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Time Out

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Never Give Up, Never Surrender

For four years, Daniel Bos has gone out for the varsity tennis at Apache Junction High School but it wasn't until this past week that he won his first varsity match. And what a way to do so. Playing against an opponent from Phoenix Shadow Mountain, Daniel lost the first set 6-1 but rallied for a 6-1 win in set number two and then won the third set tie-breaker 9-7. Daniel then teamed up with doubles partner Isaac Sortais for a 9-8, tie-breaker win in doubles.

Rough Day

If you think you've had a rough day, how about the one Prospector varsity baseball player Ryan Sparks endured last Thursday? Ryan started on the mound for AJHS against Queen Creek and walked the first hitter he faced, then gave up back-to-back singles and then yielded back-to-back homeruns before being replaced. At the plate in the 11-7 AJHS loss, Ryan went 0-for-5 with two strikeouts as the team's leadoff batter. Expect Ryan to bounce back. While he missed most all of last season, as a freshman in '07, Ryan batted .385 with 2 HR and 2 triples and 13 RBI and received an "Outstanding Athlete Award" from *The News*.

Track Teams Off And Running

By Chuck Baker
The News

Minus their two "big guns" from last season, sprinter Shane McCullen and thrower Louis Crespo, the Apache Junction boys track and field team began defense of their 2008 4A-I State Championship team title by hosting the 2009 season-opening meet last Wednesday at Davis Field featuring schools from Higley and Queen Creek.

Lady Prospector Melissa Hernandez competes in the 100 hurdles at last Wednesday's meet. Hernandez ran second overall in the race and took first in the 300 hurdles.

Crespo, the school record-holder and State champ in discus, graduated last year and McCullen, a member of the boys winning 4x100 relay team and school record holder in the 200 meters, is taking his senior year off as he prepares to embark on Sun Devil football next Fall. But don't for a second think the AJHS cupboard is bare.

With McCullen's 4x100 relay teammates, Rusty Fernando and Bo Bankhead, back in 2009, along with other key returning members such as middle distance specialist Zane Morgan, throwers Trevor Berner, Stephen Hughes and Cy Maughmer, high jumper and long jumper Tanner Morgan, middle and long distance runners, Mike Orr, Matt Tomasetti and Jimmy Olson, sprinters Andrew Duarte and Dwayne Norman and pole vaulter Ole Gabrielson, the Prospectors will be competitive this track and field season as was the case last Wednesday when they finished a solid second behind Higley and ahead of Queen Creek.

Fernando took first in both the 100 meters (11:26) and in discus (144-09). freshman Brian Steward won the 200 meters (24:01) and the boys 4x100 relay team of Steward, Bankhead, Zane Morgan and Harrison Pomeroy took first place with a combined time of 45:45.

Second place finishers last Wednesday for the AJHS boys included Antonio Juarez in the 300 meter hurdles (50:41), Berner in discus (141-11), Gabrielson in pole vault (9-06), Zach Divelbiss in the 110 meter hurdles (19:20), the 1600 relay team (3:53.40) of Zane and Tanner Morgan, Norman and George Aguayo, and the 3200 meter relay team (9:22.03) of Zane Morgan, Frost, Orr and James Harris.

Coming up with a third place were Zane Morgan in the 400 meters (55:42), Hughes in discus (127-03), Maughmer in shot put (41-0.25) and Frost in the 1600 meters (5:11.85).

Fourth place finishers for the AJHS boys included Bankhead in the 100 meters (11:29), Armando Zuniga in both the 800 meters (2:24.70) and 1600 meters (5:20.73), Duarte in the 200 meters (24:43), Frost in high jump (5-02) and Olson in the 3200 meters (13:33.21).

Higley totaled 95 points to finish first as a team, Apache Junction scored 55 team points to finish second

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(above) Prospector Harrison Pomeroy (far right) works hard to catch up to Bo Bankhead (second from left) for the final handoff of last Wednesday's 4x100 meter relay. Bankhead was a member of last year's State-winning 4x100 relay as well as a member of the AJHS boys team that won the team title at State in 2008, the school's first-ever track and field team title..

(above) Zach Divelbiss flies well above the bar during his pole vault leap at last Wednesday's season opening track and field meet.

Lady Prospectors Split A Pair On Softball Diamond

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity softball is off to a 2-1 start to the 2009 season after splitting their two games last week, a 10-0 win over Phoenix Moon Valley on Tuesday and a 5-0 loss at Queen Creek on Thursday.

On Tuesday, pitcher Shelby Olson tossed a one-hit shutout while striking out eight batters and then helped her own cause at the plate, going 2-for-5 with two runs scored. Marissa Munoz, who is off to a torrid start to the season, collected three hits in four at-bats and knocked in five runs.

Chelsey Streibich contributed two hits in the win, including a double, and drove in a pair of runs, Olivia Ochoa and Randee Drennan both went 1-for-2 at the plate, Ashley Nordstrom was 1-for-3 with a RBI, Tina Garcia also went 1-for-3 and Lindsey Skinner scored a pair of runs.

Pitcher Shelby Olson, shown here delivering a pitch in the February 25 opener against Desert Edge, tossed a one-hit shutout over Moon Valley last Tuesday. Also pictured are shortstop Chelsey Streibich and left fielder Katie Stout.

On Thursday, Queen Creek scored four runs after two outs in the first inning and got a great pitching performance from their pitcher, freshman Amanda Baldwin,

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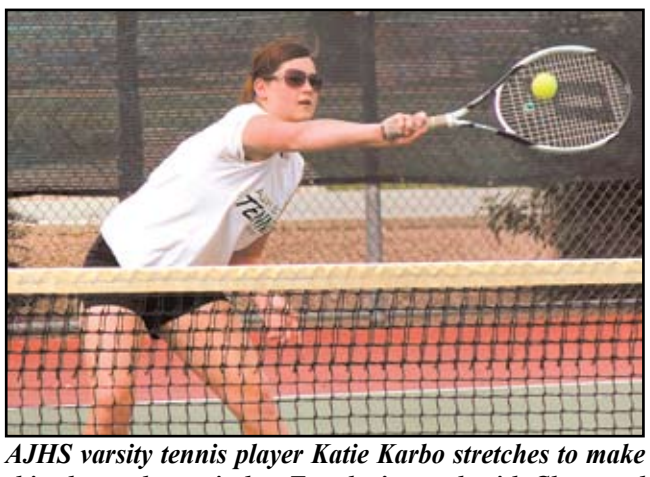
AJHS Girls Tennis Team Blanks Page

By Chuck Baker
The News

Apache Junction girls tennis team opened their 2009 season with a convincing 9-0 victory over Page on Saturday, February 28, losing just five total games in the process.

In singles play, Jessica Iniguez, Katie Karbo and Nicole Vandelaare all cruised with 6-0, 6-0 wins, Kylie Bocskay prevailed 6-0, 6-1, and Nicoletta Carbone won by the scores of 6-1, 6-2. Catalina Ovalle, playing number six singles, won her match via a forfeit.

In doubles play against Page, Iniguez and Karbo won 8-0, Bocskay and Carbone won 8-1 while Vandelaare and Ovalle won via forfeit.



AJHS varsity tennis player Katie Karbo stretches to make this play at the net in last Tuesday's match with Chaparral

This past week, the AJHS girls lost 9-0 to both Scottsdale Chaparral and Phoenix Shadow Mountain and fell 7-2 to Scottsdale Saguaro. Individual player scores were not reported.

This week, the AJHS girls will host Paradise Valley on Tuesday, March 10 and will host Cave Creek Cactus Shadows on Thursday, March 12. Both matches will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Boys Tennis

Playing against Page to open the season on February 28, Daniel Bos fell in singles 7-5, 6-2, Colton Smith dropped a 6-3, 6-2 decision, Ty Adair fell 6-2, 6-3, Isaac Sortais lost his singles match 6-0, 6-2 and Matt Meadows fell in singles 6-0, 6-1.

In doubles against Page, Sortais and Bos dropped an 8-1 decision while Smith

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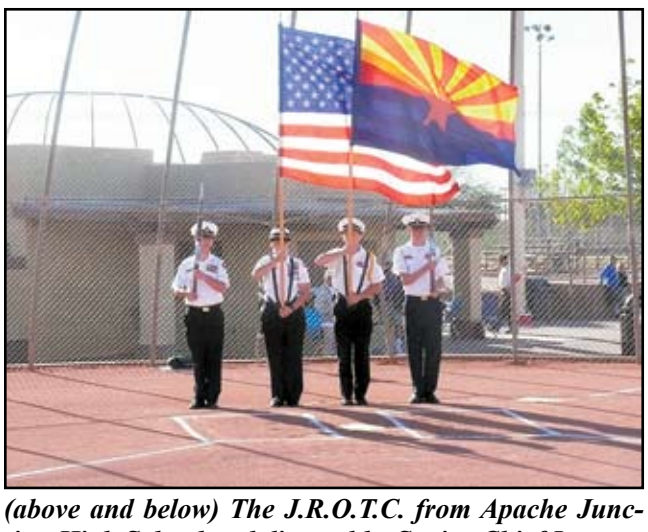


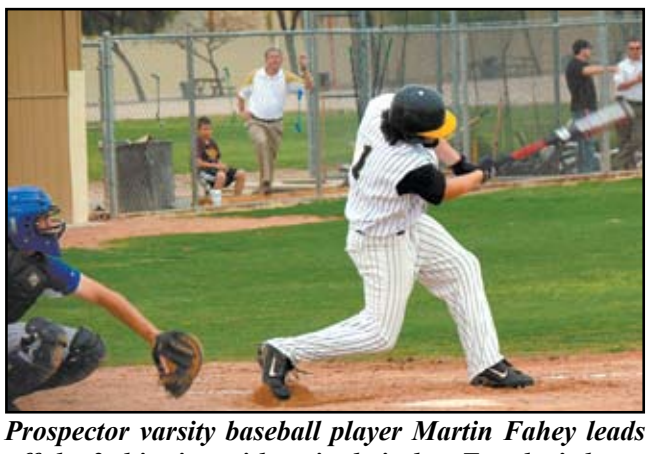
(above and below) The J.R.O.T.C. from Apache Junction High School and directed by Senior Chief Instructor Dave Patti presented the colors prior to the start of the Southwest Regional Senior Softball Tournament last Monday at Prospector Park. NJROTC members, from left to right, are James Converse, Presley Morrissey, Chance Carlson and Charles Zanella.

A.J. Baseball Team Drops A Pair

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Prospector varsity baseball squad got some decent pitching performances and played solid defense but still dropped both of their games this past week, falling 5-1 to Phoenix Moon Valley, and losing 11-5 to Queen Creek to dip to 0-3 on the season.

Against Moon Valley on Tuesday, Nathan Higginbottom threw four solid innings, allowing just three runs on five hits while fanning six batters and Nick Saathoff tossed three innings of relief, giving up just two runs on two hits with a pair of strikeouts in the 5-1 loss.



Prospector varsity baseball player Martin Fahey leads off the 3rd inning with a single in last Tuesday's home game against Phoenix Moon Valley.

Apache Junction scored its lone run in the third inning when Saathoff lined a single to score Martin Fahey, who reached base with an infield hit.

The Prospectors also got a single off the bat of Ryan Sparks and freshman Johnathon Hanson reached base twice, one after being hit by a pitch and one via a base on balls.

Defensive highlights included a diving catch from center fielder Mike Davalos to save a run in the sixth inning and the play of catcher Ryan Howard and second baseman Mike Caruana. Howard also had a rip at a pitch in the fourth inning but lined out to the Queen Creek right fielder.

On Thursday against Queen Creek, Sparks started on the mound but the Bulldogs greeted him rudely, getting their first five hitters aboard with a walk, two singles and back-to-back homeruns be-

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