

*Time Out*



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# Region Champs

By Chuck Baker  
*The News*

Three wrestlers from Apache Junction were crowned Desert Sky Region champions at the region meet held Saturday, February 6 and hosted by AJHS. Sophomore Trent McMinn captured the region title in the 132-pound weight class, senior Brandon Dudley won the 217-pound weight class, and senior Dylan Munyon was crowned the 287-pound weight class champ.

The three Prospector wrestlers were among a total of eight who qualified for last week's 4A-I State Championships by finishing first, second or third at the region meet. The others who joined the AJHS region champs at the State Championships were senior Dallon Bush (121 pounds), senior Chase Converse (127 pounds), senior Thomas Eckhardt (142 pounds), and senior Chris Freed (154 pounds) who all placed second in their weight class at the region meet, and freshman Derek Craig (162 pounds), who placed third.

McMinn was 2-0 at the region meet, first defeating a wrestler from Cave Creek Cactus Shadows in the semifinals via a pin, and then pinning his Queen Creek opponent in the finals. McMinn's season record improved to 30-2 overall and would have made him a high seed at last week's 4A State Championship.

Dudley was also 2-0 at the region meet, winning with a first period pin over a wres-

tlar from Gilbert Campo Verde in the semifinals, and then coming up with a 6-4 decision win over Daniel Bowman of Queen Creek in the finals.

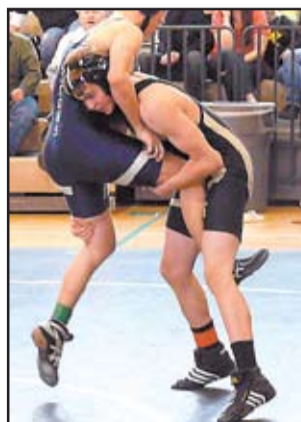
The match between Dudley and Bowman was tied 4-4 with about forty seconds left in the third period when Brandon registered a two-point take-down and then held on for the win to see his season record improve to 31-4.

Munyon won his semifinal match in the 287-pound division with a second period pin over a wrestler from Campo Verde and then pinned his Combs opponent in the finals at 1:39 of the first period. Munyon's win was a bit of an upset. Sean Little of Combs was 23-1 overall while Dylan improved to 18-9 overall with his victory.

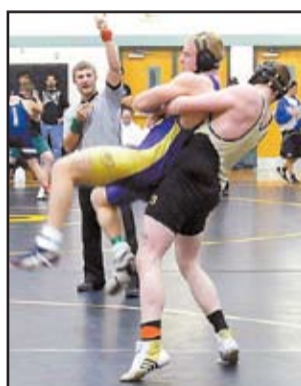
The results from last week's 4A-I State Championships held in Prescott were not available when The News went to press. We hope to have an update from the State Championships in next week's edition.

Eckhardt, 16-10 overall and runner-up in the 137-pound weight class, nearly pulled off the upset of the region tournament when he battled Airam Moreno of Queen Creek in the finals. Moreno was 39-2 overall and heavily favored but Eckhardt had Moreno in serious trouble in the second period. Thomas had Moreno in a tight headlock and on his back for

see **Region**, page B-6



(above) Apache Junction sophomore Trent McMinn lifts his Cave Shadows opponent off the mat at the Desert Sky Region Meet

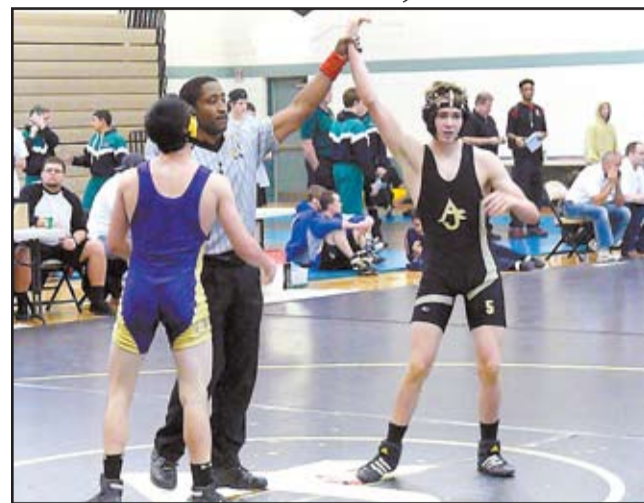


(above) Prospector senior Brandon Dudley works over this Queen Creek foe on his way to winning the 217-pound weight class

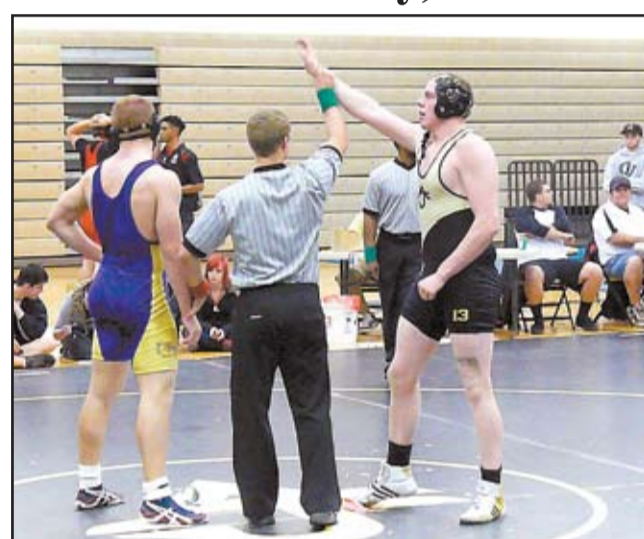


(above) AJHS senior Dylan Munyon is about to pin this Combs opponent to win the 287-pound title

**Trent McMinn, 132 lbs.**



**Brandon Dudley, 215 lbs.**



**Dylan Munyon, 287 lbs.**



## State Hoops

Because of my short work week due to our annual fantasy football "guys only" trek to Laughlin, I was unable to get the updated details on the girls, 4A-I State Tournament which begins this Tuesday, February 16.

The Lady Prospectors would host a first round game if they finished eighth or higher in the final power-point rankings but would play on the road if they finished ninth or lower. Either way, tip-off this Tuesday will be at 7:00 p.m.

The AJHS girls started out last week at number eight in the rankings. They lost to Williams Field on Monday and defeated Tucson Pueblo on Wednesday in their regular season finale. Most thought AJHS would hang onto the number eight spot but few are smart enough to figure out the points system used to calculate power points.

To be sure for this Tuesday's first round State Tournament game, check out the website [www.aiaonline.org](http://www.aiaonline.org). You want the girls, 4A-I State Tournament bracket.

# Lady Prospectors Win Finale

Open 4A-I State Tourney play this Tuesday, February 16th

By Chuck Baker  
*The News*

The Lady Prospector varsity basketball player paid tribute to their five senior players before tipping off against Tucson Pueblo last Wednesday night in their regular season finale, and then went out and picked up their 19th win of the season with a 46-38 victory.

Apache Junction, 19-7 overall on the season, was now playing the waiting game to see who and where they play in this week's 4A-I State Tournament which kicks off Tuesday, February

16 with first round games.

If Apache Junction was able to earn a number eight or higher finish in the 4A-I power rankings, they would get to host this Tuesday's first round game. If they finished ninth or lower in the sixteen-team field, they would play this Tuesday on the road.

As of press time, *The News* was unable to confirm where Apache Junction finished in the final power rankings and who and where they would play this Tuesday in the State Tournament. You should be able to log onto the website [www.aiaonline.org](http://www.aiaonline.org)



The five seniors for the Lady Prospectors were honored before their regular season finale last Wednesday. From left to right are Jessica Iniguez, Diana Woodruff, Emily McGann, Kylie Boesky and Katie Karbo.

org today to get that information.

In the win over Pueblo, the Lady Prospectors started all

five of their seniors, Jessica Iniguez, Diana Woodruff,

see **Girls**, page B-2

# Prospectors Wrap Up Hoops Season

By Chuck Baker  
*The News*

The wins were hard to come by the past few basketball seasons for the Apache Junction boys but one thing the current group of senior players will be known for is hard work and their never-say-die effort despite the losing seasons.

That much was evident in their final game of the 2009-2010 season this past Monday for nine seniors who played for the last time wearing the Black and Gold jerseys. In what had become a pretty typical game for them over the years, the Prospectors fell behind to the Dysart Demons by twenty-one points late in the second quarter and appeared to be on the verge of a blowout defeat. But back they came

in the second half, twice cutting the Demons lead to just three points in the closing seconds before finally falling by the score of 87-82.

Dysart had the hot hand in the first half, making five-of-eight three-point shots and led 39-18 with 2:50 to go before intermission.

But Prospector senior guard D'Mario Hill knocked down six, three-pointers in the second half, eight in all, and Apache Junction made a game of it in the second half.

Hill closed out his senior season at AJHS with a career high 32 points and also added six rebounds.

Senior guard Mike Cano netted 12 points and handed out a pair of assists, senior guard Colt Grandstaff contributed 11 points, four rebounds four steals and three



Apache Junction senior center Paul Miles (left) puts up a jump shot in the team's final game against Dysart

blocks, senior center Paul Miles added 10 points and six boards, senior forward Ravi Patel scored nine

points and senior forward Kyrrel Parker pitched in see **Hoops**, page B-2



Apache Junction senior Diana Woodruff proudly displays the 2009-2010 All-American Volleyball Award she received from the United Dairywomen of Arizona at the 18th Annual Dairy Council of Arizona Fall High School All-Americans banquet held January 31 at Mesa Community College. Woodruff played the Libero position for the Lady Prospector volleyball team in the Fall and, in thirty-four matches played, led the team with 470 digs as a defense specialist. The All-American Volleyball Award recognizes senior volleyball players from around the state who also maintain a strong academic standard as well as community service. Diana currently maintains a 4.0 GPA and is taking three advanced placement college classes.

In addition to being an All-American in volleyball, Diana was also a State-qualifying cross country runner for AJHS in the Fall, is currently a starting guard for the Lady Prospector basketball team that will be playing this week in the 4A-I State Tournament, and will be one of the top returning long distance runners for AJHS track and field this Spring.

Diana has received a full scholarship to Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyoming where she is expected to be the starting Libero on the volleyball team. Diana plans to Major in athletic training with a Minor as a personal fitness trainer and coach.