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*Time Out*



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**“Thanks-Giving”**

I missed a cell phone call on Sunday from Apache Trail Wolfpack head coach Dave Wagner who had some awfully nice things to say in the message he left.

“Hey Chuck, I just wanted to say thank you for all of your coverage of the Wolfpack this season,” Coach Wagner said. “You really were an integral part of our overall success and I know you gave up some A.J. (Prospector) football games to cover our team and I just wanted you to know how much we appreciated that. Thanks again for all you did. I love you, man.”

A class act from a class guy but I’m the one who should be saying thanks here. From the school’s leader, Giles Glithero, to the Athletic Director, John Anderson, to Coach “W” and assistant coaches, Greg Garland and Jon Brown, to the team, managers, cheerleaders and fans, they not only made me feel welcomed from the beginning, they made me feel like I was part of their program.

I got to experience a State Championship run, met a lot of outstanding student-athletes, and got the chance to watch some of the best football games I’ve ever seen, all with a front row ticket from the sidelines.

“In fifty-five years, you will remember this moment,” Coach Wagner said to his players after their 28-26 win over Mesa Heritage in the Arizona Charter Athletic Association “Class B” state championship game.

I won’t live fifty-five years. Heck, I’d settle for another fifty-five months. But not one of them will go by without a memory of the Apache Trail Wolfpack state championship season.

Again, it is I who should be giving thanks here.

**AzCAA State Champs**

*Apache Trail 28, Heritage 26; November 21, 2009*

By **Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

In just their second season of eight-man tackle football, the Apache Trail Wolfpack captured an Arizona Charter Athletic Association “Class B” State Championship title, rallying for a 28-26 victory over the Mesa Heritage Heroes on Saturday, November 21 at Phoenix Christian High School, avenging their only loss of the 2009 season, and finishing with a 11-1 overall record.

Trailing 26-20 with two minutes to play in the fourth quarter in the state championship game and facing a fourth-and-goal at the Heritage eight-yard line, Wolfpack quarterback Brian Mayfield dropped back to pass, was flushed out of the pocket and took off running for the right corner of the end zone. Mayfield was met at the two-yard line by a Heritage defender but it would have taken the entire Heroes defense to have a chance at making a stop. Mayfield lowed through the defender and into the end



*The 2009 AzCAA Class B State Champions from Apache Trail High School include coaches Dave Wagner, Greg Garland and Jon Brown, players Jon Bohn (#1), Joe Rodriguez (#4), Brian Mayfield (#7), Ryan Golden (#10), Kevin Box (#13), Cole Pordon (#16), Kyle Webb (#31), Casey Hall (#34), Daniel Sepulveda (#37), Joaquin Rodriguez (#40), Gilbert Gutierrez (#46), Will Haught (#52), Jim Croteau (#58), Clifton Hill (#64), Angel Ortiz (#67), Jacob Carpenter (#73), Bryce Gardner (#79) and Jordan Viramontes (#85), and team managers Chris Carpenter, Austen Kelley and Claudia Gomez.*

zone to the tie game, 26-26. Mayfield then took the snap on the ensuing two-point conversion and followed the left side of his offensive line

across the goal line to put Apache Trail in front 28-26 with 1:44 left to go.

Heritage ran a reverse and returned the kickoff to their own 47-yard line and drove all the way to the Wolfpack’s nine-yard line with six seconds remaining and time for one more play. The Heritage quarterback scrambled to his left but was met by Wolfpack defenders Jim Croteau and Jordan Viramontes, who combined to make the stop at the eight-yard line, giving Apache Trail the title, 28-26.

“Fifty-five years. You will remember this moment fifty-five years from now,” an emotional head coach Dave Wagner said to his players following the State Championship victory. “I love

you, I’m excited. Great job, brothers. I love you all.”

Heritage, who had defeated Apache Trail 44-28 in the regular season on their home field at Hohokam Park in Mesa, had the lead or at least a tie in the title game for all but the final two minutes. The Heroes, who ran the ball 40 times for 292 yards but completed just 5-of-12 passes for 90 yards, led 20-14 at halftime and got the ball first to begin the second half.

Starting from their own 14, the Heroes went three-and-out and were forced to punt the ball back to Apache Trail. The Wolfpack then started a six-play drive at the Heritage 42 and Mayfield hooked up with Viramontes on a 29-yard touchdown



*(above) Wolfpack quarterback Brian Mayfield, shown here running for a big gain in the AzCAA State Championship game, was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player*



*(above) Apache Trail head coach Dave Wagner, moments after being presented with the AzCAA State Championship trophy*

pass play to tie the game, 20-20.

Heritage regained the lead

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*The Wolfpack pose in front of the score board at Phoenix Christian High School after capturing the AzCAA “Class B” State Championship title*

**Lady Prospectors Runners-Up In QC Tourney**

By **Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

Playing in the Queen Creek Turkey Shoot-Out minus two of their key players, the Lady Prospector basketball team finished runner-up in the eight-team tournament with three wins and two losses, both to Phoenix Mountain Pointe, including a 50-28 loss in the championship game.

Missing from the season opening tournament for Apache Junction with injuries were starting guard Emily McGann and forward Katie Karbo, one of their strongest rebounders. McGann might be cleared to play the first week of December while Karbo was to undergo a MRI on her knee, hoping for the best scenario and a possible return to the lineup in four to six weeks.

Apache Junction and Mountain Pointe were placed in the same four-team “pool” in the Queen Creek tournament and after AJHS opened with easy 39-7 and 43-6 wins over Eloy Santa Cruz and Tucson Desert View, the Lady Prospectors lost a heart-breaking 48-46 decision to Mountain Pointe Monday night to finish second.

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**Prospectors Kick Off Hoops Season**

By **Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

The Prospector varsity basketball team gave a valiant effort in last week’s season-opening Mesa Skyline Hoops Classic but have no wins to show for it as they dropped all three of their tournament games.

Apache Junction fell to Maricopa by a 61-48, lost to (Buckeye) Verrado 69-50 and dropped a 51-43 decision to Skyline, perhaps the team’s best tournament performance.

In their final game against Skyline played this past Wednesday, Apache Junction rallied from a ten-point halftime deficit and closed to within a single point, 41-40, with a little over three minutes to play in the fourth quarter. But the Coyotes then closed out the game with a 10-3 run for the

win. Colt Grandstaff led a balanced attack for Apache Junction with 13 points, 10 rebounds and two assists. Ravi Patel and Demario Hill each added 10 points, Paul Miles netted six points and grabbed eight rebounds, and Michael Cano and Lawrence Johnson both added a

bucket. The Prospectors came up with a tremendous second half rally despite being whistled for 16 fouls in the third and fourth quarters, giving Skyline 12 of their 25 second half points from the foul line. By contrast, the Coyotes committed just seven fouls over the final

two quarters. The Prospectors made 7-of-23 three-point shots in the game to 2-for-12 shooting from behind the arc by Skyline but the Coyotes went the free throw line 29 times in the contest compared to just 13 visits for Apache Junction.

In the Prospectors 19-point loss to Verrado, who won the tournament with a 3-0 record, Grandstaff poured in 20 points to lead AJHS, Hill added nine points, two assists and two steals, Patel also netted nine points, Kyrel Parker scored five points, Miles tossed in four points and pulled down 11 rebounds, and Cano hit a three-pointer to go with three rebounds and two assists.

The Prospectors open the regular season with three

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*The Prospectors Demario Hill (middle, #32, dark jersey) battles for a rebound in a tournament game against Verrado*



*(above) Apache Junction’s Sierra Aulik (#44 in dark jersey) puts up a runner in a tournament game against Tucson Desert View played last week at Queen Creek High School; (below) Lady Prospector center Jessica Iniguez (in dark jersey) draws quite a crowd of Desert View defenders in the tournament game.*

