



**Can-Am
Champs,**
see B-2

Time Out



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Just Dribbling . . .

• In some gymnasiums (perhaps those with better sound systems or acoustics) having a game announcer is a nice added touch for a high school basketball game. But as one fan pointed out at last Wednesday's AJHS-Queen Creek game, listening to the Apache Junction announcer was kind of like listening to the teacher on a Charlie Brown cartoon. Wah, wah, wah, wah, wah;

• In last Thursday's junior varsity boys "foul-fest" that lasted nearly two hours, Apache Junction and Sunnyslope combined for 85 free throw attempts. AJHS, who had five players foul out of the game, made 17-of-28 free throws while Sunnyslope sank 38-of-57 from the charity stripe. One Sunnyslope player, who must have been icing his elbow after the game, attempted 33 of those foul shots. In Monday's AJHS-Queen Creek junior varsity game, the Bulldogs went to the free throw line 31 times and sank 13. That's 88 foul shots opposing teams took against A.J. in just two games. Might want to try a zone defense;

• In every game this season (six in all), the Prospector varsity team has been out-scored in the third quarter by an average margin of 19.5 to 8.5. Apache Junction has had the lead in four of those games but has yet to post a win. In each game, AJHS arrives back out on the court just seconds before the start of the second half, allowing no time for warm-ups. Coincidence?

Soccer Starts Up

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

Junior varsity soccer returned to Apache Junction High School this past week



for the first time in two years when girls and boys teams from AJHS hosted teams from Higley and Queen Creek.

Junior varsity soccer at AJHS began in 2005 and evolved into a varsity sport in 2007. This year, both varsity and junior varsity soccer teams are competing for the first time in school history.

This past Monday at Davis Field, the AJHS girls junior varsity squad came up with a 1-0 victory over Higley in their season opener as Cecilia Martinez scored the only goal of the match in the second half while the junior varsity boys dropped their match with Higley by a score of 3-1 as Francisco Ruiz scored Apache Junction's only goal.

(at left) Andrea Medina practices her throw-in before last Monday's junior varsity soccer match against Higley.

On Wednesday of last week, after the Lady Prospector fell 2-1 to Queen Creek, the junior varsity boys from AJHS pulled out a thrilling 3-2 win when the Prospectors' Juan Gonzalez scored about mid-way through the second half, accounting for the only second half score.

The two teams played to a 2-2 tie in the first half with Apache Junction getting first half goals by Andrew Gyenizse and Augustin Mares. Gonzalez then scored the game-winner with 24:38 left to go in the match.

The Apache Junction girls had some great chances to add a score or two in their match with Higley as Jayde Martinez came close to scoring goals on two offensive drives and Jessenia Hernandez also came up with a scoring opportunity.

In Wednesday's 2-1 loss to Queen Creek, Lauren Brownlee scored the goal



Junior varsity soccer player Cierra Garcia does a terrific job of trapping the ball with her feet during a pre-match drill last Monday at AJHS' Davis Field.

for Apache Junction and with twenty seconds left in regulation, the AJHS girls had a great chance to tie the match but missed on a short shot.

see **Soccer**, page B-3

AJHS Girls Defeat Queen Creek, 47-39

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity basketball team came up with a hard fought 47-39 victory over Queen Creek in their home opener played this past Wednesday. Sophomore Sierra Aulik and junior Emily McGann combined to score 14 points in the fourth quarter as Apache Junction held on for the win.

The Lady Prospector led 25-17 at halftime but Queen Creek took an 8-3 edge in the third quarter to make the score even closer,

28-25, heading into the final period.

McGann finished the game with 13 points for AJHS while Aulik ended up scoring 11 points while grabbing five rebounds. Katie Karbo added 7 points and five rebounds, Riley Mullender also netted 7 points and had four rebounds and two assists, Jessica Iniguez tallied 5 points and hauled in five boards, and Sara Cranmer and Katasha Braaten both scored a bucket.

The Lady Prospectors enjoyed an edge at the free throw line where they



AJHS varsity player Kylie Bocskay battles three Queen Creek players for this loose ball in last Wednesday's game

made 17-of-36 free throws compared with 10-for-20 at the charity stripe for Queen Creek.

The AJHS girls also played at Phoenix Sunnyslope last Thursday and had enough left after Wednesday's physical game to pull out a 49-46 win to improve to 5-2 on the season.

Aulik scored 14 points,

(at left) Varsity player Sara Cranmer (#52) is at the free throw line in last Wednesday's game against Queen Creek while teammate Dianna Woodruff (#10) looks on.

Karbo and McGann each netted 9 points, Mullender added 5 points, Braaten and Cranmer both scored 4 points and Woodruff and Iniguez each added a bucket.

"It was tough to come back and play the very next night after an emotional and physical game against Queen Creek," Lady Prospector head coach Brock Kearsley said. "It wasn't our best game but we did enough to win."

Apache Junction has another busy week coming up with home games on Tuesday, December 9



More free throw attempts in last Wednesday's game against Queen Creek came from Lady Prospector players Katie Karbo (above) and Sierra Aulik (below).



against Glendale Apollo and Wednesday, December 10 against Williams Field.

see **AJHS**, page B-4

Prospectors Drop Home Openers

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Prospector varsity basketball team dropped their home openers last week, losing to Queen Creek 50-44 on Wednesday and falling to Phoenix Sunnyslope 59-45 on Thursday.

In both games, Apache Junction (0-6) had the lead at halftime but third quarters did them in both games, something that has been a consistent theme for the Prospectors in the early season.

In four of the six games this season, Apache Junction has held a lead at halftime and in the two they didn't, they weren't far behind at the break. But Apache Junction has been out-scored in each third quarter thus far by an average margin of 19.5 to 8.5.

In the team's six losses thus far, the Prospectors have been out-scored



Prospector guard Colt Grandstaff puts up a short jump shot in last Wednesday's game against Queen Creek.

351-272, or an average deficit of 58.5 to 45.3, or just a little more than their third-quarter deficits.

In Wednesday's loss to Queen Creek, the Prospectors were out-scored 16-6 in the third quarter. Colt Grandstaff tossed in 24 points and had five rebounds for AJHS.

Brandon Robbins added 9 points, five rebounds and three steals, Ian Firnbach

scored 5 points and also grabbed five rebounds and Mike Cano, Kyrel Parker and Ravi Patel all scored a bucket.

In Thursday's loss to Sunnyslope, the Vikings held a 23-11 advantage in the third quarter. Grandstaff again led Apache Junction with his 13 points and six rebounds.

Robbins netted 9 points and had four boards, Firn-

back netted 8 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Patel also scored 8 points, Parker hit for 4 points and Paul Miles scored 3 points off the bench.

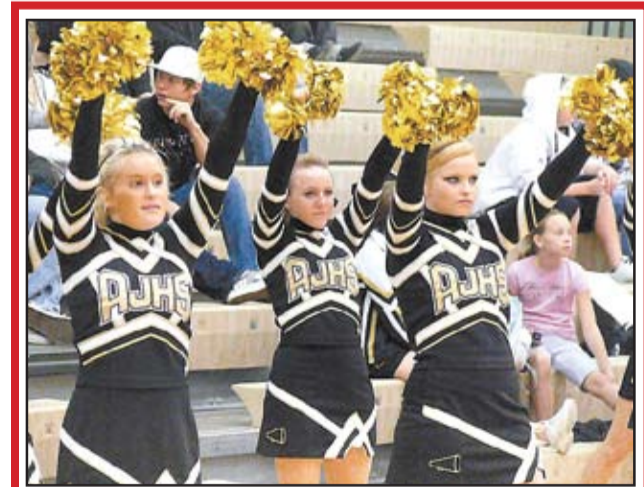
Apache Junction will play away games this week, including their Desert Sky Region opener at Tempe McClintock on Friday, December 12. The Prospectors will play at Glendale Apollo on Tuesday, December 9. The freshmen team will tip off at 4 p.m. both days this week followed by the junior varsity at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity at 7 p.m.

J.V. Starts Up

The Prospector junior varsity team began their 2008-09 season this past week hosting Queen Creek on Monday and Sunnyslope on Thursday.

After jumping out to a 15-8 lead over Queen Creek to

see **Hoops**, page B-3



(above) AJHS varsity cheer squad members (l-r) Chenise Quiroz, Lauren Stewart and Courtney Jackson perform during the home basketball game last week; (below) the junior varsity cheer squad also got their chance to shine. (more cheer photos are shown on page B-4)

