

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Crowds of shoppers enjoy Girls Night Out

On a lovely October evening, hundreds of ladies from far and near hunted for bargains during the annual Girls Night Out last week.

From fragrances and soaps at Simple Pleasures Fine Bath and Body on the west end of Main, to fine furniture designs by Hearthstone Design Studio on the east end, the participating merchants offered their best.

For many women, the bargain tour started right at Simple Pleasures.

"This is usually their first stop," said owner Pamela Motyka. "Everything here is natural and organic."

A full Asian-inspired spread was catered by Mynt Fusion. On the other side of the street Daisy Floral had fresh carnations for the ladies. Inside, Patricia Ramos with Avalla by Nutrimetics was giving "handcials."

"It's just fun to see all the shops," said customer Renee Kramer.

Girls Night out, cont'd., pg. 8



The Common Gentry Carriage Co. with horse Pete and crew Steve Weber and Connie Elsass.

Huge girth helps big oak win city's Big Tree Contest

by Emma Palova

The biggest tree in the city of Lowell is just a tad short of 15 feet in circumference. This magnificent giant oak tree is located on Schneider Manor property.

The first Biggest Tree Contest was organized by the Lowell Arbor Board to promote awareness, respect and appreciation of the city's trees according to Jim Reagan.

"The trees that were submitted are as much a part of the neighborhoods as the homes, families, dogs and cats that live here," said Reagan. "They are part of the heritage of Lowell just like the historic district. Without these trees the neighborhoods would feel a lot emptier."

The winning application was submitted by Becky Reagan.

Other big trees in the city limits include an oak tree on the corner of North Washington and King streets submitted by Kim Schwacha, measuring 158 inches in circumference; a maple tree on Riverside and Hunt submitted by Steve and Betsy Maki, measuring 154 inches in circumference.

A silver maple, measuring 144 and a quarter of an inch, located at Bowes and Pleasant submitted by Tess Reagan, received fourth place. Jim Hall submitted an application for an oak tree on Monroe and Grant measuring 135 and three quarters of an inch. They placed fifth.

Big Tree, cont'd., pg. 3

Diver finds artifacts in the Flat River

by Emma Palova

Joe Barnett feels better under water than on the ground.

As he dives into the Flat River by the downtown bridge wearing a titanium wet suit and an oxygen tank, he tests out the water with

his left hand first. It's fine, 56 degrees about cuts it for diving in the Midwest at the end of October.

It also has to be sunny for good visibility, according to Barnett.

Barnett will be looking for bloodworms that are used in medical research. But, they will also lead him to metals in the water since they live in anaerobic environment. He uses scientific research to hunt for artifacts and lost items in waters all over the world. This former lifeguard studied aquatic medicine to become a paramedic in southern California.

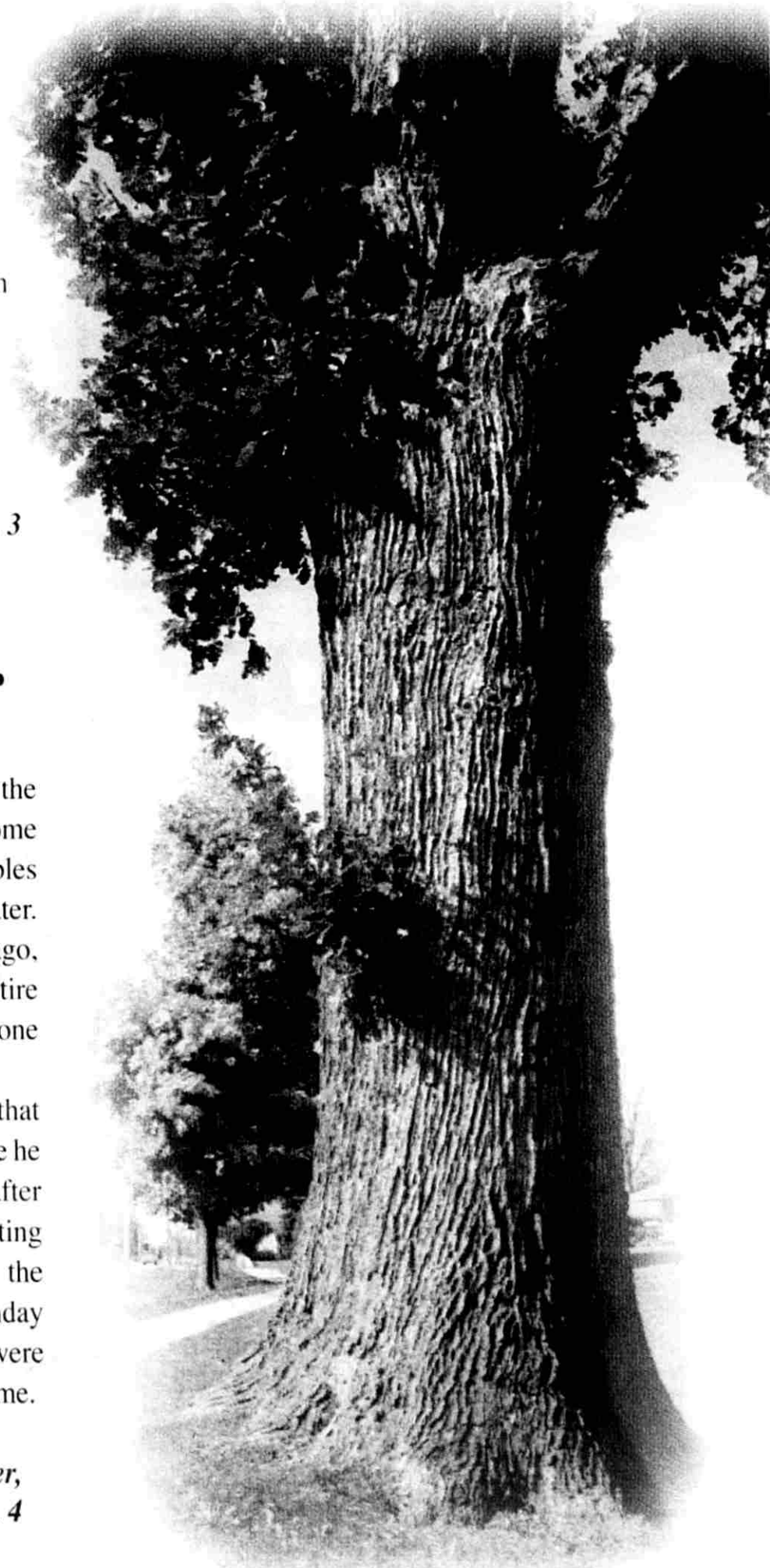
Watching from the bridge last Saturday, some spectators spotted bubbles coming up from the water. Unlike four years ago, they didn't call the entire rescue squad that someone was drowning.

Barnett related that story about the first time he was diving in Lowell, after he spotted some floating wooden pilings by the dam. It was on a Sunday and the rescue guys were watching a football game.

Diver, cont'd., pg. 4



Diver Joe Barnet with coins found at an earlier dive.



Girls Night Out, continued ... From Page 1

At the Hearstone Design Studio, owner Shannon Parnofiello eagerly signed cards for the grand prize drawing.

Gail Blanchard at L4 straightened Tummy Tuck jeans.

But, maybe the biggest surprise of the night was horse Pete, patiently awaiting customers for a carriage ride through Lowell with crew Steve Weber and Connie Elsasser.

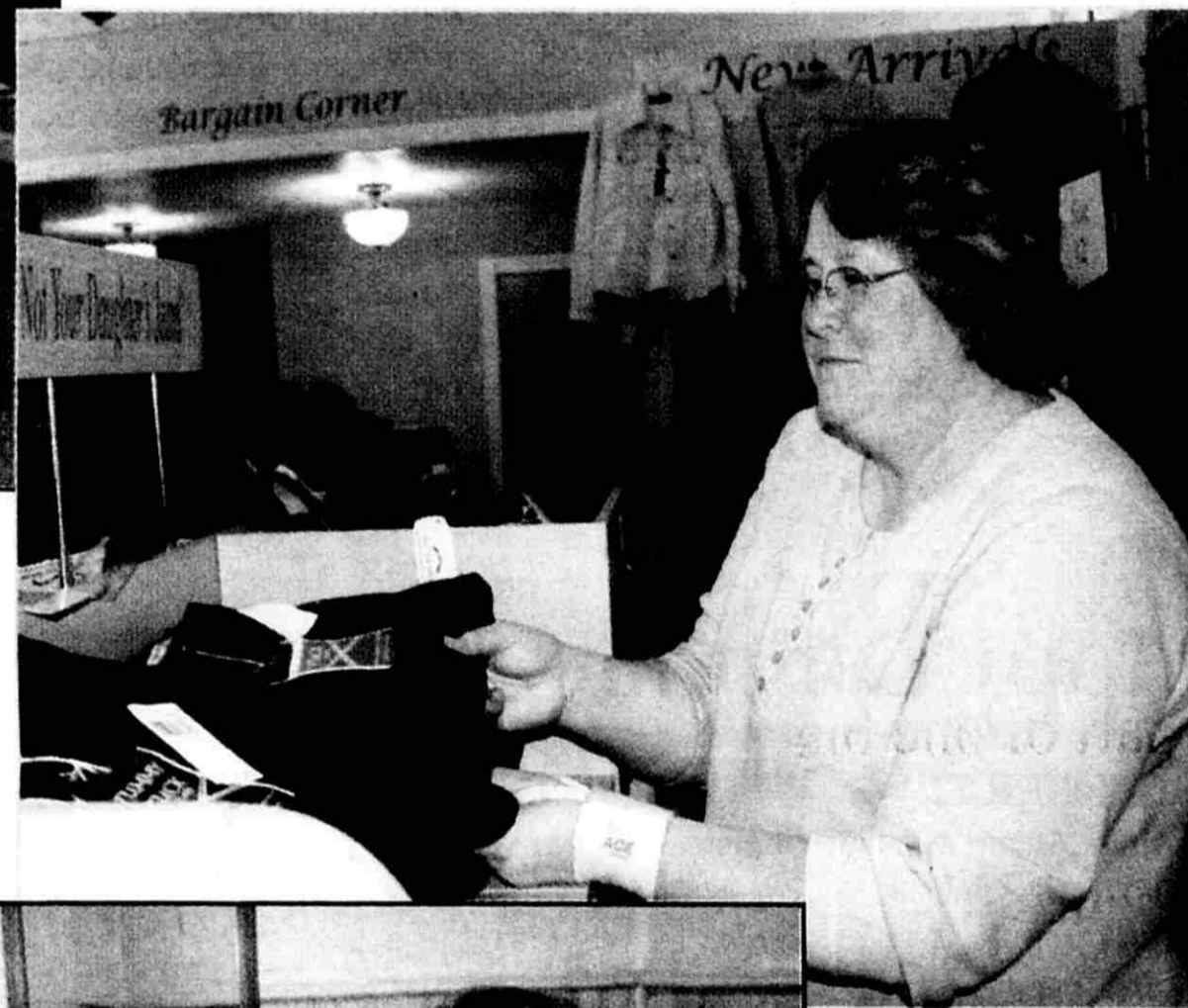
Joanne Lucas sampled some fine Halloween cookies at Chimera Design. Owner Cliff Yankovich hid among his black opals, some seasonal pumpkin ale.



Joanne Lucas enjoyed shopping at Chimera's.



Shannon Parnofiello signs a card for Helen Vezino.



Gail Blanchard straightens jeans at L4.



Patricia Ramos gives "handcial" to Renee Kramer at Daisy Floral.

Pamela Motyka with Rochelle Motyka at Simple Pleasures.



DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008

Motion to excuse the absence of Mayor Shores was presented and approved.

Minutes of the October 15, 2008 meeting were approved as corrected and the accounts payables were approved.

Motion to approve the increase in the cost of Solid Waste bags from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per bag, Yard Waste bags from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per bag and the recycling (which is paid by the City) cost \$4.23 per month per residence from \$3.01 and to provide recycling the first and third Thursday of each month effective December 1, 2008.

Motion to set a public hearing for November 3, 2008 to consider a Tree Ordinance.

Motion to adopt the MERS retirement Benefit Increase (Benefit Program E for retirees as presented.)

Motion to set a public hearing for November 3, 2008 to consider a resolution establishing LCTV Endowment Board and prescribing its duties and responsibilities and other matters related thereto.

Motion to amend the City Council rules of procedures.

Motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, November 3, 2008.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on November 3, 2008 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or City Hall.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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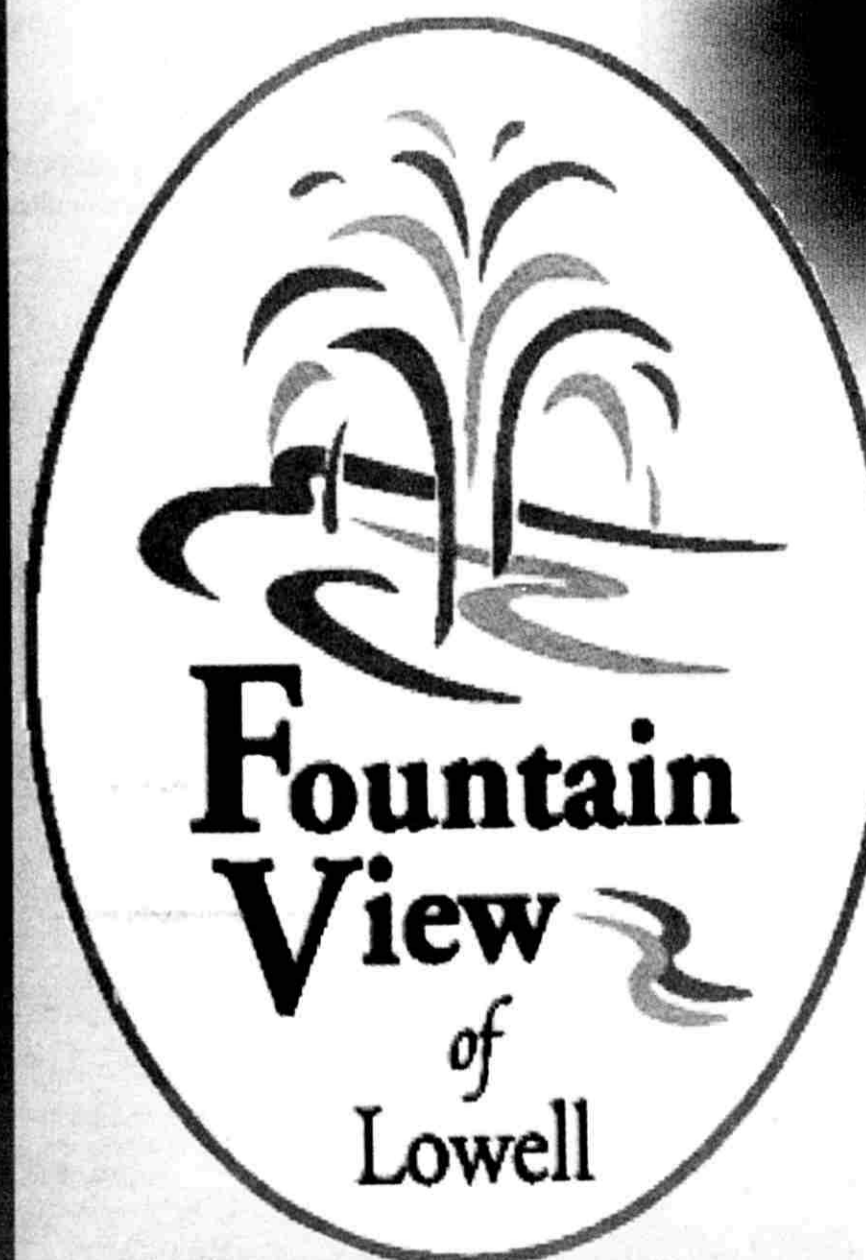
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- Kay Barnes

Resident A. McQueen and friend with daughter and son-in-law.



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Red Arrow SPORTS

Third-down conversions spells doom for G.R. Christian

by Thad Kraus

Where the game was won and lost, Grand Rapids Christian came up short in its effort to derail the number one ranked high school team in Division II.

"We couldn't always convert on third down and we couldn't get off the field on defense on third down, that's where you win and lose big games," said Grand Rapids Christian football coach Brad Mockabee.

The Eagles converted on three third down attempts while allowing the Red Arrows to convert 11 times. The result was a convincing 49-13 win for Lowell. The Red Arrows improved their record to 9-0 setting up a much anticipated showdown with the undefeated Pioneers on Friday. East Grand Rapids punished Greenville 56-13.

"It's a hard game to play in week nine. There are bigger fish to fry for both teams going into week 10," said Lowell football coach Noel Dean. "It's a balancing piece because it's also good

for both teams to play a quality team and then move on to the playoffs."

The Red Arrows 35-6 half time lead may have had fans forgetting the Eagles were that quality team Lowell was playing before its big match-up with East.

"Lowell is a great team. We got a couple bad breaks and put ourselves in bad situations. Unfortunately, that put us down big at half time, but Lowell deserves a lot of credit for doing things well," Mockabee explained.

Red Arrow Torsten Boss continued his excellent play. The Lowell senior caught three passes for 114 yards and scored three touchdowns. Two of them came on passes of 16 and 51 yards from Kyle Nichol and a third came on a 90-yard kickoff return 27 seconds before half time.

"Torsten brings value to the Friday night game. He's certainly fun for me to watch. Torsten is a competitor. He loves to compete. His competitive level goes up as

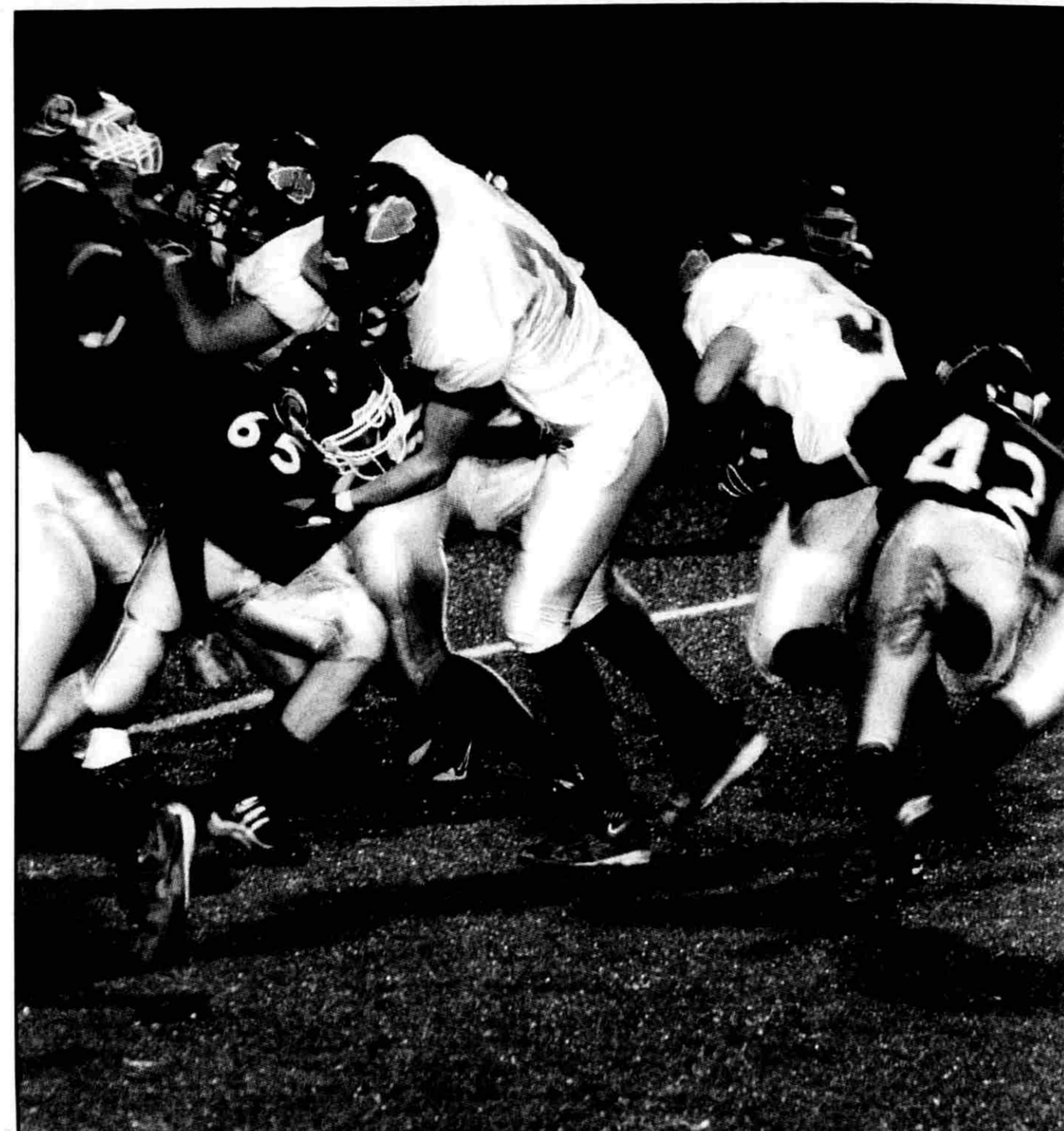
the competition level goes up," Dean said.

Lowell scored its first of seven touchdowns on its opening possession. Nichol pushed one in from the one yard line, capping a 69-yard drive. The Red Arrows made it 14-0 in the opening minutes of the second quarter when Nichol connected with Zach Stephens on a 16-yard touchdown pass.

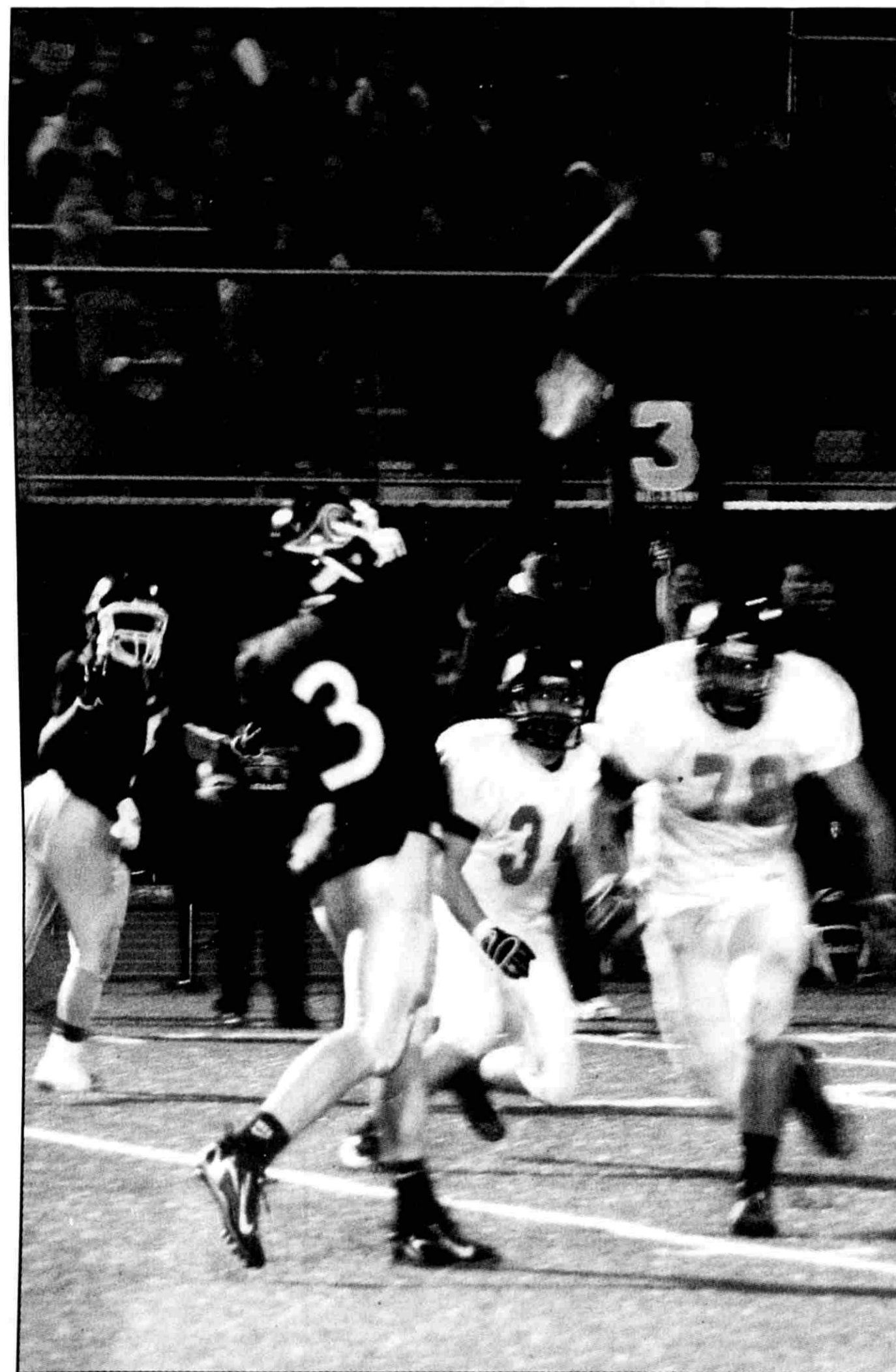
Following a Christian fumble, Austin Graham finished a 72-yard drive with a one-yard rumble, extending Lowell's lead to 21-0.

The Red Arrows got the ball to start the second half. Lowell marched 68-yards in 12 plays with Graham running it in from the five yard line, giving Lowell a 42-6 advantage. It also marked the ninth straight week a running clock has been invoked.

Lowell's last touchdown of the night came on a fourth-quarter, three-yard run by Tom Jeffrey.



Kyle Nichol finds a hole on the right side of the line in first half action against the Eagles.



Lowell's Josh Faulkner closes in on Grand Rapids Christian quarterback Drew Vos.



OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

SAY IT AIN'T SO BOBBY AND JOE!

Bobby Bowden and Joe Paterno, the grand old men of college football.

Bowden that folks, "awe shucks" coach in Tallahassee.

Paterno the professorial looking, "straight by the books" coach in State College.

They took the baton from the grand old men of Tuscaloosa and Columbus.

The Bear and Woody. Let me back up. There was nothing grand about Woody. He was the quintessential, original grumpy old coach.

Knowing what we now know about Bobby and Joe Pa, they are less like The Bear and Woody and more like the poster coaches for what ails college sports. And they have given their fans good reason to be grumpy.

We, the fans of college

football, have been deceived by the national media and our own naivety. They are not what we perceived them to be; in reality they have turned out to be much less.

I know that hurts, but folks the truth doesn't lie.

Paterno, for years was the respected coach who ran the "clean" program. In the late 90's winning became more difficult, competing in the recruiting wars took a lot more effort.

That's when it seems Joe Pa changed. Or at least his approach.

Instead of the All-American student athlete, Paterno started offering scholarships to let's say, athletes with questionable character.

ESPN's "Outside the Lines" recently reported that since 2002, 46 Penn State football players have faced 163 criminal charges.

Twenty-seven players were convicted or pled guilty to 45 charges.

Bowden is no different. The players and their list of school violations is as long as the Gettysburg Address.

The program, however, faces NCAA probation for a major academic scandal uncovered in 2007. For those not up to speed, 25 Seminole football players were involved in grade and test tampering.

Despite the long lists of misdoing by their players, Paterno and Bowden continue on with support of their administrations and fans.

Therefore, validating winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.

Both men are at the top of the list of winningest coaches. Because of this, neither appears to want to walk away before the other.

From my perspectives both Bowden and Paterno should take their wins and the programs they've soiled and walk much like Forest Gump ran. Just promise me you won't stop!

What's
Your
Sport?

Keep Caught Up On All The Lowell
High School's Sports Action In
The Lowell Ledger



Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell spikers upend Creston but doesn't have answer for Eagles' DeVries

By Thad Kraus

Unable to effectively control its passing, Lowell's volleyball team caught heat from Grand Rapids Christian.

Behind the menacing net presence of Division I standout Morgan DeVries, the Eagles maintained their spot atop the O-K White with a win over Lowell.

Grand Rapids Christian won in three straight games, 25-18, 25-20 and 25-9.

Lowell committed 29 unforced errors. In their first meeting the Red Arrows committed just eight. Red Arrow volleyball coach GiGi Peal attributed that to the Eagles pressure at the net and Lowell's inability to control its passing.

"Christian scored a lot of points on our over pass. Basically that's setting up the kill for the other team,"

Peal explained. "We just did not make it hard enough for them to set and serve the ball."

The Lowell coach was happy with the way her club competed in the opening two games.

"The girls got their feet under them early and competed well. I thought. We had a chance to pull out game two," Peal explained. "I thought, however, the girls lost their fight in game three."

DeVries led all players with 13 kills. The senior was held to just six in the clubs' first meeting.

DeVries will play for Seton Hall next year.

"She's one of the best players in the state," Peal said. "She makes a huge difference for them."

Madelyn Brower led

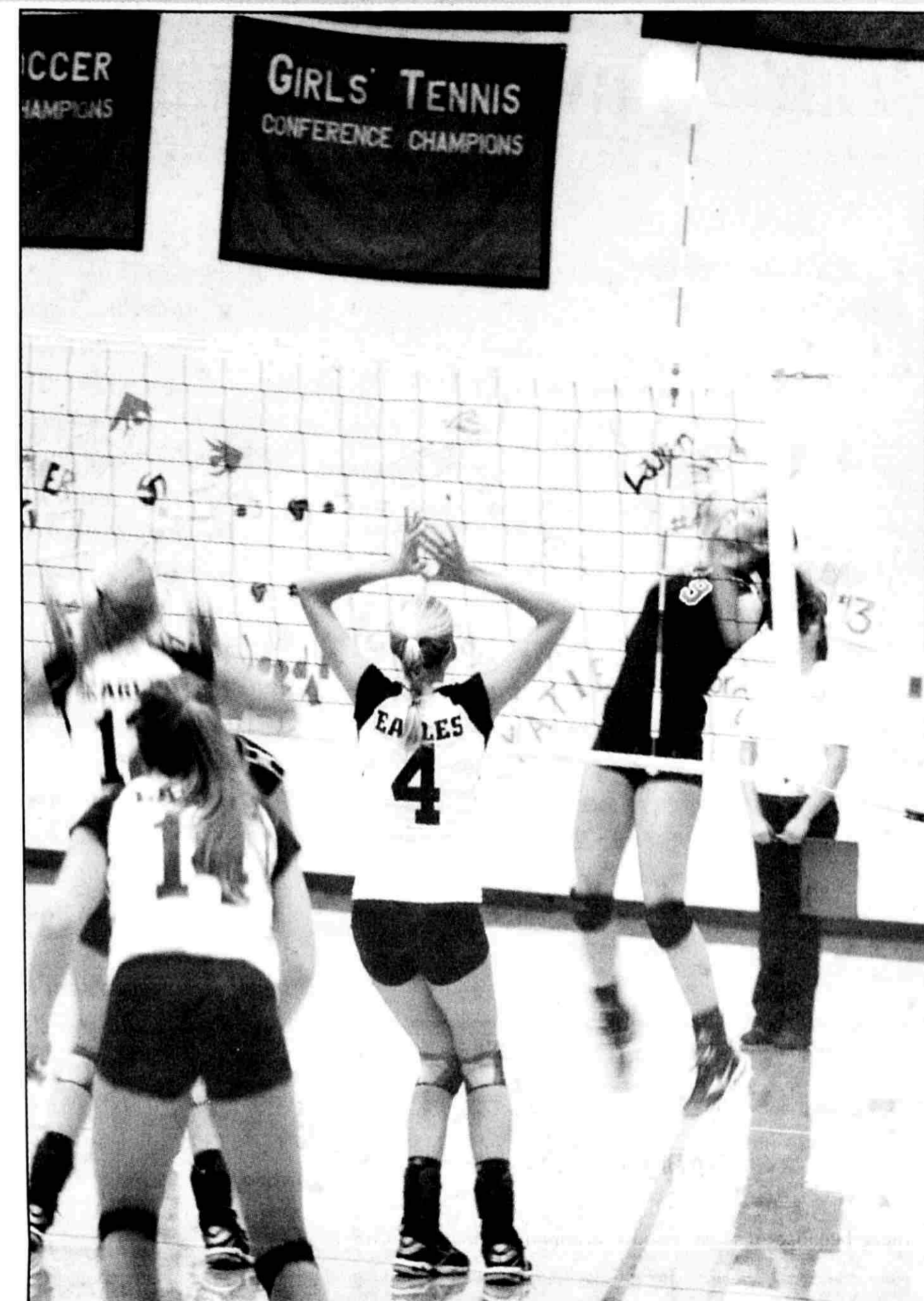
all Red Arrows in kills with eight and Jordan Timmer led in aces and assists with four and 16 respectively.

Lowell enjoyed the same success against Creston as Christian did against them.

"I was extremely happy with our execution. The girls served well and controlled the match throughout," Peal said. Lowell won easily in three straight games, 25-15, 25-12, 25-12.

"Creston has come a long way, but we're just a few levels higher in our play at this time," Peal concluded.

Brower led Lowell in kills with nine. Timmer was the club leader in aces with 10 and assists with nine.



Lowell's Lyndsey Crawford attempts a cross net blast in volleyball action against Grand Rapids Christian.

Kentwood sticks 2-0 district loss on Red Arrows

by Thad Kraus

East Kentwood coach John Conlon called Nermin Crnkic the Falcons' glue.

Following the Kentwoods' 2-0 district win, Lowell would agree with that observation.

It was Crnkic who stuck the decisive two goals on the Red Arrows in the opening 10 minutes of the district contest.

"He's 100 percent

energy. At 5'6" and 145 pounds he is fearless," Conlon explained.

It took the Red Arrows 10 costly minutes to get up to speed. That proved costly.

"After the first 10 minutes I thought we played pretty evenly with Kentwood. They still controlled much of the game," Lowell soccer coach Paul Legge explained.

"You just can't spot a team like Kentwood two goals like that and expect to win. Kentwood is just too good."

Kentwood, defending state champion, doesn't have the star power that it's had in the past, but Legge believes this year's squad has more depth.

"They have six or seven guys that they can rely on for scoring. I think that may make them more dangerous."

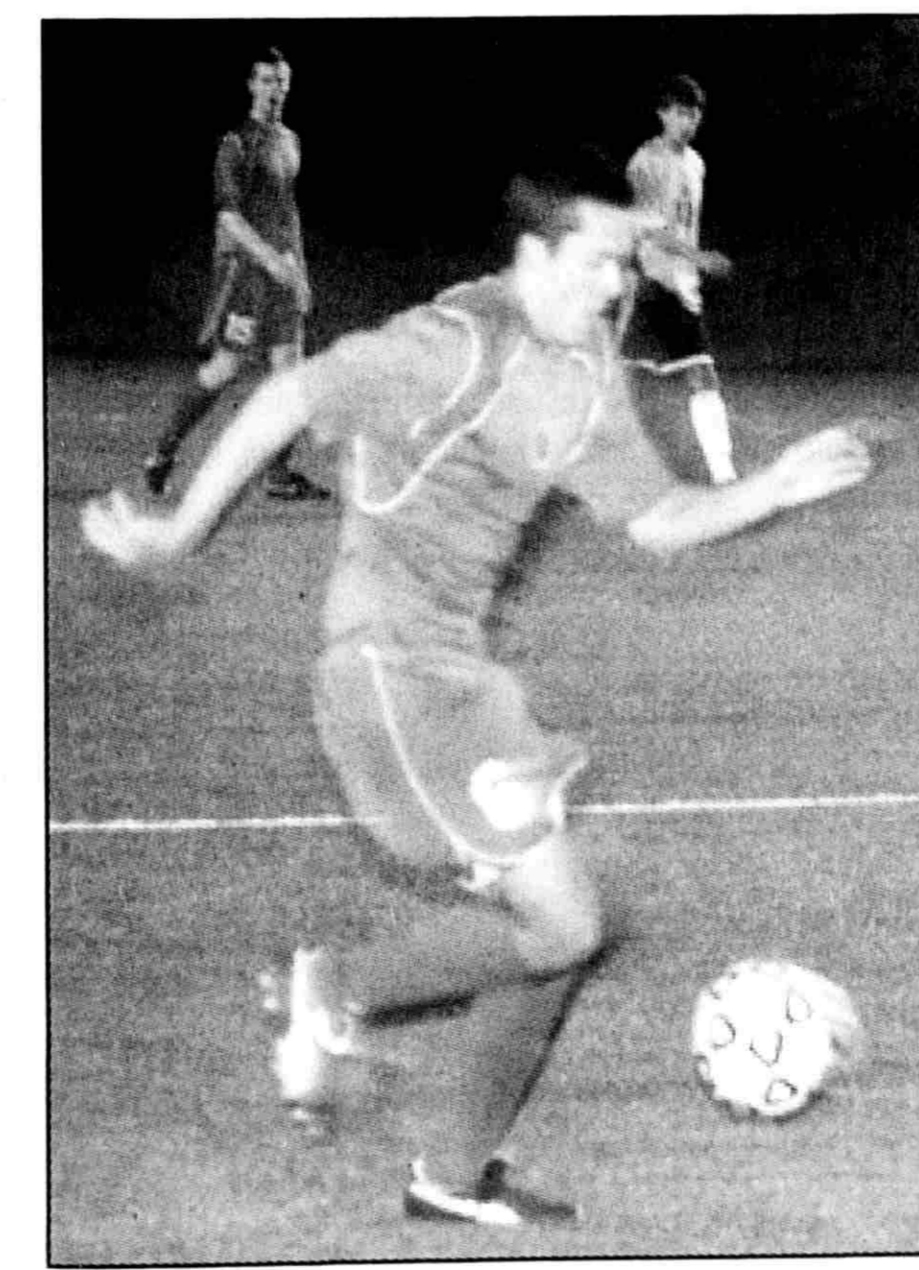
Conlon referred to dangerous when talking about his clubs district draw.

"We got exactly what I expected from Lowell. They are physical, fit and extremely fast," Conlon said. "I'm just glad we scored early. They play just like their coach did when we were teammates. Lowell and Rockford, that's a pretty tough way to start a district."

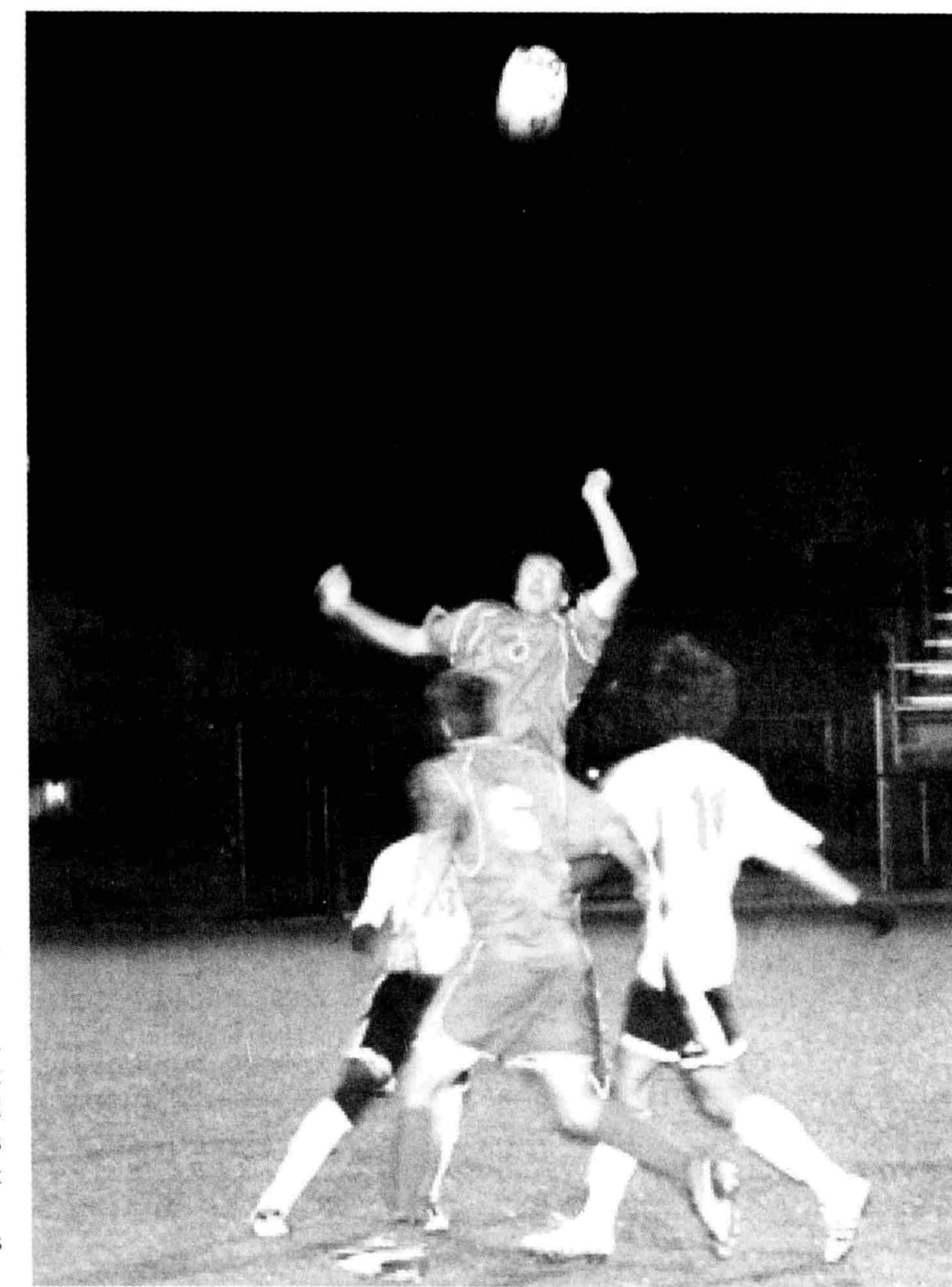
Crnkic scored Kentwoods' first goal at 37:20 of the first half and then netted the game's second and final goal at 23:24.

Lowell finishes its season at 12-7 overall.

Kentwood lived to battle on against Rockford.



Ian Beddows brings the ball up the field in first-half action against Kentwood.



Tommy Rodriguez gains possession in the early minutes of the district soccer game.

Chili Cook-off donation



Mike Larkin donates \$2,045 in proceeds from the annual harvest cook-off to Kraig Haybarker of Flat River Outreach Ministries. The money will be used to stock the pantry.



In The Service

Army Reserve Sgt. Alan C. Conway has been mobilized and activated for deployment overseas to a forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given to military operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces participating in efforts to free and secure Iraq. Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security, and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign

powers to govern the people of Iraq.

Members from all branches of the U.S. military and multinational forces are also assisting in rebuilding Iraq's economic and governmental infrastructure, and training and preparing Iraqi military and security forces, to assume full authority and responsibility in defending and preserving Iraq's sovereignty and independence as a democracy.

Conway, a civil affairs technician with seven years of military service, is regularly assigned to the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

He is the son of Joe Conway of Ada.

The sergeant attended Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, where he received a bachelor's degree in 2003, and a master's degree in 2006.

PV2 Tony Amelia is currently deployed in Kuwait for more comprehensive combat training before being deployed to Iraq for one year.

Amelia completed Boot Camp in Fort Leonard Woods, MO. As a Combat Engineer, he has been through additional extensive training such as: C4 and TNT (explosive training), Mount Training (clearing houses, raids) and bridge building while being stationed at Fort Riley, KS.

While at Fort Leonard Wood, he received the Certificate of Achievement for "Engineer Trailblazer". This certificate is awarded to one PVT during the 08-09 cycle. He received this for meritorious achievement as a combat engineer by exceeding standards for rifle marksmanship, hand grenade, physical fitness, leadership, motivation, teamwork and discipline.

Amelia is the son of Dan and Dawn Ruegsegger and a 2006 graduate of Lowell High School.

Alto Elementary Preschool playgroup

Every Thursday, Alto Elementary hosts a playgroup for parents with children birth to school age. Each playtime consists of a story, snack, craft and time for free play. There is a different theme each week, and this past Thursday children had a great time making a festive scarecrow to be displayed at The Dairy Discovery Farm in Alto. Oct. 23, the theme will be "pumpkins" and on the 30th they will have a Halloween costume party. Playgroup runs from 9:30-10:30 each Thursday (no playgroup on Nov. 27 or Dec. 25).



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