

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

Death Wish'!



Late Wishart Goal
Spells Doom for
Yorktown in 2nd-
Straight Title Loss
to John Jay



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Members of the second-seeded John Jay lacrosse team swarm Indian A Tyler Wishart after his game-winning goal with 3:58 remaining produced a 7-6 Section 1 Class B title triumph of top-seeded, 40-time Section 1 champion Yorktown, which lost consecutive title tilts for the first time since 1976 last Friday night at Lakeland High School where the two-time reigning champion Indians celebrated two Luke Mercer goals (19) and moved on to the NYSPHSAA regional semifinal Wednesday at 7 p.m. against Section 2 champion Ballston Spa at Columbia High School... see Boys' Lax Notebook

Sports

Boys' LAX Notebook

Yorktown, Lakeland/Panas Tripped up in Tourney Finals

Huskers Fall, 7-6, in Thriller to Jay; Rebels Fade in 10-4 Loss to Mamo'

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
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Well, history was made last week on the Section 1 lax circuit, and not the kind of history the folks in Class B Yorktown High and Class A Lakeland/Panas are accustomed to or prone to liking.

Yorktown suffered consecutive championship setbacks for the first time since 1976 (losses to Walter Panas & White Plains) when Alex DeBenedictis' lefty crank from 15 yards out slipped past the keeper but chimed the pipes with less than 10 seconds left, and by the time the top-seeded Huskers chased down the loose ball near midfield, the second-seeded Indians were spilling out onto the field, celebrating Jay's nerve-wracking 7-6 title triumph in the Section 1 Class



Yorktown's Shane Dahlke celebrates goal in Huskers' 7-6 Section 1 Class B title loss to John Jay Friday.



Yorktown's Keith Boyer played at an extremely high level but it wasn't enough to offset a 2nd-straight championship loss to the Huskers.



Yorktown's Shane Dahlke and Alex DeBenedictis congratulate Reese Andrews (22) on his goal in Huskers' 7-6 Section 1 Class B title loss to Jay Friday.

B championship last Friday night at Lakeland High School.

The night before, it was host Lakeland/Panas who failed to score a single second-half goal in the 7th-seeded Rebels' 10-4 Class A title loss to top-seeded Mamaroneck. Neither the Huskers or Rebels were on top of things in the second half of each loss, both allowing their opponents to have their way.

CLASS B

Flags were flying at half-mast in some portions of Yorktown over the Memorial Day weekend, which the Cornhusker lacrosse family would rather forget. The state-ranked (No.3) Huskers (13-6) were rolling along with a 5-2 lead on (No.5) John Jay (17-2) shortly before the half when Reese Andrews extended the lead

to three goals with 35 seconds left in the half, but Jay M Bryce Ford scored in transition just before the buzzer to give the Indians a lift at the break. Jay Coach Tim Schurr told his boys to play fast and loose, which they did right up until Tyler Wishart scored two of the game's last four goals, including the game winner. Wishart, one of the top lax/ice hockey prospects in the state, brought the Indians within a goal, turning a Tommy Feinstein outlet into a goal with 6:45 to go in the third quarter. Jay M Dean Ford, who sat out the first matchup between the two juggernauts (a five-goal Yorktown win), set up Max Kesicki, for a 5-5 tie to open the fourth-quarter scoring. Husker

M Keegan Doller (1A) answered with his third of the game, but Jay M Charlie Murphy tied the game at 6-all with 4:22 to play. Just 24 seconds later Luke Mercer (2G, 2A) found Wishart for the game-winner.

Yorktown's Shane Dahlke had one goal and one assist while Tim O'Callaghan and Reese Andrews each scored once. Husker G Dan O'Meara made nine saves and was under constant pressure in the second half with the Huskers failing to take care of the ball in a manner few had ever seen before.

"We have a small team but we've had fun all year and we didn't want it to end and to beat the best program in the history of Section 1 is just great," Coach Schurr said. "We don't have one defender on this team who will play college ball, but you see what they do together, because they're a team. It's spectacular."

"We do like to ride hard," he added. "I don't know how we forced so many turnovers but we got some. Normally they clear better against us, but our guys were putting a lot of pressure on the ball. We just put together a hell of a second half."

It was a confounding second half; one that had the local sports media wondering what the heck they were witnessing as the Huskers uncharacteristically coughed the ball up time and time again.



Lakeland-Panas players celebrate a Mark Cummins goal in Rebels' 10-4 Class A title loss to Mamaroneck.

"We definitely were careless with the ball," Yorktown Coach Sean Carney said. "Too many unforced turnovers hurt us in the second half. There was a spurt there where we could have clamped down and taken control for good but the game became too frantic and turnover heavy for both teams."

"Their seniors really grabbed the game late," Carney added. "Misplays on our defensive end hurt, and we hit three or four pipes as well, which never helps. Listen: We had our opportunity to win the game. I'll take that on me for not helping my boys get that win. They are a great group of kids who put so much time in during the season and all winter and summer. I'm sad for my boys beyond what I can put into words. I watched a lot

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Yorktown M Keegan Doller sets up one of three goals he would net in Huskers' 7-6 Section 1 Class B title loss to John Jay Friday.

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of these guys grow into young men and wanted to see them go further.”

Instead, John Jay will advance for the second year in a row and third time since 2010, 10th time overall.

“This feels amazing to share this championship with my brother and my teammates,” said Dean Ford, who suffered a season-ending knee injury during Jay’s Section 1 Class A football championship last fall but rehabbed incessantly to return for lax. “We sat together on the bus ride over and we talked about how the year’s been. He told me ‘It’s been eight months and it’s not just our time, it’s time for you to show everyone what you got’. My knee got in my head a little bit, but today I came out on top against a great team over there in Yorktown. Our coaches told us the only way we’d beat this team was if we were willing to put in the work. That one last sprint when you can’t feel your legs, you have to do it because in the fourth quarter against these guys, and your down two goals that hard work will pay off and it did with two of the last three goals and a defensive stand to win the game. This is unexplainable.”

Unacceptable is the word being tossed around Yorktown...

CLASS A

It was only nine years ago when Mamaroneck lacrosse wasn’t even considered a contender for the Section 1 Class A boys’ title, but after the Tigers ran their winning streak to 18 games with a 10-4 win over Lakeland/Panas in the Section 1 Class A championship game to repeat as Section 1 champs, it’s safe to say there’s a new sheriff in town.

Mamaroneck’s badge of honor now lays claim to five of the last eight Section 1 Class A championships, outright domination. The two-time reigning champion Tigers were only briefly threatened by an undermanned Rebel team that was playing without its key component,



Rebels Mark Cummins and Phil Dellamonica (9) endure a Mamaroneck celebration in L-P's 10-4 Class A title loss to Tigers Thursday.

Dartmouth-bound middle TJ Bryan, plus high-scoring M Matt Makar. With Bryan on the field, Lakeland/Panas might have had a puncher’s chance at staging a Buster Douglas-like upset. Without him, the Rebs would struggle for possession all night, including the game’s first five possessions when the Tigers built a 5-0 lead. However, Lakeland/Panas rallied for four of the next five goals, cutting the deficit to 6-4 at the half. Reed Thompson (1A) scored first for the Rebs off a hard charge at the cage and Mikey Walsh (1A) added another choice tally to make it 6-4. In between, Mark Cummins and Mason Nocito chipped in with a goal apiece and the Rebel sideline erupted in a combination of relief and belief. But was short-lived as Mamaroneck resumed its pelting of Rebel goalie J.P. Walsh (seven saves).

“To be honest, I’m just happy we had a

chance to play for that long,” Walsh admitted. “Without T.J. and Matt Makar it’s hard to win that game, but everyone gave it their all and as a team we couldn’t ask for anything else.”

Mamaroneck M Shane Smith won 15 of 19 faceoffs and controlled the game from the get, using a combination of technique and muscle to beat three different FOGOs Rebel Coach Jim Lindsay would throw at him in Bryant’s absence.

“We went 3 for 18 on face-offs and only took 19 shots,” Lindsay said. “I’m not sure we would have beaten their JV with those



Rebel Mason Nocito gets a five from Mikey Walsh after his nifty goal fued hope for L-P in 10-4 loss to Mamo'.



Lakeland-Panas Reed Thompson cranks goal in Rebels' 10-4 Class A title loss to Mamaroneck last Thursday.

stat lines. Kids played hard, they adjusted well and fought as well as they could after going down 5-1 to start the game. It was going to be a tough test, but without TJ and Makar we were really outmatched, and the stats show it. That being said they’re very talented, deep, and senior laden, and they played like it. Proud of my kids for responding the way they did at the end of the year, especially losing key guys at a critical point. It would have been nice to have been healthy Thursday night, but that’s part of the game.”

LAX NOTES – If you don’t feel good for Briarcliff Coach Alfredo Meola winning the Class D title in overtime against Pleasantville, then you don’t have a moral compass. There’s simply no better dude on the Section 1 lax circuit than Meola, the former Lakeland All-American, who, ironically, won his first sectional championship ever as a player or coach on the field where he once wrecked dudes regularly. When ‘Fredo was doing his thing at Lakeland, though, Mahopac ruled the Class A roost, denying Meola several titles in the wee ‘90s. It was something else to see him take a Briarcliff program that was once a rag-tag, doormat of an outfit to

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L-P goalie JP Walsh clears zone in Rebels' 10-4 Class A title loss to Mamaroneck last Thursday.



L-P long pole Mark Cummins lets out a howl after scoring in Rebels' 10-4 Class A title loss to Mamaroneck.

Sports

Softball Notebook

Mahopac, Lakeland, Panas, Put Valley All Reach Final 4

By Tony Pinciario & Ray Gallagher

WALTER PANAS is proving to be a dangerous No. 10 seed in the Section 1 Class A Championships. The Panthers entered the tournament with an 11-9 record, but they quickly dispatched No. 7 Nanuet, 6-0, in the first round, and then upset No. 2 **HEN HUD**, 4-1, in a quarterfinal game.

Panas will look to make it three-straight when it plays at No. 3 Pearl River in a

semifinal, Wednesday. The other semifinal has No. 5 Tappan Zee playing at No. 1 and undefeated **LAKELAND**.

Ironically, Panas and Lakeland play in the same league while Tappan Zee and Pearl River also reside in the same league.

Panas sophomore windmill Olivia Bordenaro has been next to unhittable through two sectional games, allowing six hits and striking out 19, including 13 against state-ranked (No.20) Hen Hud (20-1).

"We were really excited to have the shutout against Nanuet because we hadn't had one in a while," Bordenaro said. "Overall, we hit really good and our defense was tight."

Panas scrimmaged Hen Hud prior to the season to Bordenaro did her homework based on that game.

"I knew the big hitters because some of them play on my tournament team," Bordenaro said. "I knew how to pitch to each hitter. We had also scrimmaged Hen Hud last year. We went into the game knowing how we wanted to play which was play tight defense and hit the ball."

Panas led 2-1 after six when Sam Kayo drilled a two-run homer in the seventh to seal the deal.

Even though Panas (13-9) entered sectionals with an 11-9 record, Bordenaro and her teammates feel it is deceiving. Panas plays in the same league as Lakeland, Yorktown, Brewster and Somers. The depth and quality of this league prepared Panas for sectionals.

Panas will prepare itself for state-ranked (No.14) Pearl River, a perennial Section 1 Class A power. The Pirates are regulars in the



Mahopac's Carolyn Galizia has had a monster playoff run, including game-winning RBI in 1-0 extra-inning win over Suffern.



Lakeland hurler Claire Fon delivered another impressive performance en route to Class A semis.



BILL KENNEDY/RICK KUPERBERG/JACK ATTINELY PHOTOS

Hen Hud's Jillian Attinelly, who crushed a run-scoring 2B, and Panas' SS Julia Petrovitch shined in Sailors' 4-1 Class A playoff loss to Panthers Saturday.



Panas chucker Olivia Bordenaro twirled gem in 4-1 quarterfinal win over Hen Hud Saturday.



Mahopac P Shannon Becker whiffed 18 batters in 1-0 nine-inning quarterfinal win over Suffern Saturday.

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Put Valley is set to challenge Rye Neck in Section 1 Class B semis Wednesday after stomping out Pawling Saturday.

Sports

Girls' LAX Notebook

Yorktown Ousted in Overtime by Suffern in Section Finals

By Tony Pinciario

Four girls' lacrosse teams from the Northern Westchester/Putnam Examiner coverage area had excellent 2019 season with three semifinalists and a finalist.

YORKTOWN defeated Fox Lane in a Section 1 Class B semifinal, advancing to the championship game against fellow perennial sectional power, Suffern.



Yorktown goalie Sophia Altamari faces a shot in net in Huskers' 7-6 overtime championship loss to Suffern Thursday.

Suffern, which had always competed in Class A, was in Class B this season and it beat Yorktown in overtime, 7-6. Kelsey McDonnell scored three times, including the game-tying goal to force overtime, and Alexa Borges, Sophia Spallone and Jesse Barer each added a goal.

CARMEL had its finest season, perhaps ever, as the Rams advanced to the Section 1 Class B semifinals, where they lost, 18-10 to eventual champion Suffern.

Margaret Flocco registered a team-leading four goals and Katie Taranto had a hat trick for the Rams, who finished with a 10-8 record.

A young **LAKELAND/PANAS** team, led by senior Emily Kness, advanced to the

Section 1 Class A semifinals only to fall to eventual champion, North Rockland. It was the second time this season that North Rockland beat the Rebels.

The Rebels finished 9-9 and even though it is .500, Kness feels this team made huge strides beginning with the first winter workout in January.

"We had been working really hard from January to the when the season started and throughout the season," said Kness, who will attend Colgate University this fall and play field hockey. "We had practices indoors and when we were able to get outside. We had a lot of talent, so we just had to put it together and learn to play with each other."

The Rebels opened the season with an overtime win over 2018 Section 1 Class C champion and state semifinalist, Brewster. The win gave Kness and her teammates a good feeling of what they could achieve.

"We knew that Brewster was a really strong team," said Kness, who led Lakeland in scoring with 59 goals and 14 assists. "It was a tough game and winning in overtime made us excited about that."

Lakeland/Panas experienced some peaks and valleys, which is to be expected with a young team, but one thing the Rebels had was a good work ethic. And it began in January.

"Our younger players are really dedicated," Kness said. "They came to everything, proving themselves to be a part of a really good program."

"They showed that they wanted to work hard. Even the JV girls were coming, which was impressive. It gave us a good mentality, showing everyone wanted to be there and work hard."

Mahopac, Lakeland, Panas, Put Valley All Reach Final 4

sectional semis or sectional final.

"I know Pearl River is a good team and they have a strong pitcher," Bordenaro said. "Our whole team feels good because we're playing like we know we should play."

LAKELAND received a huge scare from Pelham in a Section 1 Class A Championship quarterfinal, but Ava Knopf delivered in a memorable way.

The sophomore crushed a two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning, sending the top-seeded and undefeated Hornets to a 3-1 win.

Lakeland will host No. 5 Tappan Zee in a semifinal, Wednesday, 4:30. Claire Fon tossed a two-hit shutout over Tappan Zee, 2-0, on May 11.

Prior to Knopf's walk-off home run,

she had two fly outs and a sacrifice bunt. Knopf made the adjustment against Pelham's pitcher.

"She was staying on the left side of the plate, which is inside for me so I knew I had to open up and turn on it," Knopf said.

Knopf said it was a 2-2 count and the pitch was an inside, high fastball.

"I knew it was a far shot off the bat and quickly realized it was over," Knopf said. "Hitting any type of walk off is a great feeling but hitting a walk-off home run in the sectional tournament, in extra innings, was something really special."

Fon and her teammates were able to maintain their composure and focus and not allow the stressful situation to affect them.



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

Expressions of agony were evident in Yorktown's 7-6 Section 1 Class B overtime title loss at the hands of top-seeded Suffern last Thursday.

Lakeland/Panas finished second in its league, to Mahopac, and opened sectionals with a 12-9 win over White Plains, which had beaten the Rebels, 9-8, in the regular season.

Kness, along with fellow seniors – Julia Araujo (20 goals, 5 assists), Gianna Scialdone, Samantha Cerrato and Cara O'Shea, graduate. However, coach Rebecca DiSisto-Leslie has a core group returning in 2020 led by Keirra Ettere (42 goals), Megan Mucci (27 goals), Katelyn Cerrato (16 goals) and Raquel Nieves (10 goals).

"I'm really excited," said Kness of the program's future. "They're a really talented bunch of girls who will be really successful in the future."

HEN HUD had another successful season, advancing to the Section 1 Class C semifinals.

The Sailors were defeated by eventual champion, John Jay-Cross River, 10-9. It was Hen Hud's second one-goal loss to the Indians this season. John Jay overcame Hen Hud, in overtime in a regular-season game.

During the season, Hen Hud registered wins over Suffern, the Section 1 Class B champion, Rye, a Section 1 Class C finalist, Lakeland/Panas and, following a regular-season loss to Brewster, beat the Bears in a sectional game.

Sophomore Kira Varada led Hen Hud with 88 goals and 18 assists and classmate Fiona McGovern was next with 62 goals and 29 assists.

Hen Hud will among the Section 1 elite next year with everyone returning except one – senior and captain Haley Merchant. Merchant's leadership and field presence will be sorely missed.

"We were all really excited and pumped up for this game," said Fon, who finished with a five-hitter and eight strikeouts against Pelham. "It was really nerve-racking, but, as a team, we knew we had to step it up and keep our heads in the game the whole time."

"Personally, I knew I had to keep my cool and do my absolute best. But I knew that my team had my back which is very important and the best feeling."

Lakeland's regular-season victory over Tappan Zee came on a Krystal Badillo two-run homer. The Hornets expect Tappan Zee to be psyched for a rematch.

"Being that we are undefeated I expect every team wants to come after us and beat us because we have a target on our back," Knopf said. "Knowing this psyches

our team up and drives us to want to win even more."

State-ranked (No.4) Lakeland (21-0) opened the Section 1 Class A Championship with a 7-2 victory over rival Brewster.

The Hornets rang up four runs in the second inning to take control. Fon finished with a four-hitter and five strikeouts.

Hannah Matusiak and Shannon Scotto each had two hits, two RBI and two runs scored. Krystal Badillo collected two hits and two RBI.

State-ranked (No.17) **PUTNAM VALLEY** (15-7) advanced to the Section 1 Class B Championship semifinal with a first-round win over Croton (15-0) and quarterfinal victory over rival Pawling, 8-3.

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Sports

Baseball Notebook

State-Ranked No.1 Lakeland Tops Harrison, Nyack

Vetrano Named NYS Player of Year; No.1 Seeded PV Ousted by No.8 Keio

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
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And just like that we're down to one team standing. Of course, that one team is the No.1 ranked team in NYS Class A, the **LAKELAND** Hornets (21-1), which advanced to the second round of the Section 1 semifinals after Saturday's 3-0 victory over No.4 Nyack at the Granite Knolls Complex. Lakeland reached the semis by virtue of a 7-5 win over No.9 Harrison in last Wednesday's quarterfinal. The 2018 NYS runner-up Hornets were set to face No. 2 Rye yesterday with a berth to the finals on the line. The championship round is set to be on June 1st at Pace University.

Against Nyack (16-6-1), Lakeland ace Joe Vetrano needed just 79 pitches to improve to 9-0 while lowering his ERA to a section-best 0.39 this season; additional testimony for his recent NYS Gatorade Player of the Year honor. Vetrano joins Jonathan de Marte (circa 2011), a two-time winner, as Lakeland's only Gatorade winners.

"It's a well-deserved honor," Lakeland Coach Bill Casey said. "He helps this team every game one way or another, either with the bat or on the mound, and oftentimes both. And he's just a great kid."

The 34th-annual Gatorade award, which has gone to players like Derek Jeter in the past, honors a combination of athletic excellence, academic achievement and character demonstrated on and off the field, acknowledges Vetrano as the top student athlete in the state.

"Joey plays the game the way it was intended," Casey said. "Joe treats everyone, teammates and opponents alike, with respect. He is the ultimate teammate."

The 6'3" 210-pound lanky lefty allowed just one hit and whiffed seven batters,



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Lakeland OF Andrew Croce lets the boys know it's all good after doubling in Hornets' 7-5 playoff win over Harrison.

eliminating 18-straight to conclude the game while facing one batter over than the minimum (21). The Boston College-bound Vetrano has not allowed a run in his last four outings, including a pair of no-hitters against Yorktown, and has allowed just one earned run since the season opener on March 26.

"My catcher Zach Lerman called a fantastic game," Vetrano said. "He mixed all the pitches up great. Our defense was spectacular. Leo Cummings and Zach Cohen made

great plays behind me."

Vetrano didn't get a ton of support offensively but got all the help he would need when IF Zach Cohen stroked an RBI single to left to precede Andrew Croce fielder's choice RBI. Jason Green singled and scored in the three-run third.

Against Harrison, Lakeland P Evan Berta was the unquestioned star. The junior pitched six scoreless innings, fanning seven for the win. He took matters into his own hands at the plate, going 2 for 3 with a home run, a triple and five RBI. Lakeland needed every single run as the relief core imploded in the seventh, allowing the tying run to reach second.

CLASS A

Last Wednesday, turned out to be a bleak quarterfinal day for teams not named Lakeland, including No.7 **BREWSTER**, a 12-2 loser to No.2 Rye, and No.5 **HEN HUD**, which suffered a 5-0 setback to No.4 Nyack. **YORKTOWN** Coach Sean Kennedy's final game after 20+ years

with the program ended with a 10-6 quarterfinal setback to No.3 Byram Hills. The 11th-seeded Huskers (13-8) got a big effort from C Luan Biberaj, who went 3 for 4 with a double and three RBI.

On the heels of junior P Bobby McBride's one-hit, 2-0, shutout of No.10 Nanuet on Tuesday, Brewster met its match in a Garnet club hell-bent on revenge after falling to the 16th-seeded Bears a year ago as the No.1 seed in the 2018 tournament. Rye took no chances with the Bears (12-7-1), lining up ace



DAVID ZAZLAW PHOTO

Yorktown Coach Sean Kennedy, who will retire after 20-plus seasons with the program, takes in one last hug in Huskers' season-ending Section 1 Class A playoff loss to Byram Hills Wednesday.

Declan Lavelle against the Bears, who struck out 10 times and scratched out five hits. The Garnets broke open a 3-1 game with six in the fourth.

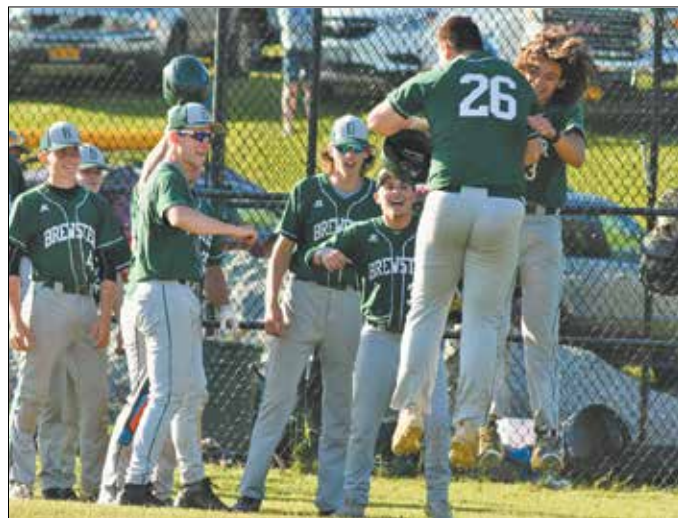
Against Nanuet, McBride whiffed a season-high 14 batters and carried a no-hitter into the sixth before the Golden Knights broke through with a harmless single.

Hen Hud took a 2-1 opening round win over No.12 Pearl River into the quarters, doing so behind a great effort from ace Nick Hiltzley, who also stroked a walk-off single with the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh.

Against Nyack, Johnny Glashoff and David Buscetto each went 2 for 3 for Hen Hud (14-6-1), which left 10 runners on base and failed to get the clutch hit they needed.

CLASS B

PUTNAM VALLEY Coach Joe Natalie was beside himself in frustration after last Wednesday's quarterfinals when the top-seeded Tigers (16-4) committed five errors and lost, 4-3, to No.8 Keio. Yoichiro Ohashi squeezed home the winning run for the Unicorns (12-8-1), who were eliminated



Brewster's Bobby McBride has big ups for teammate Nick Girard who hit a solo homer in Bears' 2-0 opening round win over Nanuet last Tuesday.



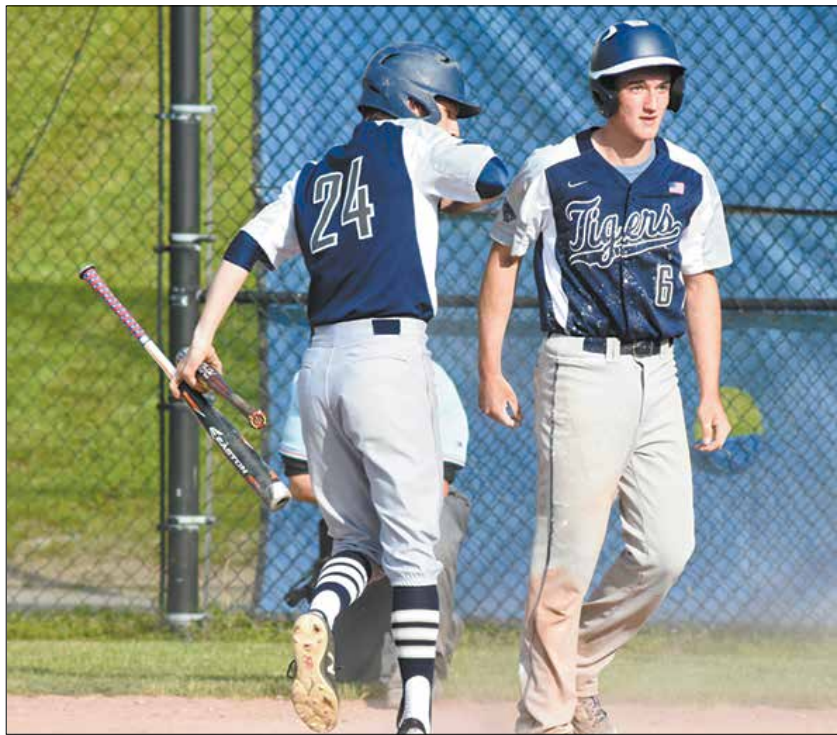
NYS Gatorade Player of the Year Joe Vetrano rounds 2B in Hornets' 7-5 win over Harrison last Wednesday.

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Sports

Baseball Notebook

State-Ranked No.1 Lakeland Tops Harrison, Nyack *continued from previous page*



Put Valley's Matt Carlsen gets pat on back from Bobby Kroboth after plating run in Tigers' 4-3 season-ending playoff loss to Keio.



Putnam Valley P T.J. Brescia whiffed 11 and allowed one earned run in Tigers' 4-3 Class B playoff loss to Keio.



Without a healthy John Millicker in the playoffs, the Tigers were lacking a presence they sorely needed.

by Westlake in the semis. Tiger senior ace T.J. Brescia went the route for Putnam Valley, allowing just one earned run on four hits while striking out 11 in a solid

performance. The Unicorns snapped the Tigers' 14-game winning streak, leaving many to wonder about the future of Coach Nats, who has legitimate family concerns

with two young ones and nearly 15 years on the Tiger sideline. It entirely possible that PV is in the market for a new coach next season. If so, the soft-spoken coach has left the program in a good, respected position, but just like the basketball

team did as a No.1 seed, the Tigers were reverse bracket-busters, which is never a good thing.

Mahopac, Lakeland, Panas, Put Valley All Reach Final 4 *continued from page S-5*

The Tigers, seeded third, will play at No. 2 Rye Neck, Wednesday. Rye Neck bat Putnam Valley, 5-4, the last week of the regular season.

Going into the Pawling game, Putnam Valley was aware of the revenge motive because the Tigers swept Pawling during the regular season.

"We knew we had a target on our back going into the game because they previously had an upset in their first-round game," said Emily McKenna, who allowed five hits and struck out seven. "We had a tough battle last time against them, so we knew we had to take it to them from beginning to end."

Tiger SS 'Fearless Frankie' Reyes doubled, tripled, homered and drove in four runs against Pawling as she continues

to wield a hot bat. Sonya Garcia added two hits and two RBI and Alex Waters and McKenna each drove in a run.

McKenna finished with a three-hitter and nine strikeouts against Croton. Gianna D'Addona and Reyes each had three hits and four RBI each. Alex Waters and McKenna had two hits, three runs and an RBI apiece and Sophia Lord had two RBI and scored twice.

The final score of Putnam Valley's regular-season game against Rye Neck was indicative of how close it was.

"It was a very close and could have been anyone's game," said McKenna of Rye Neck. "This time we have to win every inning, put the ball in play and keep the pressure on their defense."

Mahopac, like Lakeland, walked

off to victory in Section 1 Class AA Championship quarterfinal round – 1-0 over Suffern in nine innings.

Carolyn Galizia singled in Ela Riccobono, who doubled, with the winning run.

State-ranked (No.17) **MAHOPAC** (19-3) will play John Jay-East Fishkill, Wednesday, in a semifinal. Second-seeded John Jay swept the regular-season set against the third-seeded Indians.

Mahopac P Shannon Becker rang up 18 strikeouts and limited Suffern to three hits in a 1-0 extra-inning quarterfinal win over the visiting Mounties. Becker now has 364 strikeouts on the season. Indian Ela Riccobono's lead-off double in the ninth was followed by Carolyn Galizia's walk-off RBI single.

"Right before Ela's at-bat we were all talking to them and I said to them, 'We've worked so hard for this. Ela, I believe in you. You just need to believe in yourself,'" Mahopac coach Cristina Giansante said. "And Danielle was like, 'I believe.' Then, they all started yelling and I was like, 'We are gonna win.' It was like that scene in A League of Their Own when Tom Hanks starts yelling, 'We're gonna win.'"

Mahopac opened sectionals with a 7-1 win over Carmel as Becker allowed three hits and struck out 14.

Michelle Dellamura and Riccobono each had two hits and an RBI. Kelly Zecca and Becker had a hit and RBI apiece and Danielle Sabia had two hits and a run scored.

Yorktown, Lakeland/Panas Tripped up in Tourney Finals *continued from page S-3*

its first championship triumph.

"This is surreal," Meola said. "To win my first championship as a player or coach on the field I learned the game on is an incredible feeling right now. We're here to stay, though." Well, done, my longtime chum...

With dismay/panic teeming the streets of Yorktown Saturday, I got note from a former player stating that the Husker alumni wants someone's head on a spike after consecutive title losses. What I tried to diplomatically explain is that all things being cyclical Yorktown – despite being

very talented in 2018, simply ran into a better John Jay team last year, and that this 2019 team – which has quality pieces and a stud All-American-in-waiting Keith Boyer on the back line -- lacked a pure finisher and didn't have that guy they've had in many championship seasons who could back dudes down with lower-body strength and power. While it's totally understandable for the Yorktown alumni to rage into full panic mode upon failing to procure a 41st and 42nd sectional title the past two years, I hope they recognize the cream will rise again. I'm not ready

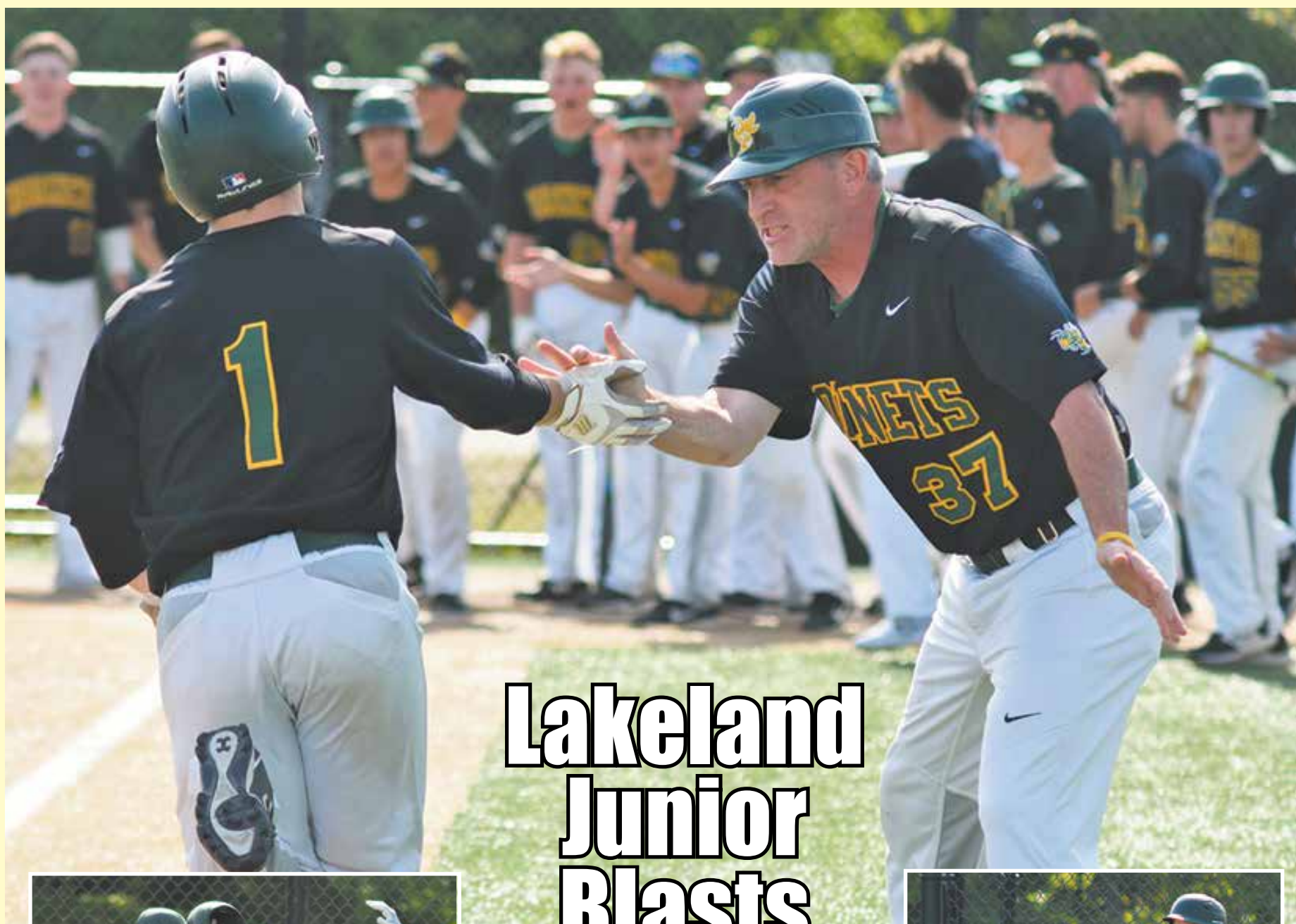
to put this on Carney just yet, so put the spikes away, folks...

P.S. Boyer was the best player I saw in the entire tournament, no matter the classification: That kid is a combination of every former great Husker long pole. I see some Chris Watson in him, some Brett Makar, some Stephen McElduff, some Rob Doerr, some Brian Kuczma and even some of his brother Jose Boyer. This kid should emerge as the second player in Yorktown history to be a three-time A-A (Watson, the other)...

Gotta get this off my chest: Absolutely

hate fact that the new @NYSPHSAA LAX classifications will abort the Yorktown vs. John Jay playoff rivalry starting next season with the Indians moving down to Class C next year. Best playoff rivalry we've had since 2006 may be done forever, depending on year-to-year BED numbers. Not only has the mandated extra classification watered down the playoff pool by foolishly going to four classes (A, B, C & D), now it's gone ahead and destroyed what might be the finest Section 1 playoff rivalry we've had for most of two decades #ThisBlows.

Evan Help Us!



Lakeland Junior Blasts Hornets to Class A Finals



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Much to the delight of Coach Bill Casey and his overjoyed teammates, Lakeland junior P/OF Evan Berta homered, tripled, drove home five runs and pitched six scoreless innings in the top-seeded and No.1 state-ranked Class A Hornets 7-5 win over No.9 Harrison last Wednesday at the Granite Knolls Complex. Lakeland (22-1) advanced to the sectional semis and behind a one-hit pitching performance from ace Joe Vetrano defeated Nyack, 3-0, Saturday to reach last night's second round of the semis against No.2 Rye with a berth to the sectional final on the line... see Baseball Notebook