

Celebrating

75 Years
1950
2025

**Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow:
75 Years at Ralph E. Myers Stadium**

Cal

The History of Ralph E. Myers Stadium



1950 – Original athletic field dedication
1954 – Rededicated as Ralph E. Myers Memorial Athletic Field
1994 – Girls Track 4x800 Relay – 1st Team All-State
1995 – Girls Track State Champs – Class B
1995 – Girls Track 4x800 Relay – 1st Team All-State
1996 – Girls Track 4x800 Relay – 1st Team All-State
1997 – Girls Track 4x800 Relay – 1st Team All-State
1998 – Major stadium renovation and rededication ceremony
1999 – Boys Track MITCA State Champs – Class B
2005 – Boys Football MHSAA State Champions
2007 – Boys Track MITCA State Champs – Division II
2022 – Boys Track 4x800 Relay – 1st Team All-State
2022 – Boys Football MHSAA State Runner-Up
2025 – Boys Track 4x800 Relay – 1st Team All-State
2025 – Celebrating 75 years and grand re-opening

The Heart of Caledonia for 75 Years

For 75 years, Ralph E. Myers Stadium has been more than a field—it has been the heart of Caledonia. Generations of Scots have chased state titles, broken records, and built memories that last a lifetime here. From the track dominance of the 1990s to recent excellence in football, color guard, cheer, marching band, and chorale, this is where Caledonia's spirit is seen shining through. And year after year, proud Caledonia alumni, parents, and residents gather to cheer on the next generation.

The story began in 1950 when the field was moved from Lakeside Park. Coach Auwater used the first football practice of the season to have the players of the 1950 Fighting Scots help finish laying the first sod. That fall, they played their home games at night under lights on their brand new field.

Ralph E. Myers was a visionary force in the creation, development, and improvement of the field. He was a tireless worker, a persuasive salesman, and a unifying force for our community. From 1950 to 1954, he rallied students, parents, neighbors, and businesses to build and improve the field, hauling in sod, transplanting it, watering it, and working side by side to make it a true home for the Fighting Scots.

Ralph Myers did not live to see the completion of the final vision for the field. He was tragically killed in an automobile accident in the summer of 1954. At homecoming that fall, the field was rededicated in his honor. His vision endures in every game and performance here.

At the first dedication in 1950, Congressman Gerald R. Ford was scheduled to speak but was detained in Washington for a late Congressional session. He sent a message to the Caledonia community, which will be read aloud tonight, 75 years later, to close the loop on that moment in history.

From the 1950 football team to the students and fans of today, this stadium remains where tradition meets tomorrow. We carry forward Ralph's legacy by working together, building together, and keeping Caledonia's spirit alive for generations to come.



Honorary Captain - Vern Kayser

Vern Kayser's name is woven into Caledonia's athletic history. A proud member of the legendary 1950 Fighting Scots football team, Vern wore #18 during the undefeated, unscored-upon season. He will serve as Honorary Captain for the first home football game, joining the coin toss before kickoff as we honor both our storied past and our bright future.

When asked about that historic season, Vern smiled and said, "The other teams didn't have many first downs — we had a pretty good defense." He remembers how the team laid sod for their first practice as part of the transition from Lakeside Park to the new athletic field. "We were all hoping for a field to play on... everyone was excited that we had a new field. It was nothing like it is now, but it was good at that time."





The Unscored-Upon Season

In 1950, the Caledonia football team achieved something no other team in school history has matched: an undefeated, untied, unscored-upon season. Over 14 straight games spanning the last six games of 1949 and the entire 1950 season, they shut out every opponent, outscoring them 234 to 0 in 1950 alone. There were no state playoffs in those days. However, being ranked among the top ten class C teams in the statewide United Press Poll, this was one of the most remarkable teams in Caledonia's history. That fall, the team also helped lay the very first sod at the stadium, marking the beginning of 75 years of Caledonia football tradition. Their grit, unity, and legacy live on in every game played on this field today—and that is why we are proud to honor them at our first home game of the 2025 season.

1950 Season

Caledonia	Opponent	
6	Grant	0
7	Middleville	0
27	Martin	0
40	Coopersville	0
27	Byron Center	0
26	Middleville	0
28	Wayland	0
73	Hopkins	0
<hr/>		
234		0



Bolded names are confirmed members of the 1950 varsity football team based on yearbook archives and available records. Names not in bold, may have suited up as reserve for varsity games, though it is unclear whether they received a varsity letter.

Co-Captains:

Bill Jousma & Gordon Poll

Bar-Ken-All All-Star Team:

Bob Higley, Bill Jousma, Bernard Kilmartin, and Bob Workman.

Back Row: William Price, Walter Jousma, **Jack Moreland**, Peterson, Harvey Jacobsen, **Allan Vander Laan**, **Forrest Clark**, Gerritt Nordhof, Arthur Benedict, Larry Schroder, Larry Lind, Donald Williams (Manager)

3rd Row: Assistant Coach Wisner, **Donald Moffatt**, **Ramon Schantz**, **Bob Cisler**, **Bob Higley**, **Merle Maier**, **Wallace Lotterman**, **Bob Schultz**, **James Fitzsimmons**, **Fred Darling**, **Vern Kayser**, Coach Auwater.

2nd Row: **Elmer Velthouse**, **Bernard Kilmartin**, **Donald Braendle**, **Louis Bellgraph**, **Marvin Eldridge**, **Allyn Niles**, **James Porritt**, **Benjamin Miller**, **Bill Jousma**, **Gordon Poll**.

1st Row: Gary Cherpes, Joseph Sleeman, Harold Olthouse, Rod Campbell, Garrit Keizer, Carl Yonkers, Clyde Barrett, James Ayers, Hosmer Parks.

Not pictured: **Arnold Benedict**, **Bob Workman**

Record Book

Several decades ago, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) first recognized the 1950 Caledonia football team's perfect season in its record book. Now, in 2025, the "Scotties" are being recognized again, this time for ranking second in state history for Consecutive Defensive Shutouts, going 14 straight games without allowing a single point. This streak spanned the final six games of 1949 and the entire 1950 season. Thanks to the efforts of community member Steve Poll, who gathered and submitted yearbook and press records, we can now share this new recognition with our community and celebrate the legacy of Coach Auwater and his teams.

Defense

Shutouts

Consecutive, No Ties

15 - North Muskegon (1940-42)

14 - Caledonia (9-30-1949 – 11-3-1950)

Fewest Points Allowed

Season (regular season only)

0 - Dearborn, 1995 (9-0)

0 - Saginaw Arthur Hill, 1973 (9-0)

0 - Holt, 1972 (8-0)

0 - Portland, 1959 (8-0)

0 - Reese, 1959 (7-0-1)

0 - Charlevoix, 1958 (8-0)

0 - Reese, 1958 (8-0)

0 - Caledonia, 1950 (8-0)



Halftime Video Tribute

The Legacy of the 1950 Fighting Scots

At halftime of our first home game of the 2025 season, we invite you to enjoy a special video celebrating the undefeated, unscored-upon 1950 Caledonia Fighting Scots football team. Featuring rare photographs, historic memorabilia, and first-hand memories, this tribute honors one of the most remarkable chapters in our athletic history.

Preserving Our Story

This video is more than a game-day celebration. It keeps our history alive for future generations, connecting traditions and legacies to the present and inspiring the future. A copy will be available in the Alumni section of our **website: www.calschools.org/community/alumni/**. If you have stories, photos, or memorabilia to share, visit the "Our Story" section on the Alumni page. Your contributions help honor the people, moments, and values that make Caledonia special.

Special Thanks

Thank you to Tammy Barney, Bob Cisler Jr., Debbie Hagins, Peggy Johnson, Fred Kayser, Vern Kayser, Steve Poll, Chris Robotham, Bob Schultz Jr., Ron Schultz, Karen Steketee, HD4 Media, this year's Fighting Scots team, and our football coaching staff for helping bring this story to life.



Honoring history. Building progress. Inspiring generations.

The Next 75...

For 75 years, Ralph E. Myers Stadium has been the heart of Caledonia's school spirit—a place where our community has come together to celebrate athletics, the arts, and the Fighting Scots tradition. Since the first kickoff in 1950, this field has been home to unforgettable moments: championship teams in football and track, the boundless energy of our cheerleaders, and the inspiring performances of our marching band, pipes, drums, and chorales. Today, we honor the legacy of the 1950 Fighting Scots and thank our community for generations of unwavering support.

We are **especially grateful** to our community for their support of the bonds that made these 75th anniversary renovations possible.

This year, we **celebrate both 75 years of tradition** at The Ralph and **the 20th anniversary of our 2005 State Championship football team**. These milestones remind us of the excellence, dedication, and community pride that define Caledonia.

As we look to the next 75 years, we carry forward this tradition with the same passion and commitment that built it. The athletes, musicians, students, and fans of tomorrow will write the next chapters of our story. **The future is bright, and the best is yet to come!**

2025 Varsity Football Schedule

8/28	Holy Names Catholic High School (H)
9/5	Celebrating 75 years at the RALPH Reeths-Puffer High School (H) 20th Anniversary of State Champs
9/12	Hudsonville High School (A)
9/19	Grandville High School (H) Youth Night
9/26	East Kentwood High School (A)
10/3	Grand Haven High School (H) Homecoming / Calapalooza
10/10	West Ottawa High School (A)
10/17	Rockford High School (A)
10/24	Jenison High School (H) Senior Night / Business Night



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