

# Open heart surgery paved way for another Stacey at Midview

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**GRAFTON** - When Al Stacey, a senior at Midview High School, ran on the field at Oberlin Friday night with other members of the team, he figured it was his last game of organized football.

Fourteen years ago, Al's parents, Albert and Faye Stacey, never thought he'd even step on a football field, let alone play regularly as a split end and defensive back the past two seasons.

Even open heart surgery couldn't stop this fine, young athlete. He has played football, basketball and baseball the past three years at Midview and has played competitive sports since he was in the fourth grade at Elyria's St. John Lutheran School.

It all started when Al was only six weeks old and was having trouble swallowing due to blockage in his esophagus. He had an operation on his stomach so he could be fed. While in the hospital it was discovered he had a heart murmur. He underwent electrocardiograms and his parents were told he may eventually need an operation.

The operation was finally performed in early 1971 and it enabled Al to lead a normal life.

"I WAS a very young mother at the time and you can imagine how I was feeling," Mrs. Stacey said. "When I went into the Rainbow Baby and Children's Hospital and saw all the other children with incurable diseases, I felt kind of lucky that Al was only having open heart surgery. It's hard to believe you can feel lucky about something like that, but I did."

"The problem was an underdeveloped valve and enough blood wasn't getting through, so they went in and opened it up. He was home in a week and anxious to get out and start playing."

"He's always been able to

play like the other kids and the doctors have never put any restrictions on him. We had to take him in once a year for checkups and stress tests, but other than that he's been fine. He's always been a little skinny, but he sure has a good appetite."

**AL STARTED** playing baseball at Elyria Little League West as a seven-year-old and was even good enough to play in the major league division at the age of nine. He advanced to the 13-year-old division and was on the all-star team that won the state championship that year.

Baseball, he feels, is his best sport, with basketball next. He batted .345 for the Middies last spring and this past summer played for the Elyria American Legion team, hitting .337 and striking out only seven times in 96 at bats. In basketball last year, he was fifth in the county in assists and eighth in free throw percentage.

"I never even think about the surgery and when I was growing up I didn't feel I had gone through anything special," the 6-2, 175-pound Stacey said. "It's never bothered me and I feel fortunate I was able to participate in sports. I've met a lot of good people through sports and I enjoy playing schools like Oberlin, Elyria Catholic, Elyria West, North Ridgeville."

"YOU SEE your friends coming at you on the football field and you make the tackle or block, but soon as the play is over you help them up or kid with them."

"Having the name Stacey has been a little tough, because my dad and four uncles all made a name for themselves at Midview, but it was something I just had to accept."

Al's father was a standout athlete at Midview and like most young fathers he was dreaming about the day his son would follow in his foot steps. After discovering the heart murmur, his only thoughts were about having a healthy son.

"On the day of the surgery, I could care less about him playing sports," said the father. "I

just wanted him to be healthy. I never told him to go out for a sport and never pushed him. He wanted to play and the doctors all told us he could, so we let him."

"I'M VERY proud of him and proud of the fact he has never quit a sport or used the surgery as an excuse. We don't even talk about it and we never told that many people because we didn't want anyone feeling sorry for him. There's no reason to feel sorry for him, he's done everything an athlete could do."

"We always felt the coaches should be aware of it, but we didn't expect them to take it easy on him. He's healthy. I will admit that when he takes a hard hit, I wonder if it hurt him. I also remember a basketball game against Westlake that went four overtimes and Al was in there the whole time. That was a tough game for everyone."

Al, who hopes to play basketball and baseball in college, already is thinking about the next Stacey headed for athletic stardom at Midview, little brother Anthony.

"He's going to be a good one," Al said.

In the meantime, Al played his final high school football game Friday at Oberlin and this morning planned to join the basketball team for a scrimmage at Keystone.

Does anyone think this young man doesn't have a big heart?



THE STACEY family (from left), Faye, Albert Sr. and Al, with Anthony seated. (C-T)

## New London rally sinks Black River

**NEW LONDON** - Jeff Romine ran two yards to a touchdown in the fourth quarter as New London came back to defeat Black River, 14-10, in a Firelands Conference season finale Friday night.

The Pirates had taken a 10-0 halftime lead but New London came back in the second half. Ken Ross sprinted 34 yards to a touchdown in the third quarter and cut the score to 10-8 when he caught the conversion pass from Bret Cooke.

Black River scored all ten points in the first period. Steve Trczinski ran 12 yards for a touchdown and Dave Savick booted a 30-yard field goal.

New London finishes the season at 5-5 overall and 4-3 in the Firelands North. Black River, 5-5 overall and 4-3 in the Firelands South, could play Western Reserve Friday in the league championship game, depending on whether the Roughriders make the playoffs.

Team Statistics

	Black River	New London
First downs	17	10
Rushing	9	8
Passing	2	2
Penalty	1	0
Yards rushing	178	133
Yards passing	33	29
Total offense	211	162
Passes att.-comp	13-5	8-2
Intercepted by	0	0
Fumbles-lost	5-1	3-3

## Firelands

	3-87	3-73
Punts-yards	3-87	3-73
Average	29.0	24.3
Yards penalized	3-25	1-15
Rushing plays	47	34

Score by Quarters

	1	2	3	4	T
Black River	10	0	0	0	10
New London	0	0	8	6	14

Scoring  
BR - Steve Trczinski, 12 run (Dave Savick kick)  
BR - FG Savick 30  
NL - Ken Ross, 34 run (Ross, pass from Bret Cooke)  
NL - Jeff Romine, 2 run (run failed)

**Crestview-South Central**  
ASHLAND - South Central lost its ninth straight game as the Trojans dropped a 20-6 decision to host Crestview in a Firelands Conference game Friday.

The Trojans got on the scoreboard first when Mark Daniels intercepted a pass and ran 38 yards back for a touchdown.

After that, it was all Crestview. John Tennis and Jim Coy reeled off touchdown runs and Jim Anderson caught a 15-yard TD pass from Mark Hersheiser.

Crestview finishes the season with a 2-8 overall and 2-5 in the Firelands South. South Central closes out the year with a 1-9 overall mark and 0-7 in the

## league.

Team Statistics

	So. Cent.	Crestview
First downs	8	14
Rushing	7	10
Passing	1	2
Penalty	0	2
Yards rushing	93	211
Yards passing	16	49
Total offense	109	260
Passes att.-comp	7-1	9-3
Intercepted by	1	0
Fumbles-lost	2-1	4-0
Punts-yards	4-98	2-63
Average	24.7	31.3
Yards penalized	5-70	4-40

Score by Quarters

	1	2	3	4	T
So Central	6	0	0	0	6
Crestview	6	6	0	8	20

Scoring  
SC - Mark Daniels, 38 interception return (kick failed)  
C - Jim Anderson, 15 pass from Mark Hersheiser (run failed)  
C - John Tennis, 6 run (run failed)  
C - Jim Coy, 24 run (Matt Burnhard, pass from Hersheiser)

Mounties continued to score. Greg Forbush completed a scoring strike to Young and Brian Mohrman pranced 55 yards for another score.

Plymouth rallied in the fourth quarter when Steve Hall completed a 37 yard pass to Troy Keene and Scott Ryman ran two yards.

Mapleton closes the season with a 4-6 record and 3-4 conference record. Plymouth ends the season with a 3-7 record and a 2-5 standing in the conference.

Team Statistics

	Mapleton	Plymouth
First downs	12	11
Rushing	7	5
Passing	1	4
Penalty	4	2
Yards rushing	230	120
Yards passing	47	178
Total offense	277	298
Passes att.-comp	10-3	24-12
Intercepted by	1	1
Fumbles lost	4-1	3-2
Punts-yards	3-99	2-70
Average	33.0	35.0
Yards penalized	3-35	9-92
Rushing plays		

Score by Quarters

	1	2	3	4	T
Mapleton	0	14	12	0	26
Plymouth	0	0	0	12	12

Scoring  
M - Darrell Young, 1 run (run failed)  
M - Kevin Hickey, 4 run (Hickey run)  
M - Greg Forbush, 12 pass from Young (kick failed)  
M - Brian Mohrman, 55 run (run failed)  
P - Steve Hall, 37 pass from Troy Keene (kick failed)  
P - Scott Ryman, 2 run (run failed)

## Tractor pull slated at Coliseum tonight

Truck and tractor pull fans will have the rare chance to see Ohio's finest competitors this weekend as the Coliseum hosts the Ohio State Tractor Pullers Association-sanctioned Pull-O-Rama.

The event, the final point meet on the OSTPA 1984 schedule, will include modified tractor and truck pulling, in addition to several special features. This year marks the first time the event has been sanctioned by the OSTPA. It is promoted by Bill and Shelby Guthery, owners of Marion County International Raceway.

Heading up the impressive list of trucks to be on hand will be none other than "The Earth-mover", owned and driven by Elyrian Dave Richards.

Richards is coming off of his best season ever on the Ohio touring circuit, including four wins and five seconds. His latest victory came just two weeks ago

at the Ashland County Fair Truck 'n Tractor Pull.

The fine performance earned the young Elyrian a first place in the OSTPA standings in the 5800 Modified Truck class and a second in the state's 6200 Modified Truck competition.

Though he suffered mechanical woes in a pull at the Coliseum earlier this year, this time Richards has his bright orange '73 Ford tuned to perfection. He will compete in Sunday's 6200-pound Modified run-off.

Several other area competitors will be joining Richards at the Coliseum this weekend.

Wellington's Dave Osborne and his 1972 "Chevy Express" may see the chance to face Richards, as he is also entered in the 6200 Modified.

**IN TRACTOR** pull action, Spencer dairy farmer Bill Albrecht will be competing aboard his CK40 Chevy-powered machine in both the 5200 and 7200 Modified tractor classes. Lodi's Bob Fitzgerald has entered his Ford-powered tractor in the 7200 Modified category.

Special features of the weekend include a semi pull-off between a pair of Ohio-based monster trucks. Chardon's Ray Collins thrilled the crowd at the Coliseum earlier this year with his powerful, smoke-belching Mack, "The Killer."

But this time Collins has some competition, and it comes from fellow Ohioan John Mann. Mann will be at the controls of his beautiful yellow Canton-based "Lady Butterfly" Kenworth.

Also at that earlier event, Chicago's Jack Willman debut his Chevy S-10 creation "Little Bearfoot". Well, this time Willman is back with a brand new truck, the "Little Bearfoot II" and he also will have a challenger in the form of Warren's Alan Tura and his Ford "Goliath".

Today's program will get underway at 8 p.m., while Sunday's event will start at 2 p.m. Tickets at \$10 and \$9 are available at the Coliseum and all Ticketron outlets.

## High school football notebook

Midview sophomore Eric Burgess had a night to remember, rushing for a school record 237 yards against Oberlin Friday night. At the half he had 142 yards on seven carries, an average of 20 yards a try. Three of the seven runs went for 43, 36 and 52 yards. He also had a run of 17 yards called back because of a holding penalty.

Eric's older cousin, Kirk Burgess, had 109 yards on 12 carries, so between the two Burgess boys they had 346 yards, which might be a record for relatives in a high school game.

The highlights of the Olmsted Falls-Bay contest will be shown on WJKW-TV 8 Sunday at noon on "Football Today."

The play of sophomore tailback Lamar Jackson has been one of the high points for Elyria this year. Chronicle-Telegram records do not show the last time a sophomore rushed for 1,000 yards at the school. Perhaps, it's never been done. Certainly it hasn't been done in at least three decades.

The only sophomore in the city in modern history to go over 1,000 yards has been former Elyria West great Greg Jones.

Lamar Jackson ran for 136 yards against Lorain and, unofficially, has 1,177 for the season. He is the first Elyria back since Jerry Oliver in 1976 to eclipse 1,000 yards. Oliver, cousin of Hubert Oliver, had 1,130. You'd have to go back to Warren

Fitzpatrick in 1974 to find a Pioneer runner who had more yards than Lamar. Fitzpatrick gained 1,213.

Since Admiral King's Eric West unofficially gained 81 yards, Jackson apparently is the Buckeye Conference rushing champion.

Also, Jackson was a wingback for two games before being switched to tailback in the North Olmsted game. In the last eight games he had seven 100-yard plus outings and was in the 90s the other time.

Among Jackson's other feats was becoming the first Elyria back since 1978 to score three touchdowns in a game. He did it twice this year.

Columbia running back Phil Medvetz needed 111 yards to become only the second runner in Raider history to rush for 1,000 yards in a single season. Unofficially, he came up 24 yards short and will have to go for the mark in the Inland Conference championship game against Buckeye. Tim French in 1975 was the only other Raider to achieve this prestigious goal.

Besides moving Jackson to tailback, Elyria made a couple of other key moves during the season. Mike Taylor was shifted to fullback and, when he went out with an injury, Joe Harris moved in and did a superb job. Also, Chris Gubeno was shifted from fullback to the offensive line and became a standout.

Defensively, Chris Johns was

shifted - prior to the season - from outside linebacker to tackle. Then Dana Kerr, who was a middle linebacker last year, went to defensive end - then back to linebacker.

A familiar sight at Wellington home games will be missing next season. Floyd Olson has been on the sidelines moving the first down markers for forty years, but has decided Friday's Vermilion-Wellington contest would be his last.

When Elyria Catholic and Southview played to a scoreless tie after one quarter, it was only the second time the Panthers had not scored in the first 12 minutes of a game this season. EC and Midview also were scoreless after one.

One could probably have predicted from the pressbox Friday night during the Olmsted Falls-Bay contest that Olmsted Falls was going to pull off an upset. Case in point: When does a camera usually fail to work properly when filming a game? Answer: When your team is playing well. Does a camera ever break down when a team is getting blown out? Coaches only wish that they would. Olmsted Falls' camera wasn't working properly and very little filming was done in the first half. The

camera was packed away at halftime. The Bulldog players can savor the win, however, as a copy of the film will be purchased from the Bay film crew.

Vermilion coach Ralph Mayer praised Wellington's effort in the first half, saying the Dukes completely outplayed his Sailors. He certainly was correct. Wellington had rushed for 142 first half yards to just 58 for Vermilion and passed for 44 yards to 28 for Vermilion. In addition, Wellington intercepted two Sailor passes and had more first downs, 8-5. But, the second half belonged to the visitors. Vermilion amassed 267 total yards in the second half to just 90 for the Dukes. The Sailors had 214 on the ground, and were 3 of 3 passing. In first downs, Vermilion had a wide 13-5 second half edge.

Eric Brown, Midview's fine quarterback, also proved he can play defense and had the unenviable task of trying to stop Oberlin's talented receiver Chris Donaldson. Whenever Donaldson lined up on the wide side of the field, Brown drew the assignment and knocked away three or four passes in addition to intercepting one and recovering a fumble.

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