

# The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

## Accident near bus stop rekindles safety concerns

By Dan Schneider

A vehicle sliding off the road at the corner of Sayles and Marble in Keene Township two weeks ago renewed safety concerns among parents whose children wait for the bus there.

The driver of a sport utility vehicle, traveling east on Sayles Road, lost control going over an icy patch on the extension joining Sayles to the north-south Marble Road, and slid along the shoulder into a tree. The accident occurred on a weekend, but parents worry that a car could slide along the shoulder while children are waiting for the bus there.

"The SUV hit the spot where all the kids stand," said Sharon Mason, mother of a first grader who waits to get on the bus at the stop.

The stop is a major one on the Lowell Area Schools bus route in Ionia County. Development in the area has put pressure on the road system, making the bus stop crowded. Most parents drive their children there.

Safety at that intersection has been a concern for several years. Larry Mikulski, director of transportation for Lowell Area Schools, acknowledged that the safety of the stop is cause for concern. He said other stops in the district, especially



Lowell Area Schools' students get off the bus at the intersection of Sayles and Marble roads in Keene Township in Ionia County. Two weekends ago, a sport utility vehicle slid off the road where children wait for the bus, renewing concerns over the safety of the bus stop.

on busy roads like Alden Nash and Lincoln Lake, present greater safety challenges. Parents of students who wait at that intersection would

like to see improvements. John Mason said he would like to see the bus go down Marble Road, as buses from Saranac schools do. That way,

more kids could get on the bus from their driveways rather than wait at the intersection. Marble Road, however, is an unimproved dirt road with a substantial hill.

Bus stop, continued...  
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## New Y program first community-wide wellness project

By Dan Schneider

Local participation in a new YMCA program is intended to create fitness role models in the area.

Part of the YMCA's current membership drive, "Get Moving, Get Healthy" (GMGH) will introduce people to the benefits of fitness through walking.

"The average person takes about three to five thousand steps a day," Patty Siegel said.

Siegel works in membership relations for the Grand Rapids YMCAs. The "Get Moving, Get Healthy" program will encourage people to walk more by giving them pedometers, devices that count the number of steps a person takes.

"The goal will be about 10,000 steps (per day)," Siegel

said. Ten thousand steps is the equivalent of five miles.

Through the new Lowell community wellness director, Jessica Johnston, the program will particularly target Lowell Area Schools staff and administration, city employees and the Lowell Police Department. There was an official kick-off for GMGH at Monday's school board meeting. It will be Johnston's first visible community-wide project as wellness director.

Walking was an important part of LAS superintendent, Shari Miller's recovery from breast cancer. This is why she is promoting GMGH in the schools.

"The exercise just played a very significant role in my recovery, so I am a strong and very enthusiastic supporter of this program because of those experiences," Miller said.

Here is how the program works: An LAS, City Hall, or Lowell Police Department employee signs up and is given a free two-week family pass to the YMCA. Participation in GMGH will give the employee a \$25 discount on the YMCA joining fee. The standard fee for an individual YMCA membership is \$125 to join plus \$52 per month. The family rate is \$150 to join and \$76.

Once a member of the YMCA, GMGH participants get a pedometer to wear and a session with a YMCA wellness coach. The wellness coach will help the person set realistic goals for increasing how much they walk on a week-to-week basis.

The goal is to make participants into fitness leaders in the community. A teacher,

for instance, would become a healthy-living role model for his or her students.

Fitness role models could be beneficial in today's schools. Siegel cited statistics stating that one third of Michigan school children are overweight, and the obesity rate among children has doubled since 1980.

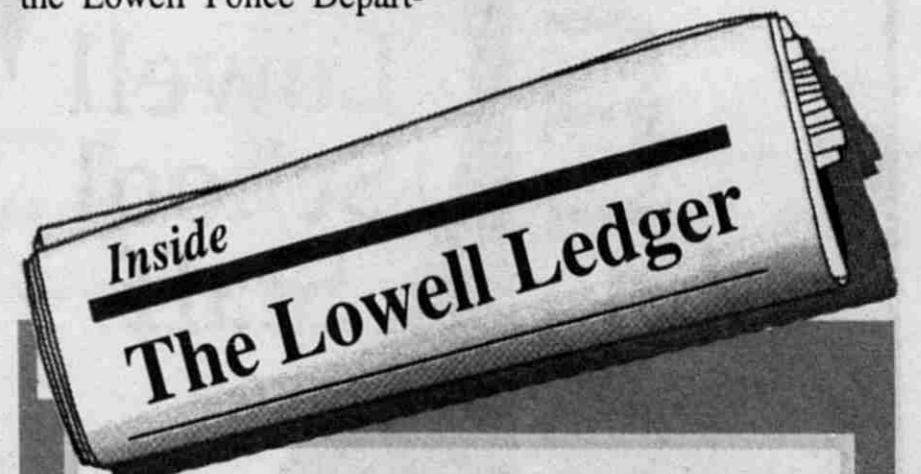
Lowell High School shop teacher, Curt Kaeb and a few other teachers at the high school already meet early three days a week to walk in the halls. Kaeb said one of the drawbacks of teaching is the fact that it's sedentary.

"In the wintertime here, you're just sitting in front of a computer or you're standing in front of a classroom," Kaeb said.

Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine said the department

might use the GMGH program, or at least its priorities, as a basis for fitness goals in the Lowell Police Department.

The department currently has no set fitness regimen.



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## OBITUARIES

**DRYER** - Dayton Dryer, aged 81, of Cascade Township, passed away February 5, 2004. He was preceded in death by his wife Joan. Surviving are his children Sandy VanStee of Lowell, Denny and Barb Dryer of Grand Haven and Ted and Vivian Dryer of Cascade; grandchildren Judson VanStee, Kyle Nash, Nicole Dryer and Michelle Dryer; great-grandchildren Sydney VanStee, Xavier Nash, Nicholas VanStee and Audrey VanStee. The funeral service was held Monday at the Metcalf & Jonkhoff Chapel with the Rev. Raymond Gaylord officiating. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions to Hospice of Holland Home would be appreciated.

**KIDDER** - Roselyn Kidder, aged 62, of Lowell, passed away Sunday, February 8, 2004. She is survived by her husband C. Kelly; children Robin (Joseph) Baker, Michael (Phia) Kidder, Kimberly (Matt) Krolewicz, Brian (Susan) Kidder, Vickie (John) Idema, Jeff (Patty) Kidder; grandchildren Tabitha, Jacob, Lucas, Heather, Tabitha, Sophia, Adam, Ashley, Katie, Ryan, Zachary, Kayla, Jessica, Joshua, Isaac; brothers Roger (Susan) Wellman, Robert Wellman. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell, Mich. Rev. Richard Taggart officiating. Interment Irving Cemetery, Hastings.

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.

—Carl Jung

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## AAA warns of insurance fraud

Insurance fraud is America's second-largest economic crime, and each time someone stages a crash, files a false claim, reports an auto theft that never happened or exaggerates the value of lost, damaged or stolen property, it costs you, the consumer, says a new brochure *Insurance Fraud Costs Everybody* focusing on the problem produced by AAA Michigan.

It details this \$30 billion-a-year problem. That translates into an estimated \$300 annually in increased costs and higher premiums for the average family," stated Bob Vogt, manager of AAA Michigan's Claim Investigation Unit (CIU).

Last year alone, indicates *Michigan Living* (the official Auto Club publication), the CIU was credited with saving honest AAA Michigan insureds well over \$14 million in bogus claims. Vogt advises Michiganians to stay alert for scams.

"Report fraud whenever you see it, and take your own preventative action so you don't become a victim," he says. Resist the temptation to buy goods from strangers at prices well below market value; the items could be stolen. Also beware of "do-gooders" who refer you to a particular body shop or doctor for a "special deal" after a crash.

"Keep insurance policy numbers confidential. Guard them as you would your Social Security number," Vogt adds. "Keep your certificate of insurance in your wallet, not in your car. If you have multiple drivers and need copies, your insurance carrier will be happy to provide them."

Call the HEAT hotline, (800) 242-HEAT to report auto-theft related information, including insurance fraud, chop chops, carjackings and auto theft rings. All tipsters remain anonymous and you may be eligible for a reward if your tip leads to an arrest and successful prosecution.

You can also help by making your vehicle less of a theft target by having its windows etched. Each summer at various locations, AAA Michigan offers free vehicle identification number (Vin) etching for all Michigan vehicle owners.

This number, placed into the glass in an inconspicuous spot, makes it harder for thieves to sell its glass and hence makes it less of a theft target.

For a free copy of the brochure, stop by any AAA branch or to to www.aaa.com under About Us, click on Press Releases, then click on Insurance Fraud Costs Everyone.

## LEGAL NOTICES

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CASE NO. 03-11872-DM

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on or before March 1, 2004. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

A copy of this order shall be published once each week in The Lowell Ledger three consecutive weeks and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

DALE P. TEMPLE, JR.  
P.O. Box 124, 18301 E. 46  
Howard City, MI  
(Last known address)

TO: DALE P. TEMPLE, JR.

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JAN. 16, 2004

DANIEL V. ZEMAITIS  
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## LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

### NOTICE OF TESTING OPTEC COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2004 SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the OPTEC Computer Program testing for the February 24, 2004 Annual Election will be conducted on February 18, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the Lowell Area Schools, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan.

## New principal named at Murray Lake Elementary

By Dan Schneider

Brent Noskey was recommended and approved at the

school board meeting Monday night to be Murray Lake Elementary's new principal.

"I am fully convinced that he is the very best candidate for Murray Lake and he will

serve us well," Lowell superintendent Shari Miller said. Noskey is currently the

assistant principal at Cherry Creek Elementary. He taught fifth grade at Cherry Creek from 1995 to 2003, following a year as a third grade teacher there. He also taught special education at Runciman Elementary from 1990 to 1994.

A 1986 Lowell High School graduate, Noskey earned his bachelor's degree in education from Grand Valley State University in 1990, finished his master's at that school in 1994 and completed administrative course work in 2002.

Noskey and his wife, Lisa, have three sons. Zach is a sixth grader at Lowell Middle School, Grant is in third grade at Cherry Creek and Carter is a kindergartner at Bushnell.

"I think we have an opportunity to really create a model elementary out there," Noskey said of Murray Lake Elementary. He said he is looking forward to working with the teachers already established as the core team for Murray Lake. Through meetings with former assistant superintendent Jim White, Noskey will become familiar with the new school.

At the school board meeting, White reported that the first electrical inspection of the new elementary building went well. The painting is done in the academic wings, drywall is hung in the office and energy-efficient lights are installed in the gym.

The school will take delivery of furniture in June.

## Lowell Senior Neighbors real "cut-ups"



Ladies at the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center spend one Thursday morning each month cutting out the box tops for education and labels from Campbell's soup and Spartan canned foods collected at Cherry Creek Elementary. Pictured are near (from left): Ann McQueen, Fern Lamb and Arlene Franshe; far (from left): Eva Cain, Alice Baut and Pauline LaDue. So far this year, box tops have raised \$547.80 and Spartan labels, \$100 for Cherry Creek Family Links projects. The Campbell's soup labels totaled 1,460 points this year. The points are used to purchase school-related items from a catalog. On the other Thursdays, the ladies knit blankets for various charities in Grand Rapids and for residents at Cumberland Manor and the Laurels of Kent in Lowell.

## Lowell postmaster offers advice on avoiding mail theft

By Dan Schneider

A case of mail theft occurred two weeks ago on Grand River Drive in Lowell Township, prompting Lowell postmaster Gil Brown to issue advice for protecting mail.

Postal customers should be sure to pick up mail as soon after delivery as possible, especially if they are expecting checks, bank statements or credit cards. These are the kinds of mail thieves look for. Mail theft is frequently re-

lated to identity theft, which is a growing crime in recent years. With a stolen credit card or bank account number, a thief can render financial damage that is difficult to repair.

Brown said outgoing collection mail, such as bill payments, is safer if dropped in postal boxes. Lowell has eight of these downtown. There is one in front of the post office on North Broadway. Another is in front of City Hall.

Brown said victims of mail theft should contact him and the Lowell Police Department immediately.

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# Benjamin Morse Society to present Civil War history

By Dan Schneider

The Benjamin Morse Society of Lowell Middle School will present "Lowell, Its People, and the Civil War." The presentation will take place Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in the lower level of Lowell Charter Township Hall.

The program includes an introduction read by Ian Blodger, a history of Benjamin Morse read by Carly and Sean Greenhoe and a "Lincoln Portrait" by Jack Misner. Misner, the founding advisor of the Benjamin Morse Society, will also read from Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels*.

A community Civil War exchange will follow the presentations. People are encouraged to share Civil War stories and artifacts. The Lowell Area Historical Museum will record the evening on video.

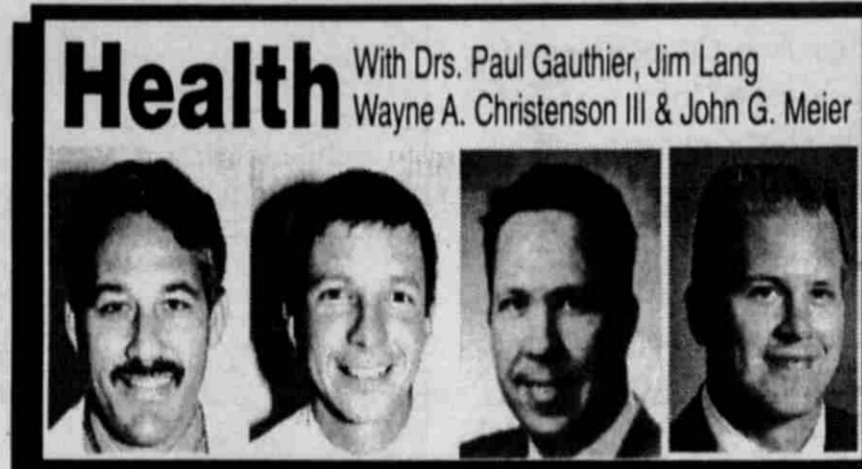
This will be the last meeting of the Benjamin Morse Society. After nine years, Misner is ready to hang up his hat as advisor to the society. He said he is nearing retirement, but welcomes the idea of someone continuing where he left off.

"If somebody still wants to do it, I'd be happy to help them organize it, but there's a beginning, a middle and end to everything," Misner said.

The first meeting of the Benjamin Morse Society was in January of 1996. Fifty-six students attended. The society was named after a Lowell

Civil War hero who received the Congressional Medal of Honor at the Battle of the Wilderness.

In its nine years, the society has made annual trips to historic locations, undertaken historical service projects, and contributed to historical awareness in the Lowell area.



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**NUTRITION FOR CHILDREN: JUICE USE**

Many parents feel that juice is an important part of their young one's diet. In fact, children are the largest group of juice consumers in the United States. We have found that too much of a good thing is bad. Studies have shown that infants who drink too much juice may become malnourished. It can

also cause diarrhea, abdominal pain, bloating and excessive flatulence (gas). Juice consumption may also cause tooth decay if children are allowed to hold a bottle or cup in their mouth during the day or at bedtime.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following:

- Fruit juice should not be given prior to six months of age.
- Infants should not get fruit juice at bedtime.
- After six months, infants should not be given juice in bottles or cups that permit them easy access throughout the day.
- For children ages one to six months, juice should be limited to four-six ounces per day.
- Children seven to 18 months should only have eight-12 ounces per day.

# Character in Action Awards

The Character in Action Awards for December/January were given to Cherry Creek students who model the school's character traits. They were nominated by staff members. Also recognized is Sawyer Buck who won the December/January Meijer Dignity and Respect Award and a \$25 gift certificate to Meijer. Sawyer was nominated for the award by several students who said he lives the character traits on a daily basis. Pictured, front row (left to right) are: Jordan VandenHout, Kortney Beachler, Hannah Churches, Lexie Bocskey, Madelynn Willemstein, Meghan Plutschow, Charlotte Hayden, Nick DeVito; second row: Ethan Sutton, Max Lignan, Sawyer Buck, Heather Dimmick, Ian Larson, Samantha Deiss; third row: Spencer Plattner, Reece Fox, Justin Castro, Laura Christiansen, Kate Olgren, Kendra Whittemore; back row: Connor Swift, Cody Clark, Tyler Organek, Kaitlyn Church, Megan Montgomery, Bryleigh Loughlin, Charlotte Hayden, Brianne Warren.



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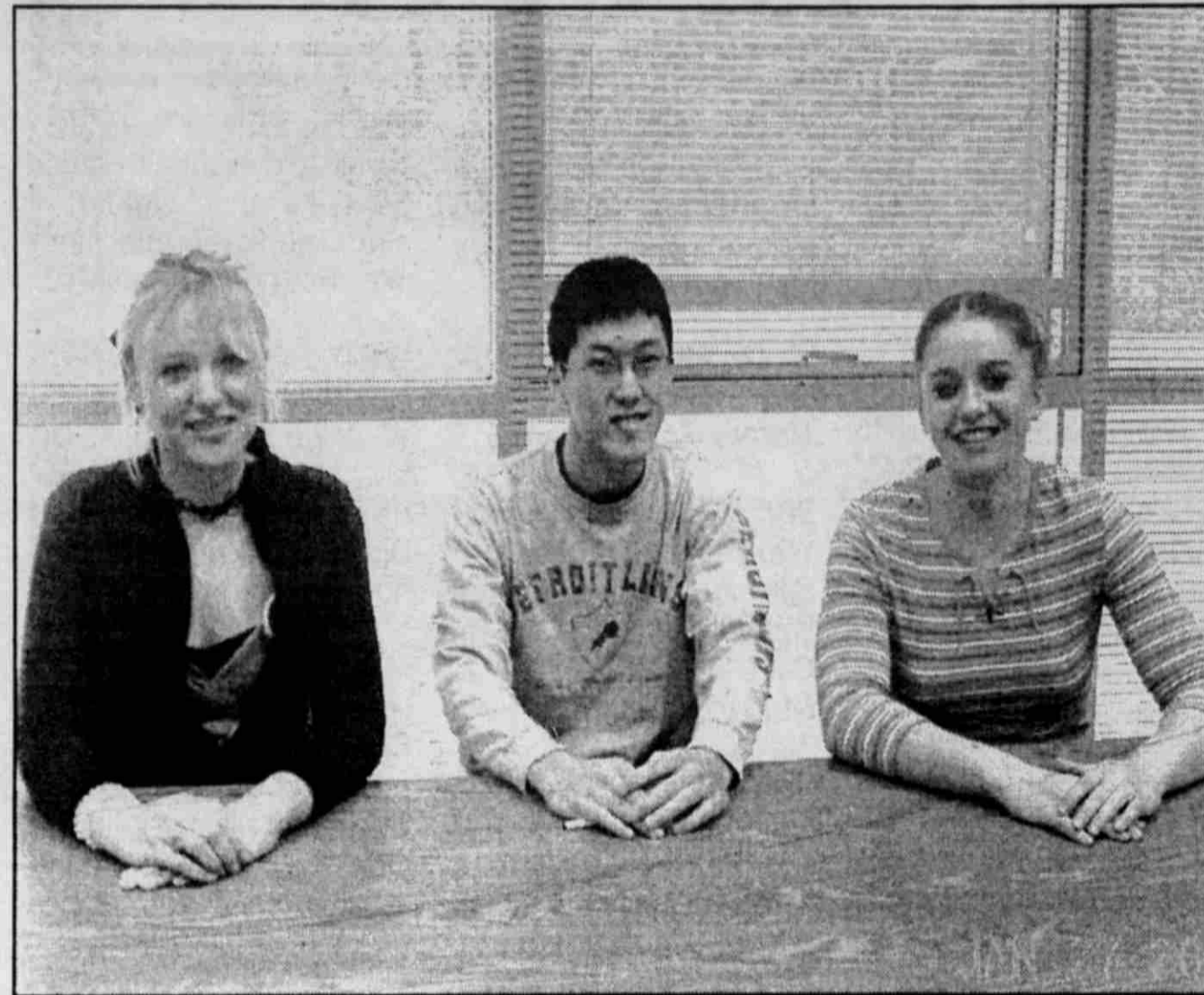
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## February Students of the Month



February Students of the Month, from left to right, are: Jessica Wisnieski, Adam Ingraham and Keni Gallert.

Lowell High School faculty members have chosen three students to be honored as Students of the Month.

**Adam Ingraham**, a sophomore, is being recognized by the math department. The son of Bill and Lori Ingraham of Lowell, he participates in Art Club, Science Olympiad, LAS Outreach, FFA, jazz band and track. His teacher nominator says that in a class comprised of our brightest young math students, Adam has proven to be the best of the best. He also best exemplifies the character trait of responsibility because he takes total responsibility for not just completing his homework, but for completing it to the best of his ability.

**Keni Gallert**, a junior, is the Science Student of the Month and the daughter of Kurt and Gail Gallert of Lowell. Keni is active in Lady Arrows Varsity Club and the varsity girls basketball team having won all-conference, all-area and all-state honors. Her teacher nominator says she has successfully maintained a balance in her life between academics and athletics. In addition, she best demonstrates the character trait of compassion by being courteous and kind to all.

**Jessica Wisnieski**, a senior, is being recognized by the English department. She is the daughter of Alex and Shirley Wisnieski of Lowell.

Jessica is a member of the annual staff, FFA and National Honor Society. She is also employed at Brann's Steakhouse and Grille. Jessica plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall to study pre-med. Her teacher nominator says Jessica's work in AP English is excellent. She demonstrates an ability to analyze literature through well-organized, engaging writing. She also best demonstrates the character trait of responsibility because her work exemplifies the high standard found in writing created by responsible, hard-working students.

## Community gathers in support of music therapy program

After recently returning from Israel where she shared her knowledge about how traumatized people can be helped through music therapy, Sister Mary Margaret Delaski, F.S.E. served as emcee and harpist for "Harp Throbs" last Saturday at the Franciscan Life Process Center.

She joined eight other area harpists during the evening in playing romantic

music for 110 guests. The fundraiser will benefit the music therapy program at the center which helps individuals with special needs.

During intermission, Delaski and her fellow Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist shared stories with their guests about their work and upcoming events.

Chairperson Alma Valenti helped plan the "Harp Throbs" fundraiser. "I was

very pleased with community support for this elegant affair," she said. "Many volunteers, too many to mention, made this special event possible. It is my hope that through events like this people will become familiar with the inspired, life-enhancing work done by the Franciscan Sisters at the Life Process Center."



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# Lowell swimming and diving going it alone

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's 145-41 loss to Northview last Thursday was indicative of the struggles the fledgling Lowell swimming and diving team has had this year. Northview was the toughest opponent the Arrows have faced so far this season, but a short roster and lack of experience conspired to make the rest of the team's season rocky as well.

"Being the first year it's been kind of tough because we don't have a lot of swimmers," Lowell swimming coach Casey Lanser said. "On top of that, I have a lot of people swimming events that they're not necessarily the best at because I don't have enough swimmers."

This is the first year Lowell has had a swim team on its own. In previous years, Lowell was on a co-op team with Forest Hills Central. Swimming is an unfunded varsity sport at Lowell, like hockey and bowling. The swimmers fund the program through fees and fundraising.

Going up against a team like Northview requires experienced swimmers and larger numbers.

"I didn't have a lot of events full; they swam a lot of exhibition for Northview," Lanser said.

So the Lowell team puts its focus on improving times. "Brittany (Dietz) dropped about five seconds in her 500 free," Lanser said. "Jordan Nawrocki dropped eight seconds in his 200 individual medley."

The team has a few experienced members. Luke Baker, captain, consistently wins events for Lowell. Against Northview, he won the 50 freestyle in :24.17.

Cara Teft is undefeated so far this year in diving. That includes a win last Thursday against Northview. Teft has already qualified for individual regionals competition, where she will face her toughest opponents of the season. If she finishes in the top 12 at regionals, she will advance to the state meet. She did last year, finishing sixth in the region.

"I think if Cara dives well like she can, she'll make it to state," diving coach Jim Davis said. Davis is the coach for Forest Hills diving but volunteers his time to coach Teft

and the other Lowell divers, all of whom are girls.

"She would be very competitive with the girls in this area," Davis said.

Since low numbers keep Lowell from having a separate girls' team, Teft must compete in the boys season against boys. This is permitted under MHSAA rules.

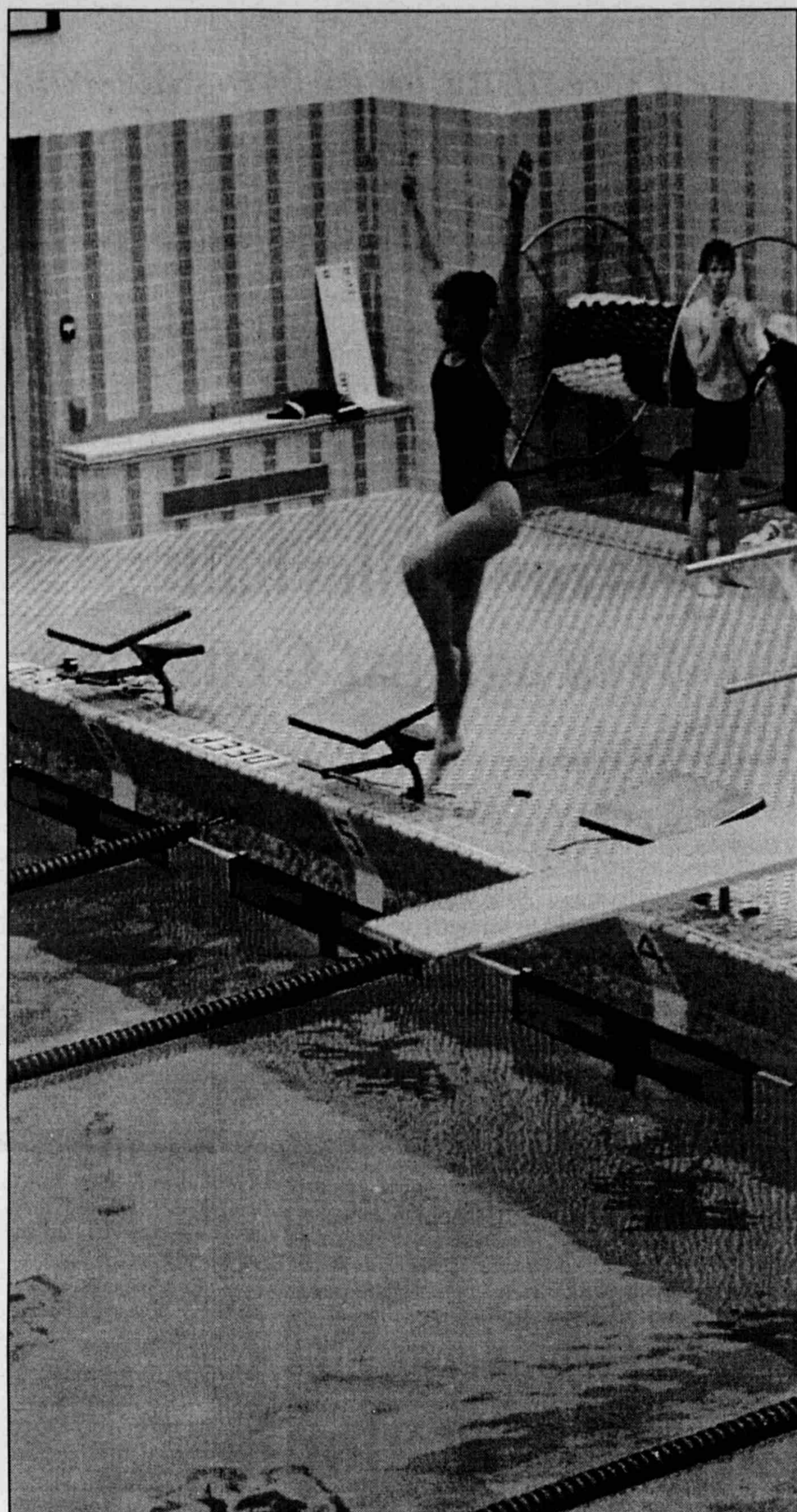
Teft made the girls' state meet as a sophomore at Rockford High School. Her parents moved to the Lowell area before her junior year.

Davis doesn't think a girls' team is an impossibility at Lowell.

"If they had a girls' program, girls would think about swimming," Davis said.

For Lanser, keeping the swimming team going at Lowell depends on recruiting more and younger swimmers.

"What would be great is if we could get some younger people to come into the program as freshmen or even earlier in some of the age group programs so they can get some experience," he said. "If we could get more awareness that there is a swim team, that would definitely help bring in the numbers."



Diving last Thursday against Northview is Cara Teft. She is undefeated this year diving against boys and has qualified for regionals where she will face some high-caliber competition.

# After loss against Cedar Springs, Arrows rebound at Sparta

By Dan Schneider

Cedar Springs outran and outshot the Red Arrows last Tuesday as Lowell suffered its second straight big loss.

"We got out-shot and out-rebounded," Lowell coach Jeff McDonald said. "They got a hand on everything we did, whether it was a dribble or a pass. I don't know how many deflections they had."

The Redhawks started the game on a 9-0 run, forcing Lowell to take its first time out 2:28 into the game. Sam Oberlin put Lowell on the board with a breakaway layup. Oberlin was responsible for Lowell's first eight points. For most of the night he was the only Arrow to keep pace with the Redhawks.

Lowell did some offensive rebounding in the first half.

"We felt like half of their points were off rebounds," Cedar Springs coach Dave Schlump said.

Lowell shot 35 percent from the field for the game compared to Cedar Springs' 52 percent. At the half, the score was 30-13, Redhawks.

Lowell did better on offense in the second half, keeping pace with 30 points to Cedar Springs' 35. There were some brief sparks from the bench in the final minutes, such as a steal and fast-break layup by James Veinberg. But it was too late for Lowell to start denting the Cedar Springs' lead, and the Redhawks won 65-43.

"I really thought it was a real veteran effort by our guys out there," Schlump said. "I really liked the defense we played, especially in the first half."

"They have a good inside-outside threat and that's a hard thing to defend," McDonald said.

Tyler Wolfe had 20 points for Cedar Springs. Oberlin matched that number for the Arrows. Cedar Springs' freshman Austin Thornton played a strong game, scoring 13 points on the night.

"You probably don't know he's a freshman but he's getting better and better every game," Schlump said.

The win improved the Redhawks' record to 12-0.

Lowell's third straight loss puts their record at 6-5.

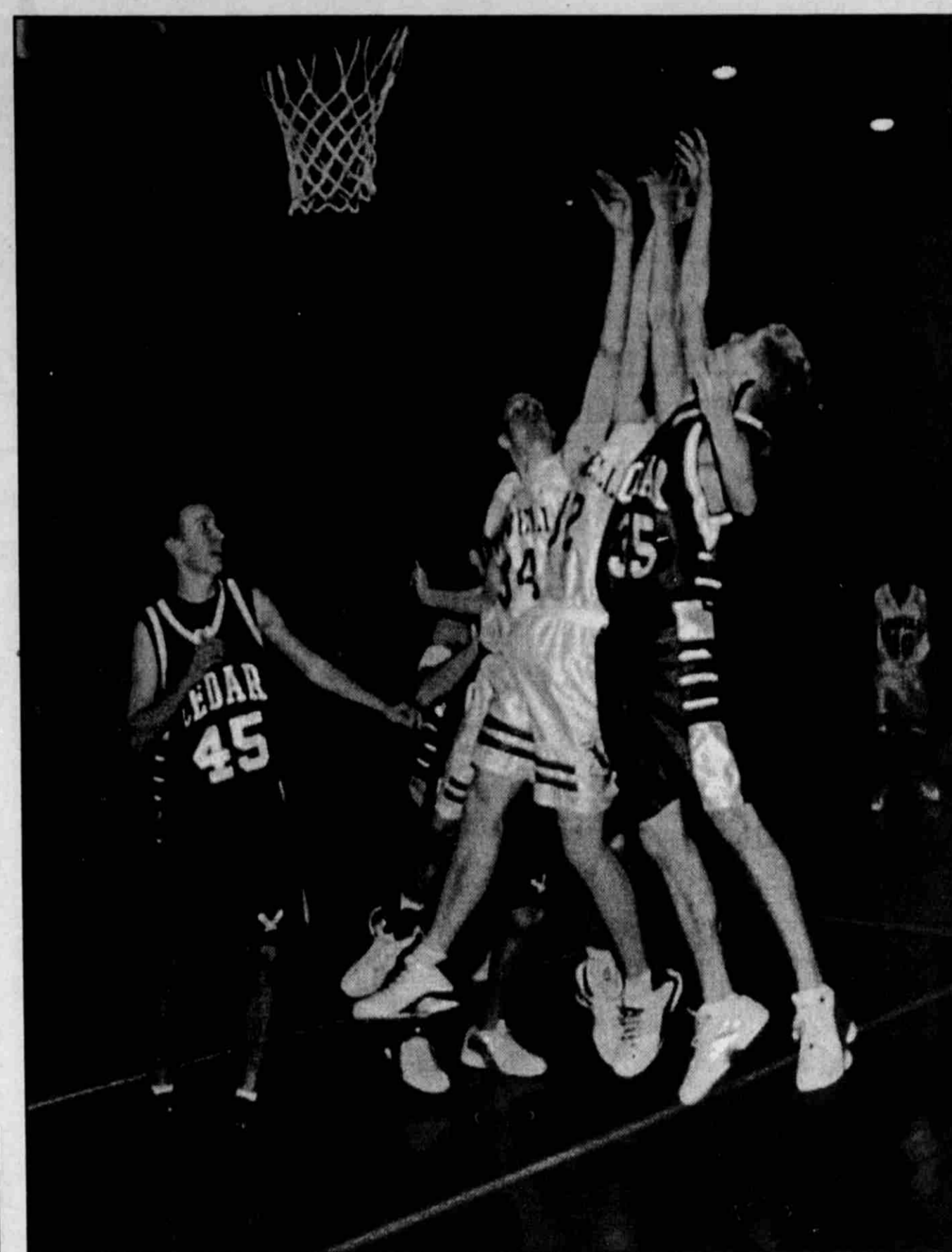
"We just gotta find a way to put some points on the board," McDonald said.

The Arrows put some points on the board against Sparta. They shot 45 percent from the field, beating the Spartans 69-46.

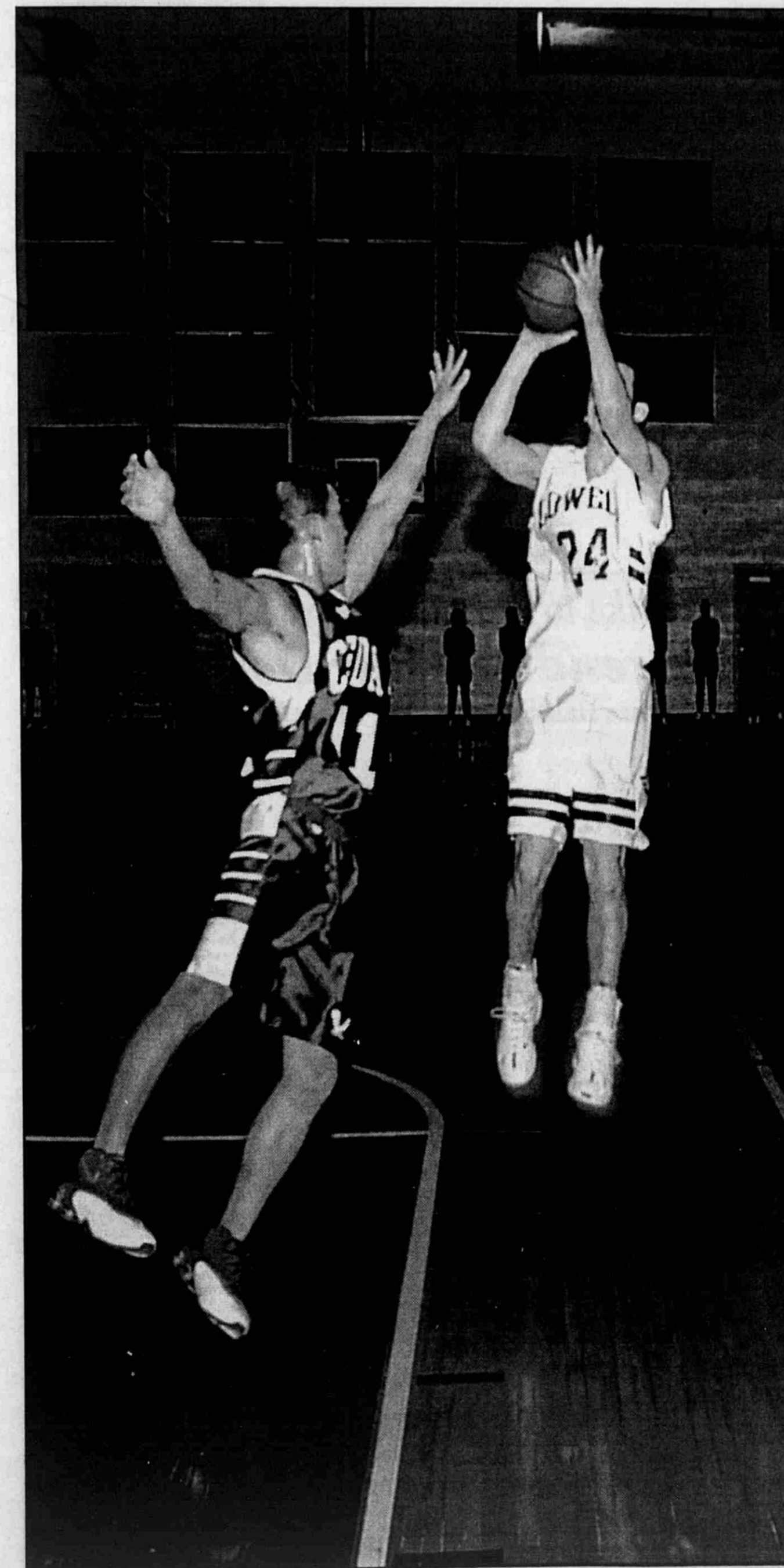
Sparta was up 12-5 early but Lowell tied the score by the end of the first quarter. Lowell finished the half ahead 34-25 and kept control for the rest of the game.

Oberlin led Lowell in scoring with 18 points. He was 7-9 from the free throw line. Mike Koster was 7-8 from the line, scoring 17 points total and grabbing seven rebounds. Josh Hettinga scored eight points in his first varsity game, shooting two three-pointers and 2-2 from the line.

After Cedar Springs and Sparta, Lowell's conference record is 5-4. They played at East Grand Rapids, Tuesday and play Friday at home against Kenowa Hills. They'll make up a snowed-out game next Monday night at Ionia.



Above: Lowell's Frank Mulder and Chris Raimer go up for a rebound against Cedar Springs' Jon Glerum in last Tuesday's loss.



At left: Lowell's Sam Oberlin shoots over Jake White of Cedar Springs. Oberlin scored Lowell's first eight points in the game against the Redhawks. He had 18 points on the night.

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**Sound Off**

The Ledger  
 (Almost) Anything Goes Opinion Forum

The staff and the administration at the Freshman Center Office have been phenomenal. Thanks a lot.

Why are there so many ads in the Buyers Guide?

The LAS handbook was written by people who are not standing outside in the morning. I bundle my child up, and it's still cold out there. These are little kids we're talking about here.

IDEA: High school sponsors a U.S. Naval Ship out of Norfolk, VA. This would bring great exposure to the students of what the Navy does and how it supports the freedom we all take for granted.

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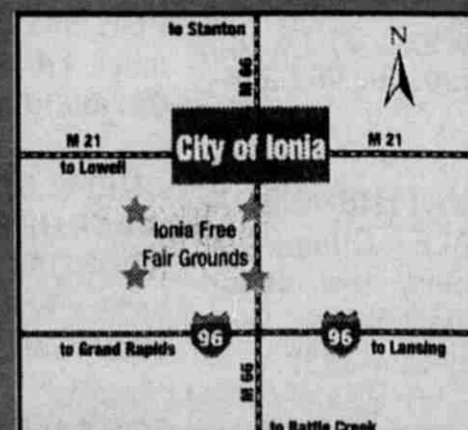
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