



Time Out



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'Twas That Week

'Twas the week of Christmas
And all through the town,
Wolfpack players, coaches and fans
Celebrated an AzCAA State crown;

The brown and black stockings
Hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas, a fan of
Football, had lots of gifts to share.

Coach Wagner was nestled,
All snug in his bed,
While the pressures of repeating in
2010 danced in his head.

Dressed in his Wolfpack kerchief,
And donning an Apache Trail cap,
Coach "W" had just settled down
For a well deserved, but short, nap.

When out on his lawn,
There arose such a clatter,
The coach sprang from his bed
To see what was the matter.

Away to the window he limped,
Much less than a flash,
Forgetting the old knee brace,
The Coach nearly crashed.

The moon on the breast
Of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of midday
To objects below.

When, what to his wondering
Eyes should be appear,
But the team of Heritage Heroes
Driven by eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver,
So lively and quick, the Heritage
Coach vowed revenge against the
Wolfpack in 2010, how slick.

More rapid than eagles,
His courses they came,
And he whistled and shouted
And called them by name.

"On Basher! On Crasher!
On Vomit! On Vixen!
Next year, these D-line guys
Are gonna be blitzen."

To the top of the porch!
To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away!
Dash away all!

Then up to roof-top
The courses they flew,
With a sleigh full of more boys,
Just as big as the D-line too.

And then, in a twinkling,
I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing
Of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head
And was turning around,
Down the chimney the grumpy
Heritage coach came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur -
Not exactly football fashion,
His clothes all tarnished from
The State title game mashin'.

He had a very broad face
And a little round belly,
That shook with each bellow
Like a bowl full of jelly.

His eyes - nary a twinkle.
His dimples - less than merry.
His cheeks - not very rosy.
His nose - a little too hairy.

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A.J. Boys Soccer Beats Williams Field, 3-2

By Chuck Baker
The News

After a somewhat lackluster performance in the first half of their match with Williams Field this past Tuesday, and falling behind 2-0 at the break, the Prospector varsity soccer squad came out and played inspired ball the entire second half, perhaps the best forty minutes for an AJHS soccer team in their three-year existence, and rallied for a 3-2 victory at Davis Field.

Apache Junction owned the second half of the match with an aggressive offense led by the play of Jair Ortiz, who scored the game-winning goal off of a penalty kick at the 13:51 mark of the second half, and fellow Prospectors, Kevin Martinez, Jose Medina, Kevin Angulo, Andrew Gyenizez, and Juan Jesse Gonzalez.

Medina got the Prospectors on the scoreboard with his own successful penalty kick



Prospector varsity soccer player Jair Ortiz chases down a ball in last Tuesday's 3-2 victory over Williams Field

at 25:46 of the second half and then Angulo tied the match 2-2 after catching an indirect kick and pass from Ortiz in midair and blasting it past the Williams Field keeper.

Ortiz' game-winning penalty kick came as a result of a terrific pass from Gyenize-

se that put Jair in the open out in front of the Williams Field goal. Ortiz was tripped up from behind, leading to the penalty kick.

Credit the Prospector defense as well in the second half as defenders Jesus

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Lady Prospectors Rout Verrado, 62-36

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospectors scored the first nineteen points in their game last Monday against Buckeye Verrado and cruised to an easy 62-36 win in their only action of the week. Apache Junction improves to 8-3 overall on the season and will play next in the Valley Christian Invitational December 28-30 in Scottsdale.

Apache Junction was on fire to start the game, scoring the nineteen points in the first six minutes of the opening quarter. The Lady Prospectors led by twenty at the half and put it on cruise control in quarters three and four.

Sierra Aulik led a balanced attack with 14 points. She also had three steals and a pair of assists. Sara Cranmer tossed in 13 points to go with seven rebounds and two blocks, Jade Yost scored 11 and also dished out two assists, Jessica Iniguez contributed seven points and seven rebounds, Kylie Boc-



Lady Prospector varsity player Jade Yost (#22) puts up a shot against the Verrado center in last Monday's game. While it may look like a clean block, the Verrado player was called for a foul with body contact, sending Yost to the free throw line. Yost scored 11 points in the game, a 62-36 victory for Apache Junction.

skay netted five points and grabbed five boards, Emily McGann scored four points with a pair of assists, Melissa Ochoa added three points, Diana Woodruff scored a bucket and gave out five assists, Monica Geer also sank

a bucket and Christine Medrano added a free throw.

For the Valley Christian Invitational on December 28, Apache Junction plays Valley Christian at 9:00 a.m.

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Prospector Hoops Drop A Pair

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Prospector varsity basketball team dropped a pair of games this past week, falling to (Buckeye) Verrado 67-50 and losing a 55-43 decision to (Higley) Williams Field.

In Friday's home loss to Williams Field, the game really came down to big offensive spurts by the Black Hawks. After Apache Junction scored the first bucket of the second quarter to take a 15-14 lead, Williams Field then closed out the quarter on a 15-0 run for a 29-17 lead at halftime. And after the Prospectors battled back in the fourth quarter to get to within five of the lead, trailing 40-35 with 4:30 left in regulation, the Black Hawks put together a 10-0 run.

Senior guard Colt Grand-

staff led Apache Junction with 16 points, seven rebounds and three steals. Senior center Paul Miles tossed in eight points and grabbed 10 rebounds, senior guard Mike Cano also netted eight points and handed out a pair of assists, junior Dalawn Caldwell scored five points, Jared Kraps, who was promoted up from the junior varsity squad, sank a three-pointer and grabbed six rebounds, and senior guard D'Mario Hill also made a three-pointer.

Apache Junction and Verrado were locked in a tight ball game through three quarters but then the Vipers went on a 14-0 run to open the fourth quarter to pull away for the win. Grandstaff tossed in 20 points in the loss while Hill added 11 points.

Apache Junction is playing

in the Maricopa Tournament this next Tuesday, December 29 and Wednesday, December 30 during the holiday break. On Monday, Apache Junction plays at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m., and on Tuesday, they play at 10:45 a.m. Wins and losses in the first three "pool play" game will determine the remainder of the schedule on Wednesday.

J.V. Splits A Pair

The Prospector junior varsity team split their two games, defeating Verrado 63-48 but dropping a 49-42 decision to Williams Field. In Friday's loss to Williams Field, John LaChapelle scored nine points and pulled down nine rebounds, T.J. Johnson scored eight points to go with eight rebounds and four steals, Jared Kraps

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A.J. Elks Hoop Shoot Champions



By Gay Hayward
Special Report

On Saturday, December 12, the annual Elks Hoop Shoot competition was held at Apache Junction High School and approximately ninety boys and girls ranging in age from eight to thirteen participated in the free throw shooting competition sponsored by the Elks Lodge #2349.

The top free throw shooter at the event was Thunder Mountain Middle School's Adam Abatacola (pictured above with Bob Phillips of the Elks) who sank 19-of-25 free throws to finish first in the boys 12-13 age group.

Adam will now join with Nazareth Greer (11-12) of Four Peaks Elementary School, Brigham Milkey (8-9) from Peralta Trail Elementary School,

Monica Henry (12-13) of Thunder Mountain, Sydney Burton (10-11) from Four Peaks, and Ashley Friend-Purtee (8-9) of Desert Vista Elementary School and represent Apache Junction at the Arizona Eastern District Hoop Shoot to be held January 23, 2010 in Miami.

Second place finishers at the local competition included Gunnar Elliot (12-13, TMMS), Clayten McCarthy (10-11, FPES), Dylan Breen (8-9, FPES), Makena Gateb (12-13, TMMS), Jasmine Graham (10-11, PTES), and Valentina Valenzuela (8-9, Gold Canyon Elementary School).

The Elks organization would like to thank all of the participants, their parents and their coaches for the level of competition and wonderful turnout for the event.

Wolfpack All-State

QB Brian Mayfield and OL/DL Bryce Gardner named 1A All-State

By Chuck Baker
The News

Two Apache Trail Wolfpack seniors, quarterback Brian Mayfield and lineman Bryce Gardner were selected to the 1A All-State Conference football team as chosen by the Arizona Football Coaches Association. Both were instrumental in helping to lead the Apache Trail to the AzCAA State Championship title and an 11-1 overall record.

Mayfield, listed at 5-10 and 181 pounds on the team roster, completed 87-of-178 passes this season for 2,204 yards and 24 touchdowns and also rushed for 1,014 yards and 25 additional scores.

Gardner, listed at 6-4 and 352 pounds, played both offensive and defensive lineman for the Wolfpack this season and on defense, was credited with 45 tackles, two sacks, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

This was just Apache Trail's second season of



Brian Mayfield



Bryce Gardner

eight-man tackle football. After going 2-6 a year ago, Apache Trail defeated Mesa Heritage 28-26 on November 21 at Phoenix Christian High School to capture their state title.



Prospector guard Dalawn Caldwell (left) puts up a short shot in Friday's game against Williams Field