

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 31 Issue 17

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Miracle on the mat!

Lowell wrestlers topple Sparta; Red Arrows bound for state

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Red Arrow wrestlers defied all odds and surprised everyone in attendance with an upset victory over Sparta in the regional finals at home.

Lowell won the match on a tiebreaker criterion, most matches won. The final score was 32-32.

Lowell won eight of its 14 matches. It was the only regional championship match in any division in the state to end in a tiebreaker.

Lowell co-captain Joe Mendez passed an individual milestone during the match. He won his 200th career victory, pinning Rob Yahmarkt in 5:25 in the 135-weight match.

The Red Arrows travel to Battle Creek Friday to compete in the Division 2 state finals. It's the second year in a row they had to get through Sparta to get there. This season, though, Lowell was the underdog, and it took a major upset win to get back to the finals.

Regional champs, cont'd., pg. 14



The Red Arrow wrestling team celebrates after defeating Sparta to win the regional championship. Lowell will wrestle Oxford in the first round of the state finals Friday at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

City tries to clear the air before annexation hearing Thursday

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

There is one thing city of Lowell and Vergennes Township residents can bet on for this week: there will be a public hearing on the annexation of 177 acres from Vergennes to the city of Lowell.

The state boundary commission is set to hold the hearing at 4 p.m. Thursday at the City Hall. Because of the amount of discussion concerning the annexation, the crowd is expected to be large. Talks between the city and township continue on a 425 agreement. Such an agreement would provide tax

sharing between the two municipalities and through negotiations, under what jurisdiction and when the property would fall.

While those talks are ongoing, Lowell city manager David Pasquale said he doubts whether any agreement will be in place before the hearing.

"At this point, the one thing you can be certain of is there will be a hearing on Thursday," Pasquale said.

In the 425 agreement talks, the township suggested that the two attorneys representing Vergennes and the city of Lowell meet behind closed doors to hammer out some of the

details in the agreement. However, the city council at its last meeting rejected the idea, concerned in part because of some of the controversy surrounding the annexation process and how

the city has been viewed.

At the recommendation of councilman Jim Pfaller, *Annexation, cont'd., pg. 8*

LAAC presents conceptual plans for Riverwalk site

J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Proposed plans on what to do with the space that currently houses the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Public Works sign shop met with a cool reception from the Lowell City Council last week.

A facilities committee from the Lowell Area Arts Council presented

the proposed plans to the city council. The informal discussion was to update councilmembers and city staff on what has taken place since the initial request of relocating the LAAC to the city's riverwalk across from the Lowell showboat.

Jim White, chairman of the LAAC facilities committee, said the plan presented was not one "cast in stone" and certainly may not be the final

plan that comes before the city. White acknowledged that there were still some things that needed to be ironed out before any moving took place: one being what would happen to the city's sign shop. The space where the LAAC proposes to move to on the riverwalk, located next to the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, is currently used for constructing

signs and painting, and is a temporary shelter for stray animals, said DPW director Dan DesJarden. Currently the city has no place for the sign shop. DesJarden said there was some discussion about grant money that could be obtained to help relocate the sign shop.

White said the LAAC is not trying to take anything *Riverwalk plans, cont'd., pg. 17*

Inside
The Lowell Ledger

Homeless Fire Truck
... Page 8

LIVE 5 Logo Contest Winner ...and Da Moonlight Returns
... Page 10

Costumes Acquired
... Page 11

Regional Champs, continued... From Page 1

Lowell's Brock Graham knew right where it came from after he won a key upset at 189 with a 6-4 decision over Sparta's Zac Ridgeway.

"The team," he said. "I just fed off the energy from the team."

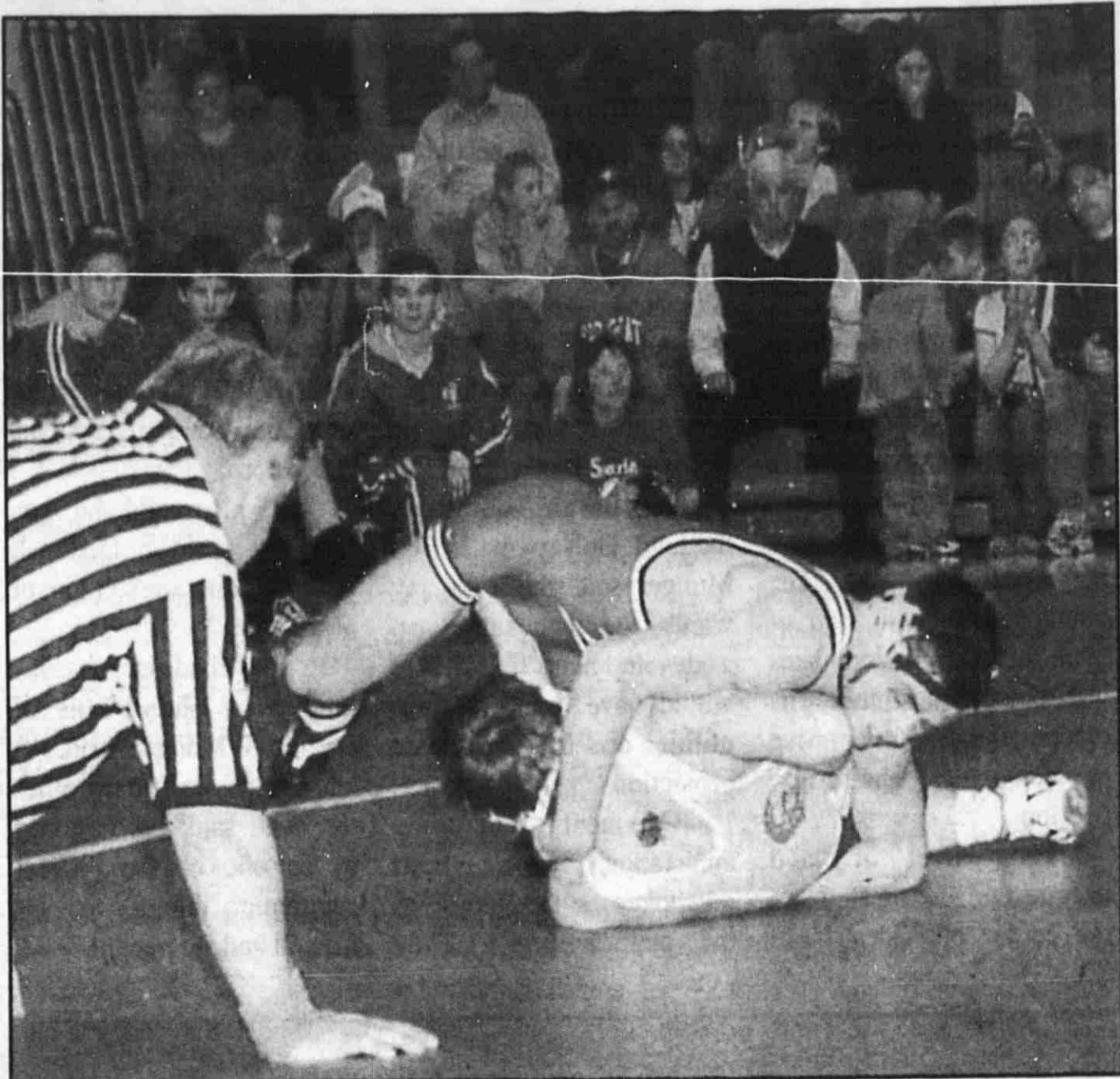
That energy started with the first match of the final. There had been rumblings of it in Lowell's 39-18 victory over Northview in

the semifinal, when in the 130-weight match Justin Boss pinned Dustin Miller, an opponent who had pinned him in the first round of their last meeting.

The finals match started with a thrilling upset at 275. Dominic Doyle held his own through three rounds against Sparta's Dan McCotter, then tied the match on a last-second reversal and near-fall.

Doyle scored a takedown in the tiebreaker to put Lowell up 3-0.

Ray Seese won by pin in 1:54 in the 103-weight match to put Lowell up 9-0. Rob Karasiewicz major decisioned Sparta's Cody Stamann at 119. That put Lowell up 13-6 after Sparta's Dustin Canterbury pinned Cory Fitzpatrick in the 112 match.



Lowell's Joe Mendez attempts to put Sparta's Rob Yahrmarkt on his back.

Mike Thomas and Boss were pinned at 125 and 130, respectively, by Sparta's Armock twins, Matt and Mark.

Mendez's pin put Lowell on top 19-18.

Chris Roeloffs lost a major decision to Sparta's Tyler Plew at 140.

A key match for Lowell was at 145. Ryan Karasiewicz and Sparta's Sam Sokolowski battled to a 2-2 tie. Karasiewicz won with a takedown.

"I knew I had to throw something," the Lowell co-captain said. "He beat me 8-0 last time. I wanted that match back bad."

The win tied the score at 22.

Sparta's Jason Brew pinned Jon Fleet in 3:49 at 152. Then Lowell's Alex

Fleet lost a 15-5 major decision against Kyle Vanderhyde.

Matt Francisco scored a major decision for Lowell, 18-6 in the 171-weight match. That set up Graham's match with Ridgeway.

Then Ryan Esbaugh won the three points Lowell needed with an 8-6 decision over Jordan Morse.

It was an uphill fight for the victory, but Lowell coach Dave Strejc said. "Our kids like to fight uphill. There were four major upsets starting with heavyweight. These kids gave it everything that they had to give tonight."

Sparta didn't, according to coach Ron Helmboldt.

"I would say Lowell deserved to win," Helmboldt said. "We were the better team coming in and I still

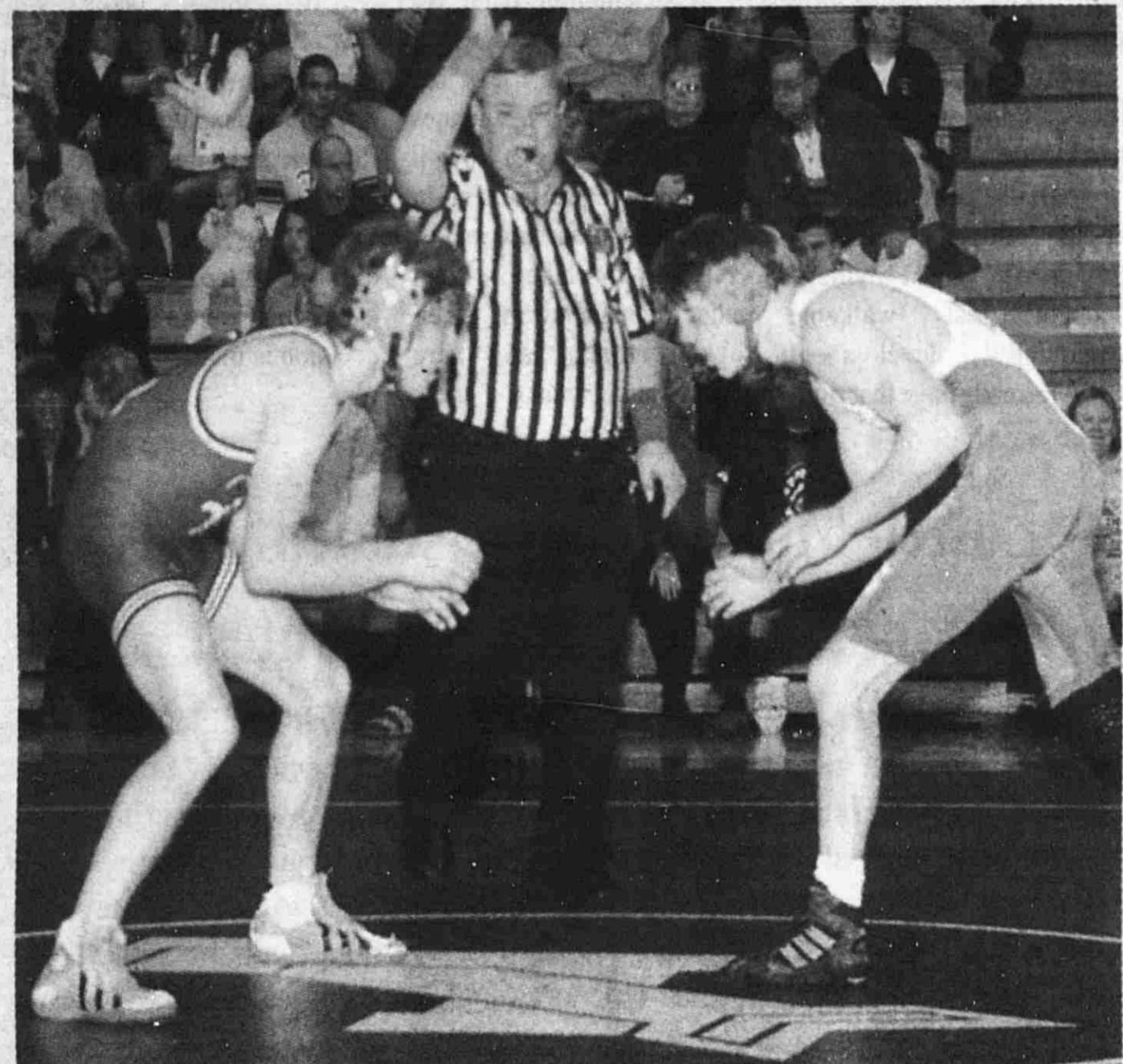
think we're the better team. We just didn't prove it tonight."

Lowell will take on Oxford Friday night at the state quarterfinals in the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. The match starts at 7:45 p.m.

Oxford made it past Flint Kearsley 38-37 to make it to the state finals.

Two Lowell wrestlers qualified for the individual state finals. Saturday at Muskegon Reeths Puffer.

Mendez won a regional championship at 135 by defeating Sparta's Yahrmarkt 9-4. Seese will be going to the state finals as well at 103. He lost a 4-0 decision in the consolation final to Forest Hills Northern's Jerrod Hoxie, but finished in the top four to qualify for state.



Lowell's Ryan Karasiewicz faced off against Sparta's Samuel Sokolowski. Karasiewicz won the match in overtime.

Notice Lowell Area Residents

There will be a Public Hearing in front of the State of Michigan Boundary Commission on Thursday, March 3, 2005, at 4:00 PM in the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers regarding the proposed annexation of 177 acres from Vergennes Township to the City of Lowell for the reported purpose of a mixed-use high-density development. You are encouraged to give your opinion on this matter, and may do so in person or in writing. For information on the land proposed for annexation and to review the issues important to Vergennes Township, please visit the Township's web site at www.vergennestwp.org.

What to expect if you attend:

- Lowell City, Vergennes Twp, and the Applicant (the developer) will each have about 20 minutes to give a presentation of their individual points of view.
- The meeting will then be opened to public comment. You will be asked to sign in if you wish to address the commission.
- We recommend you support your point of view with something in writing to leave with the commission.
- The number of people speaking does matter to the outcome. The hearing will continue until all are given the opportunity to speak.
- If you speak: be straightforward, be factual and be brief. Emotional outbursts reflect negatively.
- You can submit other material after the hearing. The public comment portion of the hearing remains open for 30 days afterwards; contact Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk, at 897-5671 x2 or clerk@vergennestwp.org for more information.
- It may be 30 days or more before the Boundary Commission's decision is made, so don't expect a result that night.

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Puzzled?

Wish somebody could help you put your car insurance puzzle together?

As a local professional independent insurance agency representing Auto-Owners Insurance Company, we're up to the challenge. For peace-of-mind protection and all your insurance needs, contact us today!

Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business
"No Problem People"

Regal Insurance Agency
835 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-9259
(800) 804-3322

DALE TRIPLETT

U.M. 15/30
B.I.
P.D.
P.I.P.C.
100/300

Red Arrows stop late run, beat Cedar Springs at home

By Dan Schneider

In its last home regular season game, the Lowell varsity basketball team did what it had been unable to do all season while beating Cedar Springs 41-34.

It wasn't the win, however, that was important—Lowell had done that seven times prior to the game, including beating Cedar Springs earlier in the season. Friday's win was significant because Lowell stopped a

rally and kept its lead to the buzzer. Seven times this season, the Red Arrows had led at the two-minute mark, only to end up losing the game.

Lowell held the lead solidly throughout the first half. But the Redhawks came roaring back and closed the gap to two points in the final minutes. The Red Arrows held on for the victory.

"We now have a monkey off our back because it was a

close game with two minutes left and we sealed the deal," said Lowell coach Jeff McDonald. "I'm ecstatic for our seniors to get a win out here on the last night of the regular season."

He was referring to Tyler Krieg, Keven Gilman, Shane Stokes and Mike Koster. Koster led Lowell offensively with 13 points.

Cedar Springs coach Andy Secor credited the Lowell defense for frustrating

his Redhawks in the first half of the game.

"I just thought we were extremely impatient in the first half offensively," Secor said. "Lowell's a very good defensive team and usually when you come down the floor the first or second pass, you're not going to get a shot against a defensive team."

According to McDonald, it wasn't easy to force the Redhawks to be patient.

"It was a slow, grind-it-out kind of game ... they

really made us work and stay in our stance, and that takes a lot out of you," McDonald said. "They make you work, they make you fight through screens like crazy."

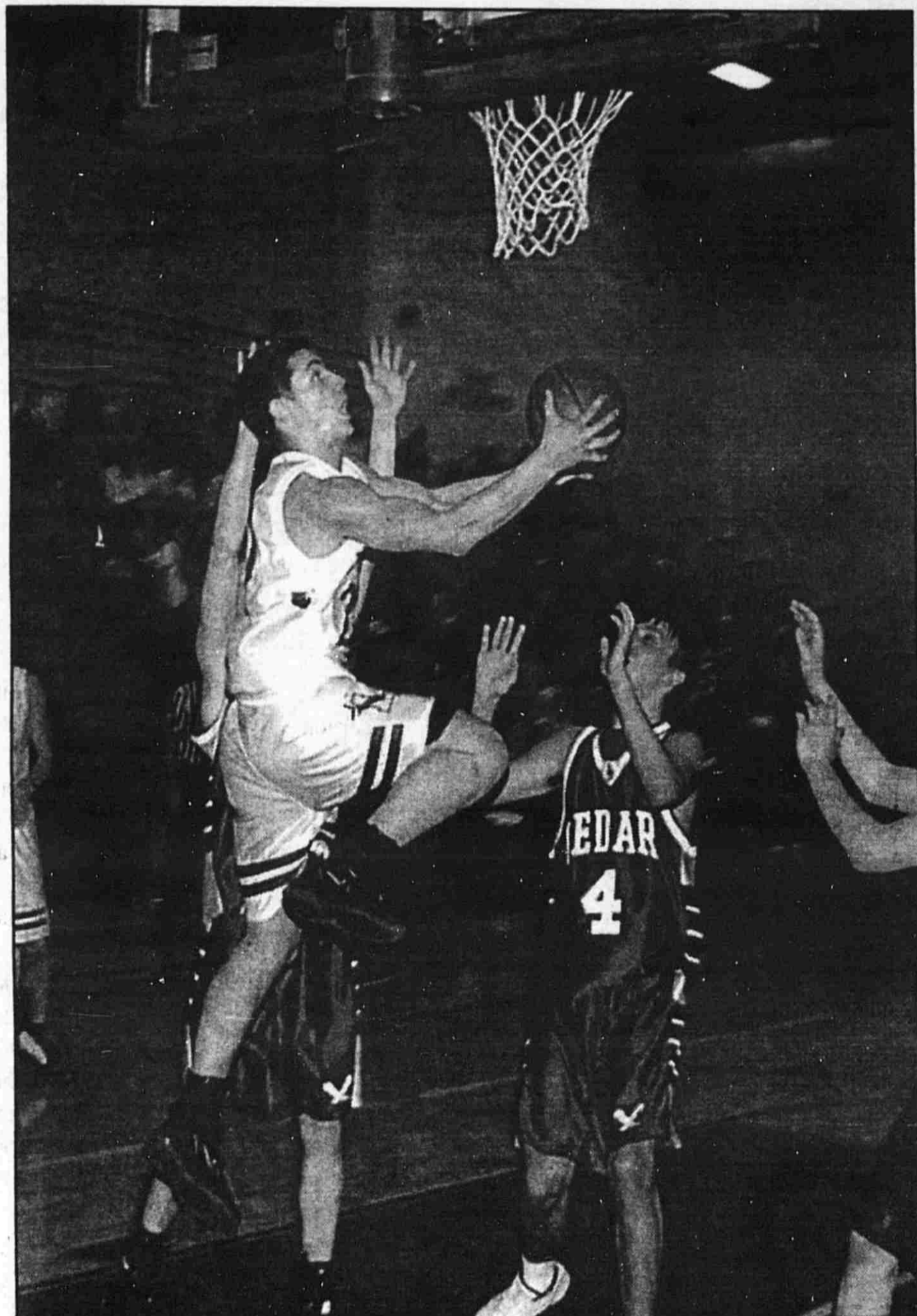
The Cedar Springs defense did a good job defending Lowell's guard play. But Lowell was able to take advantage of mismatches inside.

"There's not a lot of nights when we feel like we have an advantage in the paint and we felt like we

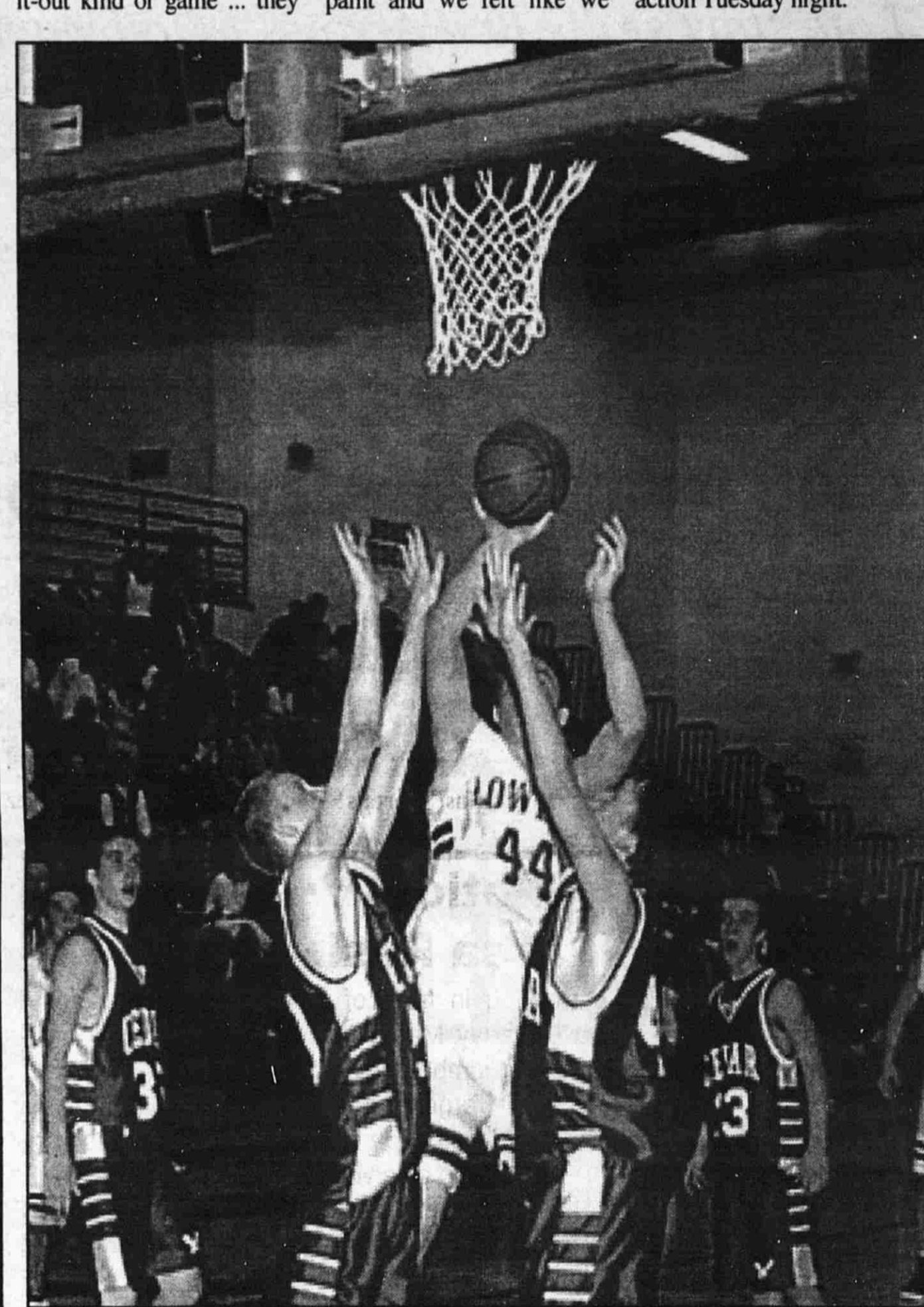
had that tonight," McDonald explained.

Lowell lost its final game of the regular season at Middleville by a score of 49-38. Josh Hettinga and Mike McElroy each scored eight points for the Arrows in the OK Gold crossover game.

Lowell is hosting the district tournament this week, with second-round action starting Wednesday night. Lowell played Forest Hills Northern in first-round action Tuesday night.



Above, left: Lowell's Mike Koster sinks a reverse layup in the second quarter of last Tuesday's game against Cedar Springs.



Above, right: Lowell's Brad Shea is mauled by Cedar Springs' defenders as he goes up for a shot. He made the shot and sunk a free throw to complete the three-point play.

Maplewood Square Apartments

All apartments on one level
Senior citizen friendly
Large 940 s.f. - 2 bedroom, 1 bath
Huge 1400 s.f. - 3 bedroom, 2 bath
Laundry room with washer/dryer, attached garage, covered porches, all kitchen appliances included.

Contact:
Michael Nosko at 616-682-1581
www.maplewoodsquareapts.com

A CROWN

IN ONE VISIT
...SIMPLE!

"If I had known it would be this easy, I wouldn't have put off getting a crown for so long. One visit and it was done. The crown fits and looks great. I have my smile back...simple!"

Family Dentistry of Lowell
- ANN WILSON, D.D.S. -

Tel. 897-4835 • 147 North Center Street • Lowell

NOW ACCEPTING
NEW PATIENTS
897-4835

**FEBRUARY
CLEARANCE SALE
CONTINUES ONE
MORE WEEK!**

HAROLD ZEIGLER MICHIGAN'S GIANT

**NO
REASONABLE
OFFER
REFUSED!**

OVERSTOCKED!

**ALL NEW
2005
MUSTANGS**



**Starting At
\$19,995
OR \$289/mo.**

**2005
F-150 4X4
SUPERCABS**



**Starting At
\$22,578
OR \$239/mo.**

**2005
EXPLORER
4X4 XLTs**



**Starting At
\$24,979
OR \$299/mo.**

**ALL NEW
2005
FORD 500s**

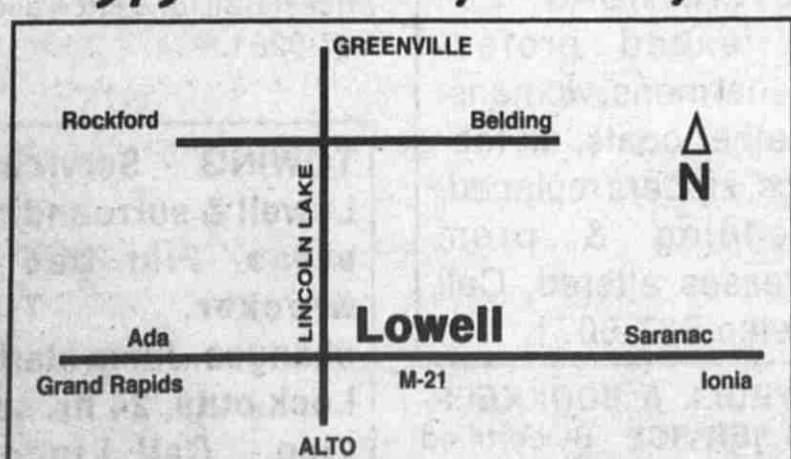


**Starting At
\$21,395
OR \$289/mo.**

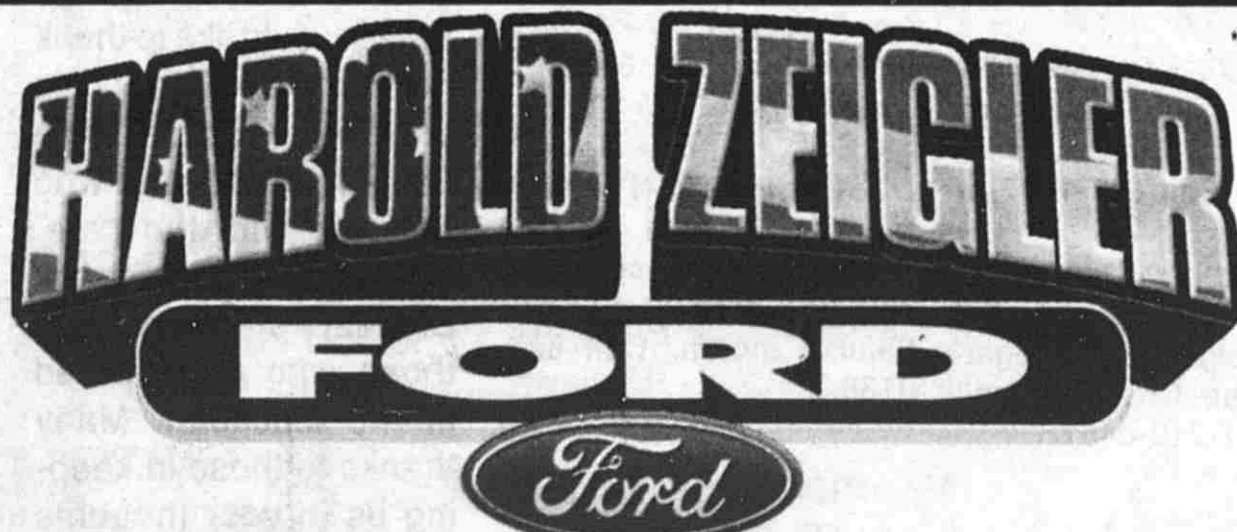
*Prices are plus freight, DOC and state fees. Rebates to dealer; may include renewal and/or commercial. Lease payment based on 10,500 miles/yr. - 10% due at delivery. See dealer for lease term.

<p>'95 PONTIAC TRANS SPORT V-6, 7-pass., local trade #L8954A ONLY \$2,995</p>	<p>'00 GMC SAFARI AWD V-6, 7-pass., local trade #25386A ONLY \$149 PER MO.</p>	<p>'96 OLDS CUTLASS CIERA V-6, auto., air #L8944A ONLY \$3,995</p>	<p>'95 FORD T-BIRD V-8, auto., air #L8899A ONLY \$2,995</p>	<p>'95 FORD RANGER SUPERCAB 4X4 V-6, XLT, local trade #25155B ONLY \$3,995</p>
<p>'01 CHEVY CAVALIER Auto., air, CD #L8973 ONLY \$169 PER MO.</p>	<p>'02 SATURN SL2 4-door, air, 5-speed #L8956A ONLY \$149 PER MO.</p>	<p>'98 FORD TAURUS V-6, pwr. group, local trade #L8761A ONLY \$4,995</p>	<p>'99 FORD TAURUS V-6, air, CD #L8774A ONLY \$139 PER MO.</p>	<p>'00 CHEVY CAVALIER Z24 Convertible, auto., CD #L8994 ONLY \$189 PER MO.</p>
<p>'00 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE Turbo, leather, moonroof #L8563 ONLY \$239 PER MO.</p>	<p>'02 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE Auto., V-8, sharp #24423A ONLY \$239 PER MO.</p>	<p>'00 CHEVY CAMARO CONVERTIBLE Leather, auto., chrome wheels #L8992 ONLY \$239 PER MO.</p>	<p>'01 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4 6 cyl., auto., air #L8925 ONLY \$289 PER MO.</p>	<p>'03 PONTIAC MONTANA 7-pass., V-6, dual doors #L8991 ONLY \$219 PER MO.</p>
<p>'99-'03 FORD WINDSTARS 7 to choose from #L8969 STARTING AT \$179 PER MO.</p>	<p>'99 DODGE DURANGO 4X4 SLT, V-8, leather #L8964 ONLY \$229 PER MO.</p>	<p>'99 CHEVY TAHOE 4X4 V-8, barn doors, trailer tow #L8962 ONLY \$239 PER MO.</p>	<p>'99 FORD EXPEDITION 4X4 Eddie Bauers, 2 to choose from #L8937 ONLY \$279 PER MO.</p>	<p>'01 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT, 5.4 V-8, moonroof #25396A ONLY \$339 PER MO.</p>

11979 E. Fulton, Lowell, MI



ALL ROADS LEAD TO LOWELL!



*Sale prices plus state fees & DOC fee, monthly payments based on best rate best term state fees & DOC fee due at delivery.



**HOURS: MON. 9-8;
TUES. 9-8;
WED. 9-8; THURS. 9-8;
FRI. 9-6 & SAT. 9-3**

616-897-8431 or 1-888-327-4164

**Check Out Our Web site!
www.haroldzeigler.com**