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Time Out



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Pigskin Pokes

• I know AJHS has some pretty good ball carriers in All-State senior Shane McCullen, senior Mike Taylor and juniors Nate Scola and Justin Ferman, but the buzz after last Friday's 48-6 win over Agua Fria was for junior Terry Eytcheson, who displayed some of the toughest and hard-nosed runs we've seen in a while. He's listed at 5-6 and 170 in the program, most likely that's dressed in full gear but for what he lacks in size, he makes up for in heart and determination.

• I say that opposing teams might as well let AJHS defensive end Rusty Fernando line up in their backfield since that is where he ends up after each hike of the

**Prospectors Start 2-0,
Downing Agua Fria 48-6**

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

News flash! The Prospectors had not one, but two, 100-yard rushers in last Friday's 48-6 win over Avondale Agua Fria and neither one was senior All-State running back Shane McCullen.

With the Agua Fria defense intent on stopping McCullen, the Prospectors turned to some of their

other potent weapons out of the backfield in junior quarterback Nate Scola and senior back Mike Taylor.

Scola, running the new "flexbone" offense, ran for 117 yards and three scores while Taylor picked up 115 yards and a touchdown on his nine carries.

McCullen, already the AJHS school record-holder in career rushing yards and touchdowns, was limited to 53 yards on his eight car-

ries. Shane did score on a three-yard TD dash around the right side and then, perhaps as a reminder as to why he will be playing for Arizona State University next Fall, delighted the home crowd at Davis Field with his dazzling 97-yard kickoff return, giving the senior career touchdowns #37 and #38, with plenty more football to go.

Friday's game was actually a close one in the first half, scoreless after the first quarter, and just 14-0 at halftime, with Taylor scoring on an 18-yard run and McCullen rushing for his TD in the second quarter.

After McCullen returned the opening kickoff of the second half for the touchdown, getting a key block from junior Terry Eytcheson along the left sideline to free him, senior defensive back Anthony Burkhardt came up with an interception on Agua Fria's



Prospector senior running back Mike Taylor is off and running for a big gain in last Friday's 48-6 victory over Agua Fria, Taylor, who says he is fully recovered from a broken leg suffered last football season, ran for 115 yards and a touchdown on just nine carries.

Girls Golf Starts Season 2-0

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

For the first time in their brief history, the Lady Prospector golf team began the season winning their first two matches. Last Tuesday at Rolling Hills Golf Course in Tempe, Apache Junction scored 193 as a team and edged out Queen Creek (195) for first place. Tempe McClintock was a close third with their 197 team score.

Last Wednesday at Toka Sticks Golf Club in Mesa, Apache Junction came up with an easy win, scoring 219 to the 257 team for

Williams Field and the 263 senior Katie Stout shot team score for Higley.

In last Tuesday's match, see **Girls**, page C-2



Members of the 2008 Lady Prospector golf team are (left to right) Katie Stout, Jordan Grams, Presley White, Amber Hampton and Lacey Chronister.

**Slow Starts Dooms AJHS
Girls In Volleyball Opener**

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

It took the Lady Prospectors three games to find their rhythm in last Tuesday's volleyball opener at Queen Creek and the slow start did them in, losing to the Lady Bulldogs 25-16, 25-14, 17-25, 25-21.

After dropping the first two games, things started to click for the AJHS girls on the court. Middle blocker Jessica Iniguez played a terrific third game for Apache Junction with her six service points, six blocks and three kills as the Lady Prospectors



The Lady Prospectors, shown here after player introductions, opened their season at Queen Creek Tuesday.

prevailed, 25-17. Iniguez would finish the match with four kills and 11 blocks.

The momentum from game three carried over into game four as Apache Junction jumped out to a 7-4 lead but Queen Creek rallied down the stretch to win the fourth game by four points and the match, three games to one.

Setter Katie Karbo dished out 16 assists in the match and also added six service points, eight digs and three kills. Catalina Ovalle came up with seven kills and 11 digs to go with her five service points, Kylie Bocskey contributed three kills and 11 blocks, Sierra Aulik had



Sierra Aulik (right) and Keisha McClincy (middle) await a set from Katie Karbo (#12) in Tuesday's match

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Helmet images courtesy of

www.azhelmetproject.com

Apache Jct. vs. Raymond Kellis

Friday, September 12th

(7 p.m.) @ Raymond Kellis

Last Meeting: A year ago, Raymond Kellis used eight-man and nine-man defensive fronts to try and slow down the Prospector ground game and did so with some success as the Prospectors came away with a 19-6 victory. RB Shane McCullen went for 105 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries in that game.

Next Week: The Prospectors return home to Davis Field to host the Queen Creek Bulldogs in what has developed into a rivalry game for both schools.

first play of the third quarter. That led to the first of three Scola TD runs in the second half and the rout was on.

So, how does the junior signal caller like the flexbone offense?

"I loved it the minute I

heard we were putting this offense in," Scola said after the win. "So far, I think I've done a pretty good job of running it (the flexbone) but I still have plenty more to learn."

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A Night Of 'Firsts'

Apache Trail Wolfpack kick off inaugural tackle football season

By **Chuck Baker and Danielle Lowe**
The News

If you were going to make a movie out of Apache Trail High School's very first eight-man tackle football game, you couldn't have scripted it any better.

On Saturday, August 30, the Apache Trail Wolfpack opened its inaugural season of the Arizona High School Football Federation taking on the Ocotillo Geckos in a game played at the Glendale Youth Sports Complex, located next to the Arizona Cardinals' University of Phoenix stadium.

With team captains, Sean Evans and Brian Mayfield at midfield meeting with the Gecko captains and game officials, the Wolfpack won the coin toss and deferred to the second half. The Geckos chose to receive the opening kickoff and minutes later, Evans booted the ball deep down field and it was official. Apache Trail football was under way.

The Wolfpack defense, led by linebacker Franky Gon-

zalez, forced the Geckos to punt after a six play opening drive that netted only 14 yards. Gonzalez made four of the game's first six tackles.

The Wolfpack's Jon Bohn returned the punt 11 yards to the 33-yard line where the Apache Trail offense took the field for the first time ever. It didn't take them long to score their first points.

Mayfield, the team's starting quarterback, scrambled to his right on the first of offense play for Apache Trail, broke a couple of tackles and then bolted down the sideline 67 yards for a touchdown. Mayfield then added a two-point conversion run and the Wolfpack had run one offensive play in their brief history and had an 8-0 lead.

The Geckos came back to score on their next possession, getting a 14-yard touchdown run but the two-point conversion attempt was stopped short of the goal line by Wolfpack linebacker Evans and Apache Trail still held an 8-6 lead at the end of the first quarter.



Wolfpack player Sean Evans boots the opening kickoff on August 30 to get Apache Trail's first-ever football game underway

What happened after that first quarter was likely not the way drama students from Apache Trail would have scripted this movie. The Wolfpack had some tackling issues on defense and struggled with outside containment while the Geckos, content to pound the football with run after run, began to take control.

Ocotillo added a touchdown in the second quarter for a 14-8 halftime lead and then recovered a Wolfpack fumble on the first possession of the second half and cashed in for a short touch-

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(left and above) Wolfpack coaches Dave Wagner (right) and John Anderson talk with the Apache Trail High School players just prior to their first-ever game played Saturday, August 30 at the Glendale Youth Sports Complex;



(left and below) Wolfpack team captains Sean Evans (left) and Brian Mayfield meet at midfield with the Ocotillo Geckos players and officials for the school's first-ever coin toss, won by the Wolfpack.

