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Time Out



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Super Monday

Remember the article two weeks ago about the Wolfpack football players at Apache Trail HS giving up a recent Monday holiday to clear brush and trees from a field adjacent to the school for the purposes of developing a practice facility? Well, a company from Apache Junction, Gerola Grading and Landscape, saw the article in *The News*, contacted the school, and today, is planning on arriving at the field to do some grade work to help them out. Hearing that, to me, would be better than a Cardinals victory in yesterday's Super Bowl.

Max Move

Former AJHS football coach Max Ragsdale, considered by many as being instrumental in helping to turn around the Prospector program, has been selected to be the head coach at the new Campo Verde High School in Gilbert when it opens this Fall. Ragsdale was a longtime assistant coach at AJHS and became the head coach in 2003 where, four years later in 2006, guided the Prospectors to their first winning season (9-5) in 22 years and their first trip to the post season appearance in 24 years. In 2007, Ragsdale resigned from AJHS to become an assistant coach at Gilbert Mesquite.

Picture This

I've recently set up an account with a photo-sharing Web site and will periodically download photos of various sports programs that I cover. You can access the link to the "sports photos" on our Web site, which is www.ajnews.com. To find the photos, see *Time Out*, page B-4

AJHS Wrestlers Topple McClintock

By Chuck Baker
The News

Apache Junction gave up 30 points with five weight class forfeits but Tempe McClintock gave back 18

points with three weight class forfeits, and of the six matches actually wrestled last Wednesday, the Prospectors won five of them to pull out a 46-33 victory in their final match of the regular season. The Prospectors will now have two weeks to get ready for the Desert Sky Region Tournament with qualifying for the State Championships at

stake, The region tournament will be held at AJHS on Saturday, February 14, beginning at 10 a.m. Competing schools will include McClintock, Scottsdale Chaparral, Paradise Valley, Cave Creek Cactus Shadows, Scottsdale Saguaro, Phoenix Shadow Mountain and Apache Junction. Sophomore Emerson Tucker (130 pounds), freshman Myles Crothers (145 pounds) and 275-pounder Tyler Rauch picked up wins via forfeits last Wednesday.

won with a second period pin, senior Joel Craig (152 pounds) won with a pin in the second period, senior Taylor Hamlin also won via a second period pin, as did junior Brandon Dudley (215 pounds).

Junior Thomas Eckhardt had a 6-4 lead late in the third period of his 135-pound match but the McClintock grappler earned a three-point near fall and escaped with a 7-6 victory.

The top three wrestlers in each of the fourteen weight classes at the region tournament will all earn a bid

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At last Wednesday's final home match of the regular season, three Prospector seniors were recognized before hitting the mat. They included Minh Huynh, left, escorted by Rachael McKay, Taylor Hamlin, middle, escorted by his parents, Angela and Ed Hamlin, and Joel Craig, right, escorted by Natalie Donald.

Playoff Hopes Dwindling For Lady Prospectors

Friday's loss to Paradise Valley could prove costly

By Chuck Baker
The News

Beginning the week at number nineteen in the 4A-I power rankings, the Lady Prospector varsity basketball teams needs all the wins they get right now if they want to entertain the thought of qualifying for the post season tournament. So last Friday's 37-31 victory loss to Paradise Valley could prove costly for the AJHS girls with just four games left to go in the regular season.

Coupled with Tuesday's 45-21 loss at 4th-ranked Cave Creek Cactus Shadows, the AJHS girls now stand at 10-13 overall and 2-7 in Desert Sky Region games.

Earlier this season, Apache Junction defeated Paradise Valley, ranked #25 in the power points and Friday's loss might mean the Lady Prospectors may have to win out the remainder of their games, three of those being on the road against region opponents.

Apache Junction got off to a good start on Friday, taking a 9-4 lead into the second quarter but the Lady Trojans began to chip away



Lady Prospector varsity player Kylie Bocskay (#24) puts up a jump shot in Friday's game against Paradise Valley

and took their first lead of the game, 28-26, twenty seconds into the fourth quarter.

Apache Junction, who didn't make a single basket in the final quarter and made just two the entire second half, never caught up with Paradise Valley, who won for just the third time this season.

Sierra Aulik scored 8 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, handed out three assists and came up with three steals to lead AJHS. Riley Mullender also netted 8 points, Kylie Bocskay scored 4 points and had three rebounds, Emily McGann went 3-for-4 from

the free throw line and had two assists and two steals, Katasha Braaten tallied 3 points, Sara Cranmer added a bucket and Nia Garcia sank a free throw. Jessica Iniguez contributed with four rebounds.

In Tuesday's loss at Cactus Shadows, McGann and Mullender both had 5 points, Braaten scored 4 points, Bocskay, Iniguez and Katie Karbo all had 2 points and Aulik added a free throw.

Apache Junction will play this Tuesday, February 3 at Phoenix Shadow Mountain in a region showdown and

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Junior Chase Converse (right) works over his McClintock foe on the way to a second-period pin victory.

Seniors Get Their Final Kicks

By Danielle Lowe and Chuck Baker
The News

junior varsity sport before becoming a varsity sport in 2007-08.

Ten seniors on the boys and girls varsity soccer teams at Apache Junction High School got their final kicks in this past week as their 2008-09 season came to an end. Most of them have been with the soccer programs at AJHS since its first started up four years, playing two seasons as a

Although the final week didn't go as well as they would have liked with the boys team dropping a 3-0 decision to Saguaro on Tuesday in their final home match and then losing 8-2 to Tempe McClintock on Thursday, and with the girls dropping a 4-0 deci-

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The seven senior girls who played their final soccer match at AJHS this past Thursday were (kneeling, left to right) Mayra Castaneda (#8), Rubi Garibay (#10), Tiah Muller (#9) and (standing, left to right) Cristy Martinez (#2), Ashley Nordstrom (#12), Olivia Ochoa (#6) and Kayla Luis (#13). Thanks ladies, for some great memories.



The four senior boys who played their final soccer match at AJHS this past Thursday are (left to right) Dung Tran (#2), Jimmy Olson (#5), Braulio Lerma (GK) and Casey Althoff (#14). Thanks guys, for the memories.

AJHS Baseball Parents 'Pitching' In

By Chuck Baker
The News

The varsity baseball field at Apache Junction High School was once an award-winning facility, recognized for its neatly edged and groomed grass, smooth clay-dirt infield, trimmed oleander outfield barrier, and terrific views of the Superstition Mountains beyond right-center field.

Today, while the actual playing surface is still in good condition, the lighted scoreboard in left field hasn't worked properly in more than two years, the dugouts were badly in need of a makeover, the equipment/storage room leaked whenever it rained, and the electrical junction boxes and wiring inside the equipment room were pretty much shot.

But thanks to cooperative efforts by members of the

AJUSD maintenance staff and some parents of AJHS baseball players calling themselves "The Homerun Club," along with donations and a little bit of fund raising, the dugouts, equipment/storage room and electrical issues are getting the makeover they needed.

AJUSD maintenance staff recently poured new cement flooring inside the dugouts and laid some new block while members of The Homerun Club are rebuilding

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(right and top) AJHS baseball parent volunteers work on elevation changes to one of the dugouts at the varsity field;

(at right) Jon Howard works a power drill while Tom Tyson (in red cap) and Richie Stothart (right) co-supervise.

