



AJHS
J.V. And
Freshmen
Defeat
Shadow
Mountain,
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Time Out



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The Zone

Ever wonder what it's like to be in the "zone?" Well, if you were at last Friday's exciting 7-5 AJHS win over Shadow Mountain and recall the play of Rusty Fernando (#56) – that's being in the zone. What a terrific game by the senior defensive end. I had him for 14 tackles, eight behind the line of scrimmage for losses plus a sack. It's too bad the officiating crew wasn't in the same zone when they decided to flag Rusty for "excessive celebration" as he was jubilantly headed to his own sideline after making yet another tackle.

Welcome Back

Eighteen carries for 91 yards – by Shane McCullen standards as we have come to know them over the past few years – would normally be considered an off night for the senior All State back. But seeing the way he ran on that final game-clinching drive (14 running plays plus a kneel down over the final 8:09 minutes to secure the 7-5 win) was refreshing. Shane had nine of the carries on that drive for 51 yards, which is eleven more yards than he had in the team's last three games. The difference? Going back to the old I-Formation and pounding the ball.

Shane explains that he has been having difficulty picking out the running lanes while coming in motion and taking handoffs from an angle with the flexbone offense.

So, where do we go from here? Remember that after the first four games of the season while using the flexbone, AJHS led the entire nation in rushing yards per game.

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Up Next . . .

Apache Trail
Vs.
East Valley
Saturday, Nov, 1st
7 p.m. Kickoff
(Prospector Park)

Following two weeks of byes, AHS will take on East Valley in their final 2008 regular season game Saturday, November 1, at Prospector Park, hoping to qualify for the post season in their inaugural season of eight-man tackle football.

Prospectors Hold Off Matadors For 7-5 Win

McCullen is back; Fernando goes crazy on defense

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

The mark of a good head football coach is the ability to effectively communicate with your players. And as a good communicator, you must also be a good listener. So when two of his top offensive players approached Coach Rich Milligan with a suggestion during last Friday's close game with Shadow Mountain, Coach Milligan decided to run with it, literally.

After the Shadow Mountain Matadors missed a go-ahead 34-yard field goal attempt with just over eight minutes left in the fourth quarter leaving Apache Junction clinging to a 7-5 lead in a defensive battle, the Prospectors, heading into a stiff breeze, desperately needed to put together a long drive and chew up as much of the game clock as possible.

Abandoning the "flexbone" offense in favor of



Prospector senior defensive end Rusty Fernando (#56) puts a hard hit on this Shadow Mountain ball carrier, nearly jarring the ball loose. Fernando played the game of his AJHS career with 14 tackles, including eight behind the line of scrimmage for losses.

the I-Formation as was suggested by senior running back Shane McCullen and junior quarterback Nate Scola, the Prospectors put together a 15-play drive that began at their own 20-yard line and ended at the Matadors 19-yard line with Scola taking a knee as the clock expired, giving Apache

Junction a hard fought 7-5 victory to improve to 6-1 on the season.

McCullen, who holds the AJHS school record for career rushing yards and touchdowns but had only gained a total of 40 yards on 19 carries in the team's last three games, carried the ball nine times for 51 yards

Up Next . . .



Apache Junction @ Paradise Valley
Friday, October 17
7 p.m. (PVHS)

Last Meeting: Paradise Valley came to Davis Field for the 2007 AJHS Homecoming Game and racked up more than 400 yards of total offense and defeated Apache Junction 33-7 despite Shane McCullen running for 150 yards on 17 carries. The Trojans are currently ranked No. 3 in 4A-I.

Up Next: The Prospectors return to Davis Field on October 24 to host No. 1-ranked Scottsdale Saguaro with kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m.

on that final drive, four of those runs resulting in a first down.

When officially "welcomed back" after the game, McCullen just smiled and said, "I love the I-Formation."

Apparently, McCullen has been having difficulty picking out his running lanes while coming in motion

and taking handoffs under the flexbone offense, which would explain him being AWOL from the team's offense in recent games.

But with the I-Formation, McCullen was stellar on that final drive and finished the game with 91 yards on 18

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AJHS Swim Teams Get Ready For Regionals

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

The boys and girls swim teams from Apache Junction High School wrapped up their regular season ghosting Scottsdale Chaparral in a meet held last Tuesday and will now set their sights on the Desert Sky Region Meet coming up October 24 and 25 at Tempe McClintock. At stake at the region meet will be qualifying for this year's 4A-I State Championships.

Chaparral, one of the favorites to capture the team



Apache Junction swimmer Cecilia Kruser competes in the 100 freestyle during a recent home meet.

title at the region meet, easily won the competition last Tuesday. In the boys competition, Chaparral scored 141 points to 44 for Apache Junction, and in the girls competition, Chaparral tallied 147 team points to the 38 scored by AJHS swimmers.

AJHS diver Ole Gabrielson scored the only first place finish for either the AJHS boys or girls last Tuesday, scoring 185.70 points. Diver Andrew Jones finished third with his 128.25 points.

Apache Junction swimmers and divers only came

up with three second place finishes in the meet. Diver Nikki Higuera placed second overall with her 142.95 points, Nicole Henry came in second in the 50 freestyle with a time of 28:26, and Jim Huynh also placed second in the boys 50 freestyle with a time of 26:10.

Third place finishers for AJHS included Mackenzie Hvidsten in the 200 freestyle (2:13.90), Jones in the 100 freestyle (57:47), Hvidsten in the 500 freestyle (6:24.20), and the Prospector 200 freestyle relay (1:44.64) and 400 freestyle relay (4:04.81) for the boys, and Clarissa Mohle in the 100 freestyle (1:04.01), Henry in the 100 backstroke (1:20.84), and the Lady Prospectors 200 freestyle relay team (1:58.83) for the girls.

Coming up with a fourth place finish for the AJHS boys were Michael Thoerning (1:20.18), John Simeonoff in the 100 backstroke (1:21.76), Huynh in the 100 breaststroke (1:17.01), Sean Bonow in the 200



Lady Prospector swimmer Amy Darnell competes in the 200 freestyle during a recent home meet.

freestyle (2:35.74), Wesley Hillman in the 200 individual medley (2:47.86), and the 200 medley relay (2:16.54) team.

Fourth place finishers for the AJHS girls were Mohle in the 50 freestyle (28:87), Erin Stout in the 100 butterfly (1:38.00), Cecilia Kruser in the 200 freestyle (2:33.13), Nicoletta Carbone in the 200 individual medley (2:50.64), Henry in the 500 freestyle (6:57.93), and both the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay teams.

Fifth place finishers for the

boys included Cody Beck in the 50 freestyle, Hillman in the 100 freestyle, Alan Rivera in the 200 freestyle, Keaton Tenborg in the 200 individual medley, Ty Adair in the 100 butterfly, Richard Pennick in the 100 backstroke, Simeonoff in the 500 freestyle, Beck in the 100 breaststroke and all three relay teams.

Fifth place finishers for the AJHS girls included Kruser in the 50 freestyle, Lindsay Adair in the 100 freestyle, Amy Darnell in

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Homecoming Loss Costly For AHS

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

The first-ever Homecoming Game for Apache Trail High School didn't quite go as planned with last Friday's 46-20 loss to the Ocotillo Geckos at Prospector Park. Not only did Apache Trail fall to 2-5 in their inaugural season of eight-man tackle football, but the loss may well knock the Wolfpack out of the AzHSFF playoff scenario with just one game remaining.

The Geckos jumped out to a 24-14 halftime lead with four rushing touchdowns. Apache Trail got on the board in the first half with a one-yard TD run by Wayne Dubrul and a 10-yard TD pass from quarterback

Brian Mayfield to wide receiver Jon Bohn.

Bohn scored again in the second half returning a kickoff 95 yards to pay dirt but Ocotillo added three long TD runs in the second half of 32, 25 and 30 yards for the win.

Mayfield ended up completing 11-of-32 passes for 121 yards but was also intercepted twice. Mayfield added another 121 rushing yards on seven attempts.

Dubrul rushed for 72 yards in the game and caught five passes for 36 yards. Bohn had four receptions totaling 60 yards and added an 18-yard run. Frankie Gonzalez, who had seven tackles on defense for the Wolfpack, also caught a pair of passes on offense for 15 yards.

Also on defense for



Look at the terrific blocking up front by the Apache Trail linemen during their October 3 game against West Phoenix. From left to right, the linemen are Jacob Carpenter (# not visible), Raul Arroyo (#58) and C.J. Brown (#52). Sean Evans (far left) received the snap. Photo taken from http://picasaweb.google.com/wolfpackfootball08.

Apache Trail, Sean Evans was in on seven tackles, Bohn and Dubrul were both in on five tackles and Dubrul came up with a fumble recovery, Chris Sheets had three tackles and Jacob Carpenter had two tackles.

"Tonight's loss pretty much takes us out of the playoffs but I thought our kids played hard," Coach

Dave Wagner said after the game. "So far this season, we've played a tough schedule and we've only lost to the West Valley teams. We lost to West Phoenix twice and they're undefeated and we've lost twice now to Ocotillo who is in second place."

The Wolfpack will take this week off with AHS on their Fall Break and

the team will return to the practice field the following week for their final regular season game on Saturday, November 1 at Prospector Park against the East Valley Panthers.

"Our focus right now is a one-game season to beat East Valley," Coach Wagner added. "If we beat

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