



**National
Letter Of
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Day,**
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Time Out



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Marathon Photos

This weekend I will be in Laughlin, Nevada on our annual fantasy football "guys only" trek and will miss a couple of local events, including the Lost Dutchman Marathon scheduled for this Sunday, February 14. If anyone is planning to take photos of a local runner from Apache Junction or Gold Canyon participating in one of the LDM races and would like to have the picture considered for our Monday, February 22 edition, please email the photo to me using my email address listed above.

Wrestling Pics

The other local event I will miss is this week's 4A-I State Wrestling Championships up in Prescott Valley and the same invitation applies. Have a photo of one of our AJHS wrestlers competing at State? - you can email it to me for the February 22 edition.

Boys B-Ball

Congratulations to the Prospector varsity basketball team for their 60-54 win over Scottsdale Saguaro last Tuesday. It was the team's seventh win of this season and their first region victory since the 2006-07 season when they were members of the 4A-II East Sky Region. For a group of kids who work as hard as this group does, 13 total wins over the past three seasons just doesn't seem fair.

Triple Your Pleasure

What a game it was for the Prospector freshmen boys last Tuesday against Saguaro. Tied at the end of regulation, 44-44, first Trevor White makes a jump shot with 3.1 left of the overtime period to send the game to a second overtime. And later, as the buzzer sounded at the end of the third overtime, John McCune's jumper from just inside the three-point line hits nothing but net, giving the AJHS boys a 63-61, triple-overtime win.

AJHS Spring Sports Schedules Available

Spring sports at Apache Junction High School that includes baseball, softball, tennis, and track and field kicks off in two weeks week with the Lady Prospector softball team competing in the 19th Annual Dobson-Marcos de Niza Tournament.

The AJHS girls play on Wednesday, February 24 against Mesa Westwood at 2:00 p.m. and against Glendale Mountain Ridge at 4:00 p.m. On Thursday, February 25, the Lady Prospectors play against Tempe Marcos de Niza at 2:00 p.m.. On Friday, February 26, AJHS plays against Chandler Hamilton at 2:00 p.m. and against

AJHS Girls Split Final Region Games

4A-I State Tournament begins February 16; Can the AJHS girls get a home game in the first round?

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity basketball team will advance to the 4A-I State Tournament. That much we know. But can they finish the regular season with a high enough power ranking to land them a home game in the first round?

Apache Junction began last week at number nine in the 4A-I power rankings. They knocked off Scottsdale Saguaro on Tuesday and by Wednesday, had moved up a spot to number eight in the rankings. But the Lady Prospectors also lost for the second time this season to region-leading Cave Creek Cactus Shadows on Friday.

It remains to be seen what

impact on the power rankings the loss to Cactus Shadows would have. Perhaps very little considering Cactus Shadows was number three in the overall rankings.

And with just two games remaining in the regular season, today, Monday, February 8 at Williams Field, and this Wednesday, February 10 at home against Tucson Pueblo, would a victory or two land the AJHS girls with an eighth seed or higher in the final rankings.

That's what it will take for the Lady Prospectors to get a home game in the first round of the State Tournament. The top sixteen teams in the final power rankings all advance to the State tournament. The top eight seeds

all get a home game in the first round.

We won't know for sure who AJHS plays in the first round or where the game will be played until the seed meeting is held this week. We do know that the first round games in the State Tournament take place on Tuesday, February 16 at the site of the higher seed. You might be able to check on the www.aiaonline.org website later this week or certainly on Monday, February 15 to get the information.

In last Tuesday's 51-41 win over Saguaro, the Lady Prospectors trailed 19-18 at halftime but put up twenty points in the third quarter and went on to win by ten.

"That (the win over Saguaro) was a great road win for



AJHS senior center Jessica Iniguez hauls down one of her seven rebounds in Friday's game against Cactus Shadows

us and a must win to at least have a chance at being co-region champs," head coach Brock Kearsley said. "Sara Cranmer really was the difference in the game. She gave us the lift we needed to take the lead in the third quarter by scoring ten points in the quarter."

Cranmer finished the game see **Hoops**, page B-2

Prospectors Upset Saguaro, 60-54

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Prospector varsity basketball team earned their biggest win in three seasons when they upset Scottsdale Saguaro 60-54 last Tuesday night, a win by AJHS that could dampen the playoff hopes for the Sabercats.

Saguaro came into the game with an 8-6 record and a #15 spot in the 4A-I power point rankings. Since the top sixteen teams in the final rankings earn a spot in the 4A-I State Tournament, the loss to Apache Junction could really do damage to Saguaro's post season hopes.

Senior guards Colt Grandstaff and D'Mario Hill both netted 17 points in the win while senior guard Mike Cano added 11 points. Senior forward Kyrel Parker netted six points and grabbed seven rebounds, junior for-

ward Ravi Patel also netted six points, and sophomore center John LaChapelle added three points and three rebounds.

The win by the Prospectors was their first in the region since the 2006-07 season when they were a member of the 4A-II East Sky Region. And head coach Dale Richardson was elated.

"D'Mario (Hill) hit ten consecutive free throws to keep us up in the game and we ran the offense well in the fourth quarter," Coach Richardson said. "Kyrel (Parker) did a great job shutting down their big man in the second half, and Colt (Grandstaff) and Mike (Cano) finally get a dividend for all of their hard work."

Also last week, Apache Junction dropped a 70-59 decision at Cave Creek Cactus Shadows on Friday despite holding a 30-29 half-time lead. Grandstaff tossed

in 22 points to lead the Prospectors and Cano netted 12.

The Prospectors wrap up their season tonight, Monday, February 8, hosting Dysart. The AJHS freshmen team tips off at 4:00 p.m. today, followed by the junior varsity at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity at 7:00 p.m. The game will also serve as "Senior Night" for the varsity squad as they pay tribute to their senior players, including Grandstaff, Hill, Cano, Parker, Paul Miles, Jake Abatacola, Armando Zuniga and Andrew Smith.

J.V. Wins

The Prospector junior varsity team got 19 points and nine rebounds from John LaChapelle, 12 points and eight boards from T.J. Johnson and 12 points, seven steals, five rebounds and three assists from Dalawn Caldwell and knocked off Saguaro 58-53 last Tuesday. Ernie Bracamonte netted seven points to go with four rebounds and two steals, Richie Pagels added six points, four steals and three assists, Jared Kraps sank a bucket and Jake Pacyne sank a free throw.

Freshmen Win In 3 OT

John McCune knocked down a jump shot from just inside the three-point line at the buzzer of a third overtime to left the Prospector freshmen team to an exciting and well-earned 63-61 victory over Saguaro. McCune, who finished the game with six points, five

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Prospector forward Kyrel Parker (#14) puts up a jump shot in last Tuesday's home game against Scottsdale Saguaro as John LaChapelle (left, #54) and Colt Grandstaff (second from left) move into position for a possible rebound.

Cool Kids Club Sends Three to NBA Fit Regionals

Three participants in Apache Junction's Parks and Recreation's Cool Kids Club advanced to the Regional Competition in the NBA Fit Challenge on December 17 in Glendale, AZ. The NBA Fit Challenge was a free event available to boys and girls ages 5 to 14 who participate in one of the three Cool Kids Club programs available after school at the local elementary schools.

The purpose of the NBA Fit Challenge is to encourage physical exercise in young people while promoting sportsmanship and health benefits of an active lifestyle. Participants showcased their fitness and agility skills in a variety of timed challenges like line

sprints, defensive shuffles, and jump roping. Samson Cranmer, Jessica Sigler, and Evan Quiroz finished in the top eight scorers in Arizona (in their age group) advancing them to the Regional Competition.

Congratulations to Samson Cranmer (pictured below with the Phoenix Suns Gorilla) who finished second overall in the Boys 11/12 age group and to Jessica Sigler who finished third overall in the Girls 9/10 age group in the NBA Fit Regional Competition. Great job!

For more information about after school programs in the community, please contact the Apache Junction Parks and Recreation office at (480) 983-2181.



2010 Schedules Available On-Line @ www.ajhs.ajusd.org

