

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 16

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Educational opportunity splits Albanian family

•••• To insure their daughters' safety and a brighter future, Qerim and Aneta Vrioni, of Tirana, Albania, spent their life's savings to get their daughters in a high school student exchange program which brought them to the United States. The love and generosity of a Lowell family has enabled Sheriana and Elona Vrioni to pursue a college education at Grand Rapids Community College.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor



Sheriana and Elona Vrioni study together after classes at GRCC's library.

A conservative estimate of yearly college costs for a full-time U.S. student runs from \$10-\$30,000; high cost colleges can run from \$40-\$100,000.

The sacrifice Qerim and Aneta Vrioni are paying to provide their daughters with a college education, by most parents' standards, make those prices sound quite reasonable.

It has been nearly three years since the Albanian parents have seen their oldest daughter Sheriana and nearly two years since they have seen the younger, Elona.

Political instability and unrest, and the desire to remove their children from harm's way motivated Vrioni's decision.

"My mom was looking for any way to get us out of the country," Sheriana explains. "The fighting made it unsafe and because there was no infrastructure to support the economy, there's no opportunity for people."

Vrionis, like many other parents in Tirana, sought the one opportunity that was available to their children... student exchange programs.

"Almost all of my friends went abroad, and hope to come back and do good for our country," Sheriana explains from the kitchen table of sponsor family, Don and Brenda Clark, during a break from her college studies.

After seven attempts, Sheriana received approval for her VISA. It allowed her to participate in the student exchange program run by the Council for Educational Travel.

"I had to keep going back because the embassy found many reasons not to grant VISAs," Sheriana explained. "I had to keep trying."

Her persistence paid off, but the opportunity would not come without a price.

The student exchange program required that her parents pay \$7,000 in advance for their daughter to go abroad.

The cost to send Elona abroad just one short year later, through a different exchange program, would also cost their parents roughly \$7,000.

"Our parents had been saving in advance for our

education," Elona says.

Their father was earning what would be equivalent to \$200 a month in the United States. With the unrest and failing economy, their mother was unable to work.

The cost absorbed all of their savings. It forced their parents to sell the family car, and ask for money from relatives so their daughters could go to school in the United States.

Sheriana was originally told she would be staying with a host family in Huntington, IN. That was later changed to Salt Lake City, Utah, before the final location of Lowell was decided on.

Elona's host family was located in Malvern, Ark.

Clarks agreed to be a host family just two days before Sheriana arrived in the U.S.

"A friend of a friend told the student exchange agency that Don and I might be interested," Brenda Clark said. "We initially told the woman representative, in a phone conversation, that we were not interested."

Because the representative was in the Lowell area, Clarks agreed to talk to her later that evening despite having already said no.

The result of that meeting at the Clark home was Brenda agreeing to be a host family. Sheriana arrived the following Monday.

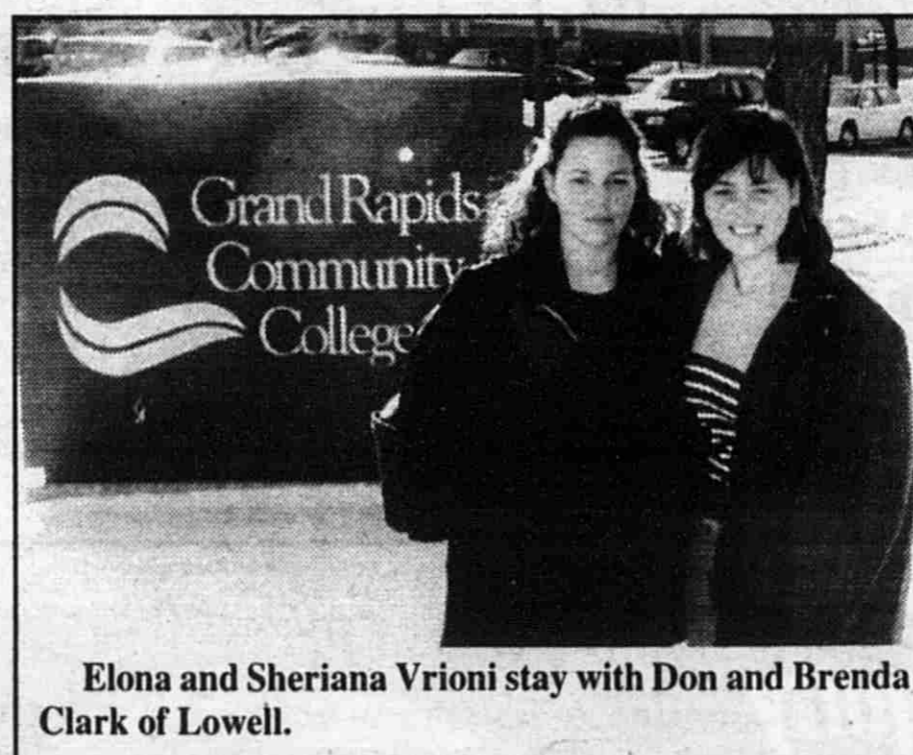
"Don was not in favor of it in the beginning," Brenda explains. "Three weeks after Sheriana was here, he told me it was the best thing that we'd ever done."

Some might reserve that comment for what the Clarks would do over the next two years.

After Sheriana completed her senior year of high school at Lowell, she was given the task of finding a sponsor so that she could attend college in the U.S. If not, her VISA would expire and Sheriana would have to return home.

The fighting that had taken place in her homeland closed the airport in Albania. Therefore, if unable to find a sponsor, Sheriana would be flown to Turkey or Greece and would go from being an exchange student in the U.S. to being a refugee.

"I was afraid that I might end up in



Elona and Sheriana Vrioni stay with Don and Brenda Clark of Lowell.

Albanian Family, pg. 8

Forums to provide more opportunity for citizens to speak out on district's growth

•••• Committee to weigh district's building options and financial data.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Building options and financial data will be the topic of discussion at a meeting of the Lowell Demographics Committee on Monday at the Runciman Board of Education office.

School officials will spell out district building options with financial data. Input and opinions from demographics' committee members will then be received.

"We will ask the committee to discuss the pros and cons of three options," Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke said. "The discussion will also be open to other options."

The input and thoughts from the Demographics committee will be shared with the community during four community forums held in the month of February.

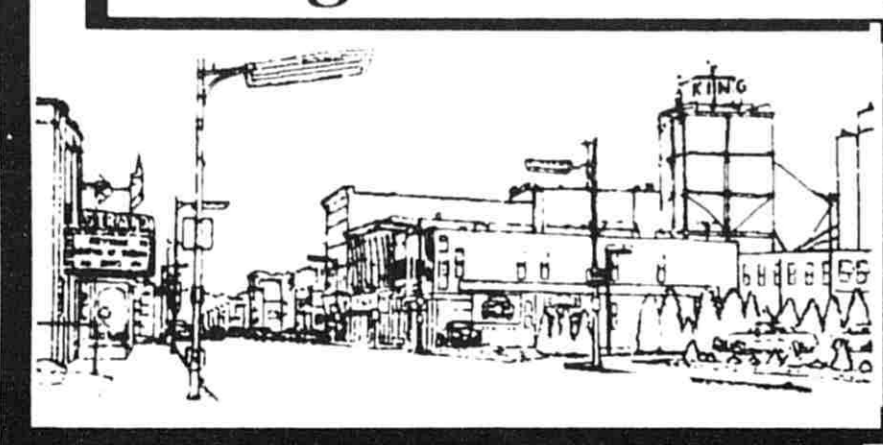
The purpose of the forums will be to discuss options that

Forums, cont'd. pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Baker Promoted to Executive Director Status With Chamber, Page 22

Along Main Street



ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING

The Lowell Area Schools Athletic Booster Club meeting will be held in the high school staff lounge on Monday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. Please come and help support our athletes.

LOWELL FIRE DEPT. SPONSORS BLOOD DRIVE

The Lowell Area Fire Department is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood program on Wednesday, March 1 from 3 - 7 p.m. at the Look Memorial Fire Station located at 315 S. Hudson.

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Albanian, cont'd... From Page 1

a camp," she says. Her warm smile and the emotional ties she forged with the Clark family removed any option of becoming a refugee.

They agreed to sponsor Sheriana so she could enroll at Grand Rapids Community College.

One year later, the same scenario would play out with Elona in Arkansas. Inspired by the sacrifice the Albanian parents had made for their daughters, the Clarks opened up their home to Elona as well, agreeing to sponsor her college education.

Elona is studying to become an interpreter. She speaks Albanian, English and Italian and is studying German and French at GRCC.

Sheriana is studying international business. Both girls are cognizant of how lucky they are that they and the Clark family have meshed so well together.

Clarks have three of their own children: Sarah, 19; D.J., nine; and Cody, seven.

"Sarah has been wonderful to us. She allows us to go shopping with her and to movies with her and her boyfriend," Elona explains.

Both Elona and Sheriana would like to visit their parents, but to do so now would jeopardize any further educational opportunities in the U.S.

"It is unlikely we would be allowed to return to the U.S. to finish our education," Sheriana explains. "Our parents would like us to stay in the United States because there is no opportunity for us back home."

For now, both girls continue to earn high marks (As and Bs) at GRCC while they and the Clarks seek other funding opportunities.

"Where the girls go after they finish at GRCC will depend on the costs," Brenda Clark says. "Don and I are grateful we're in a position to be able to help them out. It hardly compares to the sacrifice their parents have made for them. I am not sure that we could have done that."

Forums, cont'd... From Page 1

will allow the school district to accommodate current and future student growth.

The schedule for the community forums are:

- Tuesday, Feb. 22 from 7 until 9 p.m. at Alto Elementary School.

- Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. until noon at the Runciman Board of Education office.

- Monday, Feb. 28 from 7 until 9 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary School.

- Tuesday, Feb. 29 from 9 until 11 a.m. at the Runciman Board of Education office.

The forums will be hosted by Bleke; Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent of finance and personnel; and Jim White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

The Board of Education will then review all information authored by administrators, teachers and citizens at a March 6 board retreat.

At its April meeting, the board will have a preliminary discussion on the best options available to the district.

A final decision will be

voted on by the board in May. "I think the process the district has used has been open and fair. We're not done yet. Citizens still have more opportunity to speak out about it," Bleke said. "We clearly want this to be a 10-15 year plan and do what is right for the community."

COLLEGE NEWS

Central Michigan University's fall semester honors list includes students from the Lowell area who earned 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and higher grade point averages.

Among them were: Courtney L. Arnett, Nathan J. Brandner, Jessica A. Garber, Elizabeth A. Krebill, Kerry C. Nugent and Casey L. Parker of Lowell and Lillian R. Hawkins, Shannon L. Sheehan and Amanda R. Wolfert of Alto.

In all, 2,787 CMU stu-

dents were named to the honors list and 407 earned straight "A"s. About 17,800 students attend CMU in Mount Pleasant.

For the fall semester, 547 freshmen, 619 sophomores, 620 juniors and 1,001 seniors were named to the honors list. The fall semester ended in December.

Beth A. Hoag, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hoag of Lowell, has received recognition on the dean's list for the fall semester at Bradley

University in Peoria, Ill.

To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

Bradley University is an independent, privately endowed, coeducational institution. With an enrollment of approximately 6,000 students, Bradley is the ideal size for living and learning. The university offers a full range of baccalaureate and graduate level programs as well as personal attention from a faculty dedicated to student learning.

The deans of Kansas State University's colleges have announced the names of 1,573 students who have earned semester honors for their outstanding academic performance during the 1999 fall semester. Among them were Aaron John Plattner and Brett William Plattner of Lowell.

All of the students will receive commendation from their deans. The honors are recorded on the students' permanent academic records. Students receiving semester honors ranked in the top 10 percent of their class within their respective colleges and took at least 12 semester hours of graded course work.

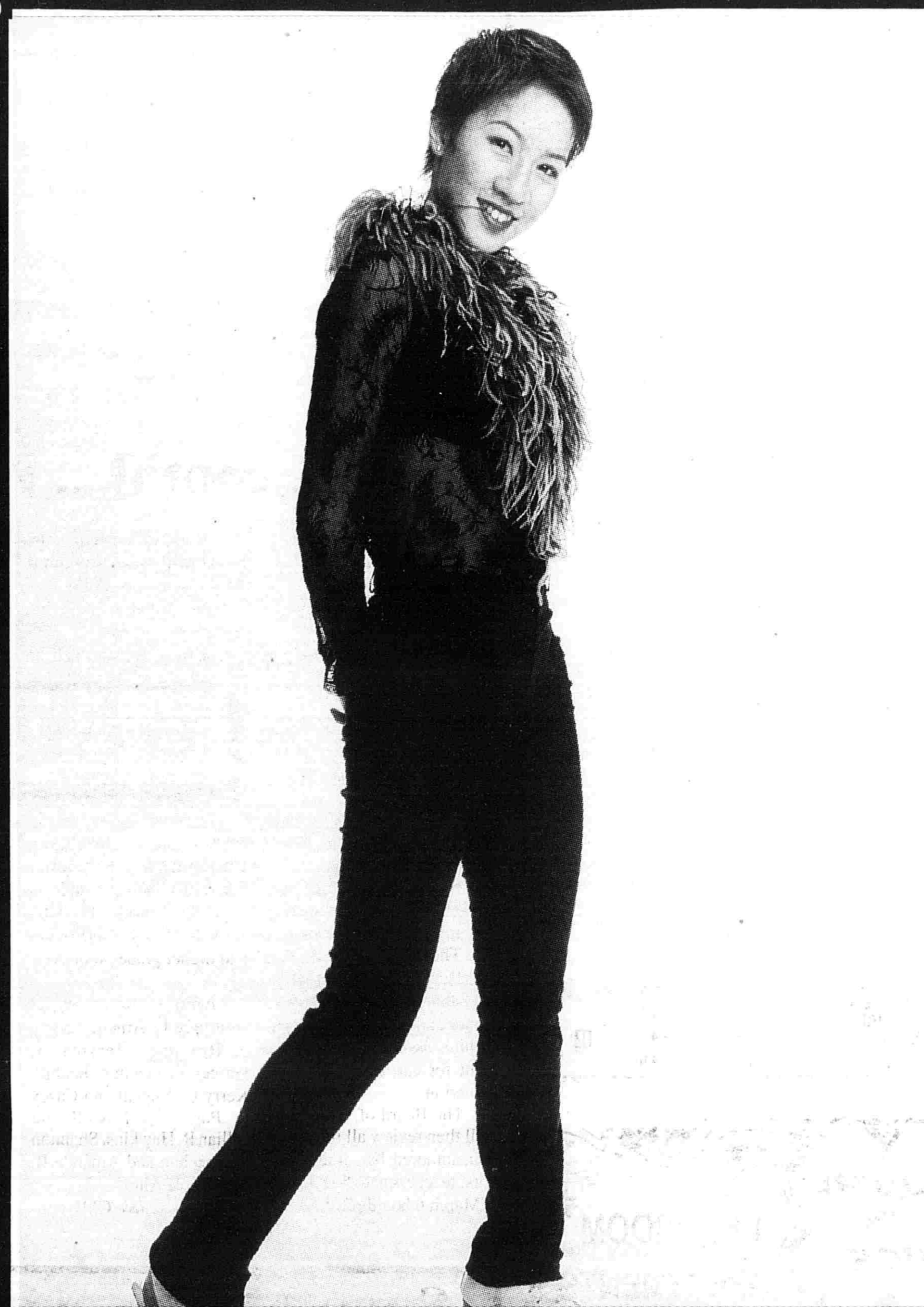
Huron University has accepted Nicholas DeZwaan, a 1999 graduate of Lowell High School, as a student for enrollment in February 2000 to begin study toward a bachelor of science degree in health and physical education.

Huron University, accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, is located in Huron, South Dakota.

The Ledger TV LISTING MAGAZINE

CHANNEL	SYMBOL
2	LOCAL
3	WWMT-3
4	WOTV-41
5	FX
6	WGUV-35
7	WXMI-17
8	WOOD-8
9	WLNS-6
10	WILX-10
11	WTLJ-54
12	WKAR-23
13	WZZM-13
14*	SHOWTIME
15	WSYM-47
16*	HBO
17*	THE MOVIE CHANNEL
18*	C-MAX
19	FAM
20	LOCAL PROG./WEATHER
21	MTV
22	VH-1
23	USA
24	DISCOVERY
25	WGN
26	ESPN
27	CNN
28	HN
29	NICK
30	A&E
31	FOX SPORTS
32	TNT
33	TBS
34	DISNEY
35	TNN
36	TRAVEL
37	LEARNING
38	SCI-FI
39	COMEDY CENTRAL
40	WEATHER
41	HISTORY
42	AMC
43	WZPX-43
44	HOME & GARDEN
45	LIFETIME
46	TOON DISNEY
47	MSNBC
48	C-SPAN
49	EWTN

* Denotes Premium Channels



FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4 THRU FEBRUARY 10

Michelle Kwan (pictured) was thrown for a triple toe loop when Russian skater Irina Slutskaya took the gold medal at the ISU Grand Prix recently in France. Kwan returns to the ice in the 2000 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships, airing Saturday on ABC, to defend her national title.

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CHECK OUT THE MONEY-SAVING ADS IN THE LOWELL LEDGER TV MAGAZINE

Table with columns for MONDAY - FRIDAY LATENIGHT, BROADCAST CHANNELS, CABLE CHANNELS, and PREMIUM CHANNELS. Includes channels like WWTM, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX, FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, WWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTN, SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX.

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

GYMNASTICS
WOOD 3 Sat. 3:30 p.m.; WILX 10 Sat. 3:30 p.m. Gymnastics American Cup. From St. Petersburg, Fla. (Taped) [E]
HOCKEY
ESPN 23 Sat. 8 p.m. NHL SuperSkills Competition From Toronto. (Live)
WOTV 4 Sun. 2:30 p.m.; WZZM 15 Sun. 2:30 p.m. NHL Hockey All-Star Game. Hockey's biggest stars compete in the 50th annual All-Star Game. From Air Canada Centre in Toronto. (Live) [E]
FOXDT 31 Sun. 12 a.m. IHL Hockey Kansas City Blades at Detroit Vipers. (Same-day Tape)
FOXDT 31 Tue. 7:30 p.m. IHL Hockey Orlando Solar Bears at Detroit Vipers. (Live)
FOXDT 31 Thu. 7 p.m. NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at St. Louis Blues. From Kiel Center in St. Louis. (Live)

BODYBUILDING
FOXDT 31 Sun. 12 p.m. Bodybuilding Ms. Fitness World. (Taped)
BOWLING
ESPN 23 Sun. 12:30 p.m. PBA Bowling Chattanooga Open. From Chattanooga, Tenn. (Taped)
TNN 65 Tue. 8 p.m. Bowling Rockin' Bowl. Purdue meets the University of Kansas in traditional and offbeat bowling events. From Las Vegas. (Taped) [E]
BOXING
FOXDT 31 Sun. 7 p.m. Boxing Sunday Night Fights. (Taped)
EQUESTRIAN
WXMI 7 Sat. 4 p.m.; WSYM 15 Sat. 4 p.m. Horse Racing Donn Handicap. From Gulfstream Park in Hallandale, Fla. (Live) [E]
ESPN 23 Sat. 5 p.m. Horse Racing San Vicente Stakes. From Arcadia, Calif. (Live)
FOOTBALL
WOTV 4 Sun. 5:30 p.m.; WZZM 15 Sun. 5:30 p.m. NFL Football Pro Bowl. AFC stars battle NFC standouts for conference supremacy. From Honolulu. (Live) [E]

RUGBY
FOXDT 31 Wed. 1 p.m. Rugby European Cup Game. (Taped)
SKATING
TNN 65 Fri. 9 p.m. RollerJam Nevada Hot Dice vs. New York Enforcers. From Universal Studios Florida in Orlando, Fla. (Taped) [E]
TBS 31 Tue. 8:05 p.m. Figure Skating Champions on Ice Winter Tour. Scheduled competitors include Dorothy Hamill, Oksana Baiul, Surya Bonaly, Katarina Witt, Nancy Kerrigan, Brian Boitano and Victor Petrenko. (Taped)
ESPN 23 Thu. 12 a.m. Figure Skating U.S. Championships. Men's short program from Gund Arena in Cleveland. (Same-day Tape)
SOCCER
ESPN 23 Sun. 2 p.m. Women's Soccer Norway at United States. From Lockhart Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Live)
FOXDT 31 Sun. 5 p.m. English Premier League Soccer Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)
TRACK AND FIELD
WOOD 8 Sat. 2:30 p.m.; WILX 10 Sat. 2:30 p.m. Track and Field Millrose Games. From Madison Square Garden in New York. (Taped)
WINTER SPORTS
ESPN 23 Wed. 4 p.m. Snowmobile Racing Snocross World Championship. (Taped)

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Table with columns for SATURDAY MORNING, BROADCAST CHANNELS, CABLE CHANNELS, and PREMIUM CHANNELS. Includes channels like WWTM, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX, FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, WWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTN, SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX.

Table with columns for SATURDAY AFTERNOON, BROADCAST CHANNELS, CABLE CHANNELS, and PREMIUM CHANNELS. Includes channels like WWTM, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WTLJ, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, WZPX, FX, FAM, MTV, VH1, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, CN2, NICK, A&E, FOXDT, TNT, TBS, DISN, TNN, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, COM, WWC, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, TOON, MSNBC, CSPAN, EWTN, SHOW, HBO, TMC, MAX.

FEBRUARY 4, 2000 - FEBRUARY 10, 2000

MONDAY - FRIDAY LATENIGHT. Broadcast Channels: 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30. Cable Channels: 5-12, 13-19, 20-25, 26-32, 33-39, 40-46, 47-53. Premium Channels: 54-60.

SATURDAY MORNING. Broadcast Channels: 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30. Cable Channels: 5-12, 13-19, 20-25, 26-32, 33-39, 40-46, 47-53. Premium Channels: 54-60.

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FOXDT 3 Thu. 7 p.m. NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at St. Louis Blues. From Kiel Center in St. Louis. (Live)

RODEO

TNN 6 Sun. 9 p.m. Championship Bull Riding Bud Light Cup Portland. From Portland, Ore. (Taped)

TNN 6 Tue. 10 p.m. Championship Bull Riding PBR Greensboro. -- Round 1. From Greensboro, N.C. (Taped)

ESPN 23 Sun. 12:30 p.m. PBA Bowling Chattanooga Open. From Chattanooga, Tenn. (Taped)

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FOXDT 3 Sun. 4 p.m. Motorcycle Racing Arenacross. From Hampton, Va. (Taped)

ESPN 23 Sun. 9 p.m. Winter X-Games Scheduled: biker x, snowboarding superpipe. From Mount Snow, Vt. (Taped) [E]

WOTV 4 Sun. 1 p.m.; WZZM 13 Sun. 1 p.m. Winter X-Games Scheduled: boarder x, snowboarding superpipe. From Mount Snow, Vt. (Taped) [E]

FOXDT 3 Sun. 12 a.m. Winter X-Games Scheduled: skier big air, biker x, snowboarding superpipe, snowboarding big air. From Mount Snow, Vt. (Same-day Tape) [E]

ESPN 23 Tue. 9 p.m. Winter X-Games Scheduled: snowboarding big air, ultracross, skiboarding slopestyle. From Mount Snow, Vt. (Live) [E]

ESPN 23 Thu. 4 p.m. Surfing Van's Triple Crown. From Oahu, Hawaii. (Taped)

MISCELLANEOUS

ESPN 23 Fri. 9 p.m. Winter X-Games Scheduled: snocross, skier x, snowboarding slopestyle. From Mount Snow, Vt. (Live) [E]

WOTV 4 Sat. 5 p.m.; WZZM 13 Sat. 5 p.m. Winter X-Games Scheduled: snocross, skier x, snowboarding slopestyle. From Mount Snow, Vt. (Taped) [E]

ESPN 23 Sat. 6 p.m. Winter X-Games Scheduled: boarder x, snowboarding slopestyle. From Mount Snow, Vt. (Live) [E]

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON. Broadcast Channels: 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30. Cable Channels: 5-12, 13-19, 20-25, 26-32, 33-39, 40-46, 47-53. Premium Channels: 54-60.

SATURDAY EVENING/LATENIGHT FEBRUARY 5, 2000. Table listing broadcast channels, programs, and premium channels for Saturday evening.

SUNDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 6, 2000. Table listing broadcast channels, programs, and premium channels for Sunday morning.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 6, 2000. Table listing broadcast channels, programs, and premium channels for Sunday afternoon.

STRETCH YOUR ADVERTISING BUDGET IN THE LEDGER TV SECTION RUN 1 AD - 4 WEEKS - FOR ONLY \$50! Advertisement featuring cartoon characters and a large price tag.

SUNDAY EVENING / LATE NIGHT FEBRUARY 6, 2000

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Missing Pieces', 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire', and 'Nature'.

CABLE CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and rows for cable channels (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.) listing programs like 'Born on the Fourth of July', 'Who's the Boss?', and 'Legends'.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-4:30) and rows for premium channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.) listing programs like 'My Best Friend's Wedding', 'The Poseidon Adventure', and 'Clay Pigeons'.

MONDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 7, 2000

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like 'Wheel of Fortune', 'Jeopardy!', and 'Antiques Roadshow'.

CABLE CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for cable channels (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.) listing programs like 'M*A*S*H', 'Who's the Boss?', and 'Music Videos'.

PREMIUM CHANNELS

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for premium channels (SHOW, HBO, TMC, etc.) listing programs like 'ER', 'The Color of Friendship', and 'This Old House'.

LOWELL WATER WORKS advertisement featuring a cartoon character and text: 'We have all new state of the art equipment and cleaning products to clean, protect & dry your vehicle.' Includes address: 1941 West Main • Lowell, MI 49331.

LOWELL WATER WORKS advertisement with a starburst graphic: '\$1.00 off for ladies on Tuesdays.' Text: 'WIN FREE CAR WASHES. Bring in this coupon when you get your next wash & ENTER THE DRAWING FOR 1 YEAR OF FREE CAR WASHES!' Includes a name and phone field.

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Weir sets records in Forest Hills/Lowell loss to Hudsonville

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Scott Weir's first Forest Hills/Lowell swim meet is not one he will soon forget.

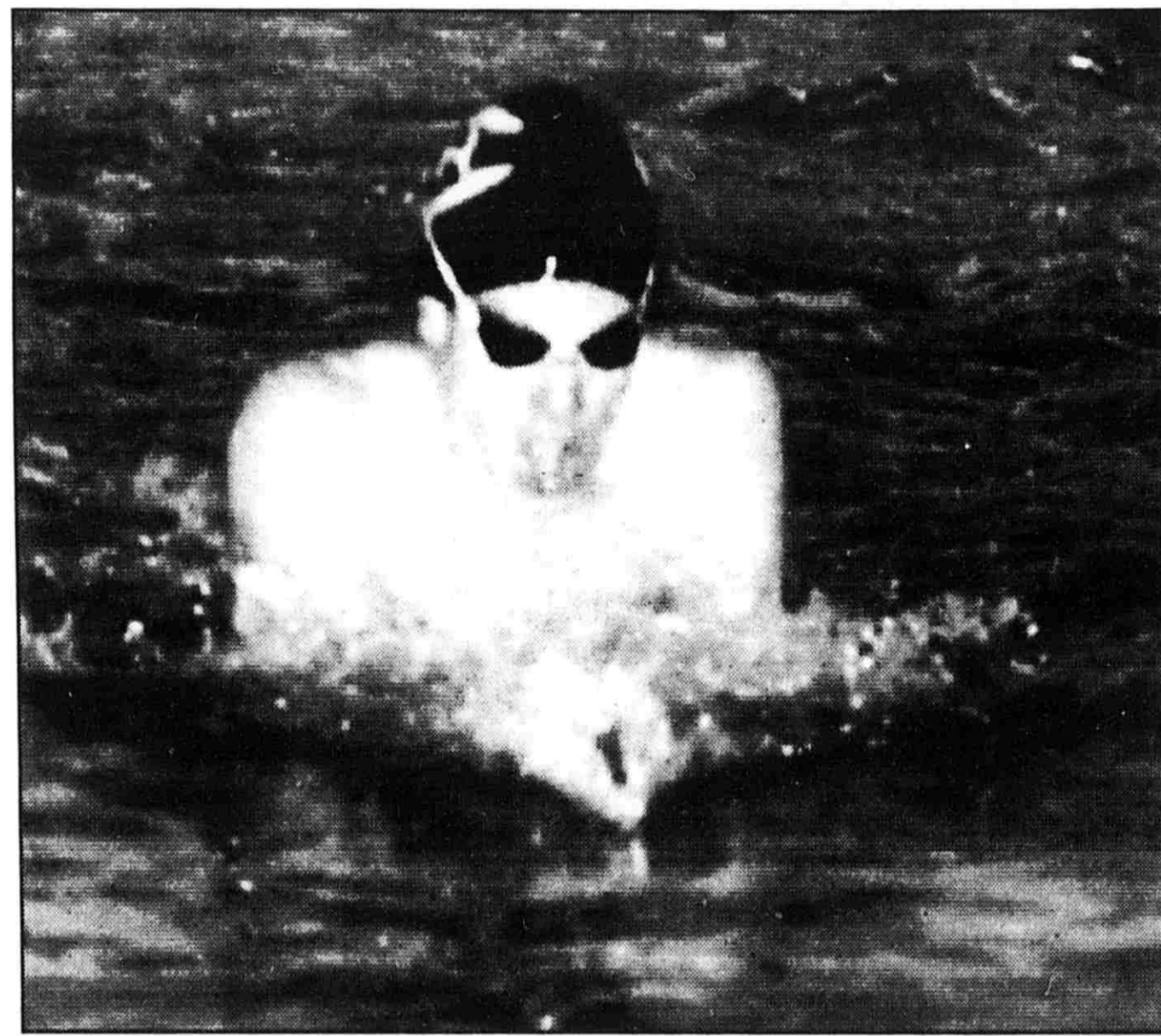
It may be one others won't soon be able to forget either. Weir's name will be found in two events on the school record board high above the aquatic center pool.

The junior, a transfer from East Kentwood, set a school and pool record in the 100 freestyle and a school record in the 50 freestyle.

"Scott is a natural talent and has a feel for the water," said Forest Hills/Lowell boys swim coach Heather Heritage.

Weir shattered Brian Adams' '91 mark of 22.02 in the 50 freestyle with a time of 21.35.

A little while later, Weir erased Adams' record mark of 48.30 in the 100 freestyle. The Ranger came home in a



Mike Gustafson earned a first and two seconds in the Rangers meet with Hudsonville.

blistering time of 46.79.

Even with Weir's record-breaking performances, Hudsonville easily outdistanced Forest Hills/Lowell 112-74.

"Scott was obviously the talk of the meet," Heritage said. "From a team standpoint, I was pleased everyone had a successful event," Heritage said.

Ranger Mike Gustafson, coming back from a bout with the flu, earned a first in the 100 butterfly fly with a time of 54.80.

Gustafson was edged out by Hudsonville's Tom Giering in the 100 backstroke. Giering finished in 55.61. Gustafson stopped the clock in 55.66.

"Considering Mike had been out of the pool a couple of days with the flu, I thought he swam well," Heritage said. Andrew Klipa gave a

strong showing in the 100 breaststroke. The Ranger (1:06.82) was second to Ross Geurink's 1:03.1.

Klipa also placed second in the 200 IM with a time of 2:15.42. The Eagles' Andy Felix was first, stopping the clock in 2:13.61.

Andrew Sargent and Jacob Baker were second and third respectively to Hudsonville's Brian Berends in diving.

The Rangers' 200 medley relay team of Brett Goldberg, Klipa, Gustafson and Weir posted a winning time of 1:43.46.

In the 500 freestyle, Eric Cherba came home in second with a time of 5:46.17. Felix won the event in 5:28.08.

Lowell basketball team comes up short against Hastings and Creston

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Tony Bowne, a returning first-team all-state player, scored his career 1,000th point Friday night in Hastings' 64-57 OK White league win against Lowell.

The senior tallied 13 points, but his defensive effort held Lowell's Aaron Alsgaard under wraps in the second half.

Alsgaard scored 12 first-half points but was held to nine over the final 16 minutes, and four of those came

in the final minute of the contest.

"We've been playing just well enough not to win," said Hastings' coach Don Schils. "We feel real good about this one. Lowell's a very tough team to beat here."

The Red Arrows who have suffered from slow starts enjoyed one of its best first quarters of the year. Lowell netted 19 points and led by seven after the opening eight minutes.

"After that first quarter, the game changed from the

tempo we wanted to the tempo they wanted," Lowell basketball coach Pete Bush explained. "We were never able to get it back."

After the first quarter, Hastings showed discipline in their half court offense and found the open man.

"I thought we did a real good job of that in the second half. It also forced Lowell to play defense," Schils explained. "In the first quarter we did not do a good job of fighting through screens. We were slow in getting to spots."

The Red Arrows continued to suffer from poor foul shooting, 10-of-21, including three-for-10 over the final eight minutes.

After that first quarter, the game changed from the tempo we wanted to the tempo they wanted. We were never able to get it back.

Pete Bush
Lowell Basketball Coach

Lowell was also beaten up on the boards. "Hastings killed us on glass," Bush said. "We had too many lapses and committed too many mistakes."

Alsgaard led all Lowell scorers with 21 points.

Dustin Terrell led Hastings with 20.

Creston 61
Lowell 55

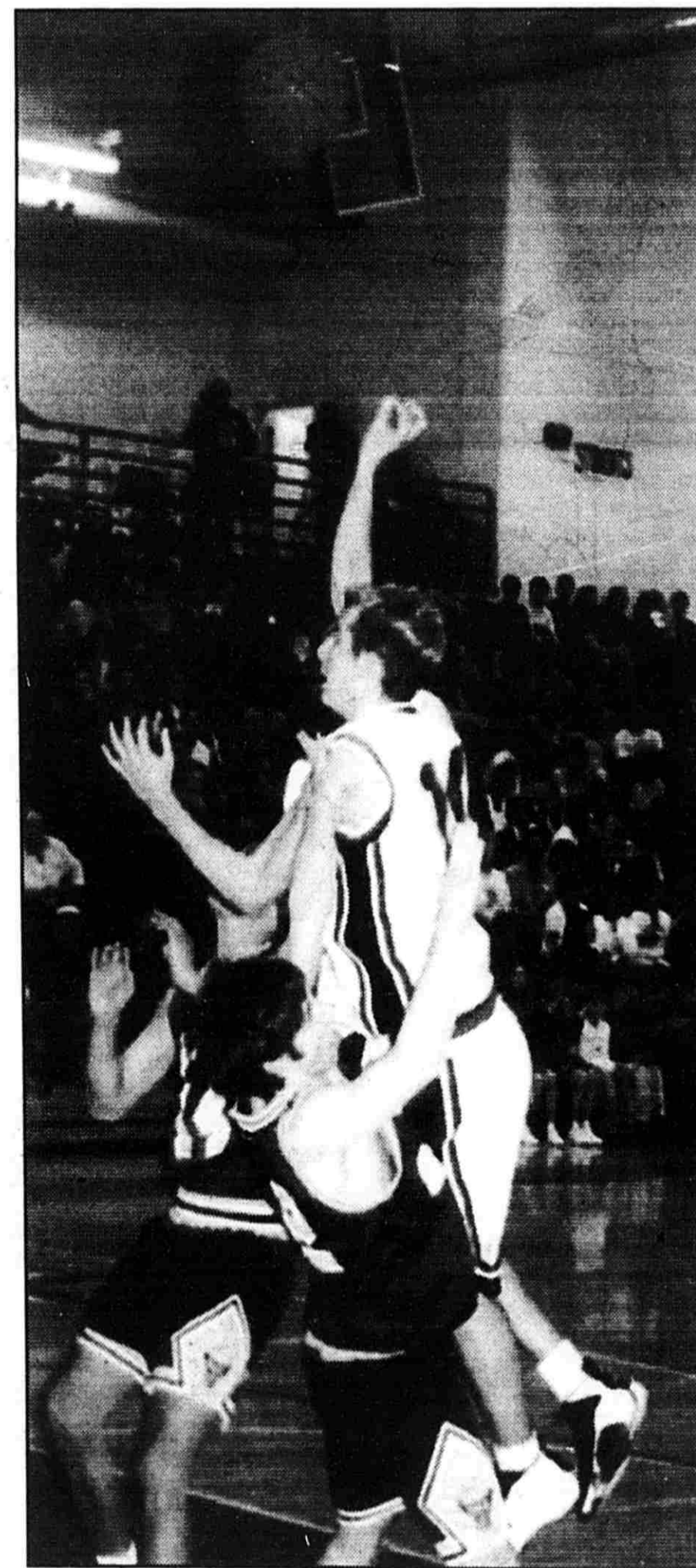
Creston secured an 11-point lead entering the fourth quarter, then held on for a six-point win over the Red Arrows.

Ryan Mix and Aaron Alsgaard were the only two Lowell players to score in double figures.

Mix finished with a game-high 23 points and Alsgaard tallied 11.

Lowell trailed 17-16 after one quarter of play and 31-26 at halftime.

Creston outscored Low-



Aaron Alsgaard goes up in traffic for this jump shot.

ell 17-10 in the third stanza, advantage over the final 18 minutes, while Lowell held an 18-13



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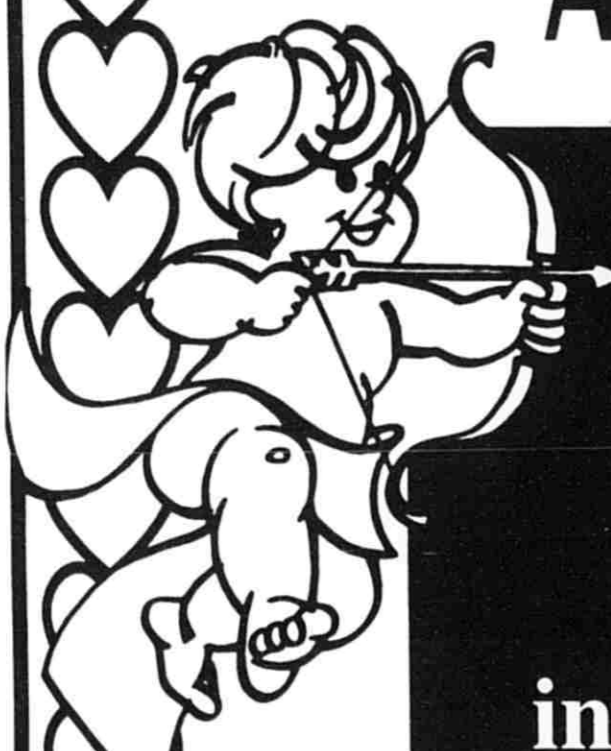
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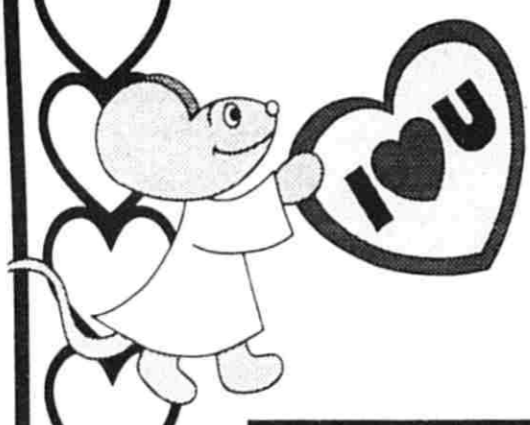
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