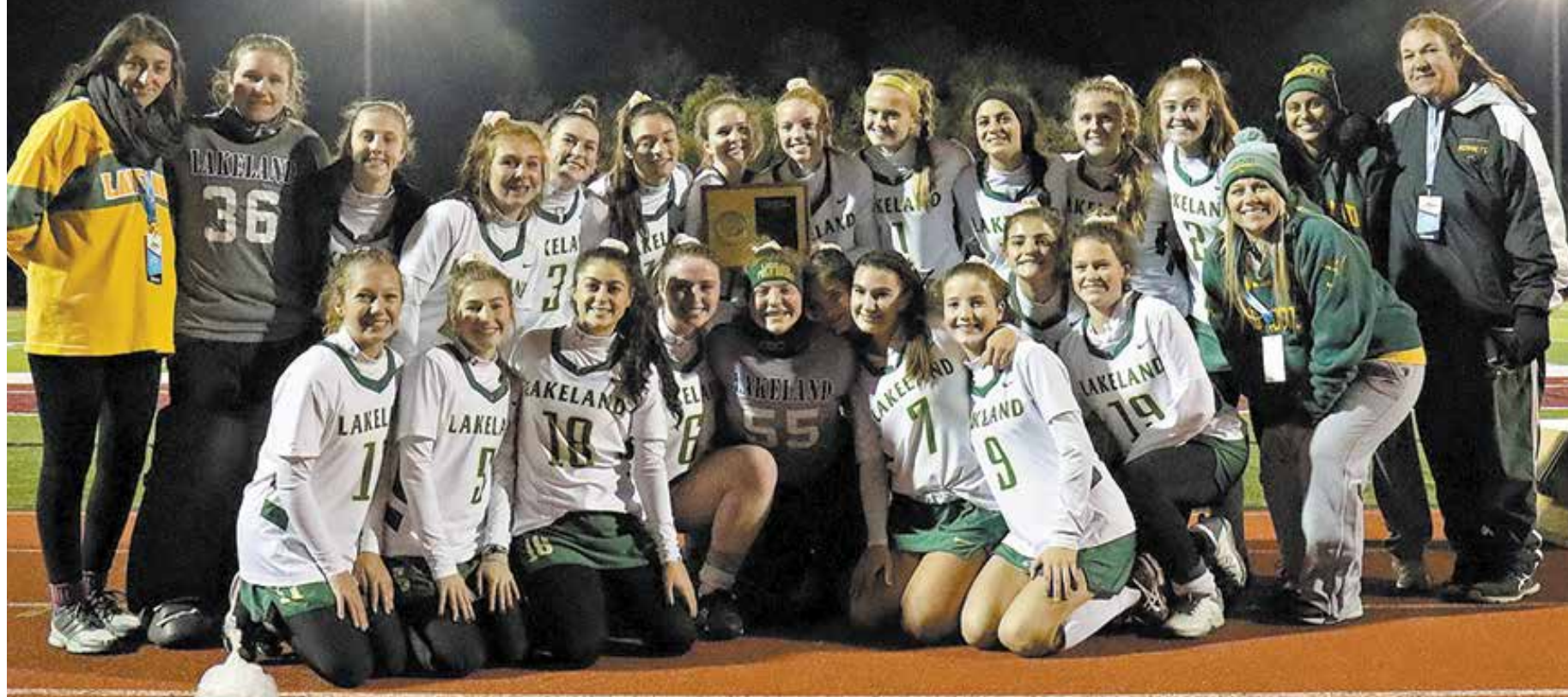


The Northern Westchester  
**Examiner**  
**Sports**  
*Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports*

# Life on Sars!



**Field Hockey World Orbits Around Lakeland for  
 11th Straight Year, Hornets Settle Somers, 4-0,  
 Take Section 1 Class B Crown**

RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO (PLEASE VISIT [WWW.HVSP.PHOTOS](http://WWW.HVSP.PHOTOS) FOR MORE)

Lakeland High field hockey Coach Sharon 'Sars' Sarsen (top row, R) and members of the team pose with the Section 1 Class B title plaque on Saturday at Nyack High School where the 2018 NYS runner-up Hornets won their 11th-straight Section 1 Class B title after a 4-0 battle with feisty, second-seeded Somers. Members of the Lakeland team 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. Lakeland will face Section 9 champion Rondout Valley on Saturday, November 2 p.m... see Field Hockey Notebook



# Sports

## Grid Notebook

# Yorktown Advances to Class A Final, Gets 100th Win for Coach Rescigno

## Carmel Advances to Class AA Final for 1st Time Since 2008, Powerhouse New Ro' up Next

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

It was just two weeks ago when Carmel Coach Todd Cayea recorded the 150th win of his 25-year career along the Rams' sideline, and it took just 15 years for 1995 Carmel graduate and **YORKTOWN** Coach, Mike 'House' Rescigno, the former All-NYS two-way lineman, to notch the 100th win of his Cornhusker career.

Rescigno's Huskers (8-1), the No. 5 seed, won the battle within the trenches in Friday's Class A semifinal victory, handing defending champion John Jay-Cross River (8-1), the No.1 seed, its first loss, 20-7, the Indians' second loss in two years.

"Great players, great families, great assistants... I've been so blessed," said Rescigno. "That's all it is."

It is way more than that: It's a phenomenal leader of men along the highest rank. It's a head coach that works as hard as any to gain an edge. It's a respected mentor with a connection to student athletes; those who play for him and those who simply roam the hallways and attend classes. It's the linking of players, staff, administration and families, which is the foundation of great programs. Mike 'House' Rescigno brings it all.

"Coach 'House' is an exceptional football coach, but an even better human being," said former All-Section Husker and current Notre Dame lax star Jose Boyer. "He never once points the finger at anyone but himself. He never takes credit, when he deserves all of it. He is one of the most selfless and humble people I've ever met in my life. I wouldn't have been the football player I was without him, but I would certainly not be the person I am today if it weren't for his role in my life. His 100 wins is obviously an incredible milestone, but he's positively impacted the lives of hundreds of young men, which I know means way more to him. Also, I can almost guarantee he celebrated



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Yorktown senior RB Dean Patierno had several big plays in Huskers' 20-7 Section 1 Class A semifinal win over host John Jay Friday.

his 100 victories by preparing and watching film for win 101."

As for win No.100, Cornhusker senior RB Dylan Smith, who leads the section this season with 1,468 yards (10.4 per carry), led the way with 34 carries, 200 yards and two touchdowns, enabling Yorktown to reach its third Section 1 final in four years.

"Our boys came ready for a fight," Rescigno said. "Our kids play emotional. They have a sincere passion for this family. Honestly, they fight for each other

like they are blood. There were kids on that field that willed themselves to fight through pain and physical exhaustion. I can guarantee you one thing: Our guys don't ever stop. You can count on that. I am so proud of their relentless attack and leadership. This is a special group."

Yorktown, the state runner-up in 2017, will have to go through third-seeded Rye, to win its sixth sectional title since 1993. The two Class A perennial powers will kick it off Friday (7:30 p.m.) at Mahopac High School

for the right to represent Section 1 in the state tournament. Rye, a six-time sectional champ since 1993, knocked off second-seeded **SOMERS**, 28-20, to advance.

The Yorktown game turned on the dime when Smith trucked a Jay DB from two yards out for the game's initial score with 10:18 left before half. On the ensuing kickoff, fiery Yorktown senior Dean Patierno gathered a fumble, caused by senior Evan Makar, and scooted 38 yards to paydirt for a 13-0 lead just 12 seconds later.

Yorktown's defense was at its best: The Huskers limited Jay's up-tempo, hifalutin attack to just 136 yards from scrimmage. Yorktown LB Benjamin Robinson picked off Jay QB Luke Mercer just before halftime. DL Johnny Bowen recorded a sack, and his mates put relentless pressure on Mercer, who entered the game with some gaudy stats (963 rushing yards with 17 TDs and 874 yards passing with 13 TDs).

"Our defense played lights out," Rescigno said. "The game plan was phenomenal. I need to credit our players and my staff. Their effort is literally unmatched."

Yorktown's O-line – Eddie Capone, Gerald Gentile, Jack Tinari, Matteo Cermele, Mike Benzinger and Johnny Bowen – won the battle up front, and will have to do so again against a Rye team that held Somers to 213 yards from scrimmage.

Additionally, the Garnets (8-1) gave senior QB Declan Lavelle a clean pocket all night, limiting Somers to just one sack and a couple of hurries. If Yorktown can't get pressure on Lavelle, it could be a long night. Lavelle turned the Somers game in his favor with a late first-half TD drive, capped by a 30-yard, jump-ball scoring toss to WR Matthew Tepedino into triple coverage, which turned a 13-point deficit into a manageable 20-14 halftime score. Rye went on to score three unanswered TDs in all, two in the pivotal third quarter, while holding Somers to one

*continued on page S-3*



Yorktown FB Benjamin Robinson breaks off big gain in Huskers' 20-7 Class A semifinal win over host John Jay Friday.



Yorktown RB Dylan Smith plows for 1 of 2 TDs he would score in 20-7 Section 1 Class A semifinal win over John Jay Friday.



Somers RB Jack Kaiser gets off tackle in Tuskers' 28-20 Section 1 semifinal loss to Rye Friday.



# Sports

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RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO

Carmel RB Aedan Keating plows forth in Rams' 48-7 Section 1 Class AA semifinal rout of visiting Spring Valley Friday.

first down, including a crucial 4th-and-one stall on Somers' 34-yard line with 2:50 to play.

Somers looked like it was in control before the final Garnet drive of the first half, leading 20-7 when WR Kenny McGrane and QB Jackson Kossow hooked up a nifty 10-yard connection with 35.6 seconds left in the half. Somers senior RB Charles Balancia got the Tuskers on the board first, jetting in from 39 yards out at 8:40 of the first. Lavelle answered to tie the score at 7-all and Kossow gave Somers back the lead, 14-7, from two yards out with 5:31 till half.

"We played our hearts out, but we simply fell short of our goal for the season," Balancia said. "The momentum switched on us going into halftime and when it looked like we were going to pull away with the game, penalties killed us."

## CLASS AA

No.2 **CARMEL** played a complete game in every phase of football in its 48-7 Section 1 semifinal stomping of No.3 Spring Valley Friday. The Carmel Crazies were out in

force, watching senior RB James Cox steal the show. Cox rushed for 200 yards and three touchdowns and senior QB Andrew Nunez ran for one touchdown and threw for another as Carmel moved on to its first sectional title game since 2008 against state-ranked (No.3) New Rochelle, arguably the best football program in the state.

Carmel's offense chewed up chunks of yards, 455 in all, 316 on the ground. Cox took a pitch 49 yards for the game's initial score and followed with a 24-yard TD jaunt. He then plowed home from four yards out, set up by a 39-yard pass from Nunez to WR Colby Opromola (65 yards receiving, 1 TD). Carmel senior RB/WR Alex Beauchesne scored a 10-yard run after he'd hauled in one of four catches for 66 yards from Nunez. Beauchesne totaled 91 total yards rushing and receiving. Zach Aiello scored the Rams' other touchdown on a six-yard run.

The key for Carmel against New Rochelle will be a strong start; either by limiting New Rochelle on offense or matching them score for score, which isn't likely, so the Carmel



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO

Carmel RB James Cox breaks off one of three TD jaunts in Rams' 48-7 Section 1 Class AA semifinal rout of visiting Spring Valley Friday.

defense, like it has all season -- while holding teams to an average of eight points per game -- will need to find another level.

The four-time reigning champion Huguenots have copped the Class AA title 13 times since 2000, including five of the last seven while the Rams haven't challenged for the sectional title in over a decade (2009) and last won one in 1998.

"My kids are on a mission," Cayea said of the Rams.

His kids have been fueled since a season-opening loss to John Jay-East Fishkill, a game in which the Rams, winners of eight in a row, were half the men they are now.

"We're definitely ready for the moment," Carmel TE/DE Will Boalt said "There's a lot of hype surrounding both teams, but we're just going to prepare as hard as we possibly can and come out on Saturday with a purpose."



Somers QB Jackson Kossow tries to gain edge against Rye in Tuskers' 28-20 semifinal loss to Garnets Friday.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO

Carmel RB-WR Alex Beauchesne breaks tackle for big gain in Rams' 48-7 Section 1 Class AA semifinal rout of visiting Spring Valley Friday.



# Sports

## Field Hockey Notebook

# Lakeland Sticks it to Somers, Wins 11th Straight Title

By Tony Pinciario

It is only a matter of time before **LAKELAND's** offense starts clicking.

**SOMERS** found itself in a great situation at halftime of the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championship title game, trailing by one goal.

Not many teams were within one goal of Lakeland at halftime throughout the season. The Tuskers' defense held Lakeland at bay, but the top-seeded Hornets came out buzzing in the second half.

Lakeland scored four minutes into the second half and went on to a 4-0 victory over second-seeded Somers.

Lakeland has now won 11 consecutive Section 1 Class B titles. The Hornets, now 17-1-1, host Section 9 champion Rondout Valley in the regional final, 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9. The winner advances to the New York State final four, Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 16-17, at Williamsville North High School (Section 6). Lakeland will face the Section 5-Section 6 winner in a semifinal, Saturday, 3 p.m.

"Not being able to finish in the first half was very frustrating," senior and Captain Jenna McCrudden said. "Having so many



RICK KUPERBERG/RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Lakeland's Emma Fon scores goal in Hornets' Section 1 semifinal win over John Jay last Wednesday.

opportunities and not being able to capitalize is unlike us. In the offensive circle we needed to be scrappy and score off rebounds, deflections and tips. I think after halftime, we shifted our mindset to scoring off chaos in the circle and not a big shot from the top."

Keira Ettere scored Lakeland's first goal of the second half. She finished with two goals and Emma Fon and Lauren Salazar each had one. McCrudden registered an assist.

Lakeland had defeated Somers, 9-0, during the regular season.

In the second half of the season, Lakeland faced adversity with a 1-0 loss to Dexter (Mi.) in the Max Field Hockey National Invitational. Lakeland then rallied from a two-goal halftime deficit to earn a 3-3 tie with 2019 Section 1 Class A champ, Horace Greeley.

"The score of the Greeley game didn't accurately describe the game," McCrudden said. "We possessed the ball most of the game and we had more opportunities.

"Losing to Dexter was also frustrating because we had so many opportunities and couldn't finish. We out-cornered them and kept possession most of the game. Games like this taught our team way more than any win taught us this season. We learned from the loss and tie and we know what it takes."

McCrudden celebrated a fourth sectional title and she said the feeling does not get old.

"It's rewarding to work hard all year and finally get to be in that dog pile with your team," McCrudden said.

Lakeland is focusing on Rondout Valley, but it also knows two more wins and that would lead to a rematch with Garden City (Section 8) in the final. Last year,

Garden City used a second-half goal to shock Lakeland, 1-0, ending Lakeland's nine consecutive state championships.

"We are so beyond excited to be back in regionals," McCrudden said. "If we were to face Garden City, again, I know we are capable of being successful if we capitalize on corners and opportunities."

Lakeland advanced to the final with a 6-0 win over No. 4 John Jay-Cross River in a semifinal. Last year, Lakeland defeated John Jay in the Section 1 Class B final.

Somers has always had the misfortune of being in the same league as Lakeland, and, most recently, John Jay-Cross River.

This year, the Tuskers broke free of John Jay, finished second in the league, behind Lakeland, and earned the second seed in the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championships.

Somers finished with a 12-4-3 record and reached the Section 1 Class B championship game for the first time since 2002. That year, Somers, led by Sarah Shute and Katie Flynn, won the Section 1 Class B title and advanced to the state final four.

"Yes, we went into sectionals feeling very strong and happy with our placement," said senior Erin Clark. "We felt we were working very well as a team and worked extremely hard in the practices leading up to sectionals.

"We felt we were playing some of our best field hockey against Lakeland," Clark said. "At the half being down one we knew we had to keep up the intensity for the rest of the game. Their first goal of the second half did not affect our mindset. We knew we had to continue playing our game and not let the score get to us.



Lakeland's Jenna McCrudden cranks shot against Somers' Ciara Murphy in Hornets' 4-0 Section 1 Class B title win over Tuskers Saturday.

This game we knew we had to hold them on corners and not let them finish as they did in season when we played them. Although we did not get the outcome we were hoping for, this was a very successful season for our team. We played very hard in every game. This season we knew what we had to work on in practice to do better than we did last year and we were able to do that."

Clark has committed to attend SUNY-Oneonta and will play field hockey. Even though she is graduating in June, Clark knows the team will continue being successful.

"I think after this season the returning players next year know what they need to continue to work on and we have some great players coming up to varsity next year," Clark said. "I have faith they will continue to build on to what we accomplished this year."

Somers moved into the final with a dominant 6-1 win over No. 3 Pelham in a semifinal.



Lakeland's Emma Halderman celebrates on of 2 goals and 1 assist she would score with Jenna McCrudden in Hornets' 6-0 semifinal win over Jay.



Lakeland's Keira Ettere scored two goals in 4-0 Section 1 title win over Somers' Nicole Garrity and Aimee Maoriello Saturday.



Somers' Haley Dineen is harassed by Lakeland's Jenna McCrudden in Tuskers' hard-fought 4-0 Class B title loss Saturday.



# Sports

# Volleyball Notebook

## Hendrick Hudson Wins 15th Section 1 Title Since 2000 Yorktown, Lakeland Knocked Off in Class A Semis

By Tony Pinciario

When **HENDRICK HUDSON** and John Jay-Cross River played in September, the fans were treated to a five-set epic in which the Sailors prevailed.

Going into the Section 1 Class A Volleyball Championships, John Jay and Hen Hud were seeded first and second, respectively. As a result, it appeared the two teams were on a collision course to meet in the final.

Hen Hud and John Jay did not have it easy as the Sailors dispatched a dangerous **YORKTOWN** team, seeded third, in the semis. John Jay faced **LAKELAND** for a third time this season and beat the surging Hornets, setting up the Class A final at Pace University's Goldstein Center.

In the highly-anticipated title match, second-seeded Hen Hud showed why it was undefeated and the defending champion.

Hen Hud swept John Jay, 25-20, 27-25, 25-23 to win Coach Diane Swertfager's 15th Section 1 championship since 2000.

The Sailors, now 21-0 this season, will play the Section 9 champion, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m., at Kingston High School. The Section 9 Volleyball Championship begins play, today.

"I definitely think that this time around we were much more prepared, and focused," said senior and Captain Callie Pidorian. "We had been preparing all season for this game against John Jay."

Following the first-game victory, the teams were locked in a nail-biting second game. John Jay held a 25-24 lead, but Hen Hud would not be denied. The Sailors maintained their composure and fed off their fans' enthusiasm.

"After taking the second set I think we gained more confidence which helped us gain control early on in the third," Pidorian said. "We had a lot of support from our fans

this game, and we were all very excited and eager to play this game. John Jay has a lot of talent and they definitely put up a great fight."

Winning a second consecutive sectional title is just as sweet for Pidorian and her teammates, especially the seniors.

"It feels amazing," Pidorian said. "It's definitely the best feeling in the world."

The Sailors now have 10 days off, which can be viewed as a positive and negative.

"It's definitely nice to rest, recuperate and prepare for the next match," Pidorian said. "It's a little longer than we could have wanted though because we are really on a roll right now so he faster we play the next opponent the better."

"That being said, I am not worried because we have had this much time without a game before and it is sometimes refreshing."

Either way, Hen Hud will be ready because it does not want a replay of 2018 when Cornwall upset the Sailors in the first round of state play. This came after Hen Hud beat Cornwall in a tournament during the regular season.

"Last year's upset was devastating for us, so I think we really remember that feeling and it drives us to work harder," Pidorian said.

Yorktown had its outstanding season come to a close in the Section 1 Class A semifinals to Hen Hud.

The Cornhuskers finished with a 15-5 record, the third seed in the Section 1 Class A Volleyball Championships and the knowledge that everyone returns in 2020.

"After winning out first two sectional matches, we realized how much potential we have for next year," said junior Olivia Waschenko. "In the history of Yorktown volleyball, this year was one of the strongest records we've had which is so rewarding, especially with us being such a young team."

Also, making it as far as the semifinals was a huge accomplishment and we are proud of ourselves."

Yorktown advanced to the semis with a 3-1 victory over sixth-seeded Eastchester in a quarterfinal match. The Cornhuskers rang up 18 service aces in the match.

"We put so much work in this season and we're very satisfied with the result of being in the final four. These achievements prove that our program is growing and we are excited to see how the 2020 season will go," Waschenko said.

"We're all super excited to be returning with the same team next year. This will be a very strong advantage for us and we can't wait to see where we end up. Most of us will be working very hard in the off season so we can't wait to see how much we all improve, as a whole."

Yorktown, along with league foes Lakeland and John Jay-Cross River made the final four showing how deep, talented and competitive it is.

"We definitely have one of the most competitive leagues in the section and we've had it for years," Waschenko said. "I think it's very good practice to be in a competitive league because you won't get any better unless you play good teams."

Lakeland had another strong season under veteran coach Steve Fallo's guidance.

The Hornets finished with a 15-6 record, including a berth in the final four where they lost, in four games, to top-seeded John Jay-Cross River.



TONY HUMBERTO PHOTOS

Gleeful Sailors realize their 3-game sweep of John Jay has produced program's 15th Section 1 title since 2000 last Saturday at Pace.

Lakeland, seeded fifth, earned a berth in the final four by rallying from down two sets to overcome fourth-seeded Tappan Zee. Last year, Lakeland lost in the first round of sectionals after winning the first two games.

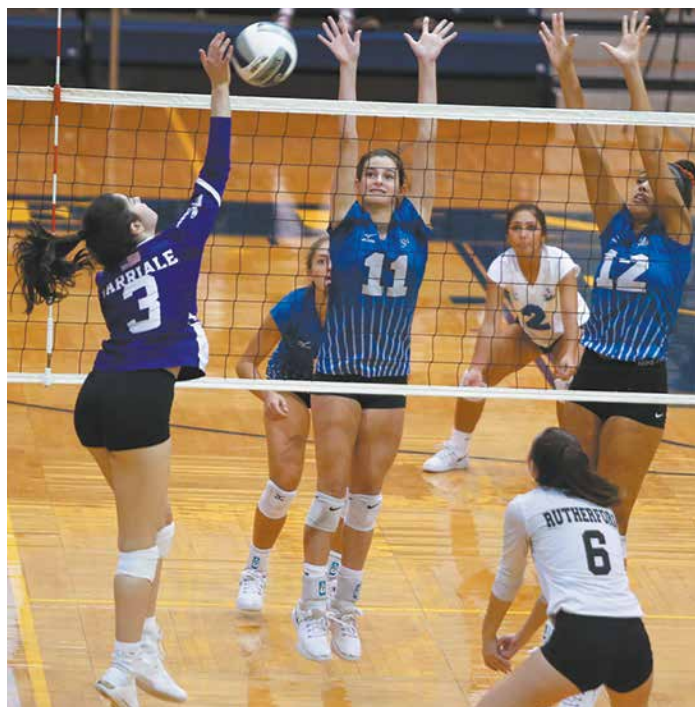
"The girls knew that they didn't play well in the first two games and the goal, at that point, was to make sure that we got to play game four," Fallo said. "The team never panicked and kept their emotions in check. We were able to win the big points when it counted in the last three games. It was a terrific team win against a very good Tappan Zee team."

Emily Kubicsko finished with 15 kills, 20 digs, four blocks and three aces. Kayla Jennings added eight kills and three aces, Caitlin Wisker contributed six kills and four aces and Victoia Tsui collected 18 assists.

In the 25-11, 24-26, 25-19, 25-23 loss to John Jay, Kubicsko had 12 kills, Wisker added eight kills and Jennings registered six kills. Tsui registered 12 assists.



Members of the Hen Hud volleyball dynasty storm court after winning program's 15th Section 1 title in 20 years Saturday at Pace University.



Hen Hud's Mackenzie Calhoun (11) and Caitlin Weimar go up for block in Sailors' rough and tumble 3-game sweep of John Jay Saturday at Pace.



Hen Hud's Madisen Lupica puts hammer down in Sailors' 3-game Section 1 title sweep of John Jay Saturday at Pace.



# Sports

## Boys Soccer Notebook

# Ossining Crowned, Somers Downed in Section 1 Title Tilts

*Pride's Evans Notches GWG in 79th Minute, Ends 41-Year Drought*

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Nothing is given, everything is earned when it comes to the Section 1 Class AA boys' soccer playoffs, and so Ossining's first sectional title since 1978 was more than deserved, given the field of fiery competitors it had to go through. The top-seeded Pride's 2-1 championship win over No.2 Mamaroneck came courtesy of Kevon Evans' second goal of the game in the game's 79th minute at Lakeland High School Saturday; a tally in which he out-willed four Tigers defenders.

One year after losing to RCK in the 2018 sectional finals, Ossining (17-2-1) has ended the drought that dated back to the Jimmy Carter era, the 39th President of the United States.

State-ranked (No.7) Ossining will face Section 4 winner Corning-Painted Post in the regional semifinal Wednesday, Nov. 6, 1:30 p.m. at the swaggy Wright National Soccer Campus in Oneonta.

After Mamaroneck (17-3) took a 1-0 lead, Evans answered back quickly with the equalizer with 8:28 left in the first half. Pride G Carlos Zababuru (8 saves) laid out for two crucial saves down the stretch to keep the



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Tuskers Dan Ippolito (L) and Jose Giron and pair of Rye defenders react to controversial call that disallowed what could have been game-changing goal in Somers' 3-2 Section 1 Class A title loss to Garnets Saturday.

score even.

But it all came down to the foot of Evans, the hero of the day, after scoring the two biggest goals in school history, which

came about through years of preparation by committed Coach Joe Scamarone and many others within the Ossining soccer community.

"Last year, we made it to the finals, too, but a lack of experience hurt us," Scamarone said. "Winning the championship didn't happen overnight. We've been working and preparing our players and teams for years through our local programs; starting from our partnership with Ossining AYSO that leads directly into our most prominent local club program Munay Soccer Academy, which we started many years ago. This feeds directly into our high school program.

"This process takes time and patience," he added, "but the importance is developing our players from a young age. Other schools have seen this system and are beginning to do the same, because they see the results. In the soccer world, you cannot expect results coaching players three months out of the year. Preparing players must be done year round, and this is why we were able to achieve a successful

season."

#PrideMatters and Ossining will look to keep it rolling in upstate New York from here on out.

**SOMERS** (No.16 in NYS), the No.2 seed in Class A, felt as though it was robbed in a 3-2 Section 1 championship setback to top-seeded Rye (No.6). After Rye's Ata Arslan bagged the game-winning goal with 12 minutes left Saturday at Lakeland High School, the Garnets were hoisting their first sectional title since 1979, denying defending champion Somers its third title in four years.

Somers senior M Drew Lasher opened the scoring, taking an Ethan Cukaj assists 11 minutes into the game, with a hockey assist going to super soph Bennett Leitner, who got the play started and scored six playoff goals in the first three games. That goal preceded what looked like a goal by Somers sophomore Daniel Dippolito, but the goal was waved off for contact with the Rye goalie, a call that did not sit well with the Somers faithful, one of several. Rye then scored a pair of unanswered goals after the Lasher tally.

Dippolito made it a 2-2 game early in the second half, fueling short-lived hope.

Several coaches on hand afterward felt that if the Tuskers and Garnets played 10 times, they'd split the series 5-5. Fourth-year Somers Coach Brian Lanzetta was not among them.

"I think we scored quality goals, I think we played with high intensity and I think we did our jobs," said Lanzetta, who took issue with several questionable calls. "I'm just disappointed in the outcome because I think we are the better team and I'm sticking by that."

We're sticking to this: Somers, which defeated Pearl River, 4-2, in the semis, will be back here next year with yet another title drive in mind.

Ippolito, an emergent sophomore, scored twice while Lasher and Leitner added goals against the Pirates.



NICK ABREAU PHOTO

Ossining Pride celebrated their first Section 1 title since 1978, a 2-1 Class AA win over Mamaroneck last Saturday at Lakeland.



Somers players were forced to watch Rye celebrate its first Section 1 title since 1979 in Tuskers' 3-2 loss to Garnets Saturday.



Somers Coach Brian Lanzetta (L) and Evan Mazzola react to Andrew Lasher's (21) goal in Tuskers' 3-2 Class A final loss to Rye Saturday.



Somers M Dan Ippolito is charged with controversial elbow to Rye goalie, disallowing a goal, in Tuskers' 3-2 championship loss to Rye Saturday.



# Sports

## Girls Soccer Notebook

# Class AA Mahopac, Class A Somers Fall in Title Tilts

## Haldane Wins 9th Straight Class C Title Behind Two Rowe Goals

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

The magic came to an end for Class A **SOMERS** and Class AA **MAHOPAC** Sunday evening at Arlington High School where both girls' soccer programs suffered season-ending losses in their respective Section 1 championship games after fairy-tale semifinal triumphs to advance.

Second-seeded, state-ranked (No.1) Pearl River eliminated No.4 seed Somers, 3-0, to win the Pirates' third sectional championship in four years, just three days after the visiting, state-ranked (No.15) Tuskers (16-2-1) knocked off No.1 seed Rye (No.7 in NYS), 2-1, in quadruple overtime on a legendary shot from Dahlia Pepe, who deposited a free kick golden goal with 14 second left in the final OT session, a shot that Hope Solo would have found tough to defend. Megan Dineen scored the Tuskers' goal in regulation.

"Pearl River was definitely the better team today," said Somers Coach Paul Saia, who has guided the Tuskers to six sectional finals and four championships. "They played outstanding and definitely deserved to win. I'm not going to make any excuses but we're pretty banged up. I don't know if it would have made a difference, they were that good today. They gave us nothing, nothing and the lack of speed killed us.

"But I couldn't be more proud of the run they got on," Saia added. "Even down, as they were, they never quit and kept coming back. Even the bench was alive. Just an



Somers junior M Dahlia Pepe -- the semifinal hero -- pushes up field in Tuskers' 3-0 Class A title loss to Pearl River.



Somers wing Ella Kittredge drills shot in Tuskers' 3-0 Section 1 Class A title loss to Pearl River Sunday at Arlington High.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac players delight in their 2-1 Section 1 Class AA semifinal win over former three-time defending champion Arlington Thursday.

amazing group of girls."

Similarly, No.4 **MAHOPAC** failed to generate much of a push against a stout North Rockland club, seeded No.2 in the section, in a 2-1 Raider triumph. Mahopac junior striker Mia Klammer scored the Indians' lone goal off a second-half PK to tie the game at 1-all, but Raider Kelly Brady scored the game-winner in 62nd minute.

"It was a tough loss but a well-fought game tonight," Mahopac Coach Casey Carroll said. "It was such an amazing season with a great group of ladies. They made a lot of people proud with all they have accomplished this season."

Mahopac knocked off top-seeded, three-time defending champion Arlington, 2-1, in Thursday's Section 1 Class AA semifinal when sophomore D Marissa McCarney snuck in off the back line to head home Hailey Pereira's direct kick from the near corner with 1:30 left in the second half.

"I feel like we really pushed hard, tried our best," said McCarney, who notched her first career goal. "I think we played better in



Mahopac's Sabrina Nogula plays head ball in Indians' 2-1 Section 1 Class AA title loss to North Rockland Sunday.



Mahopac's Alexa Rispoli (L) and Marissa McCarney react to McCarney's GWG in 2-1 semifinal win over Arlington.

the first half, but pulled through in the end. I wasn't going to go in on the goal. I was following coach's

rules, but I saw the ball coming in perfectly and thought why not just try. I just tried my best to get it. I feel great for these seniors because I know they didn't want the season to end today. I know how hard they've tried to beat Arlington, so it feels great that we could all work together and get this done."

Mahopac's Alyssa Chiulli scored the Indians' first goal to erase a 1-0 deficit with 14:09 left. Klammer didn't get an official assist but crashed the cage and wrought havoc on the Admiral keeper, who had Chiulli's awesome shot and Klammer to contend with.

"This feels so good, everybody is so excited," Klammer said. "It's one of the best feeling ever, I can't describe it. It's the high point of my career. I'm just told to crash the net and that's all I could do. And Marissa just came out of nowhere. I didn't even know she was there. Nobody was on her and she came flying through wide open."

"It's the best feeling ever," said UConn-bound senior Grace DiVincenzo, who has been on the losing side of two previous

semifinal encounters. "It all came together today, so this is really an emotional time for me. This is the best thing ever. My team had my back today because I missed some shots I could have buried, but we came together. We're the perfect team.

"Marissa's shot was amazing," she added. "Marissa is the greatest human being, no one deserved to hit that shot more than she did. I would rather no one score that goal than Marissa.

Mahopac keeper Isabel Omboni had seven saves in the semifinal win and was outstanding all season.

"It's all them," Coach Carroll said. "I sit here and enjoy it, but it's all them, them working, them doing it all. We have a lot of talented, hard-working kids out here."

**HALDANE** scored a 3-1 Class C title victory over the Leffell School behind three unanswered tallies in the second half, two for freshman Chloe Rowe and another by Liv Vilella. Bella Monteleone added two assists for the nine-time defending Section 1 Class C champion Blue Devils (10-5-3), who advanced to the state tournament to face Section 9's Seward in a regional final on Tuesday, 4 p.m. at Middletown High School. Haldane reached the state semifinals last season and continues to represent Section 1 in the finest fashion.



Indians celebrate Mia Klammer's PK goal in Mahopac's 2-1 Section 1 Class AA title loss to North Rockland Sunday.



# Trevv (On) the March!



**No.5 Yorktown Topples No.1 John Jay, 20-7,  
Will Challenge No.3 Rye for Section 1 Crown**

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

State-ranked (No.14) Yorktown QB Trevvon Johnson finds a crease in the fifth-seeded Huskers' 20-7 Section 1 Class A semifinals triumph of top-seeded host John Jay-Cross River (No.5 in NYS) last Friday night when the Huskers marched to their third Section 1 title appearance in four years to face third-seeded Rye, No.16 in NYS... see Grid Notebook