

The Northern Westchester
Examiner
Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

Rinse, Wash, Repeat!



Lakeland Dynasty Secures 11th-Straight NYSPHSAA Region 1 Field Hockey Title

RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO (PLEASE VISIT WWW.HVSP.PHOTOS FOR MORE)

The Lakeland High field hockey program, under the guidance of Coach Sharon Sarsen, pose with their 11th-straight NYSPHSAA Region 1 Class B championship plaque after the Hornets' 3-0 victory over Section 9 champion Rondout Valley last Saturday at Lakeland where the 2018 NYS runner-up Hornets advanced to the Final 4 to face Section 5's Mendon at Williamsville North High School on Saturday. Members of the Lakeland team set for the trip to Buffalo include Erin Daly (C), Katie Lemma, Mia Smith, Jaden Ray, Emma Ryan, Emma Fon, Keirra Ettere, Sara Costa, Kristen O'Shea, Frankie Fava, Gabby Alfinito, Emma Halderman (C), Jenna McCrudden (C), Emily McGovern, Lauren Salazar (C), Raquel Nieves, Samantha Graap, Meaghan Casey, Nancy Pagliaroli, Daniella Hart, Isabella Basulto, Maeve Dineen-Herzog and Celeste Pagliaroli... see Field Hockey Notebook

Sports

Grid Notebook

No.5 Yorktown Stumbles in Class A Title Loss to No.3 Rye

No.2 Carmel Denied Class AA Crown, Falls to No.1 New Ro' Juggernaut

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

And just like that, the curtain has closed on a banner local football circuit for teams in and about the Northern Westchester/Putnam County regions after both Class A Yorktown and Class AA Carmel were eliminated in their respective championships.

CLASS A

The sledging was tough and the creases were thin-to-nonexistent for **YORKTOWN** senior RB Dylan Smith, Section 1's leading rusher through nine games, including six regular season games and three playoffs he had dominated during the fifth-seeded Huskers' run to the finals.

However, third-seeded Rye (9-1) made it their business to contain Smith -- to let anyone else but Smith beat them -- and that strategy paid huge dividends in the form of a 41-7 Garnet triumph in the Section 1 Class A championship at Mahopac High School last



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS
Yorktown RB Dylan Smith fights for some tough yards in Huskers' 41-7 Section 1 Class A title loss to Rye Friday at Mahopac.



Yorktown RB Dean Patierno breaks tackle in Huskers' 41-7 Section 1 Class A title loss to Rye Friday at Mahopac.



Carmel Coach Todd Cayea barks instructions in Rams' 42-14 Section 1 Class AA title loss to New Rochelle Saturday at Mahopac.

Friday night.

State-ranked (No.13) Rye QB Declan Lavelle and WR Matt Tepedino played pitch and catch with the vaunted Yorktown (8-2) defense, hooking up for three scores. Tepedino, who earned MVP added a 55-yard pick six, leading to two scores in a game-changing 23-second span and a 28-0 halftime lead.

Tepedino torched the state-ranked (No.11) Huskers, who reached the state finals in 2017 and were making their third championship appearance in four years, for nine catches and 120 yards and three scores while Lavelle hit on 15 of 23 for 188 yards and four touchdowns.

Rye, which won its second Class A title since 2014 and ninth sectional title since 1993 (6 Class B, 1 Class C), will next play a NYSPHSAA wild card, Section 3 runner-up

Auburn, in the state regional final. 7:30 p.m. Friday at Mahopac High School.

Smith finished with 66 yards and the Huskers' lone score, much of his yards coming in the second half with the Garnets in cruise control. Smith finished his football season with approximately 1,534 yards and cemented his legacy among the former Cornhusker greats.

Despite the loss, classy, 15-year Yorktown Coach Mike Rescigno was able to take away many positives. He didn't get the 151st win of his Husker career, but he got something more from a band of student athletes he'll never forget.

"Yorktown is such a special place," the coach said. "Losing is never fun, but I have to tell you that I learned something from my team at the end of this game. The leadership from my kids will resonate with me forever

because they were outwardly reminding each other of how special their experience was. They were gracious to each other and their staff, selfless even in defeat. We have had some big wins in recent history, but somehow last night, in the midst of defeat, this group of kids raised me up as if we had won simply because they responded and reflected like men."

A few weeks now, after the loss has sunk in, players, parents and coaches will be proud of those facts...

CLASS AA

Speed kills: We've heard it a million times. **CARMEL** (8-2) gave it all the second-seeded state-ranked (No.20) Rams had, but it wasn't enough against top-seeded, state-ranked (No.3) New Rochelle (10-0). Huguenot two-sport standout Jessie Parson track outraced

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Yorktown QB Trevvon Johnson drops back to pass in Huskers' 41-7 Class A title loss to Garnets Friday at Mahopac.



Yorktown DB Evan Makar (2) breaks up a Rye shot at end zone in Huskers' 41-7 Class A title loss to Garnets Friday at Mahopac.



Carmel QB Andrew Nunez pushes ahead for some tough yards in Rams' 42-14 Section 1 Class AA title loss to New Rochelle Saturday at Mahopac..

Sports

Grid Notebook

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Carmel TE Will Boalt breaks big gain in Rams' 42-14 Section 1 Class AA title loss to New Rochelle Saturday at Mahopac.

the Rams for a school-record 327 yards and scored five touchdowns as the Huguenots wrapped up their fifth-straight Section 1 Class AA title by a 42-14 count at Mahopac High School.

Carmel had kept the speedster bottled up for a half, even taking a 14-7 lead on an Alex Beauchesne TD pass from QB Andrew Nunez at 4:29 of the third, but it was like Usain Bolt had charged into the Huguenot huddle after the break. Parson, the game's MVP, ripped off scoring jaunts of 14, 25, 77, 60 and 50 yards — all after the halftime intermission.

"We knew coming in that they were a team

that relied upon explosive plays," Carmel senior DE/TE Will Boalt said. "We were able to shut those plays down within the first half, but after that we got worn down, sweep after sweep. I feel as if the score doesn't represent the game, because it wasn't that far off until the fourth quarter."

The Rams had allowed just 53 points through the first nine games, and Parson put up 30 points in just one half. Clearly, his speed and athleticism was something the Rams could not simulate to prepare for.

New Rochelle will play Section 3 runner-up Utica Proctor in the state regional final Saturday (5 p.m.) at Mahopac in the NYSPHSAA tournament. Utica Proctor is the wild card team in the state's newly minted playoff format.

Beauchesne copped Most Outstanding Back honors, and caught two touchdown passes from Nunez, who hit on 9 of 21 for 117 yards.

Carmel Coach Todd Cayea admitted that the Rams, who were making their first sectional championship appearance since 2008, took their best shot but imploded in the fourth.

"I thought we kind of caved the last 10

minutes," said Cayea, the 25-year veteran, who last won it all in 1998. "It is what it is. This loss does not define our season, that's for sure. These are great kids and they showed that from day one."

This Carmel team will be remembered for quite some time, and in two years, when the Rams are purportedly dropping down to Class A, this program will challenge again.



Carmel WR-RB Alex Beauchesne (2) scored both Rams TDs in Rams' 42-14 Section 1 Class AA title loss to New Rochelle Saturday at Mahopac.



Carmel RB James Cox looks for crease in Rams' 42-14 Section 1 Class AA title loss to New Rochelle Saturday at Mahopac.



Haldane RB Darrin Santos carries in Blue Devils' 28-6 loss to Tuckahoe in Class D finals Friday night at Mahopac. Santos, just a junior, scored Haldane's lone TD in the season-ending loss.

SHRUB OAK ATHLETIC CLUB

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL MEETING

The Shrub Oak Athletic Club will hold its annual open meeting on
Tuesday November 19, 2019
at 7:30 p.m.

at the Copper Beach
Middle School Library.

Members of the public
are encouraged to attend.

*Questions and suggestions about programs
are welcome.*

Sports

Soccer Notebook

Ossining Tops Defending NYS Champ Monroe-Woodbury, 1-0 *Pride Wins 1st Regional Title, Head to NYS Final 4 for 1st Time*

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

For the Ossining boys' soccer team, the expression 'Never Say Die' means more than the eighth studio album released by Black Sabbath in 1978, more than the 1954 Kentucky Derby-winning colt. Never giving up hope is what fueled the Pride to their first NYSPHSAA tournament victory last Wednesday, a 4-3 overtime triumph over Corning Painted-Post in the Class AA regional semifinal at the Wright National Soccer Campus in Oneonta.

Hope was all they had until Section 1 championship-hero Kevon Evans scored the tying goal off a corner kick with 31 seconds left in regulation. When hope turned to belief, Juan Pablo Estupinan hit the golden goal 4:52 into the first sudden-victory overtime to advance to Saturday's Region 1 championship at Pace University where the Pride saw Estupinan head home the game's lone goal. The goal put Ossining in its first



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Ossining senior striker Nolan Lenaghan beats Monroe-Woodbury defender in Pride's 1-0 NYS Class AA Region 1 title victory last Saturday at Pace University.



Ossining's Andrick Palma (17) works his wing during Pride's 1-0 win vs. Monroe-Woodbury in NYSPHSAA Class AA regional finals at Pace Univ. Saturday.



Ossining's Jose Pidalla works midfield in Pride's 1-0 NYS Region 1 Class AA title win over Monroe-Woodbury Saturday at Pace.

NYSPHSAA semifinal behind a 1-0 win over defending state champion Monroe-Woodbury last Saturday.

Ossining plays Long Island champion - Brentwood - at 12:30 p.m. next Saturday in the NYS Final 4 at Twin Towers Middle School in Middletown.

Against Section 9's Monroe-Woodbury, Estupinan charged the cage and deftly found Eric Monges' perfectly-placed corner kick. Ossining (19-2-1) G Carlos Zubarburu made eight saves to notch the shutout behind an airtight defense.

It wasn't all good news for the Pride, however, as Estupinan was awarded a second yellow card late in the game, thus disqualifying him from the state semis, which means Pride Captain Nolan Lenaghan and Evans will have to find another gear up top, and the entire unit will

need to fill the midfield void. The duo of Evans and Lenaghan have been among the most explosive in Pride history.



Ossining's Malcolm Phillips charges cage in Pride's 1-0 NYS Region 1 Class AA title win over Monroe-Woodbury Saturday at Pace.

Somers Boys Place 2nd at Section 1 NYS Quals

Behind an impressive sixth-place performance from Somers sophomore Colin Brooks (who clocked in at 17:24) the Tusker boys' cross country team placed second overall in the Section 1 Class B NYS Qualifier meet last Saturday at Bowdoin Park where Brooks became just the fourth Somers sophomore in history to qualify for the NYSPHSAA Cross Country Championships Saturday at SUNY Plattsburgh. He and Coach Mike Lacko will head north to represent Section 1. Lacko praised the efforts of Head Coach Mike Lacko, Connor Fucci, Joe Torre, Luke Phlaen, Cole Willimen, Matt Reiman, Colin Brooks, Nico DeMarinis, Tommy Spencer, Thomas Parisi, Peter MacNeil, Assistant Coach Jesse Arnett and volunteer assistant coach Nico Ferro for their runner-up effort.



TONY HUMBERTO PHOTOS



Ossining players pose with Pride's first NYSPHSAA Region 1 title plaque after 1-0 win over Monroe-Woodbury.

Sports

Field Hockey Notebook

Lakeland Tops Rondout Valley, Advances to NYS Final 4

By Tony Pinciario

Current University of New Hampshire field hockey assistant coach and former Lakeland great Megan Bozek remembers it like it was yesterday: The 2008 Section 1 Class B final at Lakeland, in which Putnam Valley completed an amazing sectional run with a 3-2 upset of the 2007 NYS Class A finalist Hornets.

"Shannon Scavelli, who was a sophomore or freshman at that time, hit the post off of a penalty corner, which would have given us the chance to win the game," Bozek recalled.

That would be the last time Lakeland lost to a Section 1 opponent. Beginning in October 2009, Lakeland has been the most dominant team in New York State field hockey history.

Lakeland has won 11 consecutive Section 1 Class B titles since, and had a nine-year state-title streak, 2009-20017.

During legendary Coach Sharon Sarsen's 37-year career, Lakeland has won 20 sectional titles and 12 state championships. Lakeland's first came in 1990 followed in 2003. The 2003 team was led by just two seniors – Danielle Fiore and Andi Coiro, who are currently the Lakeland JV and Copper Beach Modified field hockey coaches. The 2003 club featured four freshmen -- Melissa Gonzalez, Kara Connolly, Amy Voelkel and Rebecca DiSisto. This quartet led Lakeland to the 2006 state title. The first Lakeland state championships were in Class A.

Along with the 12 state championships, Lakeland has 19 trips to the state final four, including 17 title-game appearances.

Lakeland (18-1-1) advanced to its 19th state final four with a 3-0 win over Section 9 champion Rondout Valley. Lakeland will play Section 5 titlist Mendon in one semifinal, Saturday, 3 p.m. at Williamsville North High School (Section 6). The other semifinal has Vestal (Section 4) facing 2018 state champ Garden City (Section 11), also at 3 p.m. The semi-final winners meet for the title, Sunday, 3 p.m. Last year, Garden City scored in the second half to upset Lakeland, 1-0.

Nancy Pagliaroli, Jenna McCrudden and Mia Smith each scored for the Hornets.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Lakeland players celebrate the Hornets' 3-0 NYS Region 1 title win over Rondout Valley Saturday.

That loss in 2008 led Lakeland to become even more determined to raise its collective level of play.

"I think that losing on our home turf and ending our season, we realized that we didn't want anyone else to end our season," said Bozek, who played at New Hampshire. "We wanted to be the reason why our season was over and that was making it all the way and winning the state title. So I do think that loss was an important motivator for the 2009 state title."

Lakeland players, as well as all of Section 1, benefitted from the Empire State Games for decades before the ESG's were cancelled. The Hudson Valley scholastic field hockey team was coached by Sarsen and it owned the most gold scholastic field hockey gold medals in the Games' history. Each year, the team was selected in May and practiced daily in preparation for the largest amateur sporting event in the United States, outside of the Olympics. Many Lakeland players were members of the Hudson Valley teams throughout the years.

Once the ESGs were cancelled, Sarsen pointed out the Hudson Valley Field Hockey

Club evolved from the Hudson Valley Region. As a result, Lakeland players from modified through varsity are playing together, for Sarsen, the majority of a calendar year.

"The Empire State Games afforded athletes training and opportunities unparalleled," said Sarsen, owner of a state-record 678 wins. "When the Empire State Games ended, I took many of the remaining girls to different events. As time has gone on, we have added many more camps, clinics, tournaments, showcases and qualifiers. We have U12 groups, U14 groups, U16 groups and U19 groups. As an event becomes available, we enter different numbers of teams based on our situation. We try to get as many kids who want to play as many of these opportunities as can be handled."

Current Lakeland senior Jenna McCrudden began playing, in third grade, for Sarsen in the Shrub Oak Athletic Club. After watching older sisters, Erin, Meaghan and Kelsey, dedicate themselves to the sport, Jenna kept the family tradition going.

"Being able to see how dedicated Lakeland field hockey players are, through my sister, really fueled me and my desire to

be a part of that program," McCrudden said. "I saw everything they got to do, how much fun they had, and everywhere they got to go with their team and I knew I wanted to be a part of that. I didn't know at the time that I would be the captain of this hardworking and dedicated team, all I knew was I wanted to be a part of it. I think playing all year with our club team keeps us learning consistently and keeps our skills strong."

Bozek watched her sisters, Emma, who played at North Carolina, and Dana, currently playing at Albany, play with Hudson Valley and she sees why Lakeland has supreme talent.

"I think the Hudson Valley club growing in strength in numbers and opportunities has had an immense impact on the current success of Lakeland," Bozek said. "I think having extra opportunities to train and be able to keep core groups of players together throughout the year makes a very big difference come fall. I think a lot of Lakeland players are able to experience high level of play at various tournament that the Hudson Valley field club attends and I think having that experience allows them to play a level up at the high school division."

While the players change annually with graduation, one constant is Sarsen, widely-considered the best field hockey coach in New York. Sarsen puts in as much time, if not more, than her players and she continues to exude energy and enthusiasm which filters down to the girls. And, one thing that has not changed is Sarsen's humbleness.

"I think we've had a group of very dedicated Lakeland players set the stage for our latest 10-12 years of Lakeland hockey," Sarsen said. "We play not only year round, but we play a lot year round. So many players and parents have bought into the tradition and commitment. Everyone is all in, all the time."

"This run has been amazing and we are enjoying every minute of it."

The Lakeland field hockey tradition fuels the current players on a daily basis, especially this year and now that the Hornets are back in the state final four.

"Seeing how successful our program has been in the past really pushes us to want everything they've accomplished," McCrudden said. "Although we have the 'new year, new team' mindset every year, there's this huge part of every Lakeland player that wants to be like Melissa (Gonzalez) and all the talented players before us. Especially having a coach, Shannon Scavelli, who was a part of this program really shows us what it's all about. Shannon was recently inducted into the Lakeland hall of fame. Seeing how successful she is and was allows us all to see what we have to do get there."

"There are eight players on the team who know what it feels like to bring home that state champ plaque. Now every single player on the team knows what it's like to bring home a section and a regional plaque and I really believe that every one of them deserves it. We are all so hungry, especially after last year's loss in the final."



Lakeland's Erin Daly sets up her move in Hornets' 3-0 NYS Region 1 title win over Rondout Valley Saturday.

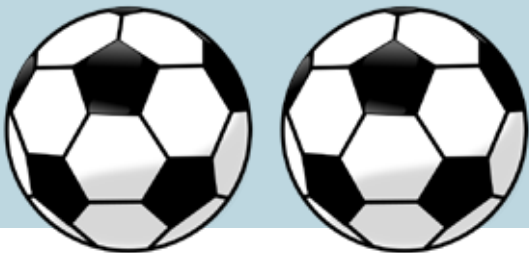


Lakeland's Jenna McCrudden set up a rip in Hornets' 3-0 NYS Region 1 title win over Rondout Valley Saturday.



Ossining Drops Bombs on Monroe-Woodbury, 1-0, Advances to 1st NYS Class AA Final 4

Jump Around!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Ossining F Kevon Evans, a post-season hero thus far, takes flight over Monroe-Woodbury G Patrick Gillen in the Pride's 1-0 Region 1 Class AA NYSPHSAA championship win over the defending state champs from Section 9 on Saturday at Pace University. Evans, who has been a menace along the right wing all post season (inset), and the Pride advanced to the NYS Final 4 to challenge Long Island champion - Brentwood - at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Twin Towers Middle School in Middletown... see Soccer Notebook