

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 17

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Annual chamber gathering a big hit

by Emma Palova

The annual chamber membership gathering drew large crowds to the new venue at T.J. Sports Bar & Grille on the east end of town. Among the

honored were Betty Yeiter as Person of the Year, and John and Jeff Wilterink of Lowell Granite received the Business Appreciation award.

Chimera's Cliff

Yankovich presented the awards along with chamber director Liz Baker.

"Bushels of thanks," said Yeiter calling herself a farm girl. "Lowell is my home, Lowell is my love."

Yeiter is a former educator for Lowell schools. She still volunteers for spelling bees in the area schools.

Also attending the award ceremony was former Lowell Area Schools superintendent Bert Bleke.

The menu consisted of chicken, pork and beef roast. However, due to the fact that more people than expected attended, the food ran out.



Betty Yeiter received the Person of the Year Award.



Emcee Cliff Yankovich looks on as the Wilterinks accept the Business Appreciation Award.



Attendees applaud as civic leaders were honored.

Hildenbrand helps students celebrate reading month at Cherry Creek

by Molly Benningfield, Editor

In celebration of "March is Reading Month", Representative Dave Hildenbrand read "America: a Patriotic Primer" by Lynne Cheney (vice president Dick Cheney's wife) to third and fifth grade students at Cherry Creek Elementary Monday morning.

Hildenbrand read to the students and also introduced

his first annual "March is Reading Month Contest" for elementary school students within his legislative district.

To go along with the various school's plans for the reading month, Hildenbrand gave all students a bookmark to keep track of all the books they read during March. At the end of the month, the students can drop off their completed

bookmarks in a contest box either at their school office or at the Englehardt Library.

Winners of the contest will get to be a state representative for a day, visiting Hildenbrand's office in Lansing. The announcement will be made in April.

During his visit, he told the students, "if you can learn how to be good readers, you can do anything."

Students were asked, "What's your favorite book and why?"

Brayden Ergang, 9 -

Favorite book: *Wisconsin Werewolves*, by Jonathan Rand. He likes it "because it's really cool and scary."

Brayden said he reads "a lot, and also plays sports and stuff, like football."

Alex Dommer, 9 -

Favorite book: *Stranger in the Woods*, by Carl R. Sams and Jean Stoick

He likes it "because there are some of my favorite animals in it, liked deer, birds, and rabbits."

Alex said he does like to read, and also "play football."

Reading month, cont'd., pg. 8



Rep. Dave Hildenbrand read to students on Monday.

Inside
The Lowell Ledger

Part 6

PRESERVED FARMLAND

Preserving Farmland ...
Page 9

Reading month, continued ... From Page 1

Madeleine Haines, 8 1/2 -
Favorite book: *Henry and the Paper Route*, by Beverly Cleary

She likes it "because of the characters and the way she writes."

Madeleine also likes to play piano.

Avery Cunningham, 8 1/2 -
Favorite book: *Wild Bears*, by Seymour Simon

She likes it because "it teaches you a lot about bears and where they live", even though she said she doesn't like bears much.

Avery does like animals though, and has a "dog, a ton of fish and one cat."

David Rose, 10 -
Favorite book: *Brian's Winter*, by Gary Paulsen

He likes it "because I like going outside, and he got stranded in the wilderness and it tells us how to survive."

David said he doesn't love reading, but he likes to play video games.

Rebecca Weaver, 10
Favorite book: *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulsen

She likes it because "I like to learn about survival, I like to go out into the woods and it tells how to survive."

Rebecca likes to go "tubing on the snow."

Max Barber, 11 -
Favorite book: *The Golden Compass*, by Phillip Pullman

He likes it because "it tells about a different universe far away, going from one universe to another."

Max said he likes to read, as well as to "go outside with my friend, Jonathan."

Amber Cook, 10 -
Favorite book: *So B It*, by Sarah Weeks

She likes it because "it's about a girl and her mom found on a doorstep one day, and then the girl travels by bus to figure out her mom's name."

Amber likes to read a bit, and play with her "friends who live down the street and my two dogs."



Third graders Brayden Ergang, Alex Dommer, Madeleine Haines and Avery Cunningham.



Fifth graders David Rose, Rebecca Weaver, Max Barber and Amber Cook.

No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.

- Confucius

Unprovided with original learning, unformed in the habits of thinking, unskilled in the arts of composition, I resolved to write a book.

- Edward Gibbon (1737 - 1794)

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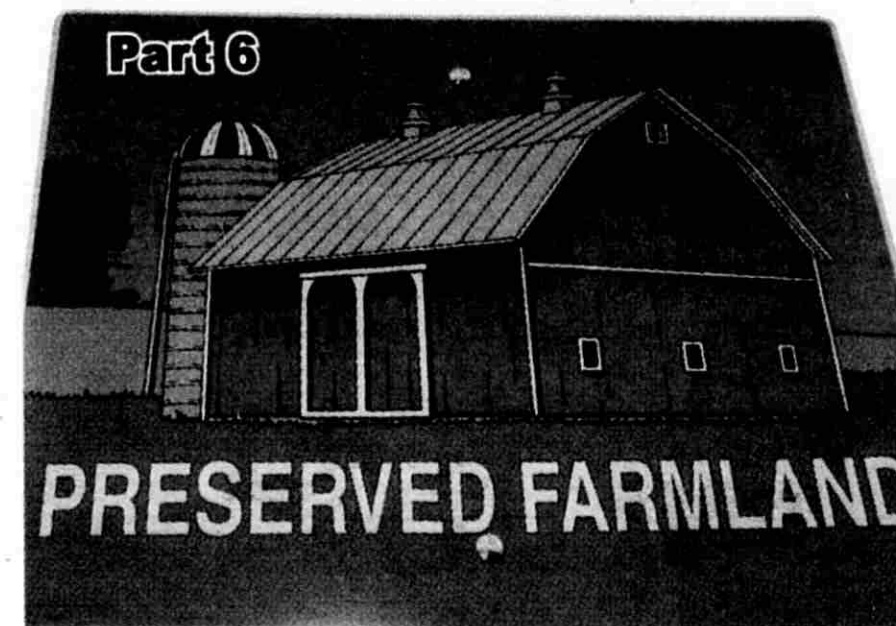
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Prime Vergennes farmland preserved

By Emma Palova

Marsha and Gordon Wilcox of Vergennes Township have put into permanent preservation 60 acres of prime farmland located on Murray Lake and 3 Mile Road.

"It's the best piece of farmland in Vergennes Township," she said.

Their family farm is located at Boynton and Vergennes roads, and Gordon still keeps his herd of 30-head of cattle. He rents out the rest of the acreage.

"At 62 I was able to retire and our children and grandchildren were supportive," he said. "The kids didn't want the responsibility to farm."

However, the Wilcox family did invest into the land by selling off 20 acres for development.

"You can't work as hard as you used to, so you develop that parcel to have retirement," she said.

To keep that connection to the farmland, the grandkids are in 4-H.

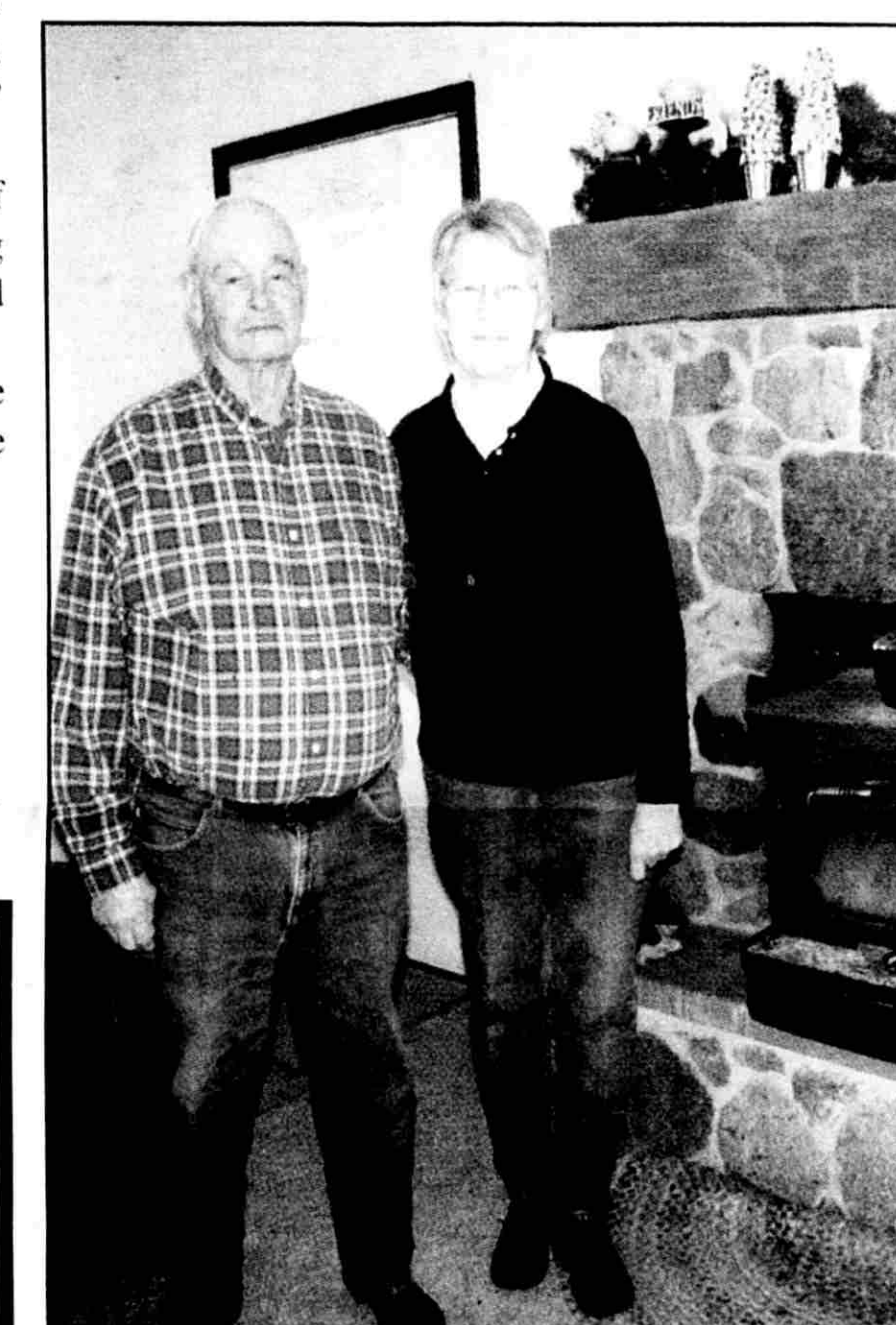
"It's a long process to live long enough to see it through," Marsha Wilcox said. "Not as many children are going into their parents' business."

Marsha Wilcox says if you believe in something you have to put your mind to it.

"People don't preserve because they don't have the information," she said.



Marsha Wilcox stands by the silos on the family farm.



Gordon and Marsha Wilcox at home.

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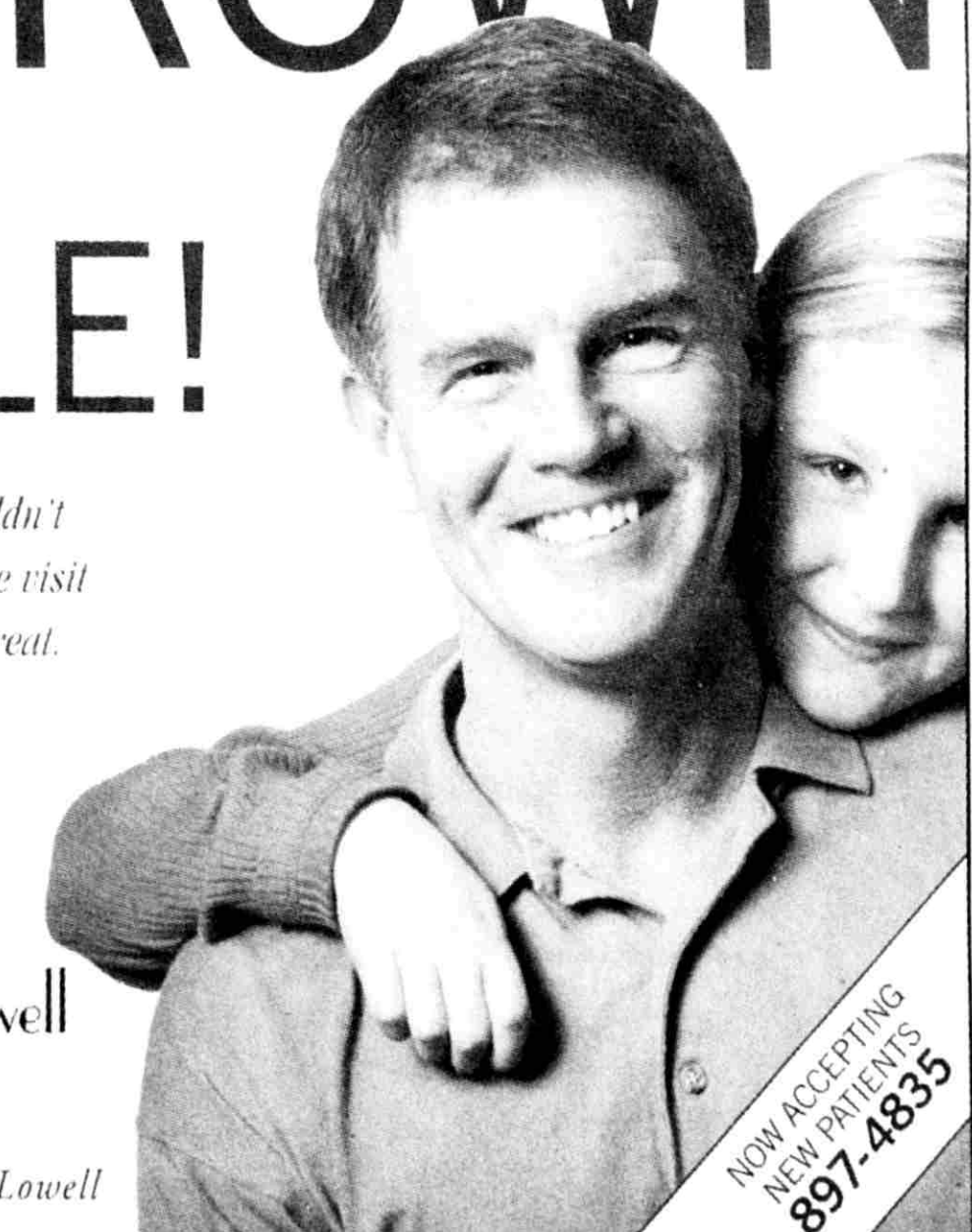
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Red Arrow SPORTS

Girls' team takes 11th, Jahnke qualifies for match play

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

The girls' bowling team finished in 11th place this weekend at the state finals in Muskegon on Friday. Coach Rocky Eickhoff said, "the girls bowled good, we missed some easy spares, but they bowled well there."

Eickhoff noted that there were "a lot of good schools out there that are

strong - the west side of the state is good."

The girls' team finished with a regional title and conference title, as well as numerous good matches against area teams.

Lowell sent four bowlers to the individual state tournament on Saturday - Liberty Clark, Ashley Nawrocki and Nicole Videan of the girls'

team, and Brandon Jahnke of the boys' team.

Jahnke finished 16th in the first round to move on to finals, with a total score of 1268 for six games.

Jahnke bowled against No. 1 seed Abed Daher of Brownstone Woodhaven, who was the state champion last year and runner-up this year.

Jahnke went 1-3 against

Daher, bowling 174 to 248 in Game 1, 218 to Daher's 200 in Game 2, and 183 to 224 in the third game.

Clark, Nawrocki and Videan didn't qualify for the next round, and placed 46th, 52nd and 54th in the state, respectively.

Brandon Jahnke, bowled 1268 in six games to qualify for the finals. He is pictured with coach Dave Adriane and girls' coach, Rocky Eickhoff.

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"THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD SCHOOLS OUT THERE THAT ARE STRONG - THE WEST SIDE OF THE STATE IS GOOD."

- Coach Rocky Eickhoff



Brandon Jahnke, bowled 1268 in six games to qualify for the finals. He is pictured with coach Dave Adriane and girls' coach, Rocky Eickhoff.

Red Arrow SPORTS

"THEY REALLY PULLED TOGETHER AS A TEAM TO MAKE THE LAST MEET OF THE YEAR COUNT. THEY HAD A GREAT SEASON AND I WAS VERY PROUD OF THEIR DEDICATION TO THE END."

- Coach Skye Fisher

Richelle Kimble qualifies for vault in State finals Saturday

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

Richelle Kimble, a junior on the Lowell gymnastics team, will be headed to State finals this weekend, competing in the vault.

Kimble scored an 8.6, which put her in the Top 6 to qualify, during Saturday's regional meet at Rockford. The score puts her in contention for a state title.

Kelsey Teft, a

sophomore on the team, missed the qualifying score for State finals in floor exercise by .025 points, and in all-around by .3.

Coach Skye Fisher said, "Overall, Saturday was a good day for the girls, considering Sara Tarchala was out with a big injury for the team score."

Cassie Miles, a sophomore on the team, was able to step in for the team and performed on the bars

at the "last minute for us, which she normally does not do," Fisher said.

Olivia Breuker, a senior on the team, performed on floor and vault.

"[She] had an ankle injury that she worked through to do floor and vault for us. Getting a 123-something was great for all the obstacles we had."

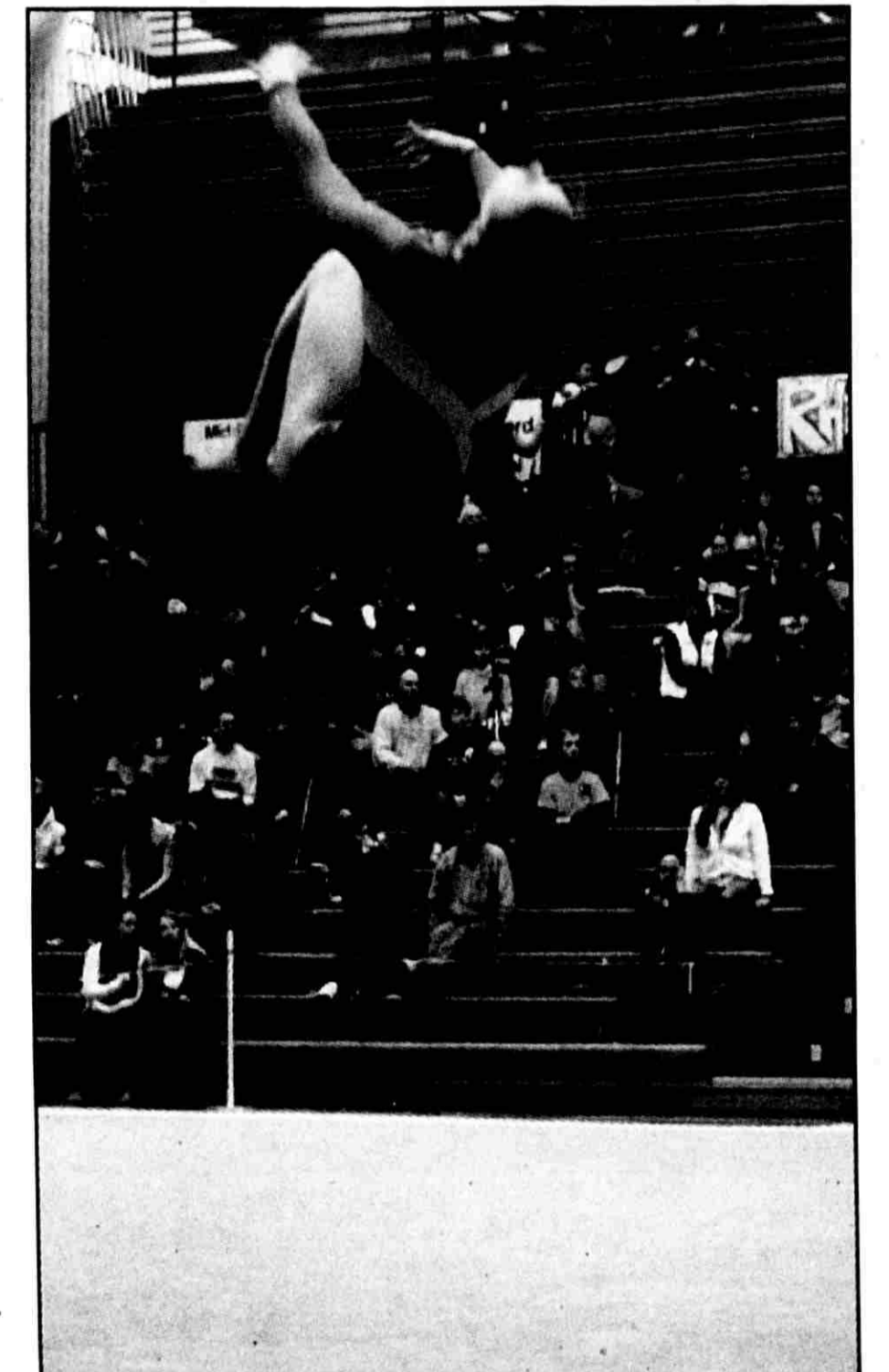
Fisher said she was proud of her team on Saturday. "They really pulled together as a team to make the last meet of the year count. They had a great season and I was very proud of their dedication to the end."

Kimble will compete at State finals Saturday morning at Plymouth-Canton High School. Fisher said she hopes to see a few

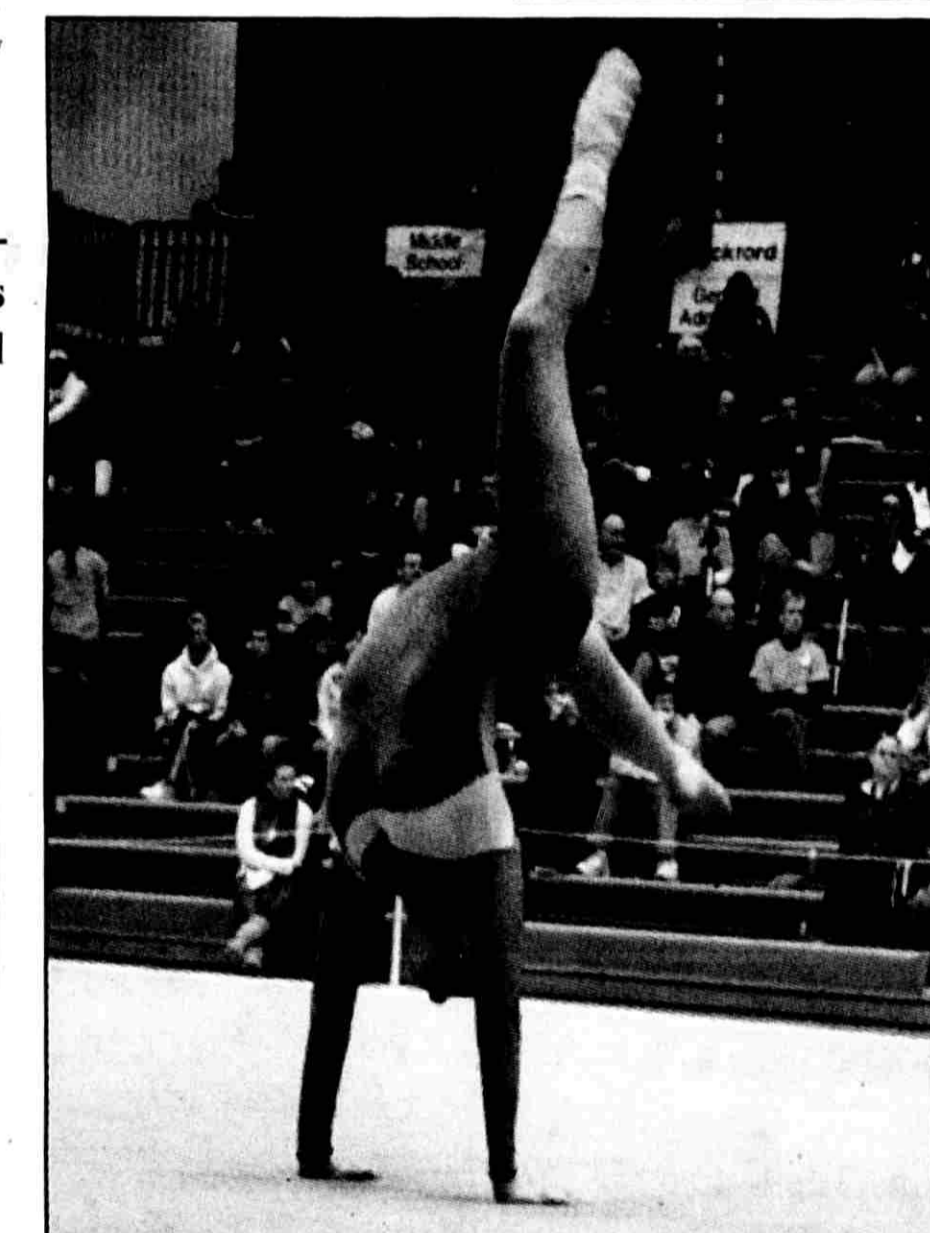
more go on next year. "I am looking forward to a few more of them advancing to state, as I believe that will happen. It will be a good year."

WATCH FOR

Richelle Kimble will perform on the vault during State finals this Saturday morning at Plymouth-Canton High School.



(Top): Kelsey Teft, a sophomore, performs one of her tumbling passes during Saturday's regional meet.



(Left): Olivia Breuker, a senior on the team, performs a back walkover on floor with an ankle injury Saturday.



(Left): Richelle Kimble, a junior, performs a back extension roll on the floor Saturday.



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- ◆ Do safe exercises like walking, swimming, stationary cycling.
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- ◆ Eat small meals or snacks every four hours.
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This week's fans of the week were the hockey crowd at Wednesday's regional match-up against Rockford. During the third quarter, when Lowell-Caledonia scored two goals in less than a minute, the crowd went crazy, prompting two fans to get up and start the wave.

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Red Arrow SPORTS

MATT KURTZ HAD 17 POINTS AND MICHAEL SCHUMM HAD 15 POINTS IN THEIR LAST GAME WEARING RED ARROW JERSEYS.

Lowell boys' basketball ends season at Northview

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

They were up and then were down, up again and in the end, were down too far to come back, losing to Rockford 48-58.

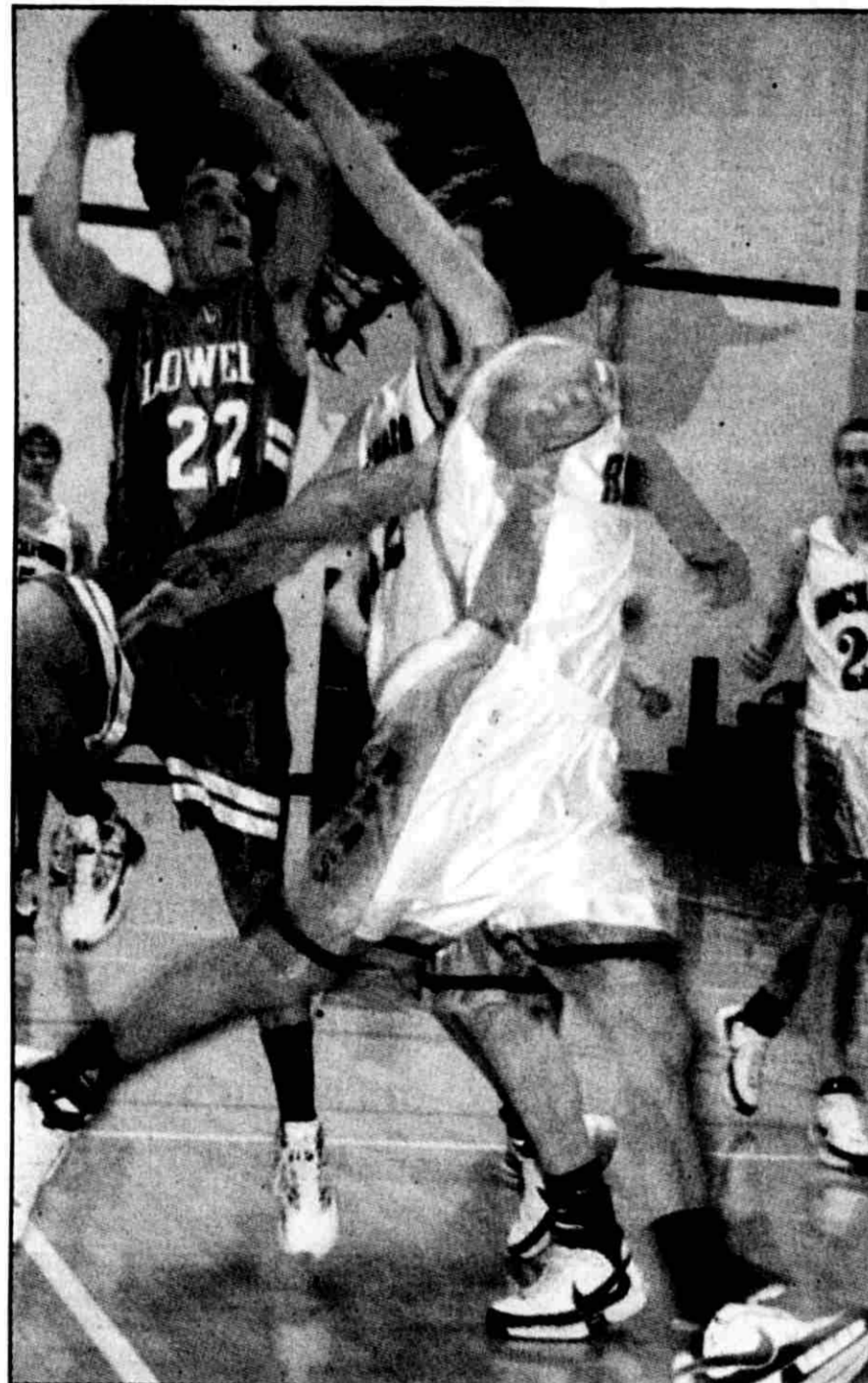
The Arrows were in their first game of the District tournament at Northview High School, with a bye in the first round.

Lowell pulled ahead in the second quarter of the game to go into halftime with a 19-18 lead. But Rockford outshot the Arrows and put pressure on their 3-point game to force Lowell to

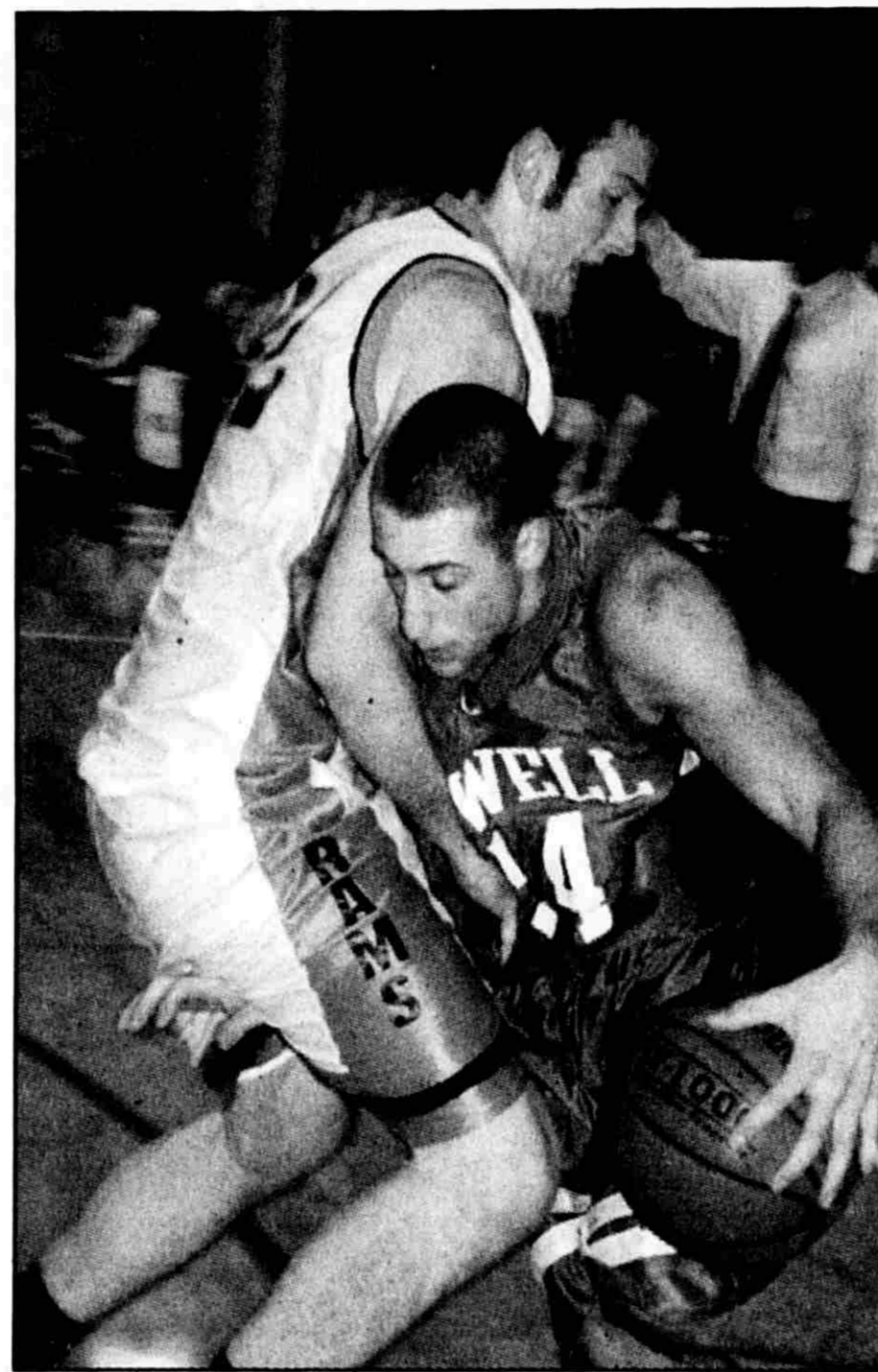
shoot a mainly inside-the-arc contest.

The Arrows had their moments Wednesday night. Near the end of the third quarter, Tim Hettinga stole a Rockford ball and lobbed it to Matt Kurtz for a layup and one free throw. Kurtz's three points tied the game at 26, but Lowell couldn't catch up after that.

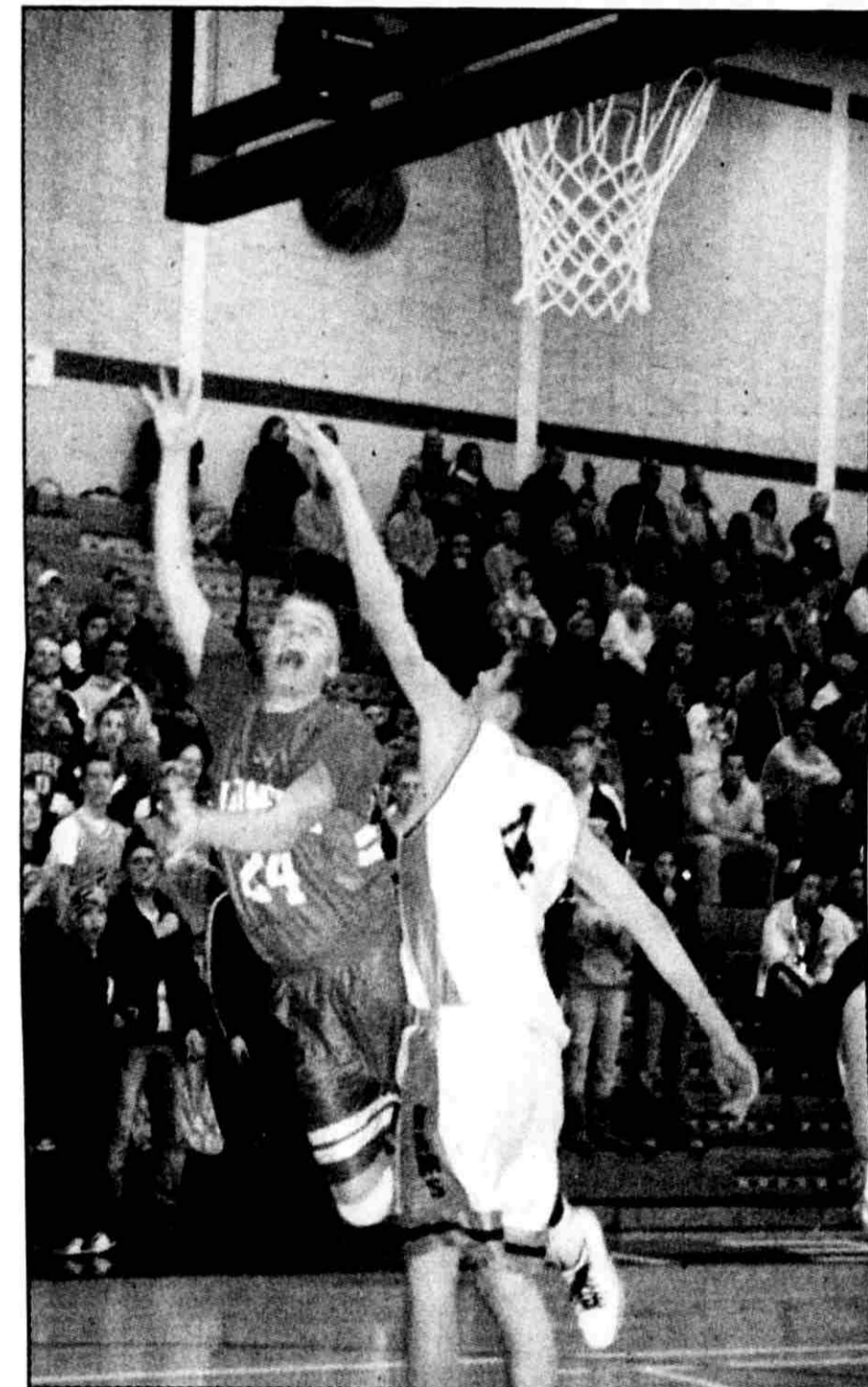
In Kurtz's last game as an Arrow, he scored a team-high 17 points. Michael Schumm, also a senior, posted 15 points, while junior Hettinga had 7.



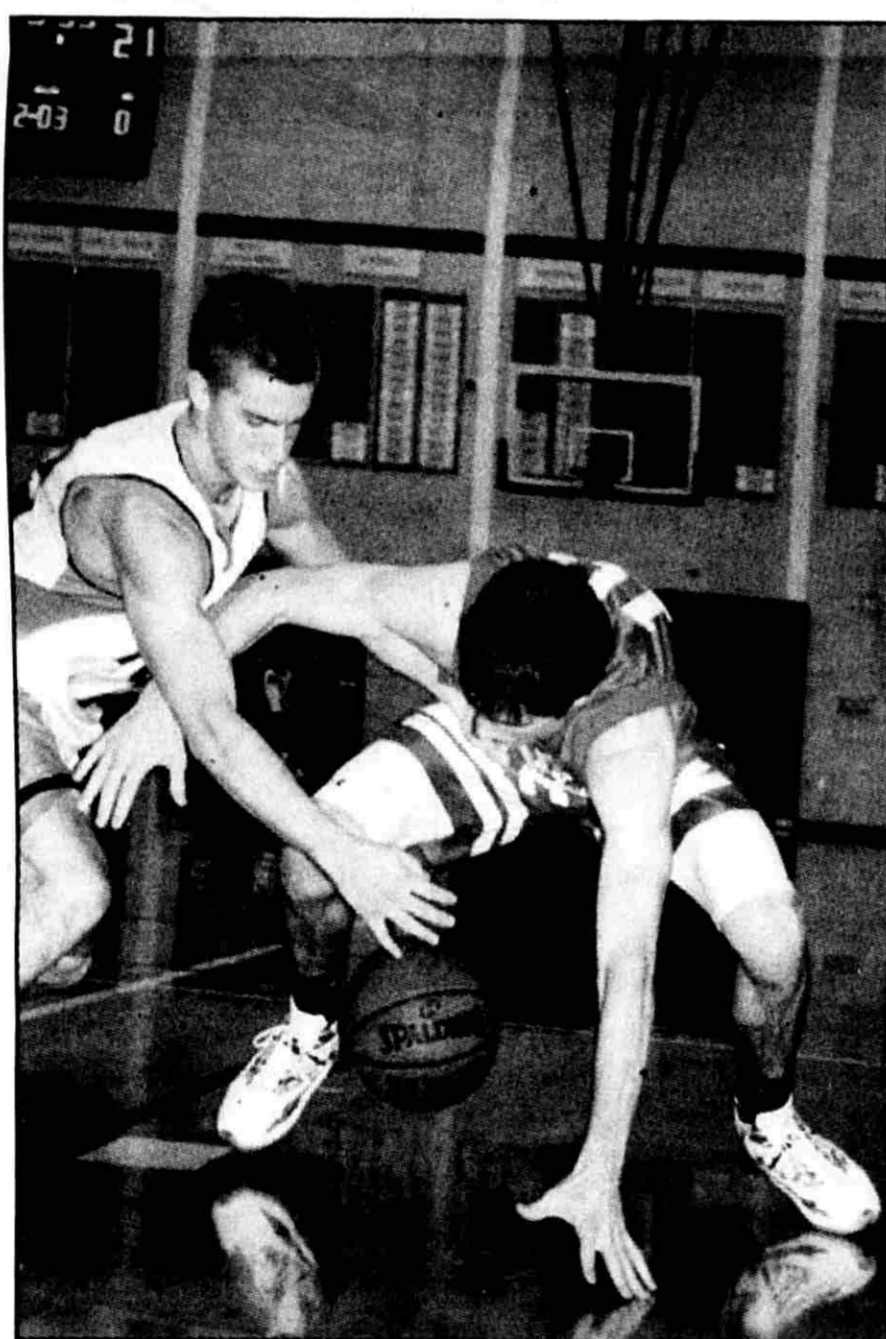
(Top left): Matt Kurtz (22) looks to the hoop.
(Top right): Eric Saenz (44) drives to the net.



(Below): Tim Hettinga (20) shoots for three.



(Top): Michael Schumm (24) goes in for a layup against Rockford.
(Right): Brett McMahon (10) fights for the ball.



Seven LHS student-athletes attended the Women in Sports Leadership conference in Lansing Feb. 10.

Pictured are junior Logan Declercq, senior Mary VanderLaan, senior Breanna Bueche, senior Andrea Converse, senior Patty Lawrence, senior Chelsea Harrison, and junior Richelle Kimble. (photo courtesy of Harrison)



Red Arrow SPORTS

"I AM SO PROUD OF THE GIRLS' EFFORTS. THE SENIORS WILL BE VERY MISSED, BUT I HAVE A BIG NUMBER OF RETURNERS WHO ARE ALREADY MAKING PLANS. THAT IS EXCITING FOR ME TO SEE THE TRADITIONS LIVING ON FROM SEASON TO SEASON."

- Cheer coach Kari Dawson

Cheer team has best Round 3 of the season at Regionals

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

It was a strong field of very good competitors during the Division 2 cheer regionals at Kenowa Hills Saturday, and Lowell couldn't quite pull together three rounds to move on to state.

The team finished 11th of 16 teams, with a score of 168.376. Kenowa Hills was

the champion for the day with a score of 742.708.

In Round 1, the team came out with 191 points. Coach Kari Dawson said the team "did not have a real strong Round 1, so we started out in a hole."

In Round 2, though, the Arrows were able to come back in points, with 168.376. Dawson said, "In Round 2, I was very

proud of three freshmen who just were moved up to varsity, and threw their back handsprings. We needed this skill in Round 2, but did not have enough on varsity. With the new freshmen, we were able to keep our springs in Round 2 and have our strong Round 3."

Dawson was especially pleased with the team's Round 3, which she called "the very best performance of the season." The team scored 280.500.

She said she was "so proud of the girls' efforts. The seniors will be very missed, but I have a big number of returners who are already making plans. That is exciting for me to see the traditions living on from season to season."

(Left): The Red Arrows perform in Round 3 at Kenowa Hills.



The varsity team performs their end stunt in Round 3 during Saturday's Regional meet.

Lowell-Caledonia ends season with loss to Rockford

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

For a few minutes in the third period, it seemed as if Lowell-Caledonia was going to break its losing streak against Rockford and

advance to the Regional finals. But Rockford, a Tier 1 team, broke from the Arrows to score three goals in three minutes to advance.

The Arrows lost 3-6 to the Rams in what was a

close game until the last few minutes. The first period started as a standstill between the two teams who were tied at one apiece, with L-C's goal coming from Jordan Steger.

Rockford broke away in the second period with two consecutive goals. But in the third quarter, Lowell-Caledonia answered back with two goals in less than a minute, by Drake Chittenden and Bo Adams to get the fans on their feet.

Lowell-Caledonia ends its season with an impressive record and as Tier 3 champions. They will move to Tier 2, per league rules, next year.



Joel Morgan (9) protects the puck against Rockford's Shea Mills (32) Wednesday night.



Goaltender Corey Phillips blocks a Rockford puck in the 2nd quarter.

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Seven LHS student-athletes attended the Women in Sports Leadership conference in Lansing Feb. 10.

Pictured are junior Logan Declercq, senior Mary VanderLaan, senior Breanna Bueche, senior Andrea Converse, senior Patty Lawrence, senior Chelsea Harrison, and junior Richelle Kimble. (photo courtesy of Harrison)



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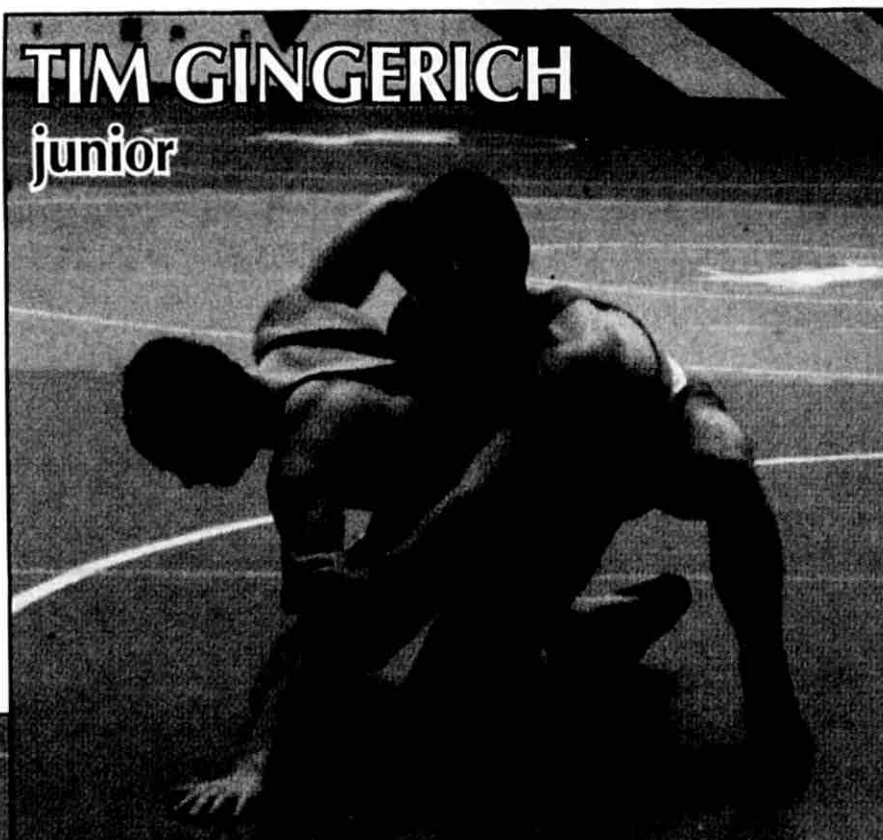
Lowell sends six wrestlers to individual state finals

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

[Editor's note]: It was incorrectly stated in last week's Ledger (2/27) that Jackson Morse was the "lone wrestler headed to State". There are actually six wrestlers headed to the Palace this weekend for individual state finals, as they placed in the top four in their weight

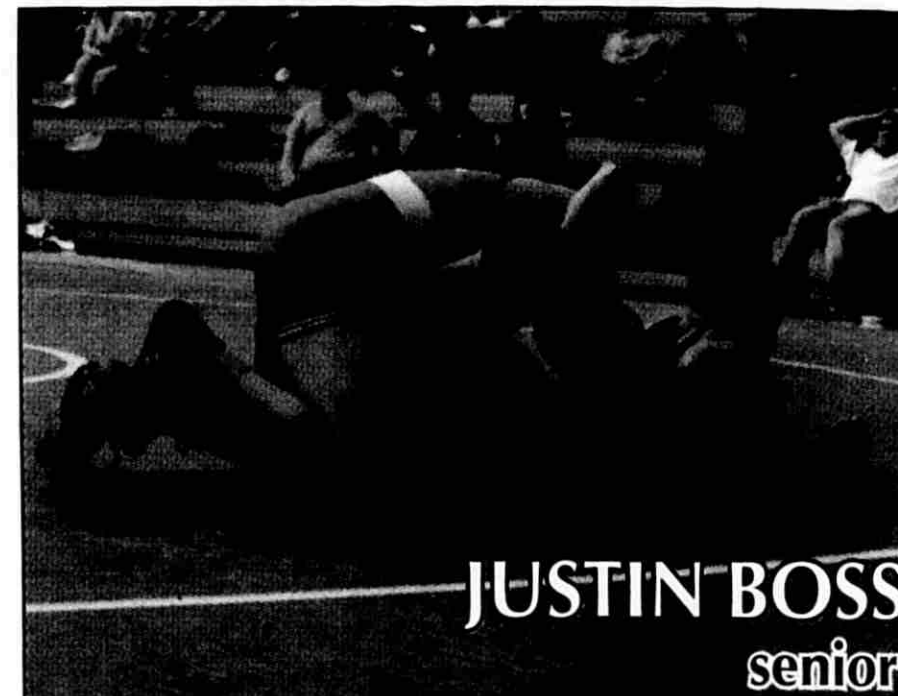
class during Regional finals Feb. 23. Jackson Morse, along with Zach Baum, Justin Boss, Tim Gingerich, Ryan Olep and Nate Vaught, will take part in the Division 2 state finals.

My apologies to the wrestlers who all deserve special recognition for achieving what is the ultimate goal in high school wrestling.



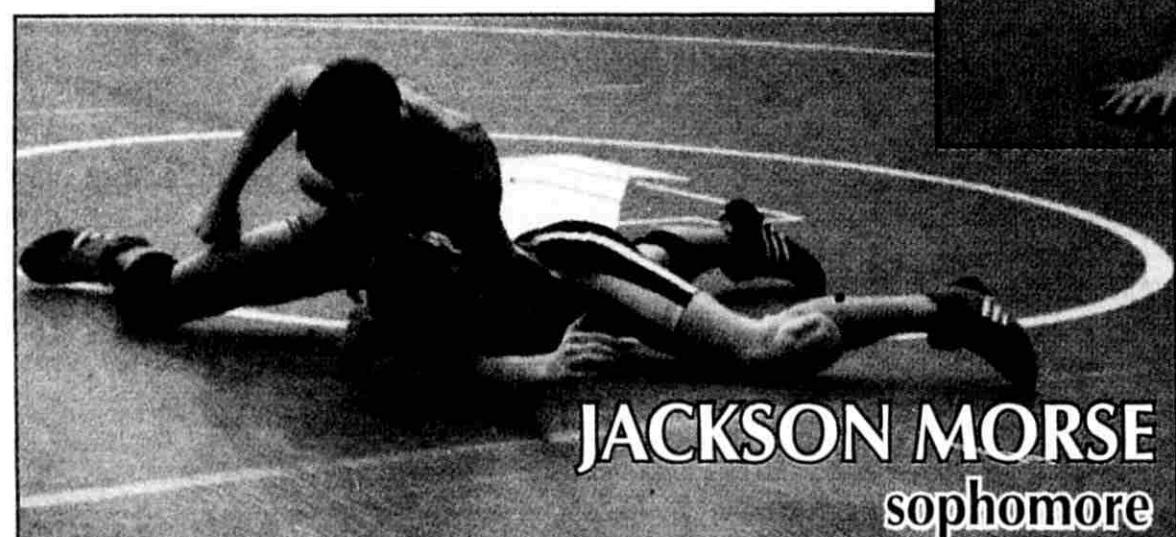
TIM GINGERICH
junior

Gingerich was runner-up at 145, falling to Greenville's Jordan Miller.



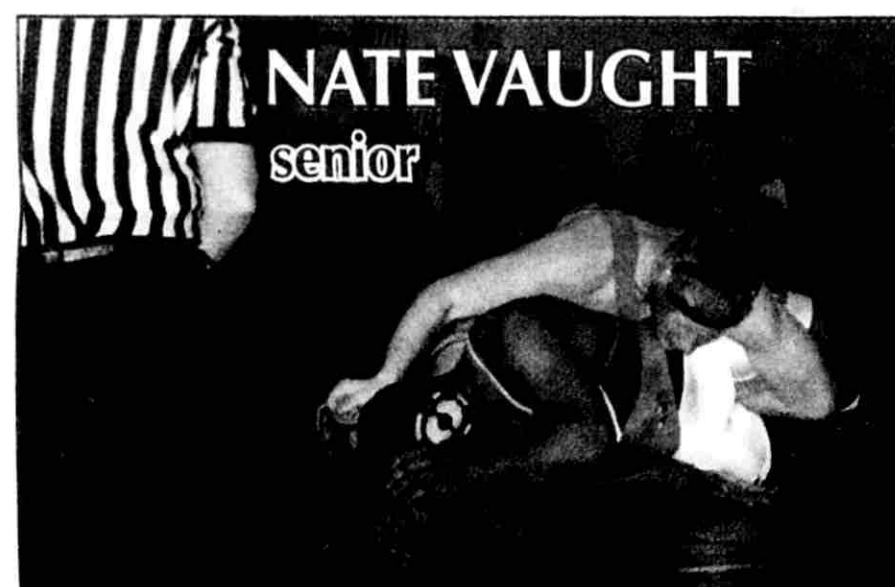
JUSTIN BOSS
senior

Boss was only narrowly defeated by Plainwell's Tim Burnham, who won in overtime. Boss was runner-up at 152.



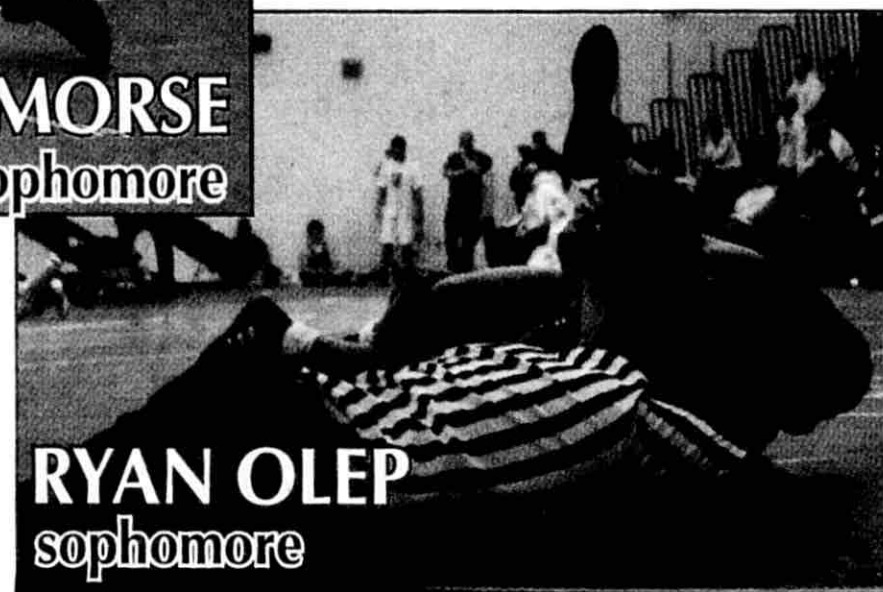
JACKSON MORSE
sophomore

Morse was the champion at 140, pinning Jory Kurkjian of Rogers for the win and title.



NATE VAUGHT
senior

Vaught took third place, after defeating Tim Burnham of Plainwell at 171 pounds in the consolation round.



RYAN OLEP
sophomore

Olep took third place, after defeating Tyler Fuller of Greenville at 160.



ZACH BAUM
senior

Baum placed second overall in his region's weight class at 130, falling to Alec Wilcox of Hastings. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Elementary wrestling wins State title

by Kim Taylor

The Lowell elementary and middle school dual wrestling teams both competed on Sunday, March 2 at the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association (MYWA) Duals at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek, Mich.

Qualifying teams in the elementary division included Bronson, Eaton Rapids, Hamilton, Hartland, Hesperia, Holt, Lawton, Lowell, New Lothrop and Sparta. Qualifying teams in the middle school division

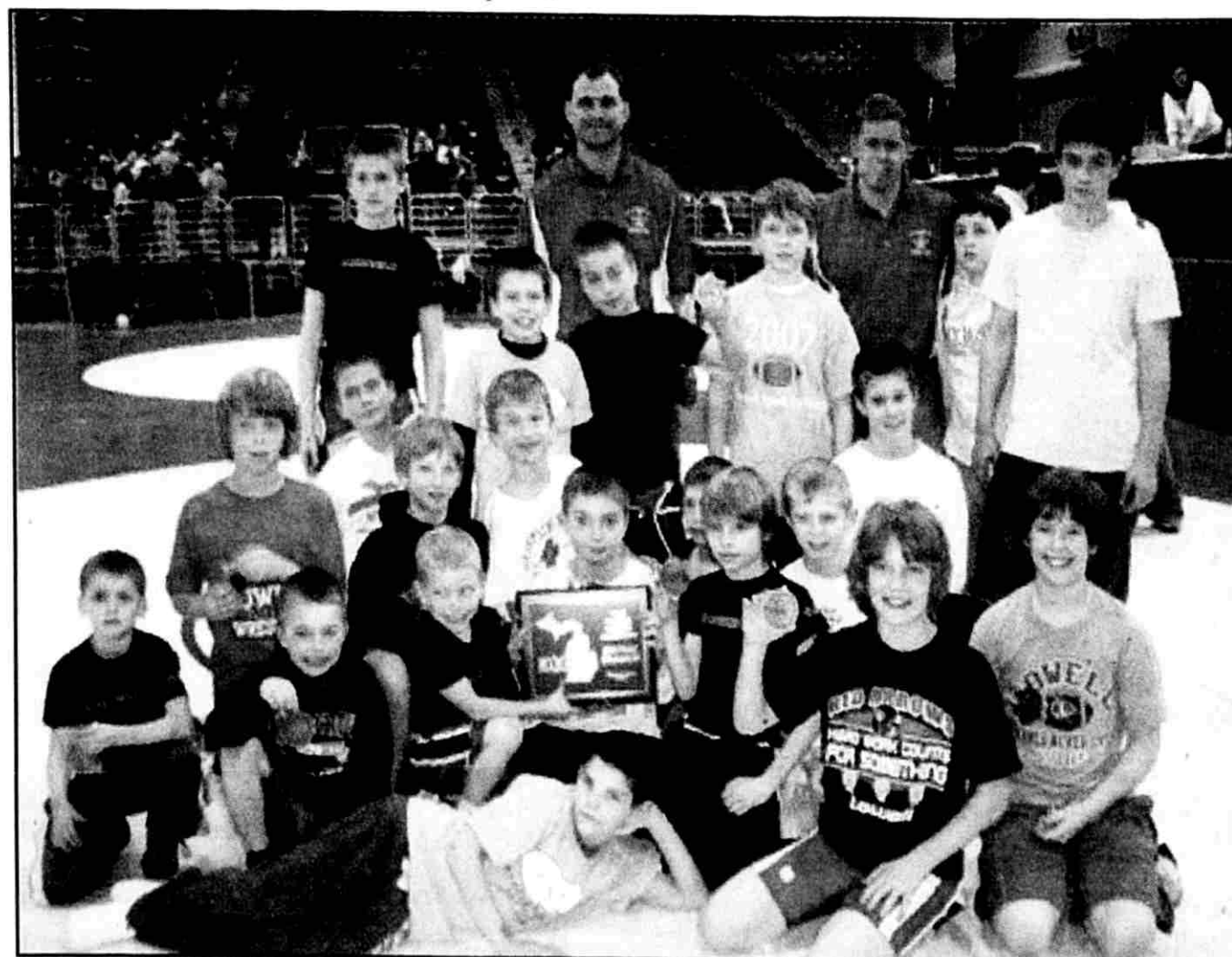
included Hartland, Hesperia, Holt, Hudson, Lowell, New Lothrop, Shelby and Springport.

The Lowell elementary dual team wrestled New Lothrop in the championship round, with a win of 57 to 24. The team also defeated Sparta 56 to 12, Eaton

Rapids by a score of 54-16, Hamilton by a score of 63-24 and Bronson by a score of 68 to 12.

The middle school team was defeated in the consolation round by Hudson. They also wrestled New Lothrop, Hartland and Hesperia.

The elementary team will travel to the Wisconsin Dells, Wis. on Friday, April 18 to compete against the No. 1 and No. 2 teams from Minnesota and try to capture the Big Cup Trophy.



The state championship elementary team (First row, L-R): Zeth Dean and Ben Bigham. (Second Row, L-R): Avry Mutchler, Sage Serbenta, Matthew Stephens, Jacob Stephens, Chris Poland, Derek Krawjewski and Zach Kaywood. (Third row, L-R): Isaac Brenner, Baily VanA-nberg, Jake Dennison, Garret Taylor, John Luc Richmond and Nate Limmex. (Fourth row, L-R): Jacob Sweet, Baily Jack, Nate Stephens, Coach Kevin Taylor, Andrew Metternick, Coach Brian Krawjewski, Max Dean and Garret Stehly.

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