

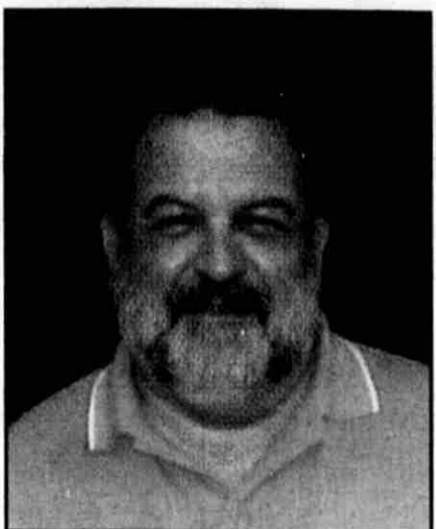
The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, October 31, 2007

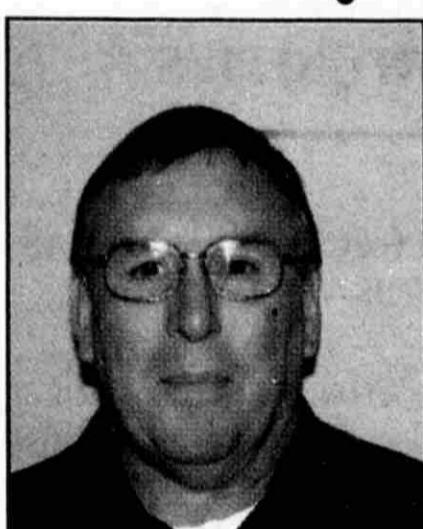
Three incumbents and three newcomers compete for three open seats on the city council in November election



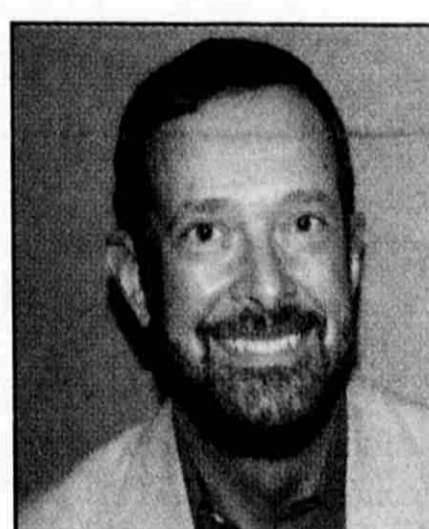
Al Mathews



Chuck Myers



Jeff Altoft



Jim Hodges



Sharon Ellison



Maryalene LaPonsie

by Emma Palova

Six candidates are vying for three open seats on the city council in the November general election. Tree trimming, the sale of Lowell Cable and North Washington property are among the major issues concerning the candidates.

The incumbent candidates are: mayor Chuck Myers, mayor pro-tem Al Mathews and council member Jim Hodges. The newcomers are Sharon Ellison, Maryalene LaPonsie and Jeff Altoft.

Myers, 59, a career banker and an experienced politician, is mainly concerned about the following issues:

- the Boy Scout Camp-North Washington Property
- aggressive tree trimming by the Lowell Light & Power Company
- the sale of the Cable TV Company and Sale Proceeds

Myers is committed to preserving the Boy Scout Camp to include the proposed trails, and consider other nature improvements as funding becomes available.

In response to the recent aggressive tree trimming, the city has developed a trimming policy and implemented an Arbor Board with a tree replacement program.

On the issue of cable sale, Myers said it was a practical business decision since the subscriber numbers kept declining, while the upgrade of the system would have cost \$1 million.

Myers favors creating a \$3.5 million fund from the sale proceeds to benefit many Lowell future projects. A separate advisory board will be established to award grants from managed funds.

Myers believes that his financial background and the depth of past community involved sets him apart from other candidates.

"I have a sincere interest in the community as a long term resident," he said. "My professional business experience provides me

with the insights and decision making capabilities to function as a city council person."

Continued challenges for the city government include: cutbacks, revenue sharing and controlling of spending.

Mathews, 49, an excavating manager for Tip Top Gravel, is seeking second term on the city council. He is mainly concerned about the following issues:

- lack of communication between the city and the people
- proceeds of the cable sale
- North Washington Property
- the equipment fund

In order to resolve some

of the challenges facing the city, Mathews would like to see cuts across the board. Proposed cuts would also include dropping of the operational millage due to people living on fixed income.

"I want to drop the property taxes," he said.

Mathews would like to see a committee managing the cable sale proceeds. On the issue of North Washington Property, Mathews proposed the sale of the former LL&P manager's house along with three acres. He would like the city to donate five to seven

acres to the Boy Scouts with the rest of the land going to deferred conservancies.

"I don't want to see any development," he said.

Mathews believes what sets him apart from other candidates is his honesty and being a lifetime resident concerned about the city.

Incumbent Hodges, 57, a skid loader for Alticor, has served on the planning commission, as well as on the city council. Following are the issues, Hodges is concerned about:

City council candidates, cont'd., pg. 4

Voter ID required this Election Day

by Terri Lynn Land

From cashing checks to entering buildings to renting movies, if you reside in Michigan, you've grown accustomed to the need to show identification in everyday life.

Beginning with the Nov. 6 election, you will now also be asked to present photo identification - or sign a form stating you don't have one - before receiving a ballot. The requirements are the result of a 1996 law that the Michigan Supreme Court recently upheld as constitutional and reasonable.

The intent of the law is to safeguard the integrity of our elections system from fraud.

Michigan's voter ID law recognizes that people have different circumstances. Voters who lack acceptable photo ID - because they forgot to bring it, cannot afford it, or any other

reason - will still have the opportunity to vote. They will simply be asked to sign an affidavit - a form stating they are not in possession of identification. They will be given their ballot, which will be counted with all the others on Election Day.

Voters who lack ID cannot be challenged by an election inspector or poll challenger just because they sign the affidavit.

To satisfy the new identification requirement, voters can show a Michigan driver's license or Michigan personal ID card. If they do not possess either document, any of the following forms are acceptable, as long as they are current and include the person's photo and name:

- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state

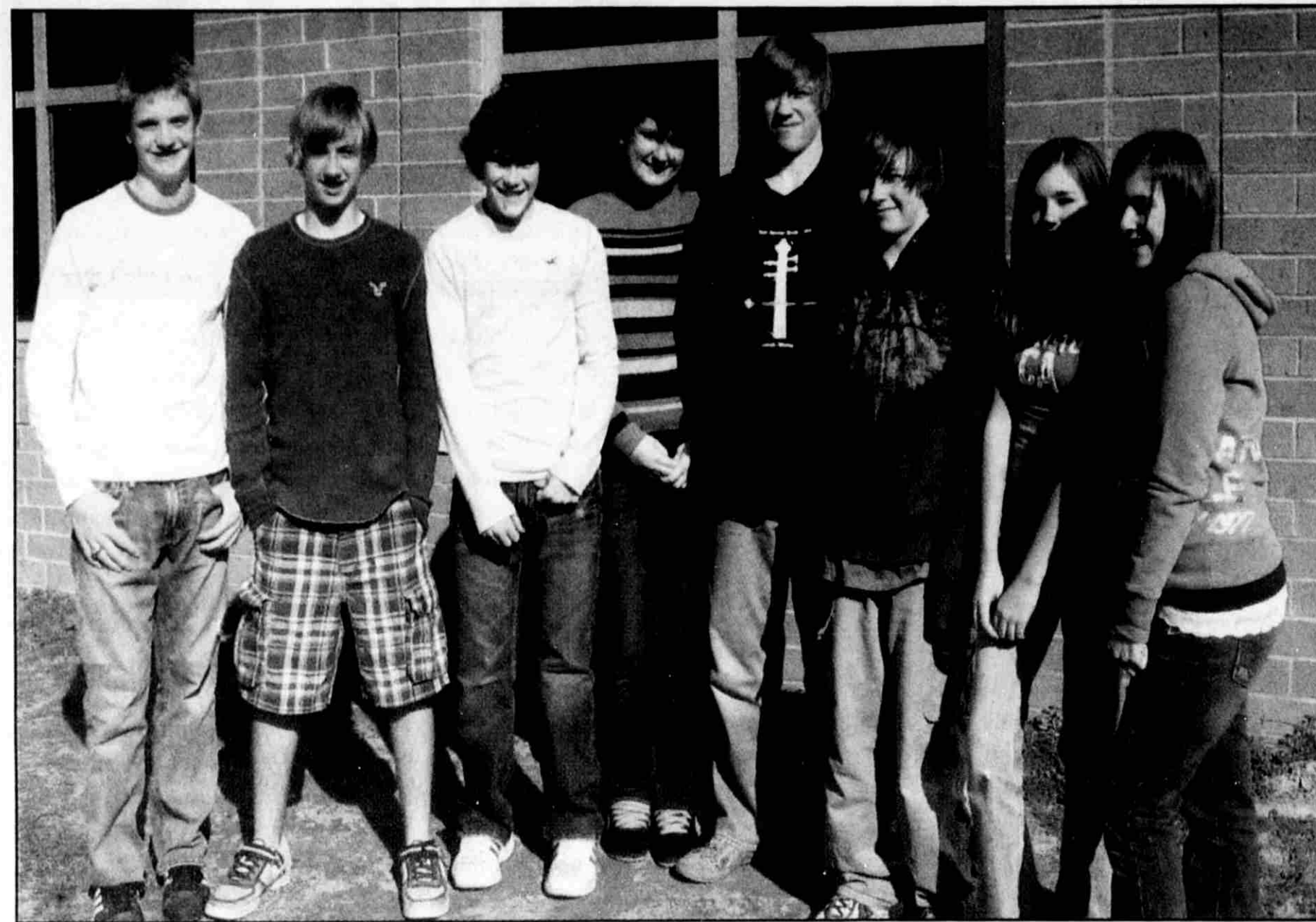
Voter ID, cont'd., pg. 3

Trick or treaters visit Fountainview residents



Caiden Hinzmann, 6, from Murray Lake Elementary, dressed as dark wizard, receives a treat from Fountain View residents Mae Tibbe and Ann McQueen Friday during the annual trick-or-treat event.

Lowell students to perform with the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony



The following students were selected as part of an elite group of musicians. Listed are name, grade and instrument played. (L-R) Phillip Getzen (10, bass) and Sam Steed (9, bass) for the Youth Symphony; and Kyle Mayhew (10, viola); Deanna Bunn (10, viola); Drew Mayhew (8, bass); James Collins (8, bass); Heather Ferris (9, bass); and Kendra Belile (8, cello) for the Classical Orchestra.

Seven students from Lowell Area Schools have been selected to be members of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony and Classical Orchestra, a student outreach program with the Grand Rapids Symphony, for the 2007-08 season. The principal conductor of the GRYS is John Varineau, associate conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphony.

The symphony and orchestra are comprised of middle and high school students from across West Michigan. Applicants must perform in a blind audition and are selected by a distinguished panel of judges.

The first performance of the season is Sunday, Nov. 4 at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$6 at the door.

2007 Music Marathon

For ten hours on Saturday, Nov. 10, the Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes Street, Lowell, will be filled with music of every style and genre, all benefiting the Music Therapy program. Musicians and performers from the surrounding communities, students, staff members and friends donate their time during this annual event.

Many children with special needs, teens with emotional and behavioral difficulties, families in stressful situations, people in acute care hospitals, and the elderly with dementia and/or Alzheimer's are served through the Center's specially-trained music therapists. Proceeds raised

during Music Marathon directly support these programs.

Performances are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. They include pianists Judy Lacks and Kenneth Bos, Ransom Street Big Band, contemporary gospel vocalist Melvin Crawford, fiddler and violist Robert Shaffer, the Thunder Floor Cloggers, Quinn School of Irish Dance, pianists Charles White, Michael and Elizabeth Kazmierski, Edwin Joseph-steel drums, plus FLPC students and staff.

Donations and sponsorships will be accepted for these hours. The event is free to the public. For more information, call the Center at 897-7842.

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Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

- Redd Foxx (1922 - 1991)

Gizmos and Gadgets show evolution and progress at LAHM

by Emma Palova

Walking inside the recreated kitchen of the Gizmos and Gadgets special exhibit is like walking into grandma's kitchen. The walls have been artistically designed with laser-printed wallpaper to increase the depth of perception.

Artistic renderings of cupboards, shelves and closets placed on the stained

and creased wallpaper create a homely feeling of a heavily used kitchen. Next to the kitchen is a barn made of original barn wood and a smokehouse complete with hanging fake hams and sausages.

A 1940s wood stove belonging to grandma Anna Wittenbach on loan from Carol Drenth forms a

natural center piece of the exhibit. The wood stove was used during the period of transition to electric stoves, said museum educator Luanne Kaeb.

At the time, Wittenbach didn't like the idea of electric stoves, so she kept on using a wood stove.

"She was upset," said Drenth, "so to appease her

the family gave her a small wood stove that set next to the electric stove."

The Wittenbach family also loaned to the exhibit a ringer washing machine, a fence stretcher and a flat bed cart with a scale. Other items of interest include a banker's fan that doesn't ruffle pages on loan from Susan Doyle.

"It shows you how life has become easier," said museum director Pat Allchin.

The major difference between the Gizmos and Gadgets exhibit and other exhibits is that it is a walk-in exhibit without any glass cases.

"It let's you walk in and go back in time," said Allchin. "It gives you new respect of what we have today."

Also part of the exhibit

is "Lowell Inventions" featuring sprayers made by now Root Lowell and the Runciman Bean Co. "electric eye" bean sorter, as well as toy air rifles by Newell shooting ping pong balls.

"I don't think you've seen anything like this before," said Allchin.

The special exhibit starts Nov. 3 at the Lowell Area Historical Museum and ends Aug. 2008.



Museum educator Luanne Kaeb stands in the middle of a recreated kitchen at the Gizmos and Gadgets exhibit.

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Paid for by: Committee to Elect Maryalene LaPonsie to City Council 717 E. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331

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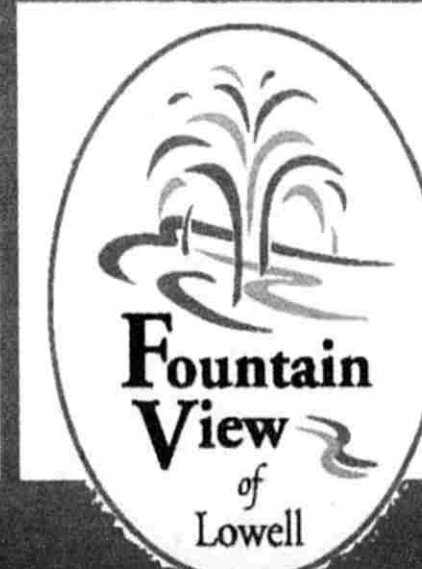
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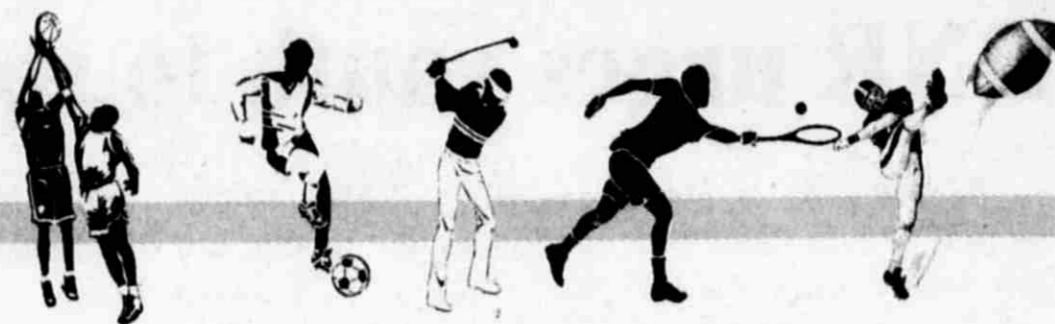


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RED ARROW SPORTS



The Benning-Fielder

by Molly Benningfield
Sports editor



Where's the competition?

When I'm not watching my favorite team, I love a good fight and drawn-out series in the playoffs. When the Spartans are playing a tooth-and-nail match in March, my fists are clenched and my heart's racing. But when the World Series are on, and I have no one or team in particular to root for, I want to see all seven games, fought 'til the end, seeing the other anxious, fist-clenching fans on TV. So that's why I'm so disappointed with October's baseball showing, as the Red Sox took the Rockies in four.

In five days, the Sox managed to cream their mountainous counterparts, winning 13-1, 2-1, 10-5 and 4-3. It didn't even feel like a series. And it was sad to see the Rockies, who rose up from humble beginnings and claimed the National League title after winning 21 of 22 games in 38 days. Not sad enough to cry, but you get the picture.

The BoSox are a bull of a team, one of those clubs that almost feels too good. The World Series has been less than thrilling for a while now, and it would've been nice to see a bit more of a contest. There were good moments. Jon Lester's story is incredible. Mike Lowell, the MVP for the Sox, hit .400 in the Series. We saw what the future held and that was in Troy Tulowitzki.

If the Tigers make it next year, though, and totally smash the competition, I'm sure I won't be complaining...

Cross country finish season at GR Christian, Corey Fitzpatrick earns All-Conference nod

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

The cross country teams finished their season Saturday at the Regional meet at Grand Rapids Christian.

The boys' team took 9th of 15 teams, with a score of 229. Hudsonville won the meet with 65 points.

Corey Fitzpatrick was once again the top finisher, at 22nd place, with a time of 17:15. Also placing were Zach Robinson at 29th (17:37), Justin Boss at 58th (18:26), Jon Woods at 59th (18:30) and Tom Mark at 68th (18:46).

Coach Clay VanderWarf said the team had a good show at the meet. "I thought we had one of our best performances given the conditions the kids ran in," he said. "We were in a competitive regional, which included Rockford, Hudsonville, Travis City Central and West. Corey Fitzpatrick made a great effort in trying to secure a

spot to the State Finals, finishing 22nd."

VanderWarf said his team had a strong start for the season, but couldn't keep the pace. "The boys started out to have a strong season, placing 2nd and 3rd in the first two jamborees, but we lost some of the momentum when Kirk Geldersma obtained a knee injury and that hurt us," he said.

He did, however, say that the team had good moments.

"We had some great performances turned in by runners such as Corey Fitzpatrick, who made All-Conference and Zach Robinson, who broke into the 17:00s as a sophomore," VanderWarf said.

The team looks for their younger members to build on experience and compete well in the OK-White.

The girls' team didn't fare as well at the Regional meet. They finished 12th

of 12 teams, with a score of 367. Grand Haven won the meet with 42 points.

Taylor Marchido was the top finisher, at 65th place, with a score of 22:12.

Also placing were Haleigh Timmers at 67th (22:31), Morgan Marchido at 82nd (24:36), Emily Jelsma at 83rd (24:47) and Emily Hauschild at 84th (24:58).



Above, Corey Fitzpatrick took 22nd place at Regionals. At left Haleigh Timmers was 67th at the girls' meet on Saturday.

Photos submitted by Brett Bremer



Volleyball team gets ready for Districts

The volleyball team won two of its games at Thursday's OK-Quad tournament at Zeeland West.

Lowell beat Coopersville 2-0 and Zeeland West 2-1.

The Arrows will face Rockford in the first round of district finals on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Northview High School, with Creston, Greenville, and Northview also participating. Finals begin at 8 p.m.



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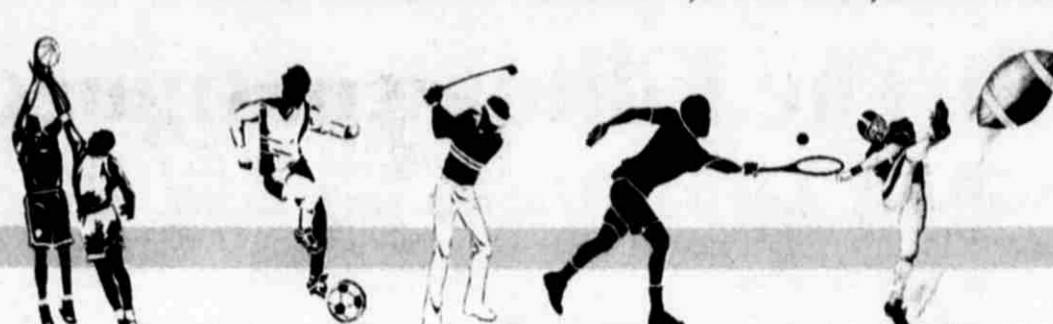
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RED ARROW SPORTS



Football team wins big in first round of Playoffs

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

With just a week between the two, the football game against Portage Central in the first round of playoffs couldn't have been more different than their struggle against East.

The Arrows were strong and put together, it was sweatshirt-weather and all the pressure that could've weighed the team down didn't.

But that's what this Lowell team does well - shine. The Arrows are young, but the team finished strongly Friday night, winning with a near-perfect victory 42-7.

Coach Noel Dean said his team really turned it up a notch for post-season success. "It was probably the most complete football game we've had, for this particular team," he said.

After working hard all week in practice, Dean said the attitude was "great, upbeat - it's time to bounce back. We're going to get in and get out."

And they did just that. The Arrows scored twice in the first quarter, on 4-

yard and 1-yard runs by Kyle Nichol. Nichol also scored in the second quarter on a 13-yard run, as did Nate Vaught, with a 2-yard run. Special teams would account for two of the first-half touchdowns.

Justin VanAcker had a 2-yard run in the third quarter to boost the Arrows 34-0, but the Mustangs

would answer back in the fourth with a 10-yard run by Jarred Sherrod.

It was a little too late, as Lowell bounced back with an interception by Torsten Boss, which he returned for a 32-yard touchdown.

Dean said he was happy that all aspects were covered at the game.

"I felt good - we had

all three sides of the ball playing well, with offense, defense and special teams," he said.

Nichol was on fire Friday night, both in the air and on the ground. He was good for 8 of 13 attempts for 120 yards and had 16 rushing attempts for 80 yards. VanAcker kept the pace in the second half and

was 13 for 51 yards. Vaught was 8 for 22 yards.

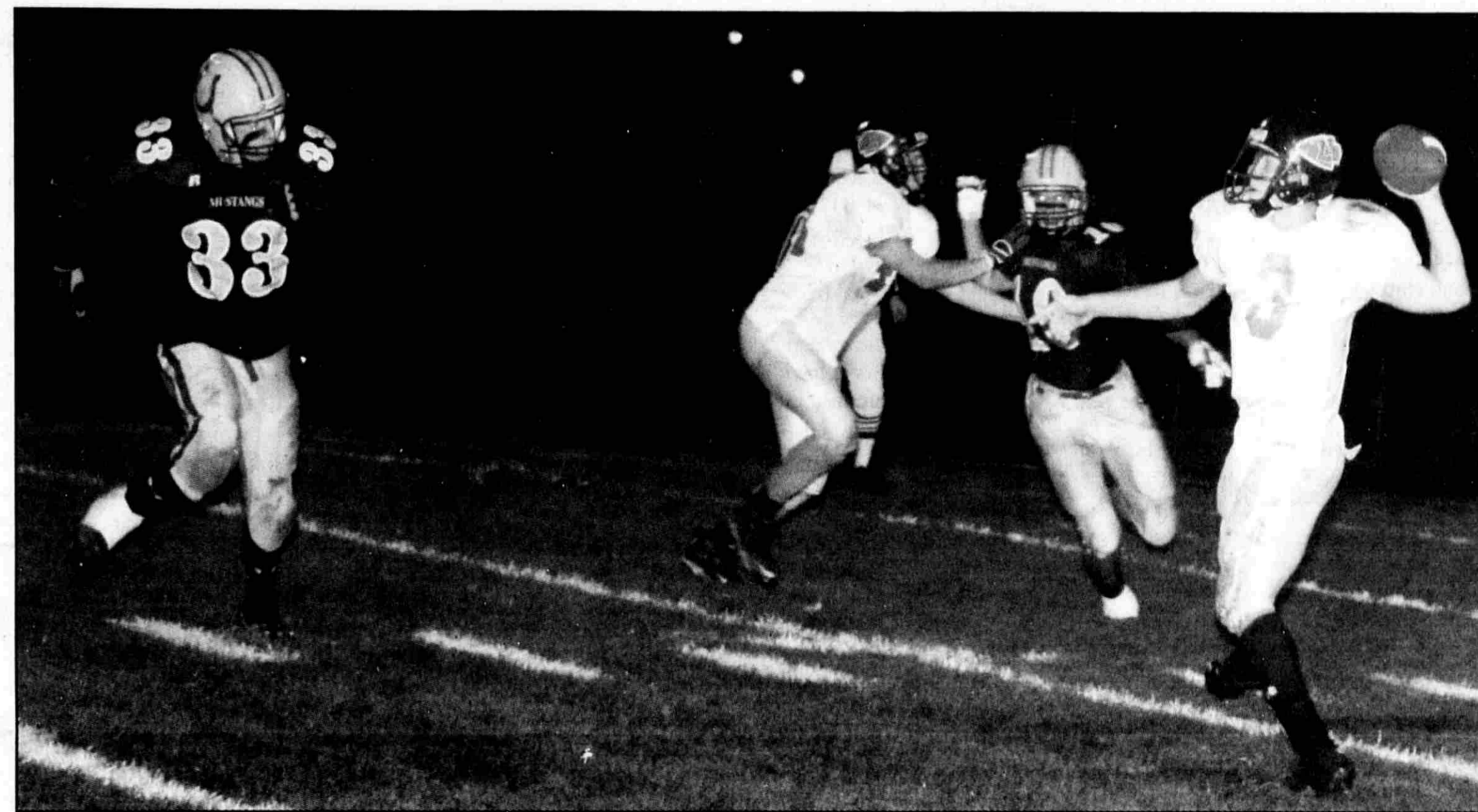
Trey Popp (PC) was good for 8 of 16 attempts for 73 passing yards, while Sherrod had 16 rushing attempts for 63 yards. The Mustangs ended with 41 total rushing yards.

On the receiving end, Jacob Swift had 3 receptions for 54 yards, while Boss was

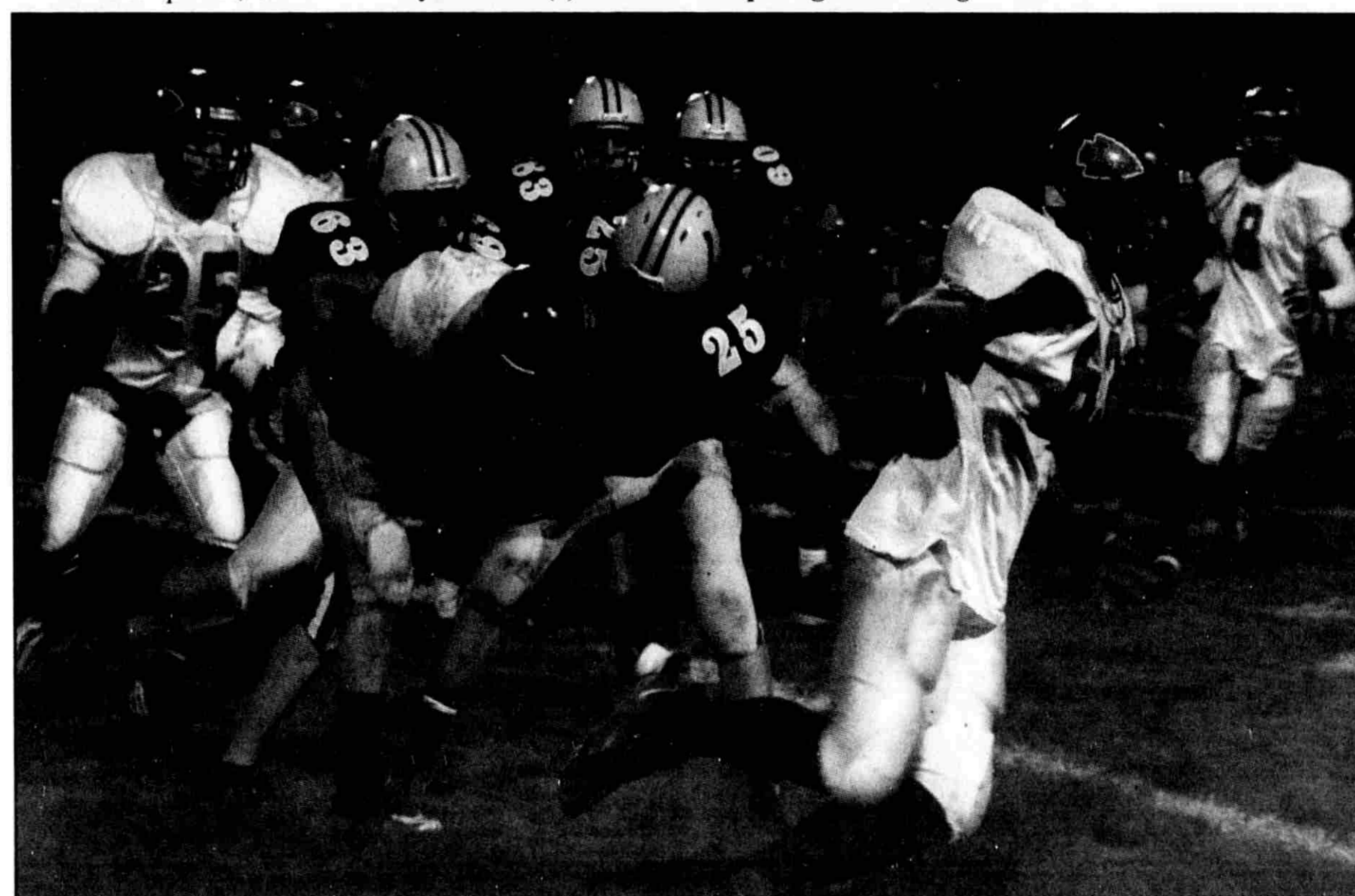
3 for 31 yards. EJ Riley (PC) was 4 for 36 yards.

Randy Hogan and Ben Canfield had 6.5 tackles apiece, while Matt Stuit (PC) had 7. Boss had two interceptions.

The Arrows will take on the Fighting Scots Friday night at 7 p.m. in Caledonia for the district championship.



Kyle Nichol (3) looks for an open against Portage Central.



Torsten Boss (4) leans down for a run against a Portage Central defender.

District finals tickets

Lowell High School will play for the district championship in football at Caledonia on Friday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance in the athletic office on Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. for \$5. The gates will open at 5:30 p.m.

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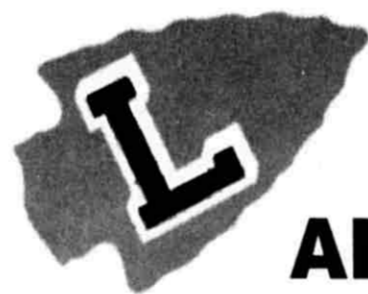


2007 LOWELL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

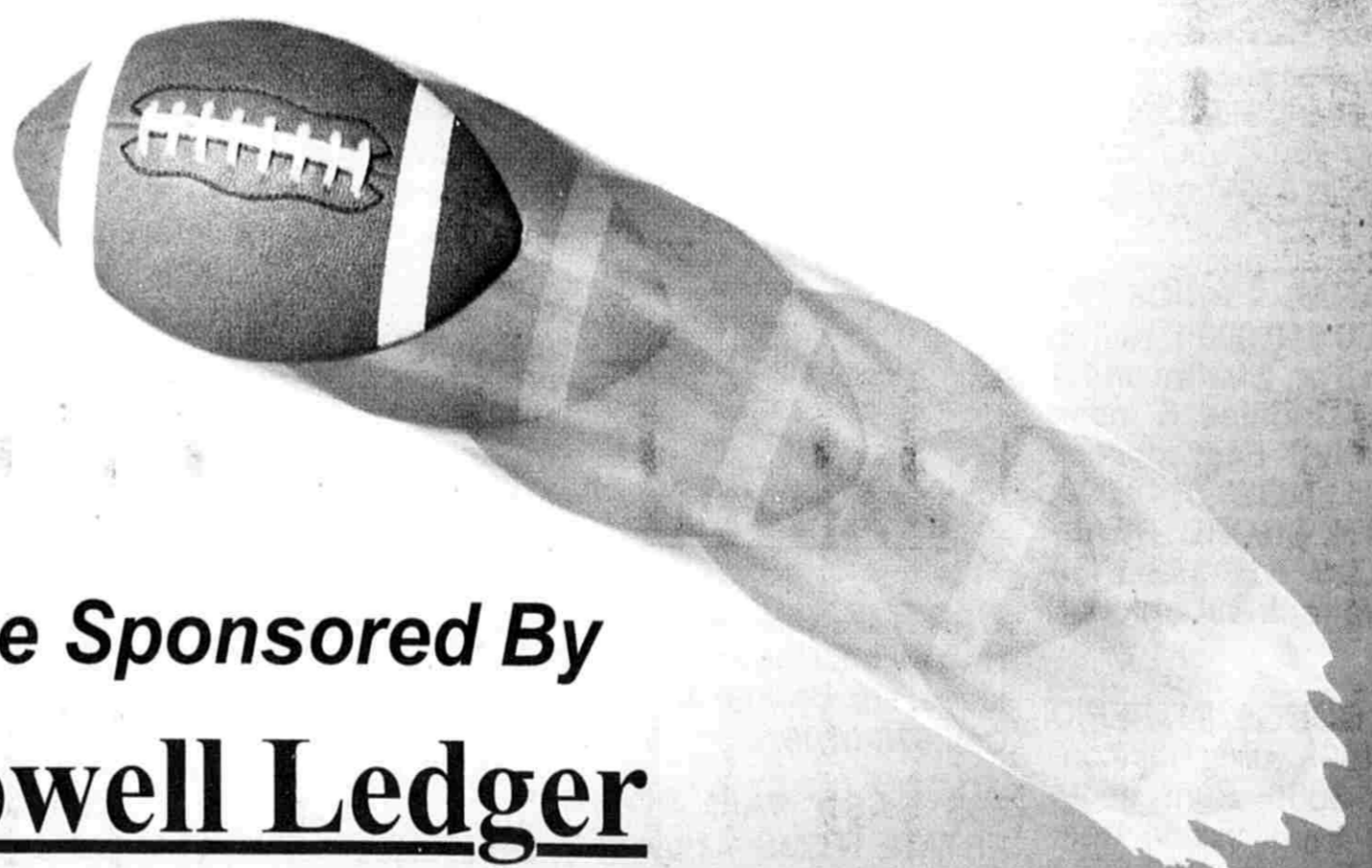
(First row, L-R) Jacob Swift, Adrian McElveen, Kyle Nichol, Torsten Boss, Zach Stephens, Ryan Olep, Jordan Boon, Pete Scudder, Nate Vaught and Tom Jeffrey. (Second row, L-R) Andrew, Culross, Dylan McElveen, Justin Corwin, Robert LaBoch, Clinton Marsh, Mike Kinsley, Justin Van Acker, Ben Canfield, Anthony Herrera and Randy Hogan. (Third row, L-R) Cole Wade, Nick Rempalski, Colton Hause, Bryant Johnson, Taylor Sprague, Connor Kruse, Agim Selimi, Torin Rix, Tom Alberts and Josh Faulkner. (Fourth row, L-R) Dan Hogan, Sage Fox, Mark Ford, Brandon White, Cody Chambers, Thomas Fleet, Jesse Droog and Josh Drake.

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When The Red Arrows Battle
The Fighting Scots at
Caledonia High School



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