



Time Out



Chuck Baker
News Sports Editor
cbaker@ajnews.com

Sports Chatter

• The Wolfpack of Apache Trail HS have earned a well deserved bye in their 2009 schedule after improving to 6-0 on the season following Friday's 42-34 victory over Telesis HS in Lake Havasu City. They now have several days to prepare for their big showdown on October 22 at Mesa's Hohokam Park against 6-0 Heritage Academy with the Arizona Charter Athletic Association's Class B Division title at stake. Not bad for a team playing just their second season of eight-man tackle football.

• The Prospector junior varsity team is off to a 6-0-1 start on the 2009 season, including last week's wild 44-41 victory over Cactus Shadows (see article by J.J. Digos on page B-3). They have two home games remaining, this Thursday, October 15 versus Tempe McClintock, and the following Thursday, October 22 versus Queen Creek.

• The AJHS varsity volleyball team has added a home match on Thursday, November 2nd versus Glendale Raymond Kellis, which will also serve as "senior night." This year's squad, which is in the midst of qualifying for a 4A-I State Tournament slot, features ten seniors.

• AJHS swim & dive competes in their region meet October 22 and 23, the cross country teams will compete on October 30 while both the boys and girls golf teams compete November 2 and 3. All are vying for the chance to qualify for State.

A.J. Falls Short, 35-28, In Homecoming Shoot-out

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

It was number two in the 4A-I power rankings, once beaten Apache Junction, versus number three and undefeated Cave Creek Cactus Shadows. It was the Prospector's potent rushing attack versus the Falcons vaunted aerial assault. It was Apache Junction senior full-back Nate Scola versus Cactus Shadows senior quarterback Dillon Classen.

Mix in a few fireworks, the Prospector Marching Band,

a standing-room-only crowd and the presence of royalty, including a King and Queen, and last Friday's AJHS Homecoming and Desert Sky Region showdown at Davis Field lived up to its pre-game hype.

With the two teams tied at 28-28 through three quarters of play, Friday's region opener for both teams really came down to two third-and-long pass completions by Classen that allowed the Falcons to escape Davis Field with a 35-28 victory, improving to 6-0 on the sea-

son, while Apache Junction fell to 5-2.

Both Classen and Scola had big first-half performances. The Cactus Shadows signal caller completed 14-of-20 throws for 176 yards and four touchdowns. Scola carried the ball nine times in the first half for 156 yards and two touchdowns.

With Cactus Shadows leading 28-14 at halftime, the Prospector defense made some great adjustments in the second half to slow down the Falcons passing game and junior quarterback Roy Machuca atoned for two first-half fumbles to account for two AJHS third-quarter scores to tie the game up at the end of three periods.

The first score from Machuca was a 36-yard touchdown toss to running back Terry Eytcheson to make the score 28-21 with David Gamboa's PAT kick. The second was a quarterback keeper which Machuca took eight yards around right end, and following another Gamboa kick, Apache Junction



Prospector defensive back David Fernando fights off a blocker to make a tackle in Friday's Homecoming game

Lady Prospectors Fall To Top Ranked Volleyball Teams

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity volleyball team battled two highly ranked opponents this past week in Prescott and Cave Creek Cactus Shadows and lost to both, dropping to 16-10 overall on the season. The loss to Cactus Shadows also saw the AJHS girls record in Desert Sky Region play fall to 2-5.

In last week's 25-8, 25-22, 25-22 loss to Prescott, ranked #3 overall in 4A-I power points, Jessica Iniguez came up with five kills and five blocks for AJHS. Kylie Bocskay added four kills and seven blocks, Catalina Ovalle had two kills and 10 digs, Alexa Jimenez had two kills and five digs, Monica Geer had a pair of kills, Chayla Langley had a kill, Sierra Aulik dished out nine assists to



Lady Prospector outside hitter Monica Geer (#8) punches a shot at the net in last Thursday's home match

go with 10 digs and Diana Woodruff came up with 12 digs.

In last week's 25-17, 25-14, 26-24 loss to Cactus Shadows, #2 in the power rankings, Iniguez had seven kills and nine blocks, Bocskay contributed with six kills and eight blocks, Katie Karbo handed out 14 assists and added eight digs, Aulik

had four kills and nine digs and Woodruff added another 17 digs.

With the two losses, Apache Junction stands at number five overall in the 4A-I power rankings. The top sixteen teams in the final power point standings all qualify for the State Tourna-

see **V-Ball**, page B-2



Senior football player Cy Maughmer and senior cheerleader Chyna Gade were crowned 2009 Homecoming King and Queen Friday night at Davis Field

was right back in it with one quarter to go.

Classen's first big third-and-long completion came with his Falcons facing a 3rd-and-21 at the Apache Junction 38-yard line. The Falcons QB hit his receiver down the left sideline for a 36-yard gain all the way to the Prospector two-yard line. The Falcons punched it in the end zone on the very next play to score the go-ahead touchdown with 10:29 left in regulation.

Classen's second big 3rd-and-long completion came in the game's final minutes. Facing a 3rd-and-8 from his own 37-yard line, Classen rolled out to his right and hit another receiver for a 40-yard gain down the Prospector 23-yard. Cactus Shadows was then able to run three offensive plays and run out the clock, escaping with the 35-28 win.

Apache Junction only had one possession on offense in the fourth quarter. After Cactus Shadows scored the go-ahead TD, the Prospectors put together a nine-play

drive that began at their own 31-yard line and ended at the Falcons 23. Facing a fourth-and-eight, Machuca intended to throw a slant pass to the right side but it was batted down at the line of scrimmage, turning the ball back OVER to Cactus Shadows.

The Falcons totaled 371 yards in the game to 368 yards for Apache Junction. Classen completed 23-of-37 passes for 298 yards and the Falcons rushed for an additional 73 yards on 24 attempts.

Machuca, after a 0-for-3 first half performance, completed 3-of-5 throws in the second half for 64 yards, including the TD toss to Eytcheson. The Prospectors rushed for 202 yards on 23 carries with Scola getting 197 of those on 20 attempts.

Harrison Pomeroy added 48 rushing yards on seven carries for AJHS, Eytcheson ran eight times for 32 yards, and Machuca added 27 yards and the TD with his

see **AJHS**, page B-6

Wolfpack Wins Again; Now 6-0

The Apache Trail Wolfpack survived the four-hour road trip to Lake Havasu City last Friday night and held on for a 42-34 victory over a pesky Telesis High School squad to improve to 6-0 on the season in eight-man tackle football. The big road win now sets up a showdown in two weeks at Mesa's Hohokam Park with 6-0 Heritage Academy and with the Arizona Charter Athletic Association's Class B Division title on the line. Kickoff at Mesa Hohokam Park on Thursday, October 22 will be at 7:00 p.m.

Apache Trail jumped out to a 20-0 lead over Telesis last Friday behind a Brian Mayfield 15-yard run and two Mayfield-to-Jordan Viramontes touchdown passes, one covering 33 yards and the other from 43 yards out.

But Telesis fought back to tie the game 20-20 early in the fourth quarter, setting up for a wild final period that saw forty-four points being scored.

After Telesis tied the game, Joe Rodriguez accounted for a two-play drive that put the Wolfpack back in front 28-20. Rodriguez ran once for 25 yards and then caught a 57-yard touchdown toss from Mayfield.

On the ensuing kickoff, Joaquin Rodriguez recovered a fumble caused by a hit from teammate Gilbert Gutierrez and the Wolfpack were in business again at the Telesis 13-yard-line.

Five plays later, Mayfield scored on a five-yard run and Apache Trail increased its lead to 36-20.



Telesis, refusing to give up, scored on a 50-yard TD pass with a little under three minutes left in regulation to cut the Wolfpack lead to 36-26 but then Apache Trail's Ryan Golden returned the ensuing kickoff 75 yards to the Telesis 10-yard line and Joe Rodriguez scored on an eight-yard run to give Apache Trail its 42 points.

Telesis scored again following its own long kickoff return to make the score 42-34 but Apache Trail recovered the ensuing on-side kick and ran out the clock.

Mayfield finished the game completing 15-of-25 passes for 394 yards. Joe Rodriguez caught six of the throws for 208 yards and one touchdown and added 38 rushing yards and another score on five carries.

Jon Bohn also caught six passes from Mayfield for 100 yards, Viramontes had three receptions totaling 79 yards and two scores, and Kyle Webb caught a pass for seven yards. Mayfield also ran for 56 yards and two TDs on 14 attempts.

The Wolfpack defense was led Webb with 11 tackles,

see **'Pack**, page B-2

Boys Swim Team Sinks Cactus Shadows In Final Tune-Up Before Regionals

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

The final swim and dive meet of the regular season ended on a positive note for the Apache Junction boys squad with a 97-88 victory over fellow region opponent Cave Creek Cactus Shadows. Next up for AJHS is the Desert Sky Region Championships October 22 and 23 at Tempe McClintock with qualifying for the 4A-I State Championships at stake.

Posting a first place finish versus Cactus Shadows was Richard Penick in the 50 freestyle (25:53), Mackenzie Hvidsten in the 100 freestyle (56:52), Ty Adair in the 500 freestyle (6:17.42), Storm Hancock in the 100 breaststroke (1:15.11), Ole Gabrielson in diving (181.7 points) and both the 200 freestyle relay team (1:53.31) and

the 400 freestyle relay team (3:53.27).

The time turned in by the boys 400 freestyle relay is faster than the time they swam a year ago at the region meet to qualify for State, which was a time of 3:54.35. Three members from the 2008 State Championship qualifying team, Jim Huynh, Hvidsten and Andrew Jones, are back swimming for AJHS this season.

Also of note for the AJHS boys, Gabrielson placed 10th overall in diving at the State Championships in '08.

The AJHS girls came close, falling 100-84, with first place finishes from Jinny Young in the 100 freestyle (1:10.20), Clarissa Mohle in the 100 backstroke (1:15.90), and Nicoletta Carbone in the 200 individual medley (2:54.92).



Lady Prospector Nicoletta Carbone competes in the 500 freestyle during a recent home swim meet

The Desert Sky Region Championships will be held Thursday, October 22 with the diving competition beginning at 9:00 a.m. and on Friday, October 23 with the swimming preliminary races beginning at 9:00 a.m. The swimming finals

are scheduled for Saturday, October 24, also starting at 9:00 a.m. All events are held at McClintock High School, 1830 E. Del Rio Drive in Tempe, off of McClintock and just north of Southern Avenue.