

Time Out



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Now That's Offensive

In five tournament games played this past week at Gilbert Highland, the Prospector baseball team banged out 62 base hits and scored 61 runs. Wow! I haven't seen hitting like this in the fourteen years I've been covering AJHS sports.

Kind of makes you wonder how they only won three of their five tournament games and are just 4-10 overall on the season. Well, the equalizer is the Prospector pitching staff who surrendered 61 runs in the five games last week and have yielded double digit runs in nine of the team's fourteen games thus far. We should also note that two likely starters, one with an injury and one who didn't come out, will miss the entire season.

But still, these guys are knocking the cover off of the ball from the top of the lineup to the bottom. Even the outs are well hit and even the foul balls are flying over fences.

Mike Davalos led the way at the Highland Tourney, going a combined 11-for-17 with 13 RBI and nine runs scored. He hit three, three-run homeruns, added a triple and a double and also stole five bases. If this guy doesn't get picked up by a D-I college baseball team, then something is wrong. Mike can hit, throw, run and field and is just a terrific all-around player.

Tyler Tyson's tournament wasn't too bad either. How does 8-for-18 with two homeruns, nine RBI and eight runs scored sound? That doesn't count the foul ball homerun he also hit. On the season, Tyson has driven in 18 runs so far.

Nick Saathoff went a combined 8-for-17 with seven RBI and seven runs scored, and Bret Willis, in a bit of a slump you might say, only went a combined 7-for-14 and drove in six runs.

• Speaking of offensive, between innings of the A.J.-Perry game on Wednesday, a Dr. Demento was blaring through the loud speakers with the words, "Dead puppies aren't much fun. They don't come when you call. They don't chase squirrels at all. Dead puppies aren't much fun." Now maybe this is what kids are listening to these days but I still found the song choice a little inappropriate for a day at the ballpark. So, shame on Highland for that one. Expect a visit from PETA.

• After a 0-5 start to the season, the Prospectors have gone 4-5 since and have scored 94 runs their past nine games. They have two key Desert Sky Region games this week, at home Tuesday versus Saguaro, and at Cactus Shadows on Thursday. These may be the top

see *Time Out*, page B-2

Baseball Team In Highland Tourney

By Chuck Baker
The News

While the Prospector starting pitching staff continued their early season struggles this past week in the Gilbert Highland Triple Play Baseball Tournament, the AJHS offense came to life in a big way, giving the Prospectors three huge wins in their five tournament games, including their biggest offensive explosion in their final game, a 23-12 blasting of Mesa Dobson last Thursday.

Apache Junction opened tournament play on Monday of last week and dropped an 18-5 decision to Highland in their "pool play" game. But the Prospectors came back on Tuesday and downed Higley 11-8 in their first game, avenging an earlier 16-6 loss to the Knights two weeks ago, and then outslugged Mesa High 16-14 in their second game on Tuesday.

The Prospectors then fell to Chandler Perry 9-6 on Wednesday to finish their pool play with a 2-2 record.

Perry, at 3-1 in pool play games, advanced to one semifinal game on Thursday while Highland, 2-2 in pool play and by virtue of a team tie-breaker based on total



That sweet swing at left belongs to Prospector Miguel Rascon who just unloaded a three-run homerun deep to right field in last Tuesday's 11-8 win over Higley. Above, Miguel is greeted at home plate by Bret Willis (#13) and Tyler Tyson (#17).

runs allowed, also advanced to Thursday's semifinals against the top two teams from a separate five-team bracket.

Higley and Apache Junction, also 2-2 like Highland, played a consolation game on Thursday, again based on runs allowed in their four pool play games.

In the five tournament games, Apache Junction pitchers gave up 61 runs on 62 hits and 29 base on balls. But the Prospector offense matched that run total, led

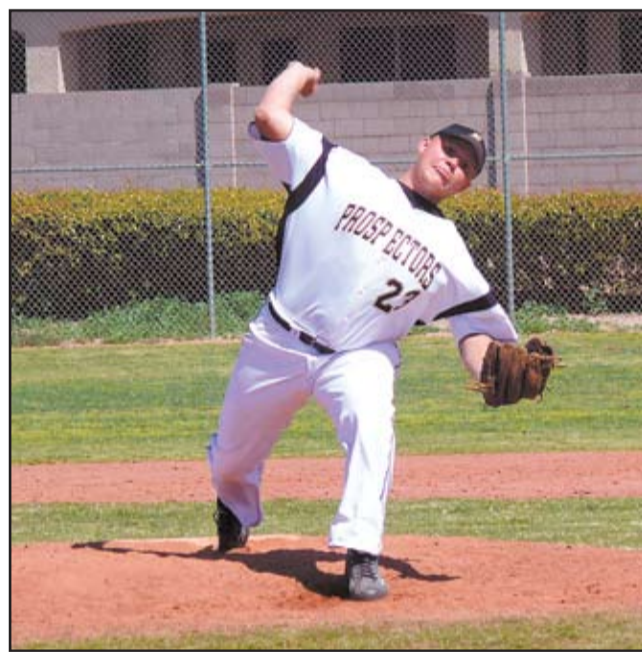
by senior center fielder Mike Davalos, who had a monster tourney.

Davalos came into the Highland Tournament batting .545 on the season. In his five tournament games, he went 11-for-17, drove in 13 runs mostly behind three, three-run homeruns, and scored nine runs. Davalos also added a triple and a double, and just in the 23-12 win over Dobson only, Mike hit two of his three-run dingers and knocked in a seventh run with a single.

In the team's first pool game against Highland, Davalos went 2-for-2 and drove in a pair of runs, Ryan Howard was 1-for-2 and scored twice, Tyler Tyson, who also a big tournament at the plate, was 1-for-2 a run scored and a RBI, Bret Willis and Johnathan Converse both went 1-for-2 and Cole Garratt knocked in a run with a sacrifice fly.

In the win over Higley, the Prospectors scored seven runs in their first at-bats, the big blow being a three-run homerun off the bat of Miguel Rascon. Tyson finished 2-for-4 and drove in three runs, Nick Saathoff was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and a RBI, Howard also went 2-for-3 and scored twice, Garratt had two hits in his three at-bats, Davalos went 1-for-3, and Johnathan Hanson hit a sacrifice fly to score another AJHS run.

Ryan Howard started on the mound for AJHS versus Higley but lasted just two innings while surrendering six runs. Sophomore John LaChapelle then came on in



(above) Apache Junction pitcher John LaChapelle delivers a pitch to home plate in last Tuesday's 11-8 tournament win over Higley. LaChapelle worked four innings of solid relief to pick up the victory on the mound.

relief and tossed four solid innings, allowing just six hits and two runs and picked up the victory. Davalos pitched a scoreless seventh inning to earn the save.

The Prospectors came right back in their Tuesday late game and jumped on top of Mesa with five runs in the first inning as Willis unloaded a double to score Tyson for one of the runs. Apache Junction led Mesa 13-4 through four and a half innings but then had to hang on to pull out the exciting 16-14 win.

Tyson started and picked up the win on the mound but struggled throughout with his mechanics. He allowed nine runs on eight hits, eight walks and one hit batsmen before Converse and Sandoval closed out the game on the mound, Sandoval

tossing a scoreless seventh inning to pick up a save.

Willis led the AJHS offensive attack, going 4-for-4 at the plate. Davalos went 3-for-5, ripped a three-run homerun to right field and also scored three runs. Hanson went 3-for-4 at the plate with two RBI and three runs scored, Sandoval was 2-for-4 with a RBI, Garratt went 2-for-5 with a RBI, Tyson smacked a two-run homerun, Saathoff went 1-for-3, drove in a run and scored twice, and Rascon also went 1-for-3.

After the two long, grueling and emotional roller-coaster games on Tuesday, the Prospectors came back to Highland on Wednesday to face Chandler Perry in their final "pool play" game.

see **AJHS**, page B-2



(above) Prospector Edwin Gurrola slides safely into home plate to score one of the team's 11 runs in last Tuesday's 11-8 tournament win over Higley

AJHS Sports
Teams Back In
Action This Week

Softball

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Tues	3/23	Saguaro	Away	4:00
Wed	3/24	Arcadia	Home	4:00
Thur	3/25	Cactus Shadows	Home	4:00

Baseball

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Tues	3/23	Saguaro	Home	4:00
Thur	3/25	Cactus Shadows	Away	4:00

Boys Tennis

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Tues	3/23	Saguaro	Away	3:30
Wed	3/24	Queen Creek	Home	3:30
Thur	3/25	Cactus Shadows	Home	3:30

Girls Tennis

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Tues	3/23	Saguaro	Home	3:30
Wed	3/24	Queen Creek	Away	3:30
Thur	3/25	Cactus Shadows	Away	3:30

Track and Field

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Wed	3/24	Queen Creek	Away	3:30
Fri	3/26	Chandler Rotary	Away	TBD
Sat	3/27	Chandler Rotary	Away	TBD

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District 4 Shufflers Well Represented
At The Easter Bunny Tournament



District 4 shuffleboarders made a solid showing at the 2010 Easter Bunny Tournament played March 15-19 at Greenfield Resort in Mesa. In the Championship Trophy Division, Bob Rinehart (2nd from right) of Desert Holiday Resort took first place while Fran Kardish (3rd from right) came in third place. In the Consolation Trophy Division, Dennis Stockman (far left) of Roadhaven Resort came in first place. In the Championship Non-Trophy Division, Jack Behmer of Rock Shadows Resort came in first place while Oz Hamilton, also from Rock Shadows Resort, came in fourth place. And in the Consolation Non-Trophy Division, Neil Goos of Desert Holiday Resort came in second place. Tournament results and photo are courtesy of Pearl Holmes, Publicist for District 4.