



The Taekwondo Club At Apache Trail HS,
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Time Out



Chuck Baker
News Sports Editor
cbaker@ajnews.com

In The Footsteps Of Bobby Jones

Prior to teeing off last Thursday on the Sidewinder Course at Gold Canyon Golf Resort, I was presented with a pair of golf shoes once worn by Bobby Jones. Noticing that they were a size ten like I wear I decided to try them on. Man, it felt as though I was walking on air.

I know what you are thinking. Is this guy crazy? But wait, it's get even worse, or better, depending on your personnel opinion. The shoes felt so good I decided to play my round in them, and after getting a two-putt birdie the par five, six hole, I stepped to the tee box on the 144-yard, par three, seventh and hit one of the highest and prettiest nine-iron shots you will ever see.

The ball landed three foot short and about a foot to the right of the hole, took two short hops forward, then spun backwards and left, disappearing into the cup for my first career hole-in-one. Was it me, or was the shoes once worn by Bobby Jones?

My playing partner kept the ball and scorecard. I think he's going to have them mounted on a plaque for me. I still have the shoes but I haven't decided yet whether to retire them in honor of Bobby Jones or continue to wear them with expectations of continued greatness.

What do you think I should do?

The Hometowniest?

I see where in last week's edition, the *Independent*, in a self promo ad, referred to their paper as "The Hometown Newspaper" while mentioning that some of

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'State' – Bound In Track & Field

Region champs Fernando (100 meters) and Berner (discus) join four other AJHS athletes advancing to the 4A-I State Track & Field Championships

By Chuck Baker
The News

Apache Junction had two region champs crowned at last week's Desert Sky Region Track and Field Meet, junior Trevor Berner in discus, and senior Rusty Fernando in the 100 meters.

Berner, who has been dominant most of this season in discus, won with a toss of 149-00. The senior does have a personal best

throw of 154-03 this season and should be a serious contender at State.

Fernando ran a preliminary time of 11:35 during last Tuesday's qualifying races and came into Friday night's finals with the fastest time. Despite a slow start where he was running fifth after the first twenty yards, Fernando came up with a terrific close to win the race with a time of 11:27. That will also make his a solid contender

this week at State.

Berner and Fernando will join four of their teammates at this week's 4A I State Championships, all qualifying for State by coming up with a first, second or third place finish at the region meet.

Joining Berner and Fernando will be junior Keisha McClincy, who placed second overall in discus with



AJHS senior Mike Taylor throws the shot put during last Friday's region track meet where he placed overall with a toss of 47-07, tying his personal best throw



Keisha McClincy (above, left) and Alexis Crothers (above, right) compete in the discus event at the Desert Sky Region Meet held this past Friday at Phoenix Shadow Mountain High School. McClincy finished second overall and Crothers came in third and both girls will represent AJHS at this week's 4A-I State Track & Field Championships.

Meet 'Club Digz Volleyball'

By Chuck Baker
The News

Club Digz 17 Volleyball Team, comprised of players and a coach from Apache Junction High School, recently placed 2nd overall out of 40 teams statewide in the Arizona Region Championships in the 18-year-old "Gold Division" and has been invited to compete in the 18s Open Region Championships, the highest division offered in the state.

The AJHS volleyball players making up Club Digz are Katie Karbo, Jessica Iniguez, Kylie Bocskay, Diana Woodruff, Catalina Ovalle, Amy Meagley, Chayla Langley, Alissa Aranda and Monique Thomas and the girls are coached by Jake Heermans, who also coaches volleyball at AJHS.

The Open 18s Region



Club Digz volleyball team is comprised of AJHS students (l-r) Monique Thomas, Jessica Iniguez, Alissa Aranda, Kylie Bocskay, Katie Karbo, Amy Meagley, Chayla Langley and Diana Woodruff and coach Jake Heermans

Championships featuring the "best of the best" volleyball teams and players in the state, was held this past Saturday, May 9th but results

were not available when *The News* went to press. We hope to have a tournament update in next week's edition.

Former AJHS Golfers Help Send Chandler-Gilbert CC Back To NJCAA Nationals

James DeBois, Billy Pritchard now sophomores at Chandler-Gilbert

By Chuck Baker
The News

Two former golf stars from Apache Junction High School and both members of the 2005-06 AJHS 4A-II State Championship team, played key roles in sending the Chandler-Gilbert Community College men's golf team back to the NJCAA Division II National Championships.

Chandler-Gilbert sophomores James DeBois and Billy Pritchard both posted top ten finishes at the NJCAA Region I Tournament played April 30 to May 3 at Vistal Golf Course in Phoenix, leading Chandler-Gilbert CC to a second place team finish and a bid to the NJCAA Nationals.

South Mountain Community College won the tournament and will also represent the state of Arizona at

the NJCAA National Tournament. Mesa Community College came in third, followed by Gateway CC, Phoenix CC, Glendale CC and Paradise Valley CC

DeBois shot rounds of 72-75-69-75 (291 or +7 total) and finished fifth overall out of thirty-five golfers while Pritchard shot 72-71-75-74 (292 or +8 total) and finished tied for sixth overall.

The Chandler-Gilbert CC men's golf team, coached by former AJHS coach Jerry Burgess, will now compete in the NJCAA Division II National Championships to be held May 19-22 on the Goose Pond Colony Golf Course in Scottsboro, Alabama.

Chandler-Gilbert finished 6th at the 2008 NJCAA Division II Nationals when it was played at Palm Valley GC in Goodyear, AZ.



Using white ovals for identification, Coach Jerry Burgess (left), player James DeBois (second from left) and player Billy Pritchard (second from right) were members of the 2005-06 State Championship golf team from Apache Junction High School. All three are now at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Burgess as the men's golf coach, and DeBois and Pritchard as sophomore players. Chandler-Gilbert recently qualified for the NJCAA Division II National Championships because of their second place finish at the Region 1 Tournament played April 30 to May 3 at Vistal Golf Course in Phoenix. DeBois and Pritchard were the top two players from CGCC, DeBois finishing 5th overall out of thirty-five players, and Pritchard tying for 6th overall.

Softball Season Ends Short Of Playoffs For AJHS

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity softball team won 15 games this season. They needed sixteen wins however to make the 4A-I State Tournament.

With 8-0 and 7-2 losses to Scottsdale Chaparral this past week, the Apache Junction girls fell just one win short of qualifying for the sixteen-team, post season tournament that began last Saturday.

Apache Junction ended up #17 in the final power point rankings and only the top sixteen teams qualify for State.

In last Monday's 8-0 loss, Chaparral scored seven unearned runs off of four crucial AJHS defensive miscues and Chaparral's pitcher struck out 12 and limited the Lady Prospectors to just

four hits, a double from Marissa Munoz and singles by Amber Hampton, Sierra Aulik and Chelsey Streibich.

Shelby Olson went the distance on the mound and allowed seven hits and just one earned run while recording seven strikeouts.

In last Tuesday's 7-2 loss, Apache Junction jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead batting in the top of the first inning but Chaparral came right back with five runs in their first at-bats.

Olson, Katie Stout, Ashley Nordstrom and Streibich all had base hits for AJHS in Tuesday's loss and Streibich and Lindsey Skinner scored Apache Junction's runs.

The AJHS girls officially finished the season with a 15-16 overall record and were 5-7 in Desert Sky Region games. As a team,

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AJHS seniors (standing, l-r) Marissa Munoz, Crystal Newkirk, Ashley Nordstrom, Amber Hampton, Tina Garcia, Randeel Drennan, Olivia Ochoa and Rachael McKay and Katie Stout (kneeling) were honored prior to last Monday's final home game of the season

Baseball Season Ends

By Chuck Baker
The News

The varsity baseball season for Apache Junction came to a close last week with 13-3 and 38-0 losses to Scottsdale Chaparral, giving AJHS a 3-21-1 overall final record.

In last Monday's 13-3 loss, Apache Junction had seven hits in the contest, two each from junior Mike Davalos and freshman Johnathan Hanson. Junior Tyler Tyson went 1-for-2 and drove in a run, junior Josh Mullenix and senior Mike Caruana were each 1-for-2 with a run scored, and Hanson and Mullenix both added a stolen base.

In Tuesday's 38-0 loss, Chaparral had an amazing second inning, sending 30

batters to the plate, collecting 16 hits in the inning, and scoring 24 runs.

For Apache Junction, senior Ryan Sparks ripped a

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AJHS varsity player Mike Caruana was one of three seniors playing their final game last Tuesday versus Chaparral, the other two being Ryan Sparks and Gabe Weaver