



Lore Series Trail Ride #1: The Blackwater Athletics Team Lore Script & Photo Prompts Included

Start ride in Blackwater

This first entry in the Lore Series focuses on the mysterious disappearance of the Blackwater Athletics Team and their potential connection to the infamous serial killer of West Elizabeth, Edmund Lowry Jr. His name may reference Eddie Low, a serial killer featured in *Grand Theft Auto IV*.

Photo Prompt 1: Edmund Lowry Jr.

Source: Blackwater Ledger No. 69

An article in *Blackwater Ledger No. 69* (available for purchase in story mode) titled “Blackwater Athletics Team Missing” includes the following text:

“Members of the Blackwater Athletics Club are still missing and their friends and family are excited by the gravest fears. They were last seen leaving the north edge of town for a group athletics run and, although the most thorough search has been made for them, they cannot be found. Certain facts around their disappearance have given cause for suspicion. The affair has created a sensation in Blackwater and the surrounding community. They had departed on a run and had intended to return the same evening.

Their friends are making a diligent search and police in neighboring areas have been notified. At first, there were rumors they had been kidnapped by Indians, however this appears to be false as no tribes have engaged in theft or livestock or kidnapping in some years.

The Blackwater Athletics team were training for a competitive meet next month and were expected to take top honors in fencing, wrestling, and baseball.”

Possible Route and Connection to Edmund Lowry Jr.

The team was last seen heading out of Blackwater to the west, possibly into the forest of Tall Trees. This route aligns with the locations linked to Edmund Lowry Jr., a character who appears in the game as a serial killer.

Not much is known about Lowry's background or how he became a murderer. In story mode, three distinct locations across the map feature disemboweled bodies with decapitated heads, accompanied by cryptic messages painted nearby. These include:

- “Look on my works”
- “Behold”
- “Do you see?”

Each victim has a piece of paper in their mouth. When combined, the pieces form a map, with the reverse side reading: “Can you find me?” This map leads to a location that can be visited later in the storyline.

Trail Guide Location #1

The Athletics Team Murder Site

At the location believed to be where the Blackwater Athletics Team was killed, players can find the following (elements removed in RDO):

- Severed limbs arranged into the shape of a “B”. These are assumed to be the remains of the athletes. The “B” may represent the Blackwater team, as it resembles the team logo found on their shirts.
- There are unused ped models in the game files that are missing the same limbs used to create the “B”, supporting this connection.
- A total of 10 bodies are present. Some are bagged, some are bound and gagged.
- There are no visible wounds such as stabs or gunshots, making the cause of death unclear.

Photo Prompts 2 & 3: Blackwater Athletics Team 1 & 2.

Though a direct connection between Edmund Lowry Jr. and the deaths is not confirmed, the similarities in symbolism and methodology are notable. It seems unlikely that Lowry would

have been able to overpower a team of elite athletes alone, but other evidence later in the game makes it difficult to attribute the murders to anyone else.

An alternative theory involves the Skinner Brothers, but their typical methods involve extreme mutilation, and the bags over the heads of some victims do not align with their known behaviors.

Real-Life Parallel

There may be a real-life event that inspired this in-game Easter Egg. In 2009, an amateur Colombian soccer team called “Los Maniceros” went missing. Two weeks later, 11 of the 12 team members were found murdered. The sole survivor blamed the National Liberation Army (ELN) for the killings.

Two of the Blackwater athlete victims in the game are seen wearing bags with clown faces. This may reference the nickname of the ELN leader, known as “El Payaso”, meaning “the Clown.” No motive was ever confirmed for the Los Maniceros murders.

Photo Prompt 4: Clown Masks.

Trail Guide Location #2

Edmund Lowry Jr.’s Hideout

The map created from the murder sites leads players to Edmund Lowry Jr.’s basement hideout, accessible in both story mode and *Red Dead Online*.

Inside, players can find:

- Another “B” made from dismembered limbs, identical to the one at the athletics team site.
- Articles detailing Lowry’s killings, some of which can be read in story mode. These confirm his activity in West Elizabeth, including:
 - North of Manzanita Post
 - Lower Montana River
 - Upper Montana River

These locations match the areas near the Blackwater team’s disappearance.

If players escape Lowry's basement in story mode, he can be hogtied and turned into the sheriff in Valentine.

Another item in the hideout is a missing person poster for Eliza Bloom. This name matches a cut character from the game. Eliza Bloom is mentioned in dialogue as the mother of Arthur Morgan's son, Isaac, who were said to have died at the hands of thugs. This creates a story inconsistency, as her appearance in Lowry's hideout implies she may have been one of his victims.

Conclusion

This entry in the Lore Series explores one of the most mysterious and unsettling events in *Red Dead Redemption II*. The disappearance of the Blackwater Athletics Team, the symbolic and graphic staging of their bodies, the cryptic connections to Edmund Lowry Jr., and the eerie real-life parallels make it one of the game's darkest and most debated Easter Eggs.