



Who Made It?
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Time Out



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Rivalry Renewed?

A Queen Creek fan took offense at my column last week poking fun at his Bulldogs (alias Puppy Dogs) football team following their embarrassing 52-14 loss to AJHS and fired off an email. I've captured some of the best parts below.

- "Did you even go to the game?" (Yes, I was there.)
- "In the second half, Queen Creek put in their third and fourth string guys on defense." (That's because the game was a blow-out by the

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Prospectors Fall To Saguaro, 42-21

Have a bye this Friday; will likely host a first round 4A-I State Tournament playoff game on Nov. 13

By Chuck Baker
The News

Call it a fourth-and-a-long one or fourth-and-a-short two. But whatever you call it, based on post game comments from both Scottsdale Saguaro head coach John Sanders and Apache Junction coach Rich Milligan, it was huge.

After an impressive first half of play and with a 21-14 lead, Apache Junction, on the first possession of the second half, was faced with a fourth-and-two from its own 38-yard line and decided to go for it. The play, an option pitch to fullback Nate Scola going around right end, came up a yard short.

Saguaro took over on downs and five plays later, tied the game 21-21 with a five-yard touchdown run but perhaps more impor-

tantly, seized momentum that lasted the entire second half, rallying for a 42-21 victory last Friday night at Davis Field.

Apache Junction dropped to 7-3 with the loss and likely will also drop a spot or two in the final 4A-I power point rankings that are due to be released on November 7. Saguaro improved to 7-2 on the season and will face Queen Creek this Friday in the final week of the regular season.

"I'm probably going to be kicking myself for going for it there," Prospector coach Rich Milligan was quoted as saying in the *East Valley Tribune*. "But I believe in my guy's ability to get that yardage. Going into the playoffs you're going to have to make plays like that. If it works out, it's a good call. If it doesn't, it isn't."

Coach Sanders was also

quoted in the *Tribune* as saying, "It's amazing what transpires through a game, how the momentum changes. And that was one of the main points. Things changed and swing your way and you can almost see it in the kids on the field."

The fourth down gamble by the Prospectors was a game-changer. That much is for sure. After the Sabercats tied the game at 21, Apache Junction's next four possession resulted in two lost fumbles that led to Saguaro scores, one punt and an interception in the end zone that halted their only second half scoring threat.

Making matters worse for AJHS, two of its lineman, blue-chipper Cy Maughmer and senior Shane Smith, both came out of the game with leg injuries in the second half.

The good news for Apache



Prospector defensive players David Fernando (#85) and Tyler Bivins (#56) crush a Saguaro ball carrier to the turf in Friday's game at Davis Field

Junction is that they have a bye the final week of the regular season which gives them two weeks before the playoffs begin. It also

sounded like both Maughmer and Smith could have gone back in the game but

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Apache Trail Wins Season Finale, 40-0

At 8-1 in AzCAA "B Division," will host 1st round playoff game this Friday at Prospector Park

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Wolfpack of Apache Trail High School ended their regular season of eight-man tackle football with an impressive 8-1 record, including last Thursday's 40-0 victory over Scholars Academy in Quartzite, and are now poised to host a first round Arizona Charter Athletic Association playoff game this Friday, November 6 at Prospector Park. Kickoff will be at 7:00 p.m. but the Wolfpack's opponent for the first round game wasn't known when *The News* went to press.

With the win over Scholars, Apache Trail finished second overall in the Class B Division of the AzCAA and as the number two seed will host the #7 seeded team this Friday in the first round. If the Wolfpack win their first round playoff game, they would advance to the AzCAA semifinals on Friday, November 13 at Phoenix Christian High School, which would also be the site of the championship game on November 20th.

Apache Trail's defense was outstanding in last Thursday's win, keyed by the efforts of Joe Rodriguez, making his first start at a linebacker position. Rodriguez made 14 solo tackles and assisted on nine others. Rodriguez also helped out on offense with three pass receptions for 49 yards and four rushes for 16 more yards.

ATHS quarterback Brian Mayfield completed 12-of-26 passes for 254 yards and five touchdowns and added a sixth rushing touchdown while adding 82 yards on 10 rushing attempts. Mayfield threw four TD tosses to wide receiver Jon Bohn, who totaled 191 yards with his seven receptions, and completed an eight-yard TD pass to receiver Ryan Golden. Mayfield also added a two-point conversion and Kevin Box finished off the Wolfpack scoring with his own two-point conversion run.

Also on defense for the Wolfpack, Bohn had nine tackles, Will Haught made eight tackles, Bryce Gardner had seven tackles, a sack and a fumble recovery, Joaquin Rodriguez and Jacob Carpenter each made five tackles and Jordan Viramontes and Gilbert Gutierrez were in on three tackles.

Apache Trail, in just their second season of eight-man tackle football, suffered their only loss of the season to Mesa Heritage Academy, who finished their season 8-0 and as the top seed for the eight-team post season playoffs. The Wolfpack would love to face Heritage again in the playoffs but the only way that would take place would be if both teams advance to the championship game on November 20.

You can follow all of the AzCAA playoff action by visiting their official website at www.azcaa.com.

Ten AJHS Senior Volleyball Players To Be Honored This Tuesday

"Varsity only" to host Raymond Kellis with special 5:30 p.m. start

By Chuck Baker
The News

Ten senior volleyball players from Apache Junction, most of whom have played together at AJHS for four years, will be recognized this Tuesday, November 3 on "Senior Night" when they host Glendale Raymond Kellis in a special start time of 5:30 p.m. It is the final match of the regular season with the 4A-I State Tournament set to begin the follow-

ing Tuesday, November 10. The Lady Prospectors, as of last Saturday, were number nine in the 4A-I power rankings and primed to receive an at-large bid to the State Tournament. It wasn't clear if the Raymond Kellis match could impact the final rankings since this game was added to the schedule rather late. But if it does, it could be a big match for Apache Junction with Kellis sitting at 10-6 and a number eleven ranking.

The ten seniors on this year's team include setters Katie Karbo and Monique Thomas, middle blockers Jessica Iniguez and Kylie Bocskay, outside hitters Catalina Ovalle, Amber Thillmony, Amy Meagley and Chayla Langley, and defensive specialist Diana Woodruff and Allyssa Aranda. There are two juniors on the team as well, outside hitters Monica Geer and Sierra Aulik.

With one final game left in

the regular season and the upcoming State Tournament, here a few statistics that show just how big of roles the seniors have played for AJHS. Iniguez has 379 career kills, 648 career blocks and 39 career service aces, all team highs. Karbo has a team high 868 career assists to go with 292 career blocks and 555 career digs, Woodruff has a team high 997 digs and needs just three more to

see **V-Ball**, page B-3



The 2009 Lady Prospector varsity volleyball team, from left to right, Amber Thillmony, Jessica Iniguez, Kylie Bocskay, Katie Karbo, Monique Thomas, Catalina Ovalle, Monica Geer, Sierra Aulik, Amy Meagley (back), Diana Woodruff (front, white jersey) and Allyssa Aranda (missing from photo is Chayla Langley) will host (Glendale) Raymond Kellis this Tuesday on "Senior Night" with a special start time of 5:30 p.m.

Girls Cross Country Runs To 'State'

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector cross country team is moving on to the 4A-I State Championships thanks to their fourth place finish at last Friday's Desert Sky Region Meet held at Freestone Park in Gilbert.

The AJHS girls, with senior Diana Woodruff leading the way, scored 96 team points based on their top five finishers and edged out Tempe McClintock (116 points) for the fourth and final State-qualifying spot. Woodruff, running just her second race of the season because she is also an AJHS volleyball player, covered the three-mile course at Freestone Park in a time of 20:59 and placed 13th overall.

Senior Montanna Scott was close behind, running 15th overall with a time of 21:21, sophomore Caitlin

Kessler ran 17th overall with a time of 21:38, senior Lauren Smith was 18th with her time of 21:47, and senior Kristin Whitten ran 33rd overall with a time of 25:07 to give AJHS their 96 points.

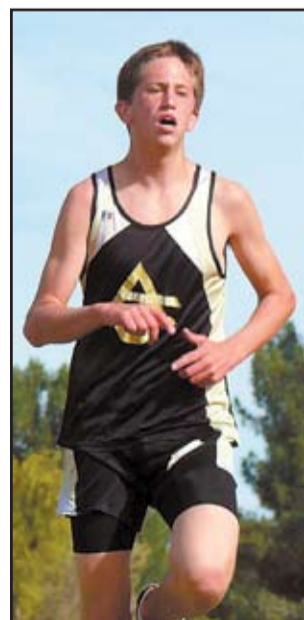
Also for the AJHS girls, senior Nicole Galvan ran 36th overall with a time of 25:34 and sophomore Nan Johnson was 38th overall with a time of 26:06.

In the boys race, the Prospectors finished fifth as a team with 127 points but senior Mike Orr did post the school's highest finish, running 12th overall with his time of 16:41.

Sophomore Colton Cave ran 23rd overall with a time of 17:55, senior Armando Zuniga was 27th with a time of 18:11, senior Ravi Patel was 32nd with a time of 19:06, freshman James Harris ran 34th with a time of 19:17, another freshman,



Diana Woodruff (left) and Michael Orr were the top AJHS girl and boy cross country runners at last Friday's Desert Sky Region Meet. Woodruff finished 13th overall and helped lead the Lady Prospectors to the State Championships while Orr finished 12th overall in the boys race.



Ricky Donald, was right behind in 35th place with a time of 19:54, and senior Andrew Smith finished 37th overall with a time of

20:27. The 4A-I State Championships will be held Saturday, see **State**, page B-6



Apache Trail Wolfpack linebacker Joaquin Rodriguez (#40, white jersey) makes a tackle of a Heritage Academy ball carrier in the October 22 game