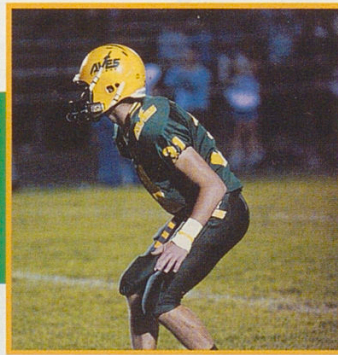




Michael Byrd, 11 lines up for the play in the Cincinnati Crosstown Showdown. The team played GCL power LaSalle in an exciting game to start the season. Byrd started at receiver throughout the season.



Cameron Luning, 11, plays defense in the win against Harrison. Luning was a key part of the defense despite fighting off various injuries throughout the season. He proved to be an asset even when injured by sticking with the team.

"WE PUT A LOT OF HARD WORK IN THROUGHOUT THE OFF SEASON AND IT PAID OFF IN OUR WINS,"  
- ZACHARY STAR, 11

## OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Victory achieved through leadership

By: Nate Schlimme

**H**ard work and dedication is exactly what makes a good team. There was no doubt about this team's work ethic. They started working the winter after last season ended, and through the summer in order to get prepared for their season.

"We worked very hard in the preseason. We lifted before school sometimes, and every day after school and during the summer as the season got closer. Our scrimmages were also great during preseason," said **Joseph O'Gara, 12**.

Unfortunately they started the season out slowly with losses against LaSalle and Springboro. Even though they suffered two losses in the beginning, the team responded with two consecutive wins, annihilating both Harrison and Middletown.

"Our first home game was awesome. We played Harrison, who we've had trouble with in the past. However, we achieved our first home win by laying the smack-down on them," said **Christopher Holscher, 12**.

Senior leadership proved to be an asset to the team as they struggled with adversity.

Seniors led by example, proving themselves on and off the field.

This attitude was shown in the last game of the season, as the team destroyed Milford in what was possibly the best game of the season.

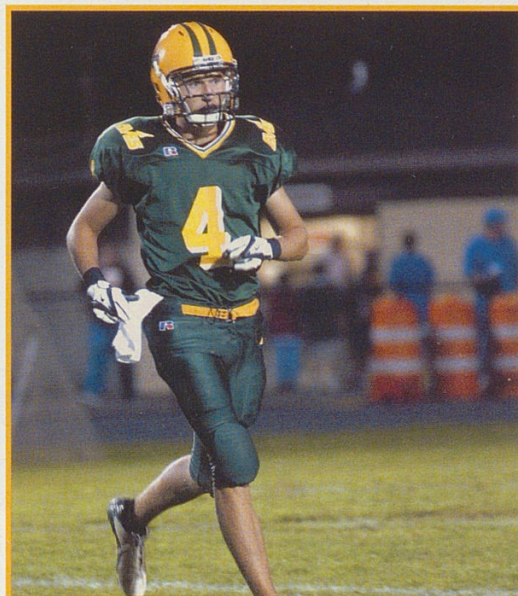
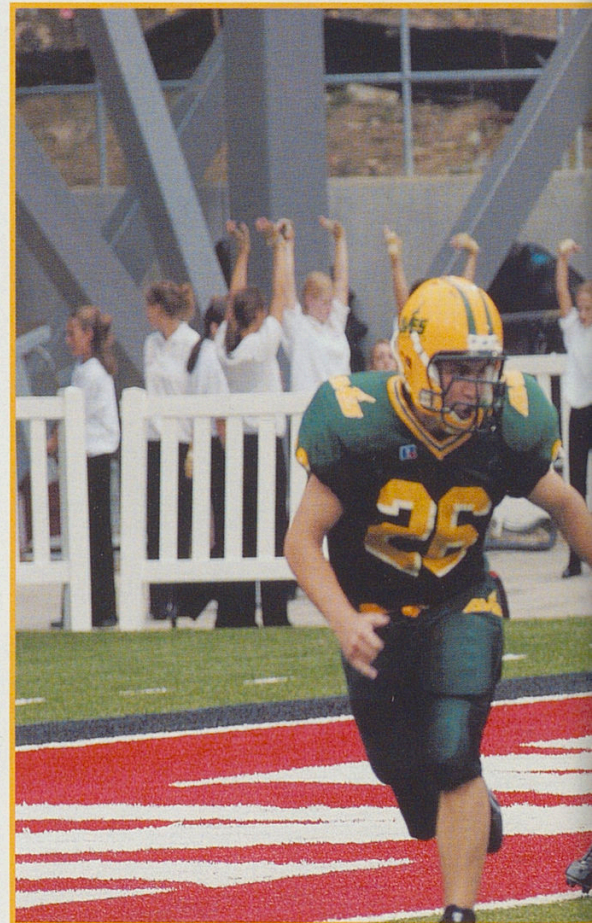
"I will never forget our last game when we humiliated Milford. I have never had more fun on a football field," said **Eric Knox, 12**.

Everything seemed to click for the guys, as the seniors, along with juniors **Mitch Allen** and **Michael Latessa** led the team to victory.

"The team wouldn't have been the same without them. I worked with Mitch every day, he seemed to take the leadership role for our offense, and he was great at it," said **Ryan Davis, 12**.

Juniors **Latessa, Allen**, and **Andrew Hancher** proved to be a great asset to the team with **Allen's** 12 touchdowns, **Latessa** gaining 484 yards on punt returns, and **Hancher** with 19 field goals.

The season proved to be a great test of character for the boys, yet they took the best out of their season, and the seniors will never forget it.



**Ryan Davis, 12**, jogs off the field. **Davis** won the Mason Livingston Award for the football team. This award represented players with great work ethic and outstanding teamwork.