

Time Out **Lady Prospectors Go 3-2 In Turkey Shoot**



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By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity basketball team opened their season going 3-2 in the Queen Creek Turkey Shoot Tournament this past week, including a 50-19 victory over Casa Grande in the tournament's 3rd-4th place.

In "pool play" games on Monday of last week, Apache Junction opened with a 58-20 win over Higley, then lost a 42-41 heart-breaker against Tucson Sunnyside and closed out the day with a 45-16 win over Mesa Skyline.

The Lady Prospectors came back on Tuesday morning for their final pool play game against what might be considered an



Apache Junction players Sierra Aulik (#44) and Sara Cranmer (#52) battle for a rebound in a tournament basketball game against Tucson Sunnyside played last Monday at Queen Creek High School.

arch rival for them in Mesa Desert Ridge and gave a solid effort despite a 52-44 loss to the Lady Jaguars.

That loss to Desert Ridge gave Apache Junction a 2-2

record in their pool play games and by virtue of a tie-breaker of points allowed, put the Lady Prospectors second overall in their pool and matched up against Casa Grande, the second place team from a separate pool with a 3-1 record.

In the 3rd-4th place game, it was Apache Junction as they cruised to the 50-19 victory.

With their win over Apache Junction on Tuesday, Desert Ridge completed a 4-0 record in pool play and advanced to the championship game against the host school Queen Creek, who

went 4-0 in their separate pool. Desert Ridge built up a 17-point lead in the championship game and then held on for a 52-43 win over Queen Creek to take first place.

In the AJHS opening game win over Higley on Monday, Katie Karbo tossed in 16 points and grabbed nine rebounds to pace the Lady Prospectors. Sierra Aulik contributed 14 points, Jessica Iniguez added 8 points, Riley Mullender scored 5 points and had four rebounds, two assists and two steals, Emily McGann also scored 5 points to go with two assists and two steals, Diana Woodruff netted 4 points and had three assists and two steals, Sara Cranmer scored 4 points and Kylie Bocskay added a bucket

and three rebounds.

In that one-point loss to Sunnyside, Apache Junction trailed by six with 4:32 to play but rallied with baskets from Aulik and Bocskay and had the ball on the game's final possession. Mullender broke free at the top of the key, took a pass and had a great look at a potential game-winning jumper from the free throw line but the shot was just a shade too hard, bouncing off of the back of the rim.

Aulik tossed in 12 points and had nine rebounds and three steals for Apache Junction. Cranmer netted 11 points to go with her nine boards, Karbo scored 5 points and grabbed five rebounds, Mullender netted 5 points and handed

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• The AJHS boys varsity basketball team won only three games all of last season and may struggle to reach that win total this season but don't give up on them just yet. In all four games in last week's Skyline Thanksgiving Classic, the Prospectors played well in spurts and hard all of the time. In two of the games, AJHS led at halftime, and in another, held a first-quarter lead.

• One of the advantages of hosting your own holiday tournament is that you get to place the easier teams in your "pool" virtually assuring your team will reach the tournament finals as was the case in last week's Queen Creek Turkey Shoot. The two best teams were Mesa Desert Ridge and Apache Junction, who met in "pool play," with Ridge winning 52-44 to advance to the finals against the host school while AJHS settled for the 3rd-4th place game.



(at left) Sara Cranmer (#52) is wide open for this lay-up in a tournament game against Higley played last Monday.



Former AJHS player Miranda Herrera (middle, in dark jersey), now a center for Desert Ridge, draws a crowd of Apache Junction defenders including Riley Mullender (#40), Katie Karbo (#50), Emily McGann (#20) and Sara Cranmer (far right) in their tournament game.

Prospectors Open Hoops Season In The Skyline Thanksgiving Classic

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The Prospector varsity basketball team didn't come away with a win in last week's season-opening Skyline Thanksgiving Classic but they showed plenty of promise in spurts, hoping to improve on last year's 3-21 season.

Apache Junction went 0-4 in the tournament played at Mesa Skyline HS, losing to Buckeye 77-56, to Williams Field 50-46, to Maricopa 52-43, and to Skyline 63-38, and even in what appears to be the two lopsided losses, played some inspiring ball in the first half.

Opening against a very talented Buckeye team this past Monday, Apache Junction jumped out to a 21-16 first quarter lead and held a 36-35 edge at halftime.

The Prospectors had just one difficult quarter in their opener, the third, as Buckeye exploded for a 28-7 ad-

vantage and ended up winning by twenty-one.

Senior center Brandon Robbins scored 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds for Apache Junction. Junior guard Colt Grandstaff nearly posted a triple-double in the opener, scoring 11 points, pulling down 15 rebounds and handing out nine assists. Grandstaff also came up with three steals in a great all-around effort.

Junior guard Mike Cano contributed 11 points, four boards and two steals, senior Gabe Weaver came off the bench to score 8 points, junior Kyrel Parker netted 3 points and Paul Miles added a bucket.

On Tuesday, the Prospectors jumped out to a 29-21 halftime lead over Williams Field but once again struggled in the third quarter as Williams Field out-scored AJHS 17-9 to tie the game at 38-38.

The fourth quarter saw sawed back and forth be-



Apache Junction's Colt Grandstaff (#22) and Kyrel Parker (#14) battle for a rebound with a Maricopa player in last week's Skyline Thanksgiving Classic.

fore Williams Field pulled out a four-point win.

Grandstaff netted 14 points to go with his eight rebounds and three steals. Robbins also scored 14 points and had six rebounds and two steals. Senior forward Ian Firnbach made his first appearance of the season and tallied 12 points, Ravi Patel scored a bucket to go with five rebounds, Cano added a bucket and handed out four assists and Parker also scored a bucket.

The big difference in the four-point loss to Williams Field came at the free throw line. Williams Field shot 20 free throws and made 15 of them while Apache Junction shot just eight times at the charity stripe, sinking five.

The Prospectors faced

Maricopa in the first of two games on Wednesday, the same team they scrimmaged against the week before in an unofficial 100-67 win for the Rams in a six-quarter scrimmage.

Apache Junction gave a much better effort the second time around against Maricopa, falling by nine, 52-43.

The Prospectors jumped out a 13-6 lead early in the second quarter before Maricopa went on a 19-5 run to hold a 25-18 halftime lead they never surrendered.

Robbins led Apache Junction with 13 points, Cano tossed in 11 and had three rebounds and two assists, Grandstaff added 7 points and eight rebounds, Patel five.

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Apache Junction senior center Brandon Robbins (in white jersey) powers his way to the basket for two points in last week's Skyline Thanksgiving Classic tournament game against Williams Field.

Gold Canyon's Shea And Amber Casarez Compete In 'Dash'

Gold Canyon residents, Amber and Shea Casarez, participated in the Dauntless Drumstix Dash at ASU's Polytechnic Campus on Saturday, November 22. Amber (6th grade) and Shea (4th grade) participated as part of the Polytechnic Elementary School's team. Polytechnic Elementary is a new school affiliated with ASU and located near the Polytechnic Campus in East Mesa. The school is currently K-6 but plans are in the works to expand to Pre-K-12 in 2010.

For those of you who are not familiar with the "Dash," it is a 5K road race, a two-mile fun walk and a half-mile run held at ASU's Polytechnic campus located at Power

and Williams Field roads in East Mesa. This event supports the Polytechnic campus Classified Staff Council Student Scholarship endowment fund, which provides scholarships annually to ASU's Polytechnic campus students in need of financial assistance.

The goal is to increase the endowment fund so that more scholarships may be awarded each year. The Dash is an annual event, held the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and is open to the public.

Congratulations to Gold Canyon's Amber and Shea Casarez for their participation in the event while helping to raise money for student scholarships.



Gold Canyon residents Amber Casarez (left) and Shea Casarez (right) are pictured with Coach Brown during their Dauntless Drumstix Dash event held November 22. Amber, Shea and Coach Brown represented ASU's Polytechnic Elementary School in the "Dash," which included a 5K road race, two-mile fun walk and half-mile run to held raise money for student scholarships. (submitted photo)