



*Time Out*

**Prospectors Roll, 41-12, In Season Opener**



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

**Look, No Stain**

Fake grass has really come a long way since I played high school football. Back in Michigan in the mid-'70s, there was one high school in our conference that featured an "astro turf" field, as it was called then. For all practical purposes, what it really was, or at least felt like, was concrete painted green and we hated playing on it.

Today, the fake grass is known as "field turf" and it comes in different grades, which could be labeled, "the cheaper stuff, the moderate stuff" or "the really nice stuff."

Last Thursday, the AJHS junior varsity football team got the opportunity to play on "the really nice stuff" when they traveled to Gilbert to take on Campo Verde, which opened this Fall.

Campo Verde head coach Max Ragsdale, a 1990 AJHS grad and former Prospector head football coach, told me the field turf they have at CV

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By J.J. Digos  
*The News*

With the off-season finally over and many questions waiting to be answered, the Apache Junction Prospectors varsity football team took the field at home last Friday night to open the 2009 season against Prescott Valley Bradshaw Mountain.

Despite losing 2008 Desert Sky Region "defensive player of the year," Rusty Fernando, and current Arizona State freshman safety Shane McCullen from the core of their defense from last season, the Prospectors answered most of their defensive questions in their first series with a trio of strong defensive stops by seniors Cy Maughmer and Nate Scola, forcing a three-and-out by the Bears from Bradshaw Mountain.

On the ensuing punt, junior wide receiver David Fernando, (who scored 13

touchdowns last season on the AJHS junior varsity squad) returned the kick 47 yards to the end zone for the first touchdown of the season for the Prospectors. Then, in their second defensive series, senior cornerback Kyrel Parker intercepted a pass from the Bradshaw Mountain quarterback and brought it back 80 yards for a score. Without an offensive series in the first quarter, the Prospectors led by a score of 12-0.

After a Bradshaw Mountain touchdown and missed extra point attempt, junior quarterback Roy Machuca led the Prospectors offense out to the field for the first time. After a long four-minute drive, Scola, playing at the fullback position, took a handoff from Machuca and broke through the defense for a 24-yard rushing score, which increased the Prospectors' lead to 18-6. On the next offensive series before

halftime, Machuca marched the offense down the field to field-goal range for junior David Gamboa, who connected on his attempt from 29 yards away to build the lead to 21-6 at the halftime break.

In the 3rd quarter, the Prospectors proved that they were in control, as the offense took one minute and thirty-six seconds to drive down the field to allow Scola to rush for a 31-yard touchdown, and after a successful Gamboa PAT attempt, the lead swelled to 28-6. Next, despite the three-touchdown lead, Scola was hungry for more. With forty seconds left in the 3rd quarter, he broke through the Bradshaw defense and walked in for the 10-yard score, which turned the game completely into the hands of the Prospectors.

Less than two minutes af-



*Prospector junior quarterback Roy Machuca tries to get past a Bradshaw Mountain defender on his way to a 50-yard touchdown run in Friday's season opening 41-12 victory at Davis Field. (photo by J.J. Digos)*

ter Scola's third touchdown, Fernando intercepted an under-thrown pass by the Bradshaw Mountain quarterback which gave Machuca and the offense the ball again. Two plays later, Machuca faked a handoff

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**Apache Trail Wolfpack Crush Harvest Prep, 62-8**

By Chuck Baker  
*The News*

When the Apache Trail Wolfpack played their inaugural football game against the Ocotillo Geckos before a handful of fans one year ago in Glendale, sophomore quarterback Brian Mayfield ran 67 yards for a touchdown on their very first offensive play and then added a two-point conversion run to give Apache Trail an 8-0 lead. If this had been a movie, you couldn't have written a better script for the first-year program.

You could however have scripted a better ending. Despite striking first in a matter of seconds, the Geckos would roll to a 44-16 win, spoiling the Wolfpack's first foray into the world of eight-man tackle football.



*Apache Trail HS captains Brian Mayfield (#7) and Kyle Webb (#31) meet the officials prior to last Friday's season opener versus Yuma Harvest Prep at Prospector Park. What a role the Wolfpack captains would play in this game, a 62-8 victory for Apache Trail. Mayfield rushed for 209 yards and six touchdowns to lead the offense while Webb had 12 tackles from his linebacker position to lead the defense.*

Flash forward one year to last Friday night at Prospector Park as Apache Trail kicked off the school's second season of football host-

ing Yuma Harvest Prep. This time, Mayfield never even got a chance to take the field before his Wolfpack would score. Senior Joe Rodriguez picked up a loose ball at his own 14-yard line on the game's opening kickoff, made a couple of "juke moves" and dashed 86 yards to score a touchdown. Mayfield came on and ran in the two-point conversion and once again, Apache Trail was off to a quick 8-0 lead in the first game of the season.

What a difference a year makes. This time, with nine returning players and a solid summer of conditioning behind them, the Wolfpack wrote their own ending to

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*Apache Trail Wolfpack head coach Dave Wagner talks to his players just prior to kickoff of last Friday's season opener versus Harvest Prep played at Prospector Park. Coach Wagner must have said the right things as the Wolfpack rolled to a 62-8 victory.*

**JV Football Impressive In Debut**

By Chuck Baker  
*The News*

The Prospector junior varsity football team overcame six fumbles, two of those lost, an interception and ten penalties, and behind a terrific defense and a well-balanced offense, easily handled Campo Verde 26-6 in their 2009 season opener played last Thursday in Gilbert.

Manuel "Nicho" Ortega and Kris Stein keyed a defensive effort that held Campo Verde to just 126 net yards in their 48 offensive plays. The Coyotes only score came late in the first half on a seven-yard touchdown run to make the score 20-6 at halftime. Campo Verde never re-

ally threatened to score in the second half as Ortega came up with a team-high 11 tackles and Stein added 10 tackles and two quarterback-hurries.

On offense for Apache Junction, quarterback John Converse rushed for 77 yards and two touchdowns

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*The Prospector junior varsity football defense was outstanding in their season opener, keying a 26-6 win over Gilbert Campo Verde. Here, Jacob LaChapelle (left, top), Jared Kraps (middle) and Richie Pagels (bottom, right) bring down a Coyote runner.*

**AJHS Volleyball Impressive In Pre-Season Scrimmage**

Open '09 season Wednesday hosting Desert Edge

By Chuck Baker  
*The News*

There is a lot of excitement being generated by the senior-laden Lady Prospector varsity volleyball team and if last Tuesday's scrimmage with Gilbert Desert Ridge is any indication, that excitement may be justified.

Apache Junction came out on top in three of the four games scrimmage against the 5A-I, winning the first game 22-17, the second game 31-17 and the fourth game 16-14. Desert Ridge did pull out game number three by a single point, 23-22.

Senior Middle blockers, Kylie Bocskay and Jessica Iniguez, combined for 17 kills and nine blocks in the scrimmage. Junior outside hitter Sierra Aulik contributed five kills and four digs, senior setter Katie Karbo dished out 15 assists and added three blocks and a service ace, senior outside hitter Catalina Ovalle had two kills, three digs and an ace, senior defensive specialist Diana Woodruff came up with 14 digs, a kill and an ace, senior outside hitters Chayla Langley and Amy Meagley each added a kill as did senior setter/outside hitter Monique Thomas.

Overall in the scrimmage, Apache Junction came up with 28 kills and 105 total attacks compared with 17 kills and only 32 total attacks by Desert Edge. Apache Junction also made fewer errors, 11 to 14 and held a four to two edge in service aces.

Apache Junction will open their 2009 season this Wednesday, September 2 hosting Goodyear Desert Edge and this Thursday, September 3 hosting Maricopa. In both of these matches, the AJHS freshmen team will play at 4:00 p.m. followed by the junior varsity at 5:00 p.m. and the varsity at 6:00 p.m.



*The 2009 Lady Prospector varsity volleyball team includes (front row, kneeling, left to right) junior Monica Geer, senior Alyssa Aranda, senior Diana Woodruff, junior Sierra Aulik and senior Catalina Ovalle, and (back row, left to right) senior Jessica Iniguez, senior Kylie Bocskay, senior Amber Thillmony, senior Monique Thomas, senior Amy Meagley and senior Katie Karbo. (missing from photo is senior Chayla Langley). The AJHS girls are coached by Mandy Gamboa and Jake Heermans.*