

Time Out



Chuck Baker
News Sports Editor
cbaker@ajnews.com

Softball Challenge

Apache Junction girls softball coach Ed Matlosz was talking "smack" last week, reminding us how his Lady Prospectors have defeated the AJHS Alumni in four of the five Alumni softball games played while he has been the head coach. Of course, the AJHS Alumni won their first game just last year, and Matlosz promises "revenge will be sweet" in 2010.

The annual Lady Prospector vs. AJHS Alumni Softball Game will be played on Saturday, February 13 starting at 10:00 a.m. and all former AJHS softball players who would like to participate in the game should contact Coach Matlosz via email at ematlosz@ajusd.org;

Region Wrestling

Apache Junction will be the host site for this year's Desert Sky Region Wrestling Tournament with qualifying for the 4A-I State Championships at stake. The meet will be held at AJHS on Saturday, February 6 beginning at 12:00 noon. Participating teams include Scottsdale Saguaro, Queen Creek, Tempe McClintock, Poston Butte, Williams Field, Gilbert Campo Verde and Apache Junction.

Keep an eye on AJHS wrestlers Dallan Bush (119 lbs.), Chase Converse (125 lbs.), Trent McMinn (130 lbs.), Thomas Eckhardt (140 lbs.) and Brandon Dudley (215 lbs.), all with a good chance to qualify for State;

Colt 45

That's how many points Prospector senior guard Colt Grandstaff might have to "shoot for" if AJHS is going to win. He scored 28 with 14 rebounds in a close loss to Queen Creek, and netted 33 points with six boards in an 11-point loss to McClintock.

AJHS Pays Tribute To Soccer Seniors

By Chuck Baker
The News

Both the boys and girls varsity soccer teams paid tribute to their senior players this past week, the boys on Wednesday before they hosted Peoria Liberty, the girls last Monday before the match with Prescott.

Unfortunately for the Lady Prospectors, a victory at Davis Field in their final home match didn't materialize as they fell by a final score of 8-0. The Prospectors, however, got a game-winning goal from Jair Ortiz with just 17.2 seconds remaining in overtime to edge Liberty, 3-2. The game-winner was set up by a pass from Jesse Gonzalez to Ortiz, who dribble twenty yards, beat one Liberty defender, and then blasted the ball into the net giving Apache Junction the win.

Ladies In PINK



(above) The Lady Prospector varsity team huddles during a time out in last Tuesday's game against Queen Creek wearing pink uniforms in honor of breast cancer awareness



(above) The Lady Prospector junior varsity team poses for a picture wearing the pink uniforms before last Tuesday's game with Queen Creek. Players are (front row, left to right) Rebecca Thielbar, Jennifer Gallina, Siobhan McKay, Carly Reid, Naomi Begay, Heather Wyatt (back) and Candice Koontz (front), and (back row, left to right) Al'Lexus White, Shannon Ochs, Erin Herbert, Kyana Soper, Rachael Bonow and Emily Kelly.

Prospectors Come Up Short Against QC, 71-67

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Prospector varsity basketball team came close to getting their seventh win of the season when they hosted Queen Creek this past Tuesday but in the end, came up on the short end of a 71-67 decision.

Senior Colt Grandstaff posted a double-double for Apache Junction, scoring 28 points and grabbing 14 rebounds but it wasn't enough. D'Mario Hill scored 14 points for the Prospectors, Ravi Patel netted 10 points, Mike Cano tossed in seven points, Lawrence Johnson scored four points and grabbed four rebounds, and Kyrel Parker and Ar-



Apache Junction's Kyrel Parker puts up a short jump shot in last Tuesday's home game against Queen Creek

mando Zuniga both scored a bucket. Both teams missed some scoring opportunities from the foul line. Queen Creek

went 12-for-24 while the Prospectors hit on eight-of-18 at the charity stripe. Apache Junction led 36-32 at halftime and throughout

AJHS girls raise money for breast cancer awareness and pick up another region hoops win

By Chuck Baker
The News

All in all, last Tuesday's special night of basketball at Apache Junction High School was a huge success. With the Lady Prospector junior varsity and varsity teams donning pink jerseys in support of breast cancer awareness, the AJHS girls raised some money to fight breast cancer and both squads picked up Desert Sky Region wins on the court, beating Queen Creek.

The junior varsity girls won their game over Queen Creek, rallying from a 31-19 third quarter deficit for a 44-40 victory behind 16 points, eight rebounds and five steals from Rachael Bonow, while the varsity girls rolled to a 50-17 victory behind 12 points and five rebounds from senior center Jessica Iniguez.

In between the two girls games, the Prospector boys varsity team hosted Queen Creek and in a see-saw battle throughout, the Bulldogs pulled off a 71-67 victory.

The Lady Prospector varsity team had an easy time defeating Queen Creek, so much so that Coach Brock Kearsley began emptying his bench in the third quarter, even giving some playing time to girls off of the AJHS freshmen squad.

Junior Sierra Aulik scored eight points, grabbed six rebounds, came up with five

steals and handed out a pair of assists in addition to the 12 scored by Iniguez.

Sophomore Jade Yost also tossed in eight points, senior Emily McGann netted five points and added five steals and four rebounds, senior Kylie Bocskay had four points and five boards, seniors Diana Woodruff and Sara Cranmer both added three points, junior Melissa Ochoa and sophomores Christine Medrano and Siobhan McKay all scored a bucket, freshman Ashley Price contributed with four rebounds and freshman Ja-nae Avelar sank a free throw and gave out an assist.

The Lady Prospectors then improved to 16-7 overall and 5-1 in the Desert Sky Region with last Friday's 41-25 victory at Tempe McClintock. Aulik tossed in 19 points and had six rebounds and five steals and Iniguez posted a double-double, scoring 12 points with 14 rebounds.

Also for AJHS in the win over McClintock, Cranmer scored six points, Woodruff hit a bucket and had five rebounds, and McGann also scored a bucket to go with four rebounds.

"We played our best game of the year," Coach Kearsley said about the win, "especially being on the road. The girls played with great energy and hard work the

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most of the second half, their last lead, 64-63, with 1:54 left in the fourth quarter.

Apache Junction also hosted the region's top team in Tempe McClintock last Friday night and dropped an 83-72 decision despite 33 points, six rebounds and four steals from Grandstaff.

After a close first half with McClintock holding a 39-36 lead, the Chargers exploded for 36 points in the third quarter to grab a 28-point lead. But the never-say-die Prospectors fought back, starting the final quarter with an 11-0 run and getting as close as nine points in the second half.

Cano added 10 points and four rebounds for AJHS, Parker netted nine points, Miles scored six points and had five boards, Hill and Dalawn Caldwell each tallied five points, Patel and Johnson both added a bucket, and Jake Abbatacola contributed three steals and an assist.

The Prospectors play their final two region contests this week, hosting Scottsdale Saguaro on Tuesday, February 2 and playing at Cave Creek Cactus Shadows this

Friday, February 5. For both dates, the AJHS freshmen team tips off at 4:00 p.m. followed by the junior varsity team at 5:30 p.m. Also this week, the AJHS junior varsity and freshmen teams play at Combs on Wednesday, February 3, the freshmen playing at 4:00 p.m. and the junior varsity following at 5:30 p.m.

J.V. Results

The junior varsity boys took on the top two region teams this past week and dropped both, falling to Queen Creek 71-67, and losing to McClintock, 67-54.

In the loss to Queen Creek, AJHS trailed by 14 entering the final quarter and cut the lead to two points before finally losing by four. John LaChapelle poured in 19 points, Richie Pagels netted 12, Jared Kraps tossed in 10, Dalawn Caldwell scored 9, Lawrence Johnson, Matthew Neger and David Sandoval all scored four points, Ernie Bracamonte had three points and T.J. Johnson added a bucket.

In the loss to McClintock, see **Hoops**, page B-3

AJHS Pays Tribute To Soccer Seniors



Lady Prospector senior Kenia Felix chases down a ball in last Monday's match against Prescott while senior Lauren Brownlee (left) looks on

of twenty-three freshmen or sophomore players involved in the AJHS boys soccer program, which bodes well for the next couple of future seasons.

Soccer began as a club sport at AJHS in 2003 and then played two seasons, 2005 and 2006, as a junior varsity sport. The first varsity teams

at Apache Junction began play in 2007. Current team members, Garibay and Horton, both seniors, and Gamboa, a junior, played on the first varsity boys team as underclassmen. As for the first Lady Prospector varsity team, also in 2007, Amada,

see **Seniors**, page B-6



Prospector senior Ravi Patel (#34) fires from long range in last week's varsity game against Queen Creek