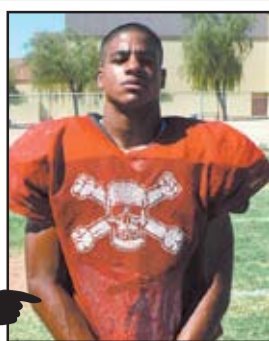




**Catching Up With**

**Trevor Berner**  
see page B-2

**Rusty Fernando**  
see page B-6



*Time Out*

**Dudley 50th AJHS Wrestling State Champ**



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**By Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

Apache Junction High School senior Brandon Dudley became the school's 50th individual wrestling State Champion when he defeated Louis Payne of Marana 6-0 to capture the 215-pound weight class title February 12 at the 4A-I State Wrestling Championships held in Prescott Valley.

Dudley, the number two seed in the 215-pound class, went a perfect 4-0 at the state tournament and finished his outstanding senior season with a 35-4 overall record.

In the first round of the state tournament, Dudley pinned his opponent from Cienega at 3:23 of the second period to advance to the quarterfinals. In the second round, Dudley won a 7-2 de-



**Prospector senior Brandon Dudley became the school's 50th individual state wrestling champion when he captured the 215-pound weight class title at the 4A-I State Wrestling Championships held February 12 and 13 in Prescott Valley**

cision over a wrestler from Glendale Apollo to advance to the semifinals where he faced the number three overall seed, Chris Rivera, from Peoria. The semifinal match was Brandon's closest of the

tournament, and with a 4-2 decision, he advanced to the finals against Payne.

The first wrestling state champ from AJHS was Scotty Weirs back in 1976. Since that time, Apache Junction

has crowned forty-nine more individual state champs, won three team state titles, and finished runner-up as a team at State eight times in its rich tradition of wrestling success.

Before Brandon's title two weeks ago, the last state wrestling champ at AJHS was heavyweight Tim Harlan back in 2008.

Dudley's 35 wins this season, coupled with the 43 victories he posted in 2009 when he finished sixth overall at the state championships, and the eight wins he posted in his sophomore season, gives him 96 career wrestling wins which would put him in the top ten all-time for career wins at AJHS. Former two-time State Champ, Jared Sutter, posted a career record of 150-13 from 1996-98, his 150 wins a school record.

Three other AJHS wrestlers picked up medals at the State Championships by finishing sixth or better. Senior

see **State**, page B-2

**Marathon Kudos**

I think it's time to give kudos to the volunteers who coordinate the Lost Dutchman Marathon. The 9th annual event was held February 14 and drew more than 2,700 participants, not including those in the 2 Mile Fun/Run Walk.

You look and see where the racers come from and it's pretty much from all parts of the country. These folks (LDM committee) put together a quality special event that really gives the communities of Apache Junction and Gold Canyon a tremendous boost, not just in monetary terms, but in terms of portraying our community in such a positive way.

Just read some of the following comments sent in by race participants:

"Congratulations for the great race you offered the runners! I have a great deal of respect for the energy, effort and love you put into organizing such an event. Please, send my best to your wife who welcomed me so warmly after the finish line. Running a third marathon see *Time Out*, page B-3

**By Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

Once called "The Best Little Marathon in the Country" by *Runners World* magazine, the secret may be out about the Lost Dutchman Marathon.

Run on Sunday, February 14, the ninth annual LDM shattered its previous attendance mark as more than 2,700 runners competed in either the marathon, half-marathon, 10K or 8K races.

That record number of participants doesn't even take into consideration the

participants in this year's 2 Mile Fun/Run Walk, easily making the 2010 LDM the most successful event to date. Last year's events drew more than 2,500 participants which included the Fun/Run Walk, which was the attendance record until two weeks ago.

Race records were also broken this year in both the men's and women's marathons. Zachary Thomas, a 24-year-old from Bagdad, Arizona, finished the marathon in a time of 2:27.27 to break the previous mark of 2:30.57 set back in 2004

by Kenya's Wilson Kagiri Gatiha. In the women's marathon, 27-year-old Julia Prince of Chandler set a new race record with her time of 3:00.12, breaking the previous mark of 3:04.43 set in 2008 by Tracy Thelen of Colorado.

Both Thomas and Prince received a \$500 cash prize for establishing new LDM race records.

Participant numbers for this year's marathon events are impressive. A total of 417 runners finished the full marathon, the half-marathon saw 1100 runners cross the

finish line, another 604 finished the 10K race and 601 crossed the finish line of the 8K race.

As for the local top marathoners, Marc Jette of Apache Junction finished 54th overall with his time of 3:33.01, and not far behind was Maria Gonzalez of Gold Canyon, who ran a time of 3:34.11, good for 57th overall and third overall in her division. Another runner from Apache Junction, 30-year-old Alan Barwick, competing in his very first marathon race and sponsored by *The News*, finished 72nd overall with a time of 3:39.36.

None of the other races saw records fall on February 14. Nathan Twomey of Del Mar, California, won the men's half-marathon with a time



of 1:16.21, while Danielle Shahan of Bozeman, Montana, was the top female half-marathoner with a time of 1:21.27.

The top local half-marathoner see **LDM**, page B-6

**Lady Prospectors Fall In 1st Round Of 4A-I State Hoops Tournament**

**By Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

The Lady Prospector basketball team ended up as the number nine overall seed in the sixteen-team 4A-I State Tournament and had to play a first round tournament game on the road. They played the Lady Panthers of Peoria, the eight seed, last Tuesday and fell by the final score of 52-36, ending their season with a 19-10 overall record.

Apache Junction trailed by nine points at halftime, 23-14, and got behind by as many as 22 points in the second half. They got as close as fourteen points with 1:24 to play in the final quarter.

The Lady Prospectors struggled on offense for most of the night and made just one of thirteen shots from three-point range. They also committed 20 turnovers in the loss compared to just eight turnovers for Peoria.

Junior Sara Cranmer

provided most of the offense for AJHS, scoring 14 points to go with her five rebounds. Sophomore Jade Yost came off the bench to contribute seven points and five rebounds, junior Sierra Aulik added six points and five boards, senior Emily McGann netted five points, and senior Diana Woodruff scored four points.

Senior center Jessica Iniguez didn't score but had four rebounds and junior Melissa Ochoa, who started in the post position, finished with three rebounds and an assists.

In related news for the AJHS girls basketball team, Desert Sky Region awards were announced this past week and the Lady Prospectors were well represented. Aulik and Iniguez were both selected 1st Team All-Region, Cranmer, Woodruff and McGann were each named to the Honorable Mention All-Region list, and head coach Brock Kearsley was chosen the



**AJHS sophomore Jade Yost is at the free throw line in last Tuesday's 4A-I State Tournament game**

region's Coach of the Year. Aulik also won the region's 3-point shoot-out contest.

Rounding the 1st Team All-

Region selections were Molly Shoulders of Cave Creek

see **Girls**, page B-2

**Imagine Prep Jr. High Panthers Capture AzCAA Class B State Basketball Championship**

**By Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

In just their first season of basketball competition, the Imagine Prep@Superstition Panthers Junior High boys team captured the Arizona Charter Athletic Association (AzCAA) "Class B" State Championship title played February 13.

The Imagine Prep Panthers, seeded number two in the sixteen-team tournament, defeated the number one seed, Queen Creek Leading Edge Academy, 42-38, in the title game.

The Panthers opened the AzCAA tournament on February 10 with a 42-26 victory over Mesa EVAC and then two days later, defeated the Arizona Heat 40-28 to



**Imagine Prep Panthers junior high basketball team captured the AzCAA Class B State Championship title on February 13 with their 42-38 victory over Queen Creek Leading Edge Academy. Players include Austin McCallum, Alex Romo, Tyler Anderson, Elijah Pasha, Cameron Anderson, Austin Van Doren, Yanko Kuraica, Cameron Canales and Caleb Williams. The team's coaches are Justin McCallum and Dylan O'Hagan.**

advance to the title game.

That marks the second AzCAA State title won by a local team in just the past few months. Back in November of 2009, the Apache

Trail High School Wolfpack won the AzCAA Class B State Championship in high school football in just their second year of competition.

Imagine Prep @ Supersti-



tion is a charter school for junior high through high school students located at 1843 W. 16th Avenue in Apache Junction While the high school boys basketball team was competing in their second year of competition, this was the first time Imagine Prep fielded a boys junior high team.

The team was coached by two of the high school basketball players, Dylan O'Hagan and Justin McCal-

see **Champs**, page B-2



**Lady Prospectors Sierra Aulik and Sara Cranmer (#52) both come down with this rebound in last Tuesday's State Tournament game while Emily McGann (#20) looks on**