

Time Out



Chuck Baker
News Sports Editor
cbaker@ajnews.com

Top Sports Persons

Here are some of my top sports persons of 2009:

- Brian Mayfield – junior quarterback for the Apache Trail Wolfpack helped lead his team to an 11-1 overall record and the 2009 AzCAA "Class B" State Championship crown. In the 28-26 victory over the Heritage Academy in the title game, Mayfield threw for 279 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 63 yards and a score. On the season, the junior signal caller threw for 2,204 yards and 24 touchdowns and added 1,014 yards and 25 touchdowns on the ground;

- Coach Dave Wagner – staying with the Wolfpack football team, Coach Wagner deserves much of the credit for the Wolfpack's incredible turn-around in just two seasons, going from 2-6 in 2008 to 11-1 and the AzCAA State crown in '09;
- Cy Maughmer – The senior at Apache Junction High School will graduate in May and likely be headed to the college of his choice to continue his football career. Maughmer, who was also a runner-up at the 4A-I State Championships as a junior wrestler, was listed by the recruiting organization, *Scout.com*, as the top defensive lineman prospect in the state of Arizona who is listed at 6-2 and 292 pounds. According to an article published by *Scout.com* this Summer, Cy was already generating interest from such colleges as Air Force, Arizona, Arizona State, New Mexico State and Portland State, with an official offer from Air Force.

Unfortunately, Cy injured his leg in the team's final game of the regular season and missed the first round State playoff game against Glendale Independence. Let's hope he fully recovers and offers from college football programs continue to come his way;

- Diana Woodruff – A senior at Apache Junction High School, Diana was a star in both cross country and volleyball in the Fall, is currently a starting guard for the Lady Prospector basketball team this Winter, and will likely be a star long distance runner for the track and field team in the Spring. Listed at 5-4 in the basketball program, she may be lacking in height but she more than makes up for it with her determination, hard work and hustle. She is being recruited by colleges as a Libero in volleyball;

As for the single biggest individual sports feat accomplished in 2009, you have to consider the nine iron I hit on the par three, seventh at Gold Canyon's Sidewinder course that spun backward and into the cup for my first career hole-in-one. Can anyone top that?

2009 Top Sports Story

Apache Trail Wolfpack Crowned State Champs



In just their second year of eight-man tackle football, the Apache Trail Wolfpack knocked off Mesa Heritage Academy 28-26 on November 21, 2009 at Phoenix Christian High School to capture the 2009 Arizona Charter Athletic Association "Class B" State Championship title. Members of the State Championship team 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. Mayfield, the team's junior quarterback, was named Most Valuable Player of the State title game, and just recently, both he and offensive and defensive lineman Gardner were selected to the Arizona Football Coaches Association 1A Conference All-State team.

2009 Top Sports Story Runners-Up
AJHS Baseball Heads To Chase Field

There's an old saying in sports that playing to a tie is like kissing your sister. Unless, perhaps, that tie took place inside Chase Field, the home of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Approximately 45 minutes after the Diamondbacks defeated the Colorado Rockies 2-0 on Wednesday, April 22 to win their first series of the MLB season, the Apache Junction Prospectors and Glendale Independence Patriots took to the diamond inside Chase Field, and with the roof closed, played the final game of an eight-game D-Backs promotion where 16 Arizona high schools were given the thrill of a lifetime by playing a game on the same field as the pros.

Independence struck first in the game, scoring a run in the bottom of the second inning but the Prospectors bounced back with three runs in the top half of the third inning, the key hit a triple to the wall in center field by the Prospectors



The Prospector varsity baseball team pictured inside Chase Field on April 22 for a special, thrill-of-a-lifetime game against Glendale Independence

Josh Mullenix.

Apache Junction then stretched its lead to 5-1 with two more runs in the fourth inning on a run-scoring single by Mike Caruana to score Gabe Weaver and a sacrifice fly off the bat of Nathan Higginbottom to score Caruana.

Independence came back with two runs in both the fourth and fifth innings to tie the game and had two runners aboard with two

outs in the bottom of the sixth inning when AJHS catcher Ryan Howard made a diving catch of a towering pop fly behind home plate while falling backward to end the game in a 5-5 tie.

Prospector head coach Preston English said he hopes to be able to make the trip to Chase Field an annual event for the team. If he can pull that off, it would be a season highlight for the AJHS players for years to come.

AJHS Varsity Cheerleaders Score Big At NCA Summer Camp

The varsity cheer squad from Apache Junction High School scored big at this Summer's National Cheer Association camp held July 15-18 at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

The AJHS girls brought home another Herkie Team Award, two SPOT awards, an award for Technical Excellence, three Superior ribbons and one Excellent ribbon for their performances, the Overall Spirit Megaphone Award voted on by other cheer squads at the camp, a Spirit Stick and a bid to the National Championships.

As for individual awards at the NCA camp, Liz Van Dyke and Nicole Copley were chosen All-American Cheer Squad members, Chyna Gade picked up the



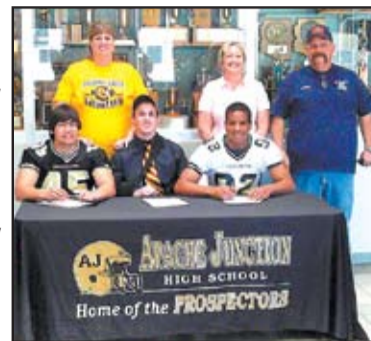
Leadership Award, Van Dyke also earned the NCA Staff Offer, and Brittany Weese, Nicole Schmidt, Tiffani Hernandez, Lauren Stewart, Gade, Janie Hoyt, Nikki Dillon, Kara Geil, Van Dyke, Copley and Kelli Peterson were selected All-American Cheer Squad nominees.

Other varsity cheer squad members for the 2009-10 season include Brittany Rials, Shelby Williams, Amanda Woodgrift, Jessie Schroeder, Taylor Harvey, Brooke Gloor and Desiree Garcia, and the squad is coached by Natalie Celis in her first season at the helm.

Top Sports Stories Of '09 (by Month)

February

Three Prospector senior football players (seated, left to right) Justin Ferman, Shane McCullen and Rusty Fernando, signed their letters of intent on



Wednesday, February 4 inside the north campus gymnasium. Ferman and Fernando were both headed to Glendale Community College in the Fall while McCullen was off to Arizona State University to continue his football endeavors. Also pictured standing are Brandi McCullen (left), Shane's mom, along with Vicki Fernando (middle) and Cecil Fendley (right), Rusty's mother and uncle.

LD Marathon Tops 2,500 Participants

The eighth running of the Lost Dutchman Marathon on Sunday, February 15, drew more than 2,500 participants setting a new attendance mark but none of the five events, marathon, half-marathon, 10K, 8K and 2-mile Fun Run/Walk saw new record times established.

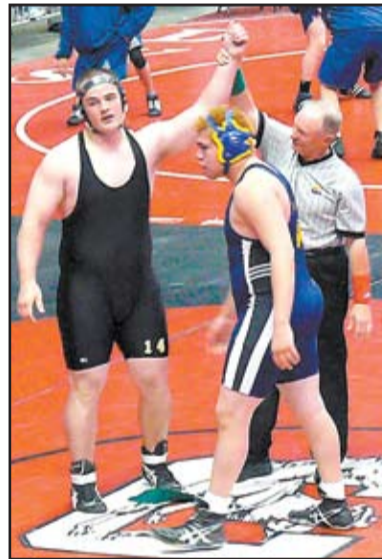
In the main event, the 26.2-mile marathon that started at Peralta Trailhead, winding through the streets of Gold Canyon before ending up at Prospector Park in Apache Junction, Blue Benadum from Malibu, Calif., won the men's race with a time of 2:42.14 while Mary Hanna of Maple Valley, Wash., won the women's race with a time of 3:17.19.

LD Marathon records are 2:30.57 for men set back in 2004 by Wilson Kagiri Gathiha of Kenya and 3:04.43 set last year by Tracy Thelen of Colorado Springs, Colo.

The top local marathoner was Lawrence Wharton of Gold Canyon with a personal best time of 3:38.47, good for 55th place overall in the men's race. A total of 191 runners from Gold Canyon and Apache Junction competed in the 2009 event.

Cy Maughmer Runner-Up At State

In just his first season of wrestling competition, Apache Junction High School junior Cy Maughmer (hand being raised in victory in photo below) nearly went all the way. In fact, in most years, Maughmer might have captured a State wrestling title. Only in 2009, his nemesis, Doug Zisman of Phoenix Shadow Mountain, got in the way.



Maughmer won his first three matches in the 275-pound weight class at the 4A-I State Wrestling Championships held February 20 and 21 to advance to the championship finals but lost to Zisman via a second period pin to settle for a runner-up finish.

Zisman wrapped up a perfect 22-0 season at 275 pounds while Maughmer finished his first year of competition with a terrific 37-6 overall record and a second place State medal to boot. Of Maughmer's six losses during the season, his last two came against Zisman, one at the State finals and one at the Desert Sky Region finals held February 14 at AJHS.

Maughmer was the only AJHS wrestler to advance to the finals at the State Championships. Junior Chase Converse (119 pounds) ended up placing 3rd while senior Minh Huynh (140 pounds), senior Taylor Hamlin (189 pounds) and junior Brandon Dudley (215 pounds), all ended up placing 6th.

March
Catching Up With Katie Corbin

Former Lady Prospector softball star Katie Corbin, who was a freshman at South Mountain Community College this past Spring, enjoyed quite a season playing for the Lady Cougars.



Although South Mountain CC struggled during the softball season with a losing record, Corbin was certainly one of the team's bright stars, posting the team's second highest batting average this season at .314 and was among the team leaders in hits, doubles, RBI, runs scored and on-base percentage. Katie also drew the praise of SMCC head coach Kristina Schmallen.

"Katie is starting at catcher for us and batting fifth. She is a great aspect for our team. She is a hard worker and does everything I ask and beyond. Katie is someone who pays attention to detail. She has matured a