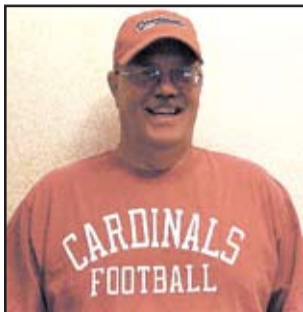


Time Out

Boys, Girls Hoops Fall Twice In Region



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'Crunch Time'

You probably wouldn't be surprised if I told you that one of my golfing buddies, Grumpy Old John, is a Cardinals hater. For the past couple of years, we have had a running bet on games played by the Arizona Cardinals and John's favorite team, you guessed it — Da Bears!

But for some strange reason, which only Grumpy seems to know, our bet didn't carry over to this NFL season.

As for this Sunday's big game? I would love to see the Cardinals be crowned Super Bowl champs but I have this gut feeling that tells me the Steelers, behind their vaunted defense, will prevail, 24-13.

I hope I'm wrong because the only thing better than me and Yippee whooping up on Old John and his even older player partner in golf, is doing so while wearing our Cardinals hats.

I think a real key to Sunday's game is Cardinals wide receiver Anquan "No Apology" Boldin. I'm pretty sure the Steelers have a game plan for shutting down WR Larry Fitzgerald, which would mean that "Q" needs to do two things. One, stay out of the ear of offensive coordinator Todd Haley and let him coach the offense, and two, stop pointing and join in with the rest of his teammates in trying to beat the Steelers.

Boldin could be in for a big game, assuming he's not on the sidelines, to make up for his actions against the Eagles in the NFC championship game. And if he comes through, the Cardinals have a chance.

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Prospectors dropped both of their Desert Sky Region basketball games this past week, losing at Scottsdale Chaparral 63-37 on Tuesday and falling to Tempe McClintock 59-46 at home on Friday.

In Friday's game, Apache Junction got off to a terrific start, taking a 12-4 lead over the Chargers six minutes into the game. The Prospectors held a seven-point advantage, 18-11, with 5:45 left in the first half, and when guard Colt Grandstaff completed a four-play play by knocking down a three-pointer and then added the ensuing free throw with 3:26 to go before half, the Prospectors took a 26-15 lead and an upset was brewing.

But right after Colt's four-point play, McClintock went on a 15-0 run and took a 30-26 lead right before halftime. Grandstaff hit a last-second three-pointer and the Prospectors now trailed by one point at halftime, 30-29.

Michael Cano opened the second half hitting a jumper as Apache Junction quickly re-took a 31-30 lead. McClintock then put together their second huge run of the game, this one an 18-2 flurry for a 48-33 lead, with just over two minutes left in the third quarter.

The Prospectors would never get closer than the final margin of thirteen points, falling 59-46.

Center Brandon Robbins and Grandstaff scored all 29 first-half points for Apache Junction. Grandstaff, who tallied 17 points in Tuesday's loss at Chaparral, had 15 points on Friday at the break while Robbins had scored 14.

Robbins would finish the McClintock game with an impressive double-double, scoring 20 points and pulling down 13 rebounds. Grandstaff ended up with 19 points to go with four rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Ian Firnbach hit a three-pointer for AJHS and handed out four as-

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity basketball team dropped two Desert Sky Region games last week, losing to Scottsdale Chaparral 45-31 at home on Tuesday and losing at Tempe McClintock 40-22 on Friday. The two losses drops the AJHS girls to 10-11 overall on the season and 2-5 in region contests with six games remaining in the regular season.

In Tuesday's loss to Chaparral, Apache Junction fell behind by as many as 16 points in the second half and rallied to within eight points twice in the fourth quarter but couldn't get any closer.

Sierra Aulik scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Apache Junction. Katasha Braaten scored 4 points and had three rebounds, Jessica Iniguez added 3 points and five boards, Katie Karbo netted 3 points to go with her four rebounds, Dianna Woodruff and Sara Cranmer also scored 3 points each, Riley Mullender sank a buck-

et, Emily McGann contributed five assists and two rebounds, and Kylie Bocskay pulled down five rebounds.

On Friday, McClintock jumped out to a 13-3 lead after the first quarter and never looked back. McGann tallied 8 points to lead AJHS, Mullender and Karbo both netted 4 points, and Bocskay, Braaten and Iniguez all scored 2 points.

The Lady Prospectors play at Cave Creek Cactus Shadows this Tuesday, January 27 and will host Paradise Valley on Friday, January 30. Earlier this season, AJHS defeated Paradise Valley and lost by a dozen to Cactus Shadows. The AJHS freshmen team tips off at 4:00 p.m. both days this week, followed by the junior varsity at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity at 7:00 p.m.

J.V. Tops Chaparral

The red-hot Lady Prospector

see **Boys**, page B-4

see **Girls**, page B-3



Prospectors Colt Grandstaff (#22) and Brandon Robbins (#44) both go for a rebound in Friday's game versus Tempe McClintock.



Lady Prospector players Sierra Aulik (#44) and Sara Cranmer (#52) battle for a rebound in last Tuesday's home game against Chaparral.

Four Peaks' Burton Wins Elks District Hoop Shoot Contest

By Gay Hayward
Special Report

The Elks Lodge Eastern District Hoop Shoot Contest for children ages 8 to 13 years was held on Saturday, January 17 in Miami, Arizona. The Apache Junction Elks Lodge and Apache Junction School District invited six representatives to travel to Miami and compete in the contest and basketball

see **Elks**, page B-4



Sydney Burton (left) won the girls 8-9 age division at the Elks Eastern Arizona Hoop Shoot Contest. Also pictured are Coach Gay Hayward and Trey Weech of Peralta Trail Elementary, who placed 3rd in the boys 8-9 division.

If You Build It...

Apache Trail Wolfpack football players spend 'off day' clearing brush for a new practice field



By Chuck Baker
The News

Apache Trail High School teacher and football coach Dave Wagner has high hopes for the future of Wolfpack football as they look forward to their second season of eight-man tackle football in 2009.

Coach Wagner would love to upgrade the team's new weight room facility located in a classroom being leased from a nearby church. And he would like to develop a practice facility on school grounds which is why he and many of the Wolfpack players used their day off of school last Monday clearing brush, removing trees and picking up rocks on a parcel of desert located just south of the high school on Apache Trail.

It is unlikely the field south of the school could be sodded or seeded with grass. There isn't any money in the budget to maintain a grassed football field, but that's okay with Coach Wagner.

"I really would mind at all practicing on a dirt field," the coach says. "Kind of like a throw-back to the old days of playing football."

In their very first season of eight-man tackle football in 2008, the Wolfpack posted a respectable 2-6 overall record and had the opportunity to qualify for the post season in their final game. You can't ask for much more, particularly with a squad of players that had dwindled to just twelve players by seasons end, most of those play-

see **ATHS**, page B-3

AzMLA Baseball Clinic 'A Hit'

By Chuck Baker
The News

More than two dozen boys and girls had the opportunity to learn the game of baseball from four former Major League players with nearly 50 years of combined experience at last Monday's Arizona Major League Alumni Baseball Clinic hosted by

the Apache Junction Little League.

Former MLB players Lou Klimchok, an infielder who spent most of his 17-year professional career with the Cleveland Indians, Bob Lacey, a pitcher and 12-year MLB veteran with the Oakland A's and San Francisco Giants, Leon Brown, a 10-year MLB veteran infielder with

the New York Mets, and Mark Littell, who saved 56 games and sported a lifetime earned run average of 3.32 in his nine-year career with the St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Royals, were on hand at the Apache Junction Little League Complex to teach the clinic participants every thing they know about the game of baseball.

Participants learned the art of hitting, pitching, fielding, base-running and more in the three-hour clinic. Apache Junction Little League also used the time slot for taking registration for its upcoming 2009 season.

In related AJLL news, the final registration period

see **AJLL**, page B-4



(above) Former MLB player Leon Brown works with a clinic participant on hitting at last Monday's AzMLA Baseball Clinic held at the AJLL Complex.



(above) Former pitcher with the St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Royals, Mark Littell, right, works with clinic participants on the art of pitching.



Students from Apache Trail High School, all members of the Wolfpack football team, gave up their January 19 holiday to clear brush from a field just south of the school in preparation for a practice facility