



**Prospector
Baseball Team
Wins Again,**
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Time Out



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Sports Chatter

• For the first time that I can recall, Apache Junction Little League does not have any girls softball teams competing in District 7 Tournament play. I understand they had regular softball leagues this past season, just not enough girls who were interested in participating in All Stars. This doesn't bode well for the future of Lady Prospector softball at AJHS.

They do have baseball teams competing. The Minor Boys 9 & 10 All Stars played this past week, the Minor Boys 10 & 11 All Stars play today and Tuesday, while both the Major Boys (11 & 12) and Junior Boys (13 & 14) All Stars begin their District 7 tournaments on June 30. For complete schedules of games and locations, check out the website www.azd7.com;

• For all practical purposes, the Prospector basketball squad has been playing with an all-guard roster for most of the Summer League held at Mesa Skyline, leaving them at a tremendous height disadvantage. Is there something in our water? Where did the tall kids go? I know what Coach Dale Richardson wants for Father's Day;

• Talk about a slow start. In last week's varsity and junior varsity girls basketball Summer League games also played at Skyline, the two AJHS combined for zero baskets and just two made free throws in their twenty-minute first halves against Fairfax and Mountain View, respectively. The varsity girls made the free throws and trailed 12-4 at halftime (each free throw counted as two points), while the JV girls trailed 32-0 at intermission.

Little League All Stars Hit The Field

9 & 10 Baseball All Stars go 2-2 in District 7 play

By Chuck Baker
The News

The 9 & 10-year-old Minor Boys Baseball All Stars from Apache Junction Little League kicked off 2009 District 7 Tournament play this past week going 1-2 overall in their tournament played at Countryside Park in Mesa.

The A.J. boys opened with an impressive 13-3 victory over Mesa Westwood but then dropped a 12-1 deci-

sion to Four Peaks and a 12-5 decision to Red Mountain American ending their season.

In their big win over Westwood, Stephan Gomez was a two-way star for Apache Junction, tossing four and two-thirds innings from the mound, allowing just two hits and one run while striking out twelve, and then going 3-for-4 at the plate with three runs scored, and two runs batted in, including a solo homerun over the fence

in center field.

Gomez also got plenty of support from his teammates.

On offense, Prescott Horn was 2-for-3 with two RBI and two runs scored, T.J. Duarte had a double, drove in two runs, stole three bases and scored three times, Clayton McCarthy, Josh Gonzales and Cameron Kunkle all added run-scoring singles, Hunter Paul and Justin Anderson each had a hit and scored two runs, and Nick Mohn also scored a run.

On defense, Shea Casarez made two nice plays for outs at first base and Paul fielded a sharp ground at second base for an out at first base and then took a relay throw deep in the outfield and fired a strike to Gomez at third base on a "bang-bang" play as Gomez tagged the Westwood baserunner out for the final play of the game.

McCarthy and Gonzales also both pitched two-thirds of an inning to close the game.

In the game against Red Mountain, the score was

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(above) Prescott Horn slides safely into home plate to score the first run for the A.J. Little League 9 & 10-year-old Baseball All Stars in their District 7 Tournament game last Monday versus Mesa Westwood. Horn and his teammates would go to score a dozen more runs on their way to a 13-3 victory.



(above) The 9- and 10-year-old Baseball All Stars from Apache Junction Little League (in blue jerseys) receive their All Star awards prior to playing their first District 7 Tournament game last Monday evening at Countryside Park in Mesa.



(above) A.J. Little League All Star Hunter Paul makes contact with a pitch during the District 7 Tournament game against Mesa Westwood played last Monday.



(above) A.J. All star Third baseman Clayton McCarthy is ready to make a play in last Monday's tournament game.

Lady Prospectors Improve To 7-1 In Summer Hoops

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity basketball squad gave two gutty performances last Tuesday in the Mesa Skyline Summer League, defeating Mesa Westwood 43-36 and edging (Laveen) Fairfax 25-22 to improve to 7-1 overall with two games left before the post-league tournament.

This Tuesday, June 23, Apache Junction will get a chance to avenge their only loss of the Summer when they take on Phoenix Desert Vista at 6:00 p.m. The AJHS girls will also play Skyline in a 8:00 p.m. and both games are played at Skyline High School on Crismon Road.

Against Westwood, Apache Junction jumped out to a 10-0 lead less than five minutes into the first half but Westwood rallied to tie the game at intermission,



Apache Junction's Melissa Ochoa attempts a free throw in last week's Summer League game against Fairfax.

20-20.

In the second half, after Westwood scored the opening bucket to pull ahead by two, Apache Junction put together a 17-3 run over the next ten and a half minutes for a 37-25 lead with 7:15 to play.

Westwood fought back

with six unanswered to get to within six points, 37-31, but Apache Junction held on for a seven-point win.

Sierra Aulik tossed in 21 points to lead the Lady Prospectors. Jessica Iniguez contributed 10 points, five

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Prospectors Come Close In Summer B-Ball

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Prospector basketball team came their closest to picking up their first win in the Mesa Skyline Summer League, dropping a hard fought 59-55 decision to the Tempe Buffaloes this past Wednesday. Apache Junction also took on Tucson Pueblo in their first game last Wednesday and lost by the score of 51-39.

Apache Junction got off to a great start against Tempe surging to a 12-2 lead just five minutes into the first half. But the Buffaloes responded and rallied to tie the game, 16-16 some six minutes later.

The Prospectors led 28-24 at halftime and it wasn't until midway through half number two that Tempe was able to gain its first



AJHS players Colt Grandstaff (dark jersey, far right) and Ravi Patel (middle, dark jersey) battle a Tempe player for a rebound in last Wednesday's Summer League.

lead of the game, 43-41.

Tempe stretched their lead to six points, 54-48 with 2:44 left on the clock and still led by five until Colt Grandstaff knocked

down a three-point shot for AJHS to make the score 57-55 with just eleven seconds remaining.

The Buffaloes, who picked up 13 points in the

game at the free throw line compared with just two points for AJHS, made a pair of free throws down the stretch to ice the game.

Grandstaff, who made five shots from behind the arc, tossed in 22 points and grabbed eight rebounds and Corbin Ott posted a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Prospectors. Mike Cano added 6 points, four assists and three rebounds, T.J. Johnson scored 6 points and also grabbed three boards, and Ravi Patel, Jake Abbatacola and Jared Kraps all scored 2 points with Abbatacola also adding two assists.

Apache Junction struggled in the first half against Pueblo, trailing 34-20 at the break, but played solid

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Father-Son Discus Duo Keeps Chucking

By Chuck Baker
The News

"Hey Dad, wanna have a throw?"

With Father's Day being yesterday, we bring you this story about an Apache Junction father and son discus duo, Don and Trevor Berner, who are both enjoying success competing in USA Track and Field this Summer.

Competing recently in the USA Track and Field Arizona State Championships May 30 and 31 at Mesa Community College, Trevor, who just finished his junior year of competition at Apache Junction High School, picked up a Bronze Medal in the discus event with a throw of 41.32 meters. Trevor finished third in the event to two recent State Champions, Alex Smyth, the 3A State Champ from Fountain Hills High School, who took first with a throw of 48.73 meters, and Mason Simmons, the 4A-I State Champ from Peoria Liberty High School, who took second with a throw of 43.64 meters.

Competing at the same USA Track and Field State Championships at Mesa Community College, Don Berner took first place in discus in the Men's Master Division (40-44-year-olds) with a winning throw of 30.71 meters (or 100.75 feet).

A couple of weeks later, competing in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics held June 13 and 14, Trevor picked up a Silver Medal



Trevor Berner, shown here competing in discus at the 4A-I State Track and Field Championships back in May of this year.

with a throw of 42.91 meters (or 140.78 feet), finishing behind Smyth (48-88 meters) but ahead of Simmons (42-03 meters).

Trevor was the Desert Sky Region champion in discus this past track and field season at AJHS with a throw of 149-00 but finished a disappointing ninth at the 4A-I State Championships with just one qualifying throw of 135-04 feet. Two of his preliminary throws at State did not land in the required field of play. He had thrown a season best 154-03 feet heading into the Region and State Championships.

With his second place finish in the Junior Olympics, Trevor has now qualified for the Region X Junior Olympics to be held July 8-11 at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

So how did Don and Trevor celebrate Father's Day? How about by throwing the discus at last weekend's Grand Canyon State Games.