is capable of doing," Milligan said via email on Friday. "There are also components of our of-

fense we did not show last night that puts the ball in Shane's hands both running and passing. Kelly Epley (Agua Fria head coach) and the entire Agua Fria coaching staff was in attendance last night and I was not going to give them or anyone else any additional information early to work off."

Senior halfback Mike Taylor, who looks to be fully recovered from last season's broken leg, senior fullback Justin Ferman and junior quarterback Nate Scola were the beneficiaries to Coach Milligan's planned madness.

Taylor ran the ball three times for 19 yards and added two pass receptions for another 29 yards. Fer-

man gained 17 yards on his three attempts, and Scola, in Apache Junction's second series of ten offense plays, ran an option to the right side with McCullen trailing as the deep threat, turned the corner and raced 54 yards untouched for Apache Junction's only score against Washington's number one defense.

Backup running backs, Garret Johnson and Terry Eytcheson, also looked good in the scrimmage with Johnson running for 34 yards on three carries and Eytcheson coming up with a 21-yard run.

Washington began the scrimmage on offense

see **AJHS**, page C-3



*The 2008 Prospector varsity team includes seniors Q Ramadan, Bo Bankhead, Jeff Wyman, Cody Westover, Mike Taylor, Shane McCullen, Justin Ferman, Rusty Fernando, Danny Flores, Tyler Robinson, Anthony Burkhardt and Delaney Shriman, juniors Garret Johnson, John Boyle, Matt Tomasetti, Mike Davalos, Nate Scola, Isaac Dominguez, Kyrel Parker, Zach Divelbiss, Terry Eytcheson, Dwane Norman, Stephen Hughes, Martin Fahey, Cy Maughmer, Matt McMahan, J.J. O'Malley, Shane Smith, Dylan Munyan and Derek Hoffman and sophomore David Gamboa. The 2008 team coaches are Rich Milligan, Justin MacDonald, Jimmy Ray, Jerry Paterson and Shan Williams.*

stream I turned around and started to fish my way back to the first pool. Fishing up stream gives another advantage of stealth, fish in a stream or river are usually facing up stream, waiting for the currents to bring them something tasty to eat. (What a life, the buffet never closes.) These were small fish, most of them were 8-11 inches, and I was using a #2 weight fly rod, weight forward floating line, and an Elk Hair Caddis fly tied on the end of my 7' leader and 18" tippet.

The fish I found in the bushes, and the ones I could sneak up on from behind the rocks were very cooperative. They were quite acrobatic in attacking the dry fly that I presented, some of them grabbed the fly on the way up as they leaped out of the water.

Well as I worked back to the first pool I had caught and released around 25 small eager Brown Trout. The trail in to Chevelon Creek was not one that I would want to be on after dark, but that would have been the best time to catch larger Brown Trout. I am back at the first pool with the nervous fish and I see some feeding on the surface. I sneak around so I don't put my back cast in a bush or tree. I make a long cast, and land the fly as softly as a bug with sore feet. After just a moment one of the nervous fish inhales my fly, thus ending another good day of fishing. If you use a spinning reel or bait cast rig I would think you would have better success in a lake where a splash won't startle all of the fish.



*Local angler Vince Deadmond is a regular contributor to Outdoors AZ and you can be too.*

Many of the small streams in Arizona have specific regulations for fly fishing only, with barbless hooks so the fish can be released with little harm being done to them.

Canyon Lake is coming back. It had not fished well lately because of a big fish kill, and work being done on the dam drained many desirable fishing spots. Arizona Game and Fish worked with many volunteers to put in fish condos before the lake was filled again. This habitat is helping the fish to flourish. I fished it Sunday and caught Large Mouth Bass, Catfish, and Blue Gill. Again I used a fly rod, but this time I used my pontoon boat as well. The pontoon boat is a great way for a person to get on the water and to the fish without spending a fortune on a boat, and fuel. You can use flippers to move the pontoon boat, and most have an oar kit if you want to move faster. With the warm summer weather setting in the pontoon boat close to the water is just another way to stay cool.

**Up Next . . .**



www.azhelmetproject.com

**Apache Junction vs. Sinagua**  
**2008 Kickoff Classic**  
**Friday, August 29 (7:00 p.m.)**  
**Walkup Skydome @ N.A.U.**

**Last Meeting:** Apache Junction defeated Sinagua 55-0 in the 2007 Kickoff Classic inside the Walkup Skydome as Shane McCullen ran for 182 yards and three TDs and the AJHS defense held Sinagua to just 78 total yards. It should be noted that Sinagua was adjusting to a new head coach in 2007 and undergoing a rebuilding process.

**Next Week:** The Prospectors have their home opener against Agua Fria (September 5th).

**Outdoors AZ**

Fun things to do in Arizona

(A new feature appearing from time to time in The Hometown News is "Outdoors AZ - Fun things to do in Arizona" where we invite readers to share some of their fun and exciting Arizona outdoor adventures. It could be a fishing report or trip, a unique hiking trail you discovered, hunting tips, encounters with wildlife, little known camping spots, whitewater rafting, outdoor photography and more. This week, we have another report from local angler Vince Deadmond, who hopes to share more of his fishing experiences and tips in future editions. To submit an item, article and photos, send them to Chuck Baker, Sports Editor, at cbaker@ajnews.com)

HOW DO YOU CATCH FISH IN ARIZONA? . . .  
By *Vince Deadmond*

My preferred way to fish is with a fly rod, but there are other enjoyable ways to fish. I grew up using my Grandfather's fly rod, because it was always strung up and ready to go. I learned early that if you were stealthy, you could sneak up on Blue Gill and catch them. This early lesson is still a mystery to many fish less folks who took up fishing later in life. I still like to catch Blue Gill.

Some good ways not to catch fish are as follows: Sleep late, wear clothing that makes you stand out from nature, invite lots of people to talk to when you go fishing, turn up the volume on your music, skip rocks in the pool you intend to fish, and throw a ball in the water for your dog to retrieve. These are all fun things to do, but they will not improve your fish catching. (think stealthy)

I recently hiked into Chevelon Creek on the Rim.

Chevelon Creek connects Woods Canyon Lake and Chevelon Lake. It is similar to many of the creeks on the rim, clear cool water, usually not a wide stream of water, and fish that are on high alert to any sort of movement. In one of the larger pools that was lacking the cover of trees or large rocks to hide behind, I counted 20 nervous Brown Trout. I was still back from the waters edge a good 10 feet when I moved my fly rod and caused many of the fish to scatter and hide.

I knew from past experience that this pool was spooked and that I would need to make an appointment for later that afternoon. When I got back to the pool I would need to be more stealthy, make a long smooth cast, that would land the fly softly on the water.

Traveling down stream, I observed several places that looked like they would hold fish. They were shaded with bushes and trees, and would be easier to sneak up on the wary Brown Trout. After hiking about 2 miles down

**Scheduling Notes:**

**AJHS Freshmen Football Team Opens Wednesday**

The Prospector freshmen football team (team picture and roster on page C-6) will be the first athletic team at Apache Junction High School to open the Fall sports season when they play host to Combs HS of Queen Creek this Wednesday, August 27 at Davis Field with kickoff scheduled for 6:00 p.m. This is an added ninth game of the 2008 season for the AJHS freshmen team, giving them six home games. The complete schedule is available at [www.ajhs.ajusd.org](http://www.ajhs.ajusd.org).

**Apache Trail Wolfpack Open Saturday, August 30**

Apache Trail HS Wolfpack begin their inaugural season of eight-man tackle football playing against Ocotillo High School on Saturday, August 30 at Westview HS (10850 W. Garden Lakes Parkway) in Avondale. Kickoff is at 7:00 p.m. For more details about Wolfpack football, visit the website [www.azhsff.com](http://www.azhsff.com).

**Cheer With The AJHS Cheerleaders**

One week clinic for girls in K-5th grade ends with Sept. 5th home AJHS game at Davis Field

Have you ever wanted to cheer in front of a packed crowd at Davis Field? This is your opportunity to cheer with the Varsity Cheerleaders from AJHS.

All girls in K-5th grade are eligible to practice with the AJHS varsity cheerleaders the week of September 1, practicing Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the AJHS south gym loft area, and then joining the varsity cheer squad at halftime at Davis Field on Friday,

September 5th when the Prospector football teams opens the 2008 season at home against the visiting Agua Fria Owls.

In addition to performing at halftime, the girls will also cheer with the AJHS varsity squad during the third quarter of the game.

The cost for the one-week clinic is \$25 per child which includes a t-shirt. To sign up and for more details, call (602) 339-2498 and ask for Holly.