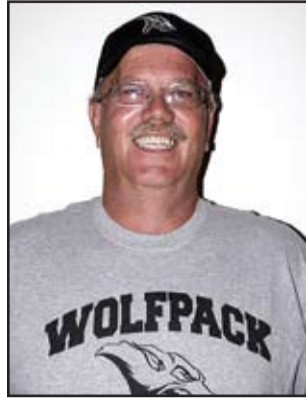




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Time Out

AJHS Softball Off And Swinging



Chuck Baker
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By Chuck Baker
The News

The Lady Prospector varsity softball team opened their 2010 season competing in the Mesa Dobson/Tempe Marcos De Niza Tournament against some tough competition last week and managed to pick up one win in five tournament games, all against 5A division schools.

The Lady Prospectors put together a 17-hit attack and blanked Mesa Westwood 12-0 in the tournament opener last Wednesday but then dropped an 11-0 decision to Glendale Mountain Ridge in the late game. Apache Junction also suffered a 4-1 loss to Marcos De Niza on Thursday, a 10-0 loss to Phoenix Horizon on Friday and lost a 3-2 decision to Chandler Hamilton, the pre-season number one team in the 5A-I division, also played last Friday.

Prospector pitcher Tyler Tyson may have been handed the loss in last Friday's tournament game loss to Chandler Perry but his earned run average won't be affected. After getting the first two outs in the fourth inning with his team up 2-0, Tyson actually struck out the next batter for an apparent third out in the inning. But instead, Perry went on to score 11 runs in the inning, all with two outs and all unearned on their way to a 13-3 victory.



Apache Junction southpaw Ashley Gonzales is about to make contact with this high fast ball and deliver a base hit in last Wednesday's 12-0 win over Mesa Westwood

In the 11-0 win over Westwood, Jade Yost banged out three hits in five trips to the plate and drove in four runs for Apache Junction. Victoria Marquez went 4-for-5, scored three runs and drove in a pair, Ashley Gonzales was 3-for-4 with a RBI,

Chelsey Streibich had three hits and also knocked in a run, Melissa Ochoa went 2-for-3 with a RBI, Lindsey Skinner was 2-for-5 and two runs scored, and Autumn Rhodes had a double that drove in two runs. Pitcher Shelby Olson was

in total control on the hill, allowing just one hit while striking out 12 Westwood batters.

In the 4-1 loss to Marcos De Niza, Apache Junction had the bases loaded in the seventh inning with a chance to make things interesting but a terrific defensive play by the MDN second baseman stopped a Streibich line drive to end the game.

In the 11-0 loss to Mountain Ridge, Apache Junction was held to just four base hits, singles by Streibich, Skinner, Rhodes and Angelica Montgomery.

Rhodes also came up with Apache Junction's only hit in the 10-0 loss to Mountain Ridge.

Apache Junction was tied 2-2 with Hamilton in the seventh inning on Friday but the Lady Huskies scored the game-winner in the last half of the inning to pull out a one-run win.

Skinner went 2-for-4 with a double and RBI in the Hamilton game. Yost also singled in a run, Streibich and Gonzales added singles, and Olson, despite another strong outing on the mound with four strikeouts, took the loss.

The Lady Prospectors open at home this Tuesday, March 2 versus Maricopa, will also host Queen Creek this Wednesday, March 3, and will be playing Thursday and Friday in the Safford Invitational. The games on Tuesday and Wednesday begin at 3:30 p.m.

Alumni Win

In related softball news, the AJHS Alumni team came up with an 11-8 victory over the Lady Prospectors in their annual Alumni Game played February 13.

For the Alumni team, see **Girls**, page B-6

Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo



(above) The Lehigh Lariat Drill Team from Mesa kicked off last Friday's Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo



(above) Cowboy Joe Dan Mirabal needed just 7.4 seconds to tie up this calf in last Friday's Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo calf roping event



Rally For The Cure Golf Tournament

March 8 @ Apache Creek; Help support fight against breast cancer

Want to have a fun-filled day while helping to combat breast cancer, a disease that has affected many of your relatives, friends and neighbors? Then join the Apache Creek Women's Golf Association for the Rally for the Cure Golf Tournament on Monday, March 8. All proceeds from this golf event will benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure — a leader in breast cancer research and education.

The Rally for the Cure will be held at Apache Creek Golf Club in Apache Junction on Monday, March 8, with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. The format will be a 4-person scramble. You may sign up as an individual, with a partner or with a foursome.

Both men and women golfers will be participating. The entry fee is \$75 per player which includes a continental breakfast, green fees, cart, lunch, prizes and a magazine subscription. There will be golf skill contests including a chance to win one the hole-in-one prize — a golf car from Apache Golf Cars in Mesa or a \$1,000 gift certificate from the PGA Store, plus raffles and lots of fun for everyone.

If you are unable to golf with us but wish to support the fight against breast cancer, consider sponsoring a hole. For a donation of \$50, a sign with your company's name on it, or the name of someone whom you wish to honor or memorialize will



(above) Professional cowboy Chauncy Kirby (above and below) competes in the bareback riding event last Friday in the Lost Dutchman Days rodeo.



(at left) Professional cowboy John South competes in the calf roping event this past Friday at the 2010 Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo, co-sanctioned with the Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo Association



Lost Dutchman Days royalty are recognized just before the start of last Friday's Lost Dutchman Days rodeo

Batsmen Open At McClintock Tourney

By Chuck Baker
The News

The baseball season for the Apache Junction Prospectors kicked off last Friday in the Tempe McClintock Tournament and began about as well as you could want. Leadoff batter Mike Davalos drilled the first pitch of the season to left field for a base hit. Johnathan Hanson then followed that with a hit of his own, and after Nick Saathoff moved the runners up a base with a deep fly out to center field, clean-up batter Tyler Tyson stepped to the plate and crushed a ball deep to left field for a double, knocking in both Davalos and Hanson to give the Prospectors a 2-0 lead over Chandler Perry.

Tyson also started on the mound for Apache Junction was nearly perfect through the first three innings, allowing just a base on balls as the Prospectors 2-0 lead held up.

But funny how a baseball sometimes bounces. Although Tyson was hardly laughing when he was

pulled from the mound in the fourth inning and sent to right field.

After retiring the first two batters in the last half of the fourth inning, Tyson had struck out Perry's third hitter in the inning which should have moved the game to the fifth inning. But the breaking pitch from Tyson bounced in the dirt behind home plate and the Perry batter took off for first base after fanning with his swing. Catcher Ryan Howard scooped up the ball and with plenty of time to throw to Cole Garratt at first base to get the force out, Howard's throw instead hit the Perry runner in the back as he reached first safely.

Little did anyone realize at the time, but that miscue on what should have been a third out, strikeout by the Prospectors would prove costly in a big way.

With two outs and a man on first, Perry then loaded the bases with their first hit of the game followed by a hit batsman but Apache

see **AJHS**, page B-6



Prospector pitcher Tyler Tyson is about to deliver a pitch to home plate in last Thursday's season opener against Chandler Perry with shortstop Nick Saathoff in the background



be placed at one of the tee boxes. Your name will also be listed in our program of sponsors. Additionally, you may help by donating a prize

for our raffle.

The mission of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure is to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. Since its inception in 1982, Susan G. Komen for the Cure has become a leading catalyst in the fight against breast cancer by raising money in support of breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment.

For more information, or to register to play, please contact Mary Ellen Baker at (623) 376-0254 or by email at mebakercpa@msn.com, or pick up an entry form at Apache Creek Golf Club (480-982-2677) on Ironwood Drive just south of U.S. Highway 60.