



Time Out



Chuck Baker
News Sports Editor
cbaker@ajnews.com

When Little Girls Grow Up

I first met Amber Hampton when I was coaching her older brother Kyle in T-Ball. I coached the team with Amber's Dad, Kevin, and her Mom, Melinda, was our star Team Mom, who, like me, understood that in T-Ball it's all about the after-game snacks.

A couple of years later, we snuck Amber into T-Ball a year early, because, quite frankly, we needed her bat and glove in the lineup.

I've watched Amber grow up and compete in softball and girls golf at Apache

see *Time Out*, page B-3



Miss Teen Apache Junction, Amber Hampton, is the first girl from A.J. to compete in the Arizona United States Pageant

AJHS Softball Splits Home Openers

By J.J. Digos
The News

The AJHS Lady Prospectors varsity softball team opened up their regular season last week with a pair of home games against Maricopa and Queen Creek. Coming off a 2-4 performance at the Dobson/Marcos de Niza Invitational Tournament the week before, Coach Ed Matlosz and his team looked to kick off their season on a high note after the promising performance at the 5A dominated tournament.

On Tuesday, the Lady Prospectors squared off against Maricopa in their home opener. Leading the way in the batter's box was junior outfielder Melissa Ochoa who went 2-for-3 with a

Track And Field Springs Into Action

By J.J. Digos
The News

Last season, current senior Zane Morgan qualified for the 4A-1 State Championship meet for the 800 meters. This season, he is one of only two returning member of the AJHS boys' track and field team who qualified for the state meet last year (the other is Trevor Berner in discus). Also, in the off-season, Morgan decided to make the switch from running the 800 meters to running the 100 and 400 meter events and through two track meets this season, it seems that the transition hasn't fazed the senior. Now, this season, he is looking to capture his first individual state championship and his second team championship. (Morgan was



Prospector Kyrel Parker easily clears the high jump bar at 5-10 during Friday's Barwick Superstition Relays

a part of the Prospectors' 2007 State Championship winning team his freshman year.)

At the Prospectors first meet in Tempe this past

Thursday afternoon, it was Zane Morgan, cousin Tanner Morgan, the 4x100 meter relay team and the high jump duel between Colt Grandstaff and Kyrel Parker that

highlighted the day in which the Prospectors dominated points wise over host Tempe and visiting Williams Field. Grandstaff and Parker drew much attention during their final attempts against one another in the high jump and it was Grandstaff coming out on top over his fellow senior teammate with a jump of six feet, two inches. The jump was three inches from the school record set by former Prospector Shane McCullen in 2007.

This past Friday, Apache Junction hosted eight other teams in the Barwick Superstition Relays held at Davis Field. For the girls, junior Melissa Hernandez won first place in the 100-meter hurdles race with a time of 17.25 seconds. The 3200-meter relay team with Lauren Smith, Caitlin Kessler, Kenia Felix and Sarah Swander finished in second place with a time of 11 minutes, 50 seconds, and Lauren Smith placed fourth in the 400-meter race with a time of 1 minute, 8 seconds.

For the AJHS boys, the day started off with a 4th place performance by Mike Orr in the 3200-meter race with a time of 11:27.36. Then Zane Morgan ran away from the field with a time of 11.03 seconds to win 1st place in the 100-meter event. In the

800-meter medley relay, clinching 3rd place was the team of George Aguayo, David Gamboa, Ricky Donald and Roy Machuca. In the 400 meters, it was Zane Morgan on top once again, in a close race for the first 350 meters, then pulling away in the last 50 meters with a time of 50.04 seconds. The Prospectors domination in the 4x100 meter relay continued as the team of Danny Fuller, David Fernando, Tanner Morgan and Parker won first place and nearly set a meet record with a time of 44.43 seconds. Parker was back again in the 200 meters winning first place with a time of 22.94 seconds. In the 4x200 meter relay, the Prospectors won first place in dominating fashion with Machuca, Fernando, Fuller and Tanner Morgan running with a time of 1:36.54 seconds. In the 1600 meters, Armando Zuniga clinched third place with a time of 5:10.23 seconds, and in the last event of the day, it was the 4x400 meter relay team with Donald, Fernando, Grandstaff and Zane Morgan coming from ten meters behind entering the final leg to pull out the victory with a time of 3:36.87.

The Apache Junction throw- see **Track**, page B-2

AJHS Tennis In Full Swing

By Chuck Baker
The News

The boys and girls tennis teams from Apache Junction High School kicked off their seasons last week playing Cave Creek Cactus Shadows and Gilbert Campo Verde.

The Lady Prospectors dropped their opening match to Cactus Shadows by a 7-2 score on Tuesday but bounced back with a 9-0 win at Campo Verde.

In the loss to Cactus Shadows, Anna Ramos, playing in the number three position, picked up the only AJHS win in singles with her 6-2, 6-2 victory, and Catalina Ovalle teamed up with Kylie Bocskay to earn an 8-4 win doubles.

In other singles action ver-



Lady Prospector Anna Ramos hits a forehand shot in last Tuesday's singles match against Cactus Shadows

sus Cactus Shadows, Jessica Iniguez lost 6-1, 7-5 playing number one singles, Nicoletta Carbone fell 6-3, 6-0 at number two singles, Ovalle lost a hard fought 7-6, 2-6

(13-11 tie-breaker) match at number four singles, Alejandra Escanuela fell 6-0, 6-1 playing number five sin-

see **Tennis**, page B-6



Lady Prospector Melissa Hernandez (right) came from off the pace to capture first place in the 100 meter hurdles at last Friday's Barwick Superstition Relays

All-Star Hoops

By Chuck Baker
The News

Caleb Williams, an eighth grade student at Imagine Prep@Superstition and a member of the Panthers Junior High Boys Arizona Charter Athletic Association (AzCAA) "Class B" State Championship team, was selected to play for the East Valley All-Stars in a post season tournament played recently at South Mountain Community College.

Caleb's East Valley All-Stars defeated the Southern Arizona All-Stars 42-38 in the semifinal game, and in

the AzCAA All-Star Championships, the East Valley All-Stars topped the Southeast Valley All-Stars 39-34. In the two All-Star games, Caleb scored nine points, grabbed seven rebounds, dished out four assists and came up with three steals in his eighteen minutes of playing time.

The 2009-10 season was the first time junior high boys basketball was played at Imagine Prep@Superstition and they ended up capturing the State Championship title. Williams was also named the tournament's most valuable player.



Caleb Williams, an eighth grader at Imagine Prep@Superstition and a member of the Panthers Junior High Boys AzCAA State Championship basketball team, was selected to play in the AzCAA All-Star Game. Caleb played for the East Valley All-Stars, who first defeated the Southern Arizona All-Stars 42-38, and then beat the Southeast Valley All-Stars 39-34. In the two All-Star games, Caleb scored nine points, grabbed seven rebounds, dished out four assists and came up with three steals in his 18 minutes of playing time.



Lady Prospector Melissa Ochoa rips a run-scoring triple in last Tuesday's 4-0 victory over Maricopa

double and triple, a RBI and scored a run. Senior shortstop Chelsey Streibich, who recently signed a letter of intent to play softball at South

Mountain CC, went 2-4 with a pair of singles. Sophomore first baseman Jade Yost also went 2-for-3 with a pair of doubles and scored a run.

Sophomore Autumn Rhodes, in her second season as the starting third baseman for the Lady Prospectors, reached base three times with a pair of singles and a walk and also scored a run. Also collecting a run was junior outfielder Ashley Gonzales went 1-for-3 at the plate with a RBI. Senior pitcher Shelby Olson allowed only three runners on base, gave up one hit and struck out seven in a dominating performance inside the pitchers' circle.

On Wednesday afternoon, AJHS faced the Queen Creek Lady Bulldogs in the Desert Sky Region opener for the 2010 season. This game featured a lot of offen-

see **Girls**, page B-2

Prospectors Win Home Opener On Diamond

By Chuck Baker
The News

The Prospector varsity baseball team shook off a 0-5 start to the season including being no-hit by Queen Creek's Dillon Freeman last Wednesday, and overcame a first-inning, three-run home run by Arcadia on Thursday, to win their home opener over the Titans in impressive fashion, pulling out a 10-7 victory.

Miguel Rascon banged out three hits in four trips to the plate, Mike Davalos went 2-for-3, scored three runs and stole home, and Bret Willis also went 2-for-3 and scored twice to lead Apache Junction to their first win of the season.



Prospector left fielder Bret Willis came up with a terrific effort trying to snag this foul fly in last week's Arcadia game

Nick Saathoff had a double and drove in a pair of runs, Tyler Tyson and Martin Faley both were 1-for-3 with a RBI, and David Sandoval and Ryan Howard went 1-for-4 and also drove in a

run. Saathoff also gave a gutty performance on the mound, going 5 and 1/3 innings, allowing six hits and seven runs, including that three-run dinger in the first, and struck

out five Arcadia batters against three walks to get the "W." John LaChapelle came on and spelled Saathoff, finishing the game with 1 and 2/3 innings of hitless relief and struck out three Titans to get the save.

Also last week, Apache Junction dropped a 12-8 decision at Maricopa on Tuesday. Saathoff went 2-for-3, scored twice and drove in two in the loss to the Rams. Davalos and Rascon both had two hits, Johnathan Converse went 1-for-3 with a RBI and two runs scored, Tyson added a RBI with his lone hit, and Willis was 1-for-4 with a run scored.

In an update from the Mc-

see **AJHS**, page B-2