

Time Out



Chuck Baker
News Sports Editor
cbaker@ajnews.com

Get Out The Brooms

How sweet it was for the AJHS girls basketball teams to sweep Saguaro on Friday. I still hold a grudge against the Scottsdale school ever since they tried to show up the Prospector football team by having their lone female player score a touchdown in a 77-0 victory years ago, and then celebrated in the end zone afterward.

Go Cards

This was written Saturday morning so I have no idea how the Cardinals-Eagles NFC Championship Game turned out but I am pulling for the Redbirds and would have predicted an Arizona victory as well as an Arizona-Pittsburgh Super Bowl. How'd I do?

AJHS Thieves

Speaking of the sweep over Saguaro on Friday, Lady Prospector freshmen team player Rachel Bonow came up with 15 steals in their 45-15 laugher. In fact, in the three games combined, AJHS players totaled 57 steals.

DARE To Golf?

The D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament will be held this coming Saturday, January 24, at Apache Creek Golf Club. It's a fantastic tournament put on each year by Officer Bill Virtue of the AJPD and it's for a great cause. There is an entry form on page B-2 of this edition of *The News* and last I heard they were still a few openings left. You can also contact Officer Virtue at the AJPD at (480) 982-8260. Even if you are not a golfer and would like to help out, consider becoming a Hole Sponsor for a donation of only \$100.

Wrestler Dudley Wins Individual Title

By Chuck Baker
The News

Apache Junction was able to qualify two of its wrestlers for the mini-individual tournament on the second day of the A.J. Invitational on January 10, and one of those, junior Brandon Dudley, came away a 215-pound champion.

The other, junior Cy Maughmer, ended up placing third in the 275-pound weight class when he won his final match, the 3rd-4th place match, in overtime.

Because of a format change to this year's A.J. Invitational due to a record number 17 competing schools, Dudley and Maughmer were the only two AJHS wrestlers to qualify for the mini-individual tournament. As

Lady Prospectors Sweep Saguaro

By Chuck Baker
The News

All three Lady Prospector basketball teams posted wins over visiting Scottsdale Saguaro last Friday night for a sweep of the Lady Sabercats. The varsity squad rallied from an eight-point, second quarter deficit for a 61-51 victory to improve to 10-9 overall on the season and 2-3 in the Desert Sky Region.

Riley Mullender scored 13 of her 14 points in



Apache Junction guard **Emily McGann** releases a three-point attempt in Tuesday's varsity game against McClintock.

the second half to get the come-from-behind win for AJHS. Mullender also added seven rebounds.

Sierra Aulik contributed 15 points, seven steals and four rebounds, Jessica Iniguez netted 11 points and had seven boards and two blocked shots, Emily McGann scored 10 points and handed out three assists, Kylie Bockskay pitched in with 6 points and six rebounds, Katasha Braaten netted 4 points and Katie Karbo sank a free throw and pulled down six rebounds.

The two teams combined to shoot 56 free throws in the game that saw two Saguaro players foul out, leaving them with just five remaining players. Apache Junction went 22-for-31 at the charity stripe while Saguaro was 16-for-25 at the foul line.

Also this past week, Apache Junction spotted Tempe McClintock a 14-0 first-quarter lead and was never able to fully recover, falling to the Lady Chargers 47-31 on Tuesday.

The Lady Prospectors were able to get to within eight points in the third quarter of the game, trailing 24-16, but had to work so hard just to fight their

way back into the game and ran out of steam down the stretch.

Aulik scored 8 points and had three rebounds and two assists for AJHS. McGann tossed in 7 points and added four rebounds and two steals, Iniguez netted 6 points, Mullender scored a bucket to go with her four rebounds, three assists and two blocks, and Karbo, Nia Garcia, Braaten and Diana Woodruff all scored 2 points.

The Lady Prospectors play two more region contests this week, hosting Scottsdale Chaparral on Tuesday, January 20 and playing at Tempe McClintock this Friday, January 23. The freshmen team tips off at 4 p.m. both days followed by the junior varsity at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity team at 7 p.m.

J.V. Sweeps

The Lady Prospector junior varsity team defeated McClintock 32-28 on Tuesday and downed Saguaro 36-22 on Friday.

In the win over McClintock, Jade Yost scored 14 points and had five rebounds, three steals and two assists for AJHS. Lind-

see **Hoops**, page B-4

Soccer Teams Lacking 'O'

By Chuck Baker
The News

The boys and girls varsity soccer teams from Apache Junction High School couldn't muster up much offense in last Tuesday's matches against Cave Creek Cactus Shadows played at Davis Field. The Lady Prospectors lost by the score of 5-0 while the Prospector boys fell 8-0.

The AJHS girls fell behind 4-0 after one half of play and actually turned in a solid effort on defense in the second half led by Kayla Luis, Rubi Garibay, Chelsea Hvidsten, Ashley Nordstrom, Tiah Muller and goalie Chayla Langley, who registered 10 of her 16 saves in the second half.

Cactus Shadows' only goal in the second half came off of a rebound following a corner kick.

There was a scary moment for the Lady Prospectors in the first half when forward Nancy Valtierra collided with a Cactus Shadows defender while the two were going for a loose ball. Valtierra got the worst of the exchange and was down on the field for nearly twenty-five minutes while the AJHS trainer and paramedics from the Apache Junction Fire District attended to her.

Valtierra was eventually transported via Southwest Ambulance to a nearby hospital with a neck injury



Prospector player **Jair Ortiz** (white jersey) chases down a loose ball in last Tuesday's varsity match.

and slight concussion. According to Lady Prospector coach Norm Hoefer the following day, Nancy was released from the hospital late Tuesday night and doing much better, although she was experiencing headaches and neck pain.

Most of the match against Cactus Shadows was played at the AJHS defen-

see **Soccer**, page B-3



Prospector wrestler **Brandon Dudley** (right) won the 215-pound weight class at the A.J. Invitational.

a team, Apache Junction finished 5th overall at the Invitational.

This past week, Apache Junction split its four

matches held on January 14, beating Notre Dame Prep and Tempe while losing to Phoenix Thunderbird and Cottonwood Mingus.

Dudley and Maughmer are having a terrific season for the Prospector wrestling team. In addition to his win at the A.J. Invitational, Dudley has finished second at the King of the Mat tournament, second at the Flagstaff Tournament and second at the Blue Ridge Tournament.

Maughmer, who was an All-Region linemen for the Prospector football team, is in his first season of competitive wrestling. In addition to placing third at the A.J. Invitational, Maughmer won his weight class at the Blue Ridge Tournament and finished second at the Flagstaff Tournament.

Apache Junction's varsity team has another away

see **AJHS**, page B-4



Lady Prospector **Jessica Iniguez** attempts a free throw in last Wednesday's varsity game against McClintock.

AJHS Boys Fall To Saguaro In Hoops

By Chuck Baker
The News

In their only game from last week, played on Friday, the Prospector varsity basketball team dropped a Desert Sky Region contest at Scottsdale Saguaro by the final score of 64-57.

Apache Junction was trailing 49-29 after three quar-

ters of play and came up with 28 points in the fourth quarter to make a game out of it down the stretch.

Only partial highlights from the game were available when The News went to press. Center Brandon Robbins and guard Colt Grandstaff both scored 13

see **Boys**, page B-4



Prospector player **Ian Firnbach**, shown here from a game earlier this season, scored 9 points in last Friday's 64-57 loss at Scottsdale Saguaro.

District IV Shows Up Strong In Shuffleboard

By Pearl Holmes
Special Report

The 2009 Venture Out Any Doubles District I Shuffleboard Tournament was played January 12-15 and the local District IV shuffleboard players showed their strength and came out winners in the championship division.

In the championship division, the District IV team of Bill Visser and George Admiral took first place, District IV's Val and Lila

Wessel came in second, the District I team of Dale Dixon and Gerald Gannon finished third and District IV's Ron and Elaine Lougheed finished fourth.

In the consolation division, the District IV team of Peter and Susan Bontkes finished in third place while District I claimed first, second and fourth places.

(More District IV shuffleboard news appears on page B-2 of this edition.)



The local District IV "any doubles" team of **Bill Visser** and **George Admiral** (left, both top and bottom rows) came in first place at the January 12-15 shuffleboard tournament hosted by District I's Venture Out resort. Also from District IV, the team of **Val and Lila Wessel** (second from left, both top and bottom rows) came in second place while the District IV team of **Ron and Elaine Lougheed** (right, both top and bottom rows) came in fourth place (photo courtesy of Pearl Holmes). For more District IV news, see the article on the Lost Dutchman Singles Tournament on page B-2 of this edition.