

# Aviren Chitpaseuth, Greater Lowell Tech run past Lowell Catholic, 22-2

Sophomore running back Aviren Chitpaseuth rushes for two touchdowns in Mill Cup win



The Greater Lowell Tech football team hoists the Mill City Cup after beating Lowell Catholic 22-2, on Wednesday night in Tyngsboro. (Photo by Christopher Hurley)

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TYNGSBORO — Aviren Chitpaseuth provided some Thanksgiving stuffing.

The sophomore running back rushed for 220 yards on 28 carries, including a pair of touchdowns, as Greater Lowell (5-6) grounded Lowell Catholic 22-2, at Harold Bell Field on Wednesday night.

The Gryphons reclaim the Mill City Cup, while holding the all-time series between the two schools at 3-1.

“It feels amazing,” said Greater Lowell coach Shane Abrams. “We finished the season the way we felt we could play the game in August. That was a good thing.”

“It feels really good,” said Chitpaseuth. “I’m really proud, and proud of my line.”

A sophomore running back, Chitpaseuth led the way for Greater Lowell. The burly 5-foot-7, 185-pound running back rumbled for 137 yards in the first half alone, including an impressive 65-yard sprint to the 15 to open the second quarter. The Crusaders managed to hold off the Gryphons advances for the remainder of the half, but their defense was put on notice.

And when Brady Prindle sacked Greater Lowell quarterback Brendan Arsenault for the safety with 3:00 left in half, the Crusaders clung to a 2-0 lead.

Lowell Catholic continued to press in the red zone. Junior quarterback Dylan Eld sent in senior Nick Sawyer on a 40-yard gainer, before rolling an additional 20 to the goal line. The Greater Lowell averted any further damage, however, with a dramatic goal line stand to trail 2-0 at halftime

Chitpaseuth spearheaded a strong second-half surge. The sophomore chugged into the end zone on a 1-yard run to grab the 6-2 lead.

Meanwhile, the defense did its job by denying Lowell Catholic the pigskin on a fumble recovery and interception. Lowell Catholic fumbled the punt late in third quarter, giving Greater Lowell the momentum swing it was looking for.

Chitpaseuth took it from there, jumping over the line of scrimmage for his second TD to seal the victory. Chitpaseuth said he's never jumped higher.

"This was really special," said Chitpaseuth. "Two seasons in a row we've had it tough, but this feels really good."

According to Abrams Chitpaseuth is the real deal.

"That kid is a baller," said Abrams. "To dive into the end zone line like that is next level stuff. You don't coach it. That's just instincts and the kid knowing how to play the game."

Axel Diaz added some fourth quarter insurance with a 1-yard strike, as Greater Lowell walked away with the win.

"I'm very proud of our seniors," said Abrams. "I'm very happy that they're finishing the season winning. They're a great group of guys that represent the school well."

Lowell Catholic coach Paul Sobolewski said his team faced plenty of adversity all season.

"We made a big jump coming up into this league, and it shows. Two years in a row we kind of got worn down over the course of the year," he said.

The Crusaders ran the gridiron gauntlet this season going up against large clubs such as Nashoba Tech and Greater Lawrence, among others.

“I guess the coupe de gras is you get Greater Lowell, who are again triple our numbers,” said Sobolewski, whose team ended the season at 8-3. “We’re an evolving program. We’ve kind of exceeded expectations I think, but we’re still growing as a program. We have a lot of work to do. We’ve got to get more kids involved bolstering our roster, because when you’re in the Catholic Central Small you can get away with 30 kids on the roster. When you’re in the Commonwealth Conference you can’t.”

“In our three losses this year, that’s clearly the case,” he added. “Greater Lawrence had triple the numbers. Greater Lowell had triple the numbers and KIPP was just better when we played them. I think that was the difference. We’ve got to continue to grow the program to attract multi-sport student athletes, that’s the only way we can survive a season in this league.”