



Time Out



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Roller Coaster

Friday's Apache Junction-Saguaro girls varsity basketball game was a lot like the Arizona Cardinals playoff game with Green Bay, although the girls know how to play some defense. If you missed it, well, sorry.

It was an emotional and roller coaster ride for the Lady Prospectors the last few days of last week when you consider the strange overtime loss at Maricopa and the 51-50 win over Saguaro. In that loss at Maricopa, AJHS actually rallied from a five-point deficit and tied the game at the end of regulation, or at least they thought.

A young, high school girl who was keeping the official scorebook somehow discovered an extra point in the book for Maricopa and officials came over the AJHS bench after the fourth quarter and told the Lady Prospectors they had lost the game as they were huddled and preparing for the overtime period.

Well, after protests from AJHS and twenty-five minutes of discussions, they decided to play an overtime after all but Maricopa prevailed in the extra period by ten points, leaving the Lady Prospectors more tears to wipe away at the end of the night.

We'll have to see how the up-and-down games with Maricopa and Saguaro will impact this Tuesday's big showdown for first place in the Desert Sky Region when Apache Junction travels to Cave Creek to take on Cactus Shadows. Both teams are 3-0 in the region thus far.

Wrestling News

This Wednesday is your last chance to catch the Prospector wrestling team at home when they host four different schools. The action begins at 4:00 p.m.

Three AJHS Wrestlers Win Titles

Prospectors finish 4th as a team at A.J. Invitational

By Chuck Baker
The News

Three Prospectors wrestlers won individual weight class titles at the A.J. Invitational held January 8 and 10, and as a team, Apache Junction finished fourth overall in the 14-team event.

Senior Dallon Bush won the 119-pound weight class when he edged Jake Sondrup of Tempe Marcos De Niza 5-4 in the championship match, junior Chase Converse captured the 125-pound title by pinning Kaleb Cisneros of Scottsdale Coronado in 1:33, and sophomore Trent McMinn won the 130-pound title with a thirty-four second pin victory over Jesse Morales of Marcos De Niza. The only other Prospector wrestler to place was senior Thomas Eckhardt, who finished fourth in the

145-pound weight class. Mesa Skyline defeated Marcos De Niza 36-30 to capture the team championship title and Apache Junction lost to Coronado 45-35 in the 3rd-4th place team match. Also at the tournament, Chandler Perry was fifth beating Williams Field 40-27, and Tempe finished seventh with a 57-18 victory over Morenci.

The Prospector wrestling team also competed this past Wednesday in multi-day matches at Chandler Seton Catholic.

Apache Junction will make their final home appearance of the regular season this Wednesday, January 20, hosting Tempe McClintock, Cottonwood Mingus, Scottsdale Saguaro and Williams Field. The action begins at 4:00 p.m. and AJHS will compete against all four opponents.



Dallon Bush
119 pounds



Chase Converse
125 pounds



Trent McMinn
130 pounds

Lady Prospectors 3-0 In Region Hoops

Rally Friday for 51-50 win over Saguaro

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospectors leading scorer on the season, junior Sierra Aulik, was struggling to find her shot in last Friday's key Desert Sky Region showdown with Scottsdale Saguaro. Until it mattered most, that is.

Aulik first banked in left-handed runner with thirty-six seconds left in regulation to give Apache Junction a 49-48 lead over the Lady Sabercats. Then, after Saguaro scored to regain the lead, 50-49, Aulik put up a twelve foot jump shot from

the baseline and got the bounce to go her way for a change, putting the Lady Prospectors back in front, 51-50, with 14.1 left to go.

Saguaro then used their final two time-outs to get a throw-in in front of their own bench with just seven seconds to play but Aulik stole the in-bounds pass and was fouled. She missed the front end of the one-and-one, Saguaro was able to chase down the rebound but couldn't move the ball past half court before the buzzer sounded.

Not only was Friday's win over Saguaro the biggest

for the Lady Prospectors in a few years, coupled with last Tuesday's 49-37 win at Tempe McClintock, it gave Apache Junction a 3-0 start in the Desert Sky Region. The Lady Prospectors also improved to 15-6 overall on the season.

Senior forward Kylie Bocskey and senior guard Emily McGann also made big buckets for Apache Junction late in the fourth quarter against Saguaro. Bocskey, who came off the bench and played terrific the final three minutes of the game, sank her only basket of the game with 1:36 left to play, pulling Apache Junction to within 48-47. In those final few minutes, Bocskey had three rebounds, an assist, a steal and her big bucket.

McGann, who finished the game with eight points and three steals, hit a jumper from the top of the key to pull Apache Junction to within three, 48-45, with a little over three minutes to go.

Aulik finished the game with 15 points, seven rebounds, three steals and two assists. Senior center Jessi-

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AJHS coach Brock Kearsley leaps high with excitement just after his Lady Prospectors upset #2 Saguaro

Boys Soccer Team Drops A Pair

By Chuck Baker
The News

Apache Junction's boys varsity soccer team fell 3-0 to Tempe McClintock this past Tuesday despite outplaying the Chargers from start to finish according to Coach Josh Babcock. In fact, Coach Babcock said his Prospectors limited McClintock to just four shots on goal the entire match, two of those being break-away shots and goals.

Babcock also said the officiating in the match was very questionable and one-sided and he even prepared a long list of complaints to forward to the Arizona Interscholastic Association.

Last Thursday's home match with Queen Creek was a different story though. The Bulldogs needed just eleven seconds to score the

first goal of the match and they continued to put the ball in the net with regularity on their way to a 10-4 victory. Queen Creek dominated early in the match and built up a 9-1 lead but you have to credit the Prospectors for not giving up and continuing to play hard.

Led on offense by the hustle of Jose Medina, Jesse Gonzalez, Andrew Duarte, Andrew Gyenizse, Kevin Martinez and Giovanni Garibay, Apache Junction closed out the match scoring three times over the final twenty-nine minutes and actually out-shot the Bulldogs in half number two, eight to seven.

Senior Kevin Martinez scored Apache Junction's first goal that came with 5:42 left in the first half.

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Prospectors Get 6th Basketball Win

By Chuck Baker
The News

Normally you wouldn't consider six wins in a basketball season to be much of a milestone. But for a basketball team that had won just three games in each of the last two seasons, doubling up that total halfway into the 2009-10 season has been a pretty big feat for the Prospector basketball team at Apache Junction High School.

The third time was the charm for AJHS last Wednesday as they knocked off the Maricopa Rams 58-45 to pick up their sixth win of the season against twelve losses. Earlier this season, the Prospectors suffered losses to Maricopa in two separate tournaments.

But last Wednesday, despite losing both of their centers to five fouls early in the fourth quarter, Apache Junction held on impressively down the stretch for a big win.

Senior center Paul Miles scored 10 points and grabbed 12 rebounds before fouling out of the game just twenty-three seconds into the fourth quarter, and junior center Lawrence Johnson, who contributed four points, four rebounds and three blocked shots, fouled out of the game with 6:26 left on the clock.

The slack was picked up by senior guards Colt Grandstaff, Michael Cano and D-Mario Hill, who combined for 33 points. Grandstaff netted 17 and also pulled down nine rebounds, Cano



Prospector senior center Paul Miles puts in two of his 10 points in last Wednesday's 58-45 win over Maricopa

netted 10 points and Hill scored six points.

Also for Apache Junction, Dalawn Caldwell scored four points, Ravi Patel added three points, Johnson LaChapelle and Jake Ab-

batacola both added a bucket and Kyrel Parker contributed with eight rebounds.

On Tuesday of last week, despite playing tough in the

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Prospector senior Kevin Martinez (second from right) handles the ball for the AJHS offense in their match last Thursday with Queen Creek. Martinez scored a lifty goal for Apache Junction with some fancy footwork but it wasn't enough as the Bulldogs routed the Prospectors 10-4.