

*Time Out*



**Chuck Baker**  
News Sports Editor  
cbaker@ajnews.com

**Aw, Shucks**

Some AJHS coaches, the school's athletic director, and the AJUSD Superintendent of Schools had some very nice and humbling words to say about me last Tuesday at the School Board meeting prior to presenting me with an award recognizing my local sports coverage (see article below).

The next day, a few more AJHS coaches either came up to me and offered congratulations or sent an e-mail with some more kind words.

I didn't have the heart to tell anyone that I get paid a salary to cover local sports. Maybe they already know that and perhaps they don't care.

Baseball coach Preston English said at the School Board meeting that "no other community in the valley receives the local coverage that we do here in A.J." That was nice of Coach P to say.

Basketball coach Dale Richardson wrote in an e-mail, "I've known Chuck for sometime now and have never seen him do anything but help, encourage, and work to further the youth in the A.J. community. Over the years he found a kernel of hope in a sometimes dismal season and conveyed it with dignity to the fans of our high school athletes. When motivation and direction appeared lacking, he never waned in trying to help right the problem and always in a professional manner. You are rapidly becoming an A.J. institution. Thanks for all your time, effort, and attention. With great respect."

Wow. Now I know why I've always liked that guy.

Truth is, our hometown is filled with outstanding coaches, administrators and student-athletes. I just get to follow them around and write about them, and get paid a salary to boot. Yeah, life is good.

**Sports Coverage Recognized**

The News' sports editor, Chuck Baker, was recognized for his sports coverage of athletic programs at Apache Junction High School at last Tuesday's Apache Junction Unified School District Board Meeting.

The award was presented by AJUSD Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Chad Wilson, who along with some coaches and athletic director Dwayne Folsom, spoke on behalf of Chuck's coverage and what it means to the student-athletes at AJHS.

"I'm honored to receive this award," Baker said. "I almost feel a little guilty receiving it for doing something that I love to do."

The award reads, "Presented to Chuck Baker. Thank you for making all of AJUSD Athletes Stars."

**Fall Sports '09**

By **Chuck Baker**  
The News

The football team at Apache Trail High School along with the volleyball, cross country, swimming, cheer, golf and football teams from Apache Junction High School were hard at it last week with practices, gearing up for the 2009 Fall sports programs.

On pages B-1, B-2, B-3 and B-6 in this week's edition of *The News*, we have listed the 2009 schedules for the sports teams along with pictures taken last week of some of the athletes and coaches participating in their pre-season preparations.

Apache Trail High School is a member of the "Class B" division of the Arizona Charter Athletic Association that includes nine schools. The Wolfpack play eight-man tackle football and in their inaugural season in 2008, Apache Trail went 2-6 and had a chance to qualify for the post season playoffs in their final game of the season.

For more details and information about the Arizona Charter Athletic Association, visit their website at [www.azcaa.com](http://www.azcaa.com).

Apache Junction High School is a member of the re-organized 4A-I division and Desert Sky Region which includes 2008 region holdovers Scottsdale Saguro, Cave Creek Cactus Shadows, Tempe McClintock and Apache Junction, along with newcomer Queen Creek, moving up from 4A-II a year ago.

Three other east valley schools, Gilbert Campo Verde, Combs and (San

see **2009 AJHS Sports Schedules** on pages B-2, B-3 & B-6 of this edition



(above) Lady Prospector golf coach George Acosta watches closely as sophomore Kelsey Hillman hits balls at the driving range during last Wednesday's practice at Apache Creek Golf Club



(above) What better way for staying in shape for the Winter basketball season than by running cross country in the Fall? Here, from left right, Armando Zuniga, Jake Abbatacola, Mike Cano and Ravi Patel participate in a cross country practice from last Wednesday.



(above) First-year AJHS swim coach Eric Dimmery works with members of the Prospector swim team at a practice held last Wednesday.

**Apache Trail Wolfpack 2009 Schedule**

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Fri.	8/28	Harvest Prep	Prospector	7:00
Fri.	9/11	Desert Hills	Prospector	7:00
Fri.	9/18	AZ Charter Acad.	Prospector	7:00
Fri.	9/25	James Madison	Benedict	7:00
Fri.	10/2	M.A.L.C.	Firebird	7:00
Fri.	10/9	Telesis	Sara Park	7:00
Thur.	10/22	Heritage Acad.	Hohokam	7:00
Thur.	10/29	Scholars Acad.	Quartzite	7:00

Locations: Prospector = Prospector Park, 3015 N. Idaho Road, Apache Junction; Benedict = Benedict Park Sports Complex, Kyrene Road and Guadalupe Road in Tempe; Sara Park = Sara Park, Mile Post 175 on Highway 95, about one mile south of Lake Havasu City; Hohokam = Hohokam Park, 1235 N. Center Street in Mesa, Quartzite = Quartzite Town Park in Quartzite, AZ



This may have been the "play of the day" during last Wednesday's "inside six drills" conducted by the Apache Trail Wolfpack at Prospector Park. On this play, Wolfpack defensive back Ryan Golden (#10) appears to be in perfect position to defend but Wolfpack receiver Jordan Viramontes (#85) comes down with the pass from quarterback Brian Mayfield and he took it to the end zone.

**A.J. Parks And Recreation Programs-At-A-Glance**

**Cool Kidz Club** - Join parks and recreation after school for sports, games, crafts, homework help time, and much more. This program starts once school is out and runs until 6 p.m. each day. There will be sites at Four Peaks, Desert Vista and Gold Canyon elementary schools on days school is in session. SMES will be bused to Four Peaks, and Peralta will be bused to Gold Canyon. This program is open to all 1st through 5th graders and full day/afternoon kindergartners. The next session started August 12th and run until December 18th.

**8/27 OR 8/28 - Working With Photos On Your Computer** - Using the free downloadable program Picasa, work with downloaded photos from a digital camera, scanned photos or emailed photos. Learn to change size, remove red-eye and more. 8/27 class from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. 8/28 class 9 a.m.-noon. Fee: \$45. Ages 16 and older.

**9/1 - After School Sports Programs** - AJ Parks and Recreation, along with the local elementary schools, will be offering fun and enjoyable sports right after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting in September. Superstition Mountain Elementary School, Desert Vista Elementary School, and Gold Canyon Elementary School will be offering dodge ball as their first sport. The fee

is only \$10 for the four week season. Registration is being accepted by the school's PE Teacher or at the Parks & Rec Office.

**9/2 - Arts Of Sports** - In this class tots will work independently with a grown up at their side and explore a variety of art stations. After a brief demonstration by the instructor, everyone is on his/her own using paint, glue drawing tools, etc. Class from 12-12:45pm Fee: \$30. Ages 2-5 year olds w/parent/caregiver assistance.

**9/12 - NFL Punt, Pass & Kick** - Boys & girls ages 8-15 can now register for the annual Punt, Pass, & Kick competition. Participants will compete with in their age groups in each of the three events. Winners may have the chance to compete in the state competition at a Cardinals game and possibly the national finals at an NFL playoff game. Pre-registration is free in the Parks & Recreation office and only \$2 if you wait and register on-site. Competition will start at 11 a.m. at Prospector Park.

**Everyday (Multi-Generational Recreation Center)** - Calling all families, ages, and walks of life; Stress, heart disease, obesity and boredom-don't let them weigh you down. The Multi-Generational Recreation Center has more to offer than you think. Come by with the family and watch the kids

climb the wall-then try it yourself. Walk around the indoor track, take Zumba, Pilates, Yoga or any of the 20 different fitness classes offered. You will also find a fitness area equipped with free weights, circuit training and cardio equipment. Kids Club is offered for ages 18 months to 8 years old (schedule of days/times available). Parks and Recreation encourages you to laugh, play, be healthy and be happy. For more information, including hours, fees and amenities call (480) 474-5240.

**P & R Says Thanks!**  
Apache Junction Parks and Recreation would like to thank the community for contributing to the Back to School Drive held this summer. Donation bins were placed at the Multi-Generational Center, the Superstition Shadows Pool, and at the Summer Open Gym sites to collect school supplies for local schools. Thanks to the generous donations by our local citizens, Superstition Mountain Elementary School and Four Peaks Elementary School received bins of crayons, pencils, paper, glue, scissors and other needed supplies to help kick off their school year. For more information on programs throughout the year, please visit our website at [www.ajcity.net/parks](http://www.ajcity.net/parks).

For more information on any of our programs, please visit us at [www.ajcity.net](http://www.ajcity.net) or call us @ (480) 983-2181.