



**AJHS Cross
Country
Teams Off
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Time Out



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**AJHS Freshmen
And JV Football**

We were unable to get a detailed account of last Wednesday's AJHS freshmen football game at Saguaro but we hear the Prospectors turned in a great effort despite a huge size disadvantage in a 14-7 loss.

Derek Craig scored the lone AJHS touchdown and the Prospectors were driving for a winning score but lost a fumble at the Saguaro two-yard line. On the very next play, Saguaro went 98 yards for the game-winner.

The News would like to invite any of the AJHS freshmen and junior varsity parents, fans and coaches to pass along scores, highlights, stats, photos, etc... from all junior varsity and freshmen football games this season. You can send them to my e-mail address listed above.

Even though the freshmen play at home this Wednesday, September 9, versus Combs, due to a prior commitment, I will be unable to attend the game.

We like to give the underclassmen at AJHS the recognition they deserve but sometimes have to rely on help and support from parents and coaches, especially when other AJHS sports teams are competing at the same time.

As for the junior varsity team, they played great in last Thursday's 0-0 tie with Saguaro in what many thought would be the toughest challenge for both squads. Helmets off to the Prospector defense that produced eight tackles behind the line of scrimmage totaling 28 yards in losses, another four sacks totaling 31 yards in losses, plus a fumble recovery and an interception.

AJHS Volleyball Soars

By Chuck Baker
The News

Contrary to the sparkling gold capes donned by the Lady Prospector varsity volleyball team in their home opener this past week, they cannot fly. Soar? Perhaps, as in "to new heights."

For a team that has won only three region matches the past two years and gone 16-46 overall during that two-year stretch, perhaps what was most impressive about last week's wins over (Goodyear) Desert Edge and Maricopa was the way the AJHS girls won them. In straight games. And by lopsided scores.

Laden with ten seniors who have played together for four seasons now when victories have been hard to come by, the Lady Prospectors opened their 2009 season on Wednesday thumping Desert Ridge 25-17, 25-10, 25-10, and then by crushing Maricopa on Thursday by the scores of 25-11, 25-18, 25-18.

I don't think the gold capes

had as much to do with their easy wins as the experienced seniors. Catalina Ovalle had eight kills against Desert Edge, middle blocker Jessica Iniguez had five kills and 13 blocks, middle blocker Kylie Bocskay added two kills and eight blocks and setter Katie Karbo handed out 17 assists.

Against Maricopa, Karbo handed out another 17 assists and Iniguez blocked 13 more balls at the net while contributing eight kills.

Also in the win over Desert Edge, senior Diana Woodruff came up with 17 digs, Ovalle added 10 digs, senior Amber Thillmony pitched in with four kills and five digs, and junior Sierra Aulik contributed four kills, eight digs and four blocks.

The AJHS girls had 114 total attacks compared to just fourteen for Desert Edge.

Also in the win over Maricopa, Woodruff came up with 21 digs, Bocskay had four kills and three blocks, Ovalle had three kills, Aulik and junior Monica Geer each added two kills,

Thillmony and senior Amy Meagley both had a kill, senior Allyssa Aranda had four digs, senior Monique Thomas had three digs and senior Chayla Langley had a pair of kills.

The Lady Prospectors play three matches this week, at Higley on Tuesday, September 8, at home versus Avondale Agua Fria on Wednesday, September 9, and at Williams Field on Thursday, September 10. For each match, the AJHS freshmen team plays at 4:00 p.m., followed by the junior varsity team at 5:00 p.m. and the varsity team at 6:00 p.m.

JV Splits Openers

The Lady Prospector junior varsity team split their first two matches of the season, defeating Maricopa 25-7, 25-11 and falling to Desert Edge 26-24, 25-20.

In the win over Maricopa, Alexa Jimenez had the hot hand with nine kills and six service points, Erin Herbert had eight service points,

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(above) Cape crusader, senior Katie Karbo, leads the Lady Prospector varsity volleyball team onto the court before last Wednesday's season-opening match against Desert Edge; (below) With the sparkling gold capes draped over the bench chairs, the AJHS girls gather for a pre-match cheer before taking the court.



Prospectors Blank Tempe 21-0 For 2-0 Start

By J.J. Digos
The News

This past Friday night, the Apache Junction Prospectors varsity football team traveled to Tempe to face off against the Tempe Buffaloes for the first time since the 2006 season. After crushing the Bradshaw Mountain Bears the previous Friday 41-12, the Prospectors expected to have another strong showing on their first road game of 2009.

The story of the night was the Prospector's defensive effort led by new defensive coordinator Jim Jones. The Prospector defense allowed 134 total yards to the Tempe offense and forced five turnovers. Linebacker Nate Scola led the team in tackles, recording nine defensive stops. Harrison Pomeroy continued to play strong, collecting eight tackles and recovering both of Tempe's fumbles. Garrett Johnson and Derek Hoffman rounded up five tackles, Cy Maughmer, David Fernando, Matt Tomasetti and Tanner Morgan contributed with four tackles each. Also collecting

tackles on defense were Patrick and Stephen Hughes, John LaChapelle, Parker Rathjen, Tyler Bivins, Tyler O'Reilly, and Shane Smith.

The defensive secondary coached by Jimmy Ray and John McAlister intercepted three passes from Tempe quarterbacks. In the first half Fernando intercepted a pass to the end zone and returned it to Prospector territory. In the second half, Hoffman and Kyrrel Parker picked off passes in key third-down situations to stop the Tempe passing offense.

On offense for the Prospectors, with junior Roy Machuca under center at the quarterback position and seniors Scola and Terry Eytcheson leading a stable of running backs, they amassed a total of 269 offensive yards on the night. Scola, who had 20 carries and ran for 129 yards and two of the Prospector's touchdowns, spearheaded the rushing attack. Behind him was Machuca who had 10 carries and ran for 50 yards on the evening with a touchdown. Eytcheson carried the ball seven times for 40 yards, Morgan and

Rathjen had three carries each and ran for 18 and 12 total yards respectively. Pomeroy, playing fullback, also ran the ball on one occasion for a nine-yard gain.

In the first quarter, after a defensive stop by the Prospectors, Machuca led the offense down the field with the dynamic trio in the backfield of Scola, Morgan and Eytcheson and with 5:41 left in the first quarter, Scola collected his first score of the night and after a successful PAT kick by David Gamboa, AJ led 7-0.

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(above) Prospector junior quarterback Roy Machuca (#8) is off to the races on this 59-yard touchdown in Friday's 21-0 victory over Tempe. Machuca now has two long TD runs in the first two games, the other a 60-yarder against Bradshaw Mountain. (photo by J.J. Digos)

**Apache Trail Wolfpack
Earn Biggest 'W' To Date**

Wolfpack step up in class and beat El Dorado 42-24; Put 2-0 record on the line this Friday vs. Desert Hills

By Chuck Baker
The News

It didn't take long for the Apache Trail Wolfpack to establish its football program as a bona fide contender in eight-man tackle football. In just their second season of existence and playing its tenth game overall, Apache Trail stepped up in class last Friday night at Prospector Park and knocked off Chandler El Dorado 42-24, earning the school its biggest victory to date.

El Dorado was a State Championship team two years ago and was coming off of a 21-20 loss the previous Friday to NFL yet, considered the premier team in the Arizona Charter Athletic Association's Class A.

Apache Trail, just 2-6 overall in their inaugural season in 2008 but off to a 1-0 start this campaign, is a member of the Class B division of the AzCAA. And behind an aggressive defense that came up with seven sacks, three fumble recoveries and an interception, and thanks to a terrific start to last Friday's game, the Wolfpack may have sent a message to other teams in the Class B division with this victory



Two stars for the Wolfpack in their 42-24 victory over El Dorado on Friday were Joe Rodriguez (#4) on offense and Kyle Webb (#31) on defense. Rodriguez caught six passes for 178 yards and two touchdowns and added another 169 return yards while Webb had eight tackles, three sacks totaling 18 yards in losses plus a fumble recovery.

that AHS is for real. Following Joe Rodriguez' 57-yard kickoff return to start last Friday's game, the Wolfpack needed just four plays to get on the scoreboard when quarterback Brian Mayfield ran 23 yards for a TD and a quick 6-0 lead.

That lead quickly grew to 12-0 when El Dorado fumbled the ball on its first offensive play of the game and Jim Croteau recovered the loose ball for the Wolfpack at the El Dorado 19-yard line. Mayfield took just one snap from the shotgun and ran right up the middle for a second touchdown. Apache Trail would stretch its lead to 20-0 early in the second quarter on another Mayfield TD run, this one covering 20 yards and the

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AJHS Golf Teams Tee Off

By Chuck Baker
The News

Both the AJHS boys and girls golf teams kicked off their 2009 seasons this past week with the boys hosting the three-day A.J. Invitational and the girls playing in a three-way match on the road.

The AJHS girls posted a team score of 263 to finish Higley (228) and Campo Verde (248) but Coach George Acosta said via email that both sophomore Kelsey Hillman and freshman McKenna Mann "did a great job in their first (varsity) tournament."

The AJHS boys finished fifth in the six-team A.J. Invitational played Tuesday at Superstition Mountain, Wednesday at Gold Canyon Golf Resort and Thursday at Apache Creek Golf Club.

Queen Creek took first with a 212 team score,



Prospector golfer Luke Ribich drains this short putt on the ninth green as partner Brandon Thunberg looks on.

Gilbert (228) was second, Mesa Mountain View (228) finished third, Scottsdale Coronado (242) was fourth, Apache Junction (263) was fifth and Mesa Westwood (265) was sixth.

The top two-man team for AJHS was Luke Ribich and Brandon Thunberg who combined to shoot a 120 team score using a scram-

ble, best-ball and alternate-shot format over the three days. The duo of Nathaniel Gingrich and Jon Kulas shot 144 as a team while the all-freshmen pairing of Esai Victorio and Cory Kreuzer shot 148 as a team.

The complete 2009 schedule for both the boys and girls teams is available at www.ajhs.ajusd.org.