

Time Out



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A Quick Recap

I knew the Chaparral boys soccer team scored fairly quickly in last Thursday's varsity match but I had no idea just how quick it was. Taking the opening kick-off, the Firebirds used two passes and a shot to score the opening goal in zero seconds. Well, according to the game clock on the scoreboard at Davis Field, which still read 40:00, the goal took no time at all.

Actually, the AJHS "clocker" had difficulty getting the timer to start in both the girls and boys varsity matches last Thursday so we'll never really know just how quickly that opening goal was scored.

If you think that was quick, check this out. In last Monday's varsity basketball game played at Williams Field HS, both teams, AJHS and WFHS scored points before any time expired off the clock. Impossible, you say?

Apache Junction was hit with a pre-game technical for having a player dunk the ball during the warm-ups, albeit a very gentle dunk it was I am told, and Williams Field was hit with a technical for not having their scorebook ready to go at game time. So both teams got to shoot two free throws before the opening tip.

But the quickest of them all happened when I was able to put the college football bowl games season behind me and focus my attention on the current college basketball season. Go Big Ten-Eleven!

Quickies For The Road...

- Charles Barkley's leave of absence from the TBS broadcast booth;
- Jason Richardson's welcome to the Valley worn out.

Soccer Teams Back In Action

By Danielle Lowe
And Chuck Baker
The News

Boys and girls soccer teams from Apache Junction High School returned to action this past week following nearly a month break with the varsity teams hosting their first home matches of the season on Thursday against Scottsdale Chaparral.

It wasn't the home opener AJHS teams were looking for though as the Lady Prospectors fell 11-0 while the Prospectors dropped a 5-1 decision.

In the varsity boys match, Chaparral, a State Tournament qualifier a year ago, scored their first goal before the game-clock keeper had time to flip the "on" switch. The Firebirds

A.J. Wrestlers Host Invitational

Prospectors also battle Queen Creek

By Chuck Baker
The News

When you're giving up 18 points in weight class forfeits, it's tough to win a wrestling match as was the case for the Prospector varsity wrestling team in last Wednesday's 31-30 loss to the Queen Creek Bulldogs.

Apache Junction trailed in the match 31-15 after

forfeiting the 171-pound weight class and with just three weight classes to go, the Prospectors needed three wins, all via pins or with two pins and a technical fall, to pull out a win.

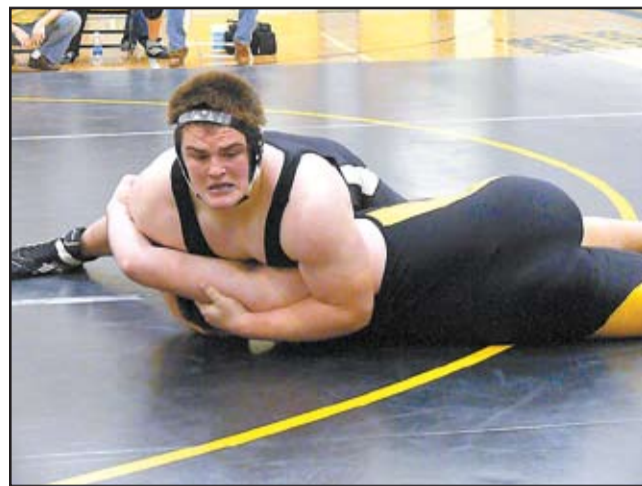
Senior Taylor Hamlin came up with a 6-0 victory in the 189-pound weight class and juniors Brandon Dudley (215) and Cy Maughmer (275 pounds)

both won with pins but the Prospectors came up one point shy.

Apache Junction, who also forfeited the 103, 112 and 145-pound weight classes (Queen Creek also had a forfeit at 103 pounds), won seven of the 10 matches actually wrestled.

Freshman Trent McMinn came up with a two-point take-down with just thirty seconds to go in his 119-pound match for a 3-1 decision. Junior Chase Converse posted a 9-2 decision victory at 125 pounds, sophomore Emerson Tucker won via a second period pin at 130 pounds, and Senior Minh Huynh came up with a two-point take-down twenty-three seconds into overtime for a 5-3 decision win at 140 pounds.

Also for Apache Junction, junior Thomas Eckhardt lost a 5-1 decision at 135



Apache Junction junior Cy Maughmer is about to pin his Queen Creek foe to win the 275-pound weight class in last Wednesday's home match.



This two-point takedown with just 30 seconds remaining in the third period earned AJHS freshman Trent McMinn a 3-1 decision victory over his Queen Creek opponent in the 119-pound weight class.

pounds, freshman Myles Crothers lost via a first-period pin at 152 pounds, and senior Joel Craig lost a 13-1 decision at 160 pounds.

The Prospectors were also hosting the A.J. Invitational this past Friday and Saturday which featured a team competition with 17 schools participating as well as a mini-individual competi-

tion with the top four wrestlers in each of fourteen weight class.

In the team competition on Friday, the Prospectors, again giving up 18 points with three forfeits, lost to Scottsdale Desert Mountain 40-30 in their first team dual, fell to Mesa Skyline

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Lady Prospectors Return From Break And Defeat Paradise Valley

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity basketball team returned to the court following a 14-day holiday hiatus and promptly earned a huge Desert Sky Region victory with a 26-20 win over Paradise Valley this past Tuesday.

"Our defense was good," Lady Prospector coach Brock Kearsley said via e-mail. "We held Paradise Valley to just four field goals the whole game."

"That being said, on offense we missed a lot of easy shots and looked rusty from our two-week break. Sometimes you have to

win ugly and that's what we did against Paradise Valley."

Sophomore Sierra Aulik scored 17 of Apache Junction's 26 points. Junior Emily McGann netted 5 points and senior Riley Mullender and junior Katie Karbo both scored 2 points.

Also this past Thursday, the Lady Prospectors hosted Phoenix Shadow Mountain, 12-3 overall and ranked number six in 4A-I power points, and dropped a 47-25 decision to finish their first week back with a 6-7 overall record and a 1-2 record in region games.

Apache Junction fell behind quickly in the game

with Shadow Mountain, trailing 16-3 in the first quarter and could never recover.

Aulik scored 6 points and grabbed seven rebounds for AJHS. McGann also netted 6 points and had three rebounds and two assists. Senior Katasha Braaten scored 5 points and had three rebounds, Mullender tossed in 4 points, grabbed four rebounds and came up with three steals, Karbo sank a pair of free throws and pulled down eight rebounds, and Jessica Iniguez added a bucket.

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Lady Prospector guard Sierra Aulik gets fouled on this lay-up attempt in last Thursday's game against Shadow Mountain. In last Tuesday's 26-20 win over Paradise Valley, Aulik scored 17 of Apache Junction's points.

Prospectors Get Third Win

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Prospector varsity basketball team equalled their win total from all of last season with last Monday's 51-43 victory over Williams Field. It was Apache Junction's third win of the season against 15 losses and also the team's third win in their past nine games, including tournaments.

No player statistics were available from the Williams Field game but the Prospectors did drop two Desert Sky Region contests this past week, a 56-46 loss to Paradise Valley at home on Tuesday and a 74-65 loss at Phoenix Shadow Mountain on Friday, which began last week ranked No. 2 in 4A-I by the *Arizona Republic*.

In Tuesday's game with Paradise Valley, the Prospectors jumped out to a 16-6 lead with 1:50 to play in the opening quarter but then the Trojans went on a 21-3 the rest of the first half to grab a 27-19 edge at intermission.

Apache Junction fell behind by as many as thirteen in the second half and rallied to within six points, 44-38, with six and a half minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Ian Firmbach got off to a blazing start for the Prospectors, scoring 12 of his game-high 22 points in the first quarter. Firmbach also had eight rebounds



Prospector guard Michael Cano puts up a short jumper in last Tuesday's varsity game against Paradise Valley.

and three steals for Apache Junction.

Colt Grandstaff finished with 14 points and seven rebounds, Michael Cano netted 8 points, Kyrel Parker added a bucket and four rebounds, Stephen Copeland contributed a pair of rebounds and an assists and Ravi Patel had two assists for Apache Junction.

Apache Junction turned in a pretty impressive effort Friday at Shadow Mountain. After falling behind 18-6 after one quarter of play, the Prospectors out-scored the Matadors 23-14 in quarter number two to get right back into the game, trailing just 32-29 at intermission. The teams played to a 18-18 standoff in the third quarter and Shadow Mountain held on down the stretch to win by nine points.

Only partial stats were available from Friday's

game. Grandstaff hit for a season high 29 points, Cano tossed in 10 points and Firmbach netted 8 points for the Prospectors.

The Prospectors play just one game this week, an away game at Scottsdale Saguaro on Friday, January 16. The freshmen team tips off at 4 p.m. followed by the junior varsity at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity at 7 p.m. The AJHS freshmen team does have a second game this week, playing at J.O. Combs at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13.

J.V. Tops PV

Playing one of their better games of the season, the Prospector junior varsity team pulled off a 55-48 win over Paradise Valley last Tuesday aided by a terrific night at the free throw line

see **Hoops**, page B-3



Apache Junction senior Katasha Braaten (far right) tosses in a bucket over this Shadow Mountain defender in last Thursday's home basketball game.



Lady Prospector varsity soccer player Jade Lucin (left, #5) plays keep-away from a Chaparral defender in last Thursday's home match at Davis Field.

added two more goals early in the half before AJHS awoke and played Chaparral pretty even the rest of the way.

Junior Yovanni Garibay

averted the shutout when he scored a goal for the Prospectors at the 22:59 mark of the second half with an

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