

Time Out

Volleyball Wraps Up Summer League



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Cheery Bunch

I hear that the AJHS cheerleaders (both varsity and junior varsity) performed very well at a recent Summer camp and brought home several awards, including one cheerleader who received All-American honors. I've been trying to gather some information and details for an article for two weeks now but with little success. I will continue to work on this, I am not "snubbing" the cheerleaders, and I am already convinced that cheerleading is indeed a sport. No need to send any more e-mails.

Sports Program

Just a reminder to local businesses that the deadline to get an ad in the official 2009 AJHS Fall Sports Program is rapidly approaching. The program is sold at all home AJHS football games and proceeds benefit the Prospector football program. I'm often asked how businesses can reserve a spot in the program. All you need to do is call Doree or Marlene at *The News* (480) 982-6397.

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

Two weeks earlier in the Phoenix College Summer Volleyball League, the Lady Prospectors came up with a great effort against perennial 4A-I power Glendale Cactus but fell just short, losing 25-20, 25-22. Cactus was the 2006 State Champs and runners-up in 2008.

This past Tuesday, in their final match of the Summer league, Apache Junction had the chance to avenge that defeat and gain some huge momentum as they gear up for the 2009 season that officially begins next week. But instead, the AJHS girls took an unfortunate step backwards and behind a rather lackluster performance, were drubbed 25-9, 25-16.

Even a chewing out from assistant coach Jake Heermans after that first game loss wasn't enough to light a fire. A fairly successful

Summer of volleyball for the AJHS girls that included a tournament title in Florence, Summer League wins over the Phoenix College team and 5A-I Mesa Westwood and a 9-3 overall record in league play, ended on a sour note last week with their second loss to Cactus.

It remains to be seen what affect last Tuesday's loss might have on the Lady Prospectors as they get ready to officially open what looks to be a promising 2009 season. With seven seniors on the team, all teammates for several years, big things are expected this upcoming season which begins Monday, August 10 with tryouts and pre-season practice. The first match of 2009 is slated for September 2 at home versus Desert Edge.

The seven seniors are setter Katie Karbo, middle blockers Jessica Iniguez and Kylie Bocksay, outside hitters Cat Ovalle,



Lady Prospector outside hitter Monica Geer plays a shot at the net with her left hand during last Tuesday's final night of the Phoenix College Summer Volleyball League.

Amy Meagley and Chayla Langley, and defensive specialists Diana Woodruff and Allyssa Aranda.

Karbo, Iniguez, Bocksay, Ovalle and Woodruff combined for 418 kills, 438 blocks and 988 digs last season while Karbo handed out 343 assists.

Ovalle, who led the team a year ago with her 168 kills, wasn't at last Tuesday's loss to Cactus. Karbo had seven assists, two service aces and a kill in the loss. Bocksay put up three kills and two blocks, Iniguez added two kills and five blocks, junior-to-be Sierra Aulik had two kills and four service points, Woodruff came up with seven digs, and junior-to-be Monica Geer added a kill and three service points.

Apache Junction played two other matches before the loss to Cactus, beating the AJHS junior varsity team 25-6, 25-8 in their

first match and downing Horizon Honors 25-23, 25-20.

In the win over the junior varsity, Aulik came up with 11 service points, three of those aces, and added a pair of kills. Woodruff contributed 11 service points

and four digs, Karbo added eight service points, two for aces, and nine assists, Bocksay had four kills, Geer came up with three kills and Iniguez had a service ace and a kill.

In the victory over Horizon Honors, Karbo led the way with 16 assists, six service points and two kills, Iniguez had seven kills, Bocksay added five kills, Aulik contributed three service points, four kills and four digs, Geer added seven service points and a kill, Woodruff had five digs and Meagley added a kill.

For a team that has won only three matches in region play the past two seasons, it seems a bit odd to say that Apache Junction could be in for a promising season. One reason is the seven seniors on this year's squad. Another is that the Desert Sky Region has been realigned.

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Melissa Ochoa (right in white shirt) and Alexa Jimenez (dark shirt) come together to make a play on the ball during last Tuesday's Phoenix College Summer League for the AJHS junior varsity girls while teammate Mackenzie Miller (left in white shirt) looks on.

Positively Speaking Foundation To Host 'Day-At-The-Ranch' For Kids

The Positively Speaking Foundation, founded by former NFL player and Apache Junction resident Dr. Ray Perkins, will be hosting a "Day-at-the-Ranch" for underprivileged kids on Saturday, August 29, at the Donnelly/D-Spur Riding Stable in Gold Canyon and you can help.

Donations are being solicited to help offset the cost of the program. If enough donations come in then the camp can be offered free of charge to boys and girls 8 to 18 years of age.

The Positively Speaking Foundation serves young people primarily through youth programs, community events, and athletic camps to educate on the dangers of drugs, alcohol,

and gangs, along with the advantages of staying in school. Positively Speaking gives young people the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, to discover and develop their talents, while learning discipline, love, responsibility, and self-respect.

Positively Speaking sponsors an annual football camp where kids receive instruction from current and former NFL players and coaches. The camp also includes speakers, dinner, raffle items and goody bags for the kids and the 8th Annual Football Camp is already scheduled for June 14-16, 2010.

In addition to the upcoming Day-at-a-Ranch program, Positively Speaking will hold its 1st Annual

100-Hole Golf Marathon on Saturday, September 26 at Augusta Ranch Golf Course in Mesa. Donations and golfers are needed for this fund-raising event.

Positively Speaking also host an annual fund-raising golf tournament that features many current and former professional athletes and celebrities, including rock-and-roll star Alice Cooper, a longtime supporter of the Positively Speaking Foundation.

For more information about the Positively Speaking Foundation, to make a donation for the Day-at-the-Ranch program, or to find out more details about many other programs offered for underprivileged boys and girls, you can contact Dr. Ray Perkins



Dr. Ray Perkins is an Apache Junction resident, former NFL player for the Dallas Cowboys and Arizona Cardinals, and the founder of the Positively Speaking Foundation which provides programs, speakers and an annual football camp for underprivileged kids

at (480) 671-3226 or you can visit the website www.positivelyspeaking.org.

Senior Baseball League Team Features Many Former AJHS Players

A local Senior Baseball League team known as the Bulldogs features eight former Apache Junction High School players and will kick off their 2009 Fall League today, Monday, August 3 with a 7:00 p.m. game to be played at the Red Mountain Baseball Complex, 8008 E. Brown Road in Mesa, just east of Power Road.

The eight former AJHS players are Chayce Otero, Justin Beebe, Michael Nagle, David Caruana,

Michael Caruana, Ryan Sparks, Nathan Higginbottom and Cole Garratt.

The league used to be organized by the City of Mesa Parks and Recreation Department but due to budget woes, Mesa had to drop the program. Three Mesa residents decided to take over the league and keep it afloat and there are eight teams competing in the Fall League.

With the former AJHS players, the Bulldogs should have a team with



solid pitching and infield defense. Otero, Beebe, Nagle and Higginbottom are all former pitchers while both Caruanas, Sparks and Garratt are former infielders. Higginbottom, Michael Caruana, Sparks and Garratt all played baseball for AJHS this past Spring.

For more information

- Former AJHS Players**
Chayce Otero
Justin Beebe
Michael Nagle
David Caruana
Michael Caruana
Ryan Sparks
Nathan Higginbottom
Cole Garratt

about the Senior Baseball League, visit the website www.scorebooks.com and search for "Mesa League."



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For more information call: Elouise at 480-986-0704