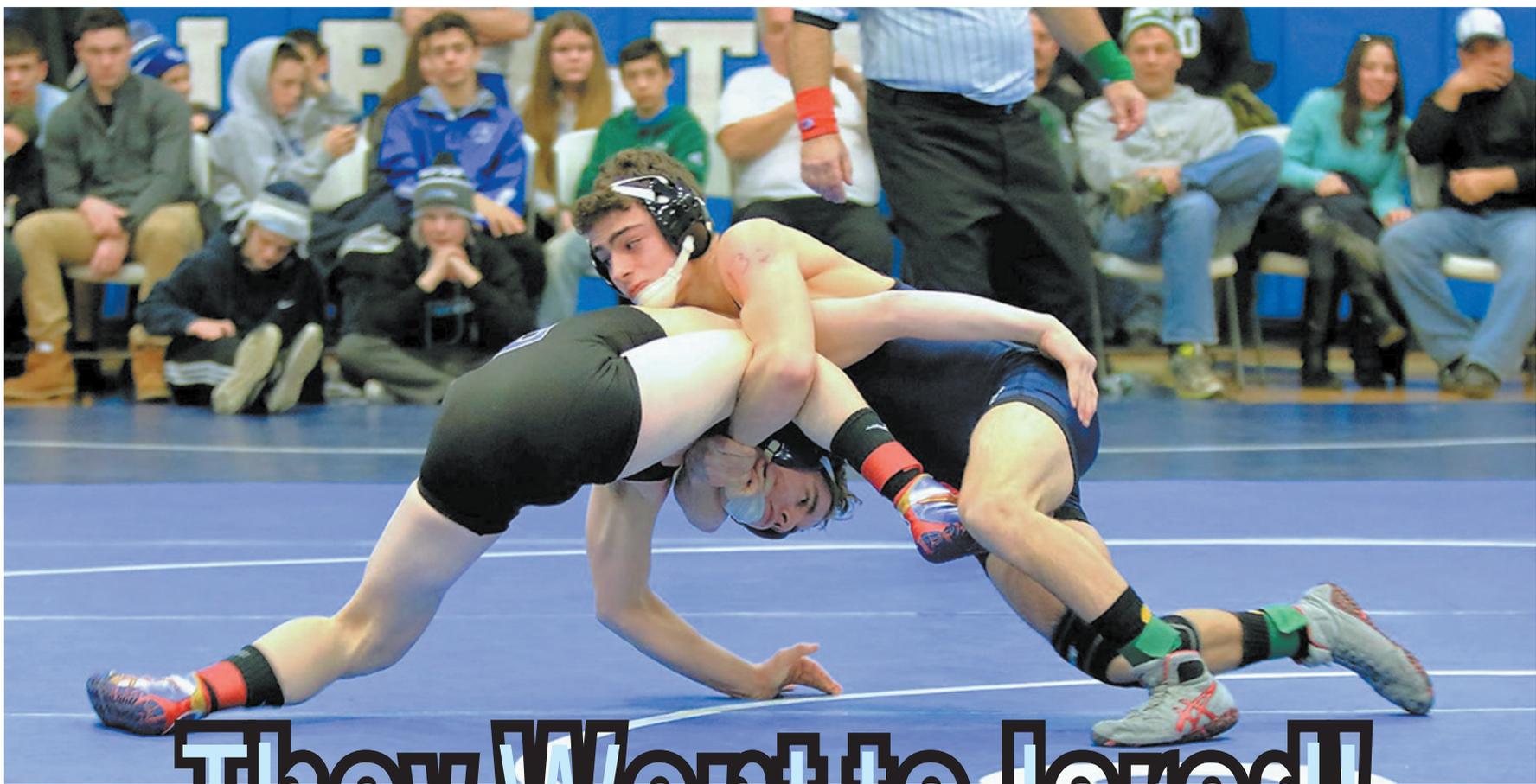


The Putnam
Examiner
Sports
 Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

February 16- February 22, 2016 **SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS** **SPORTS SECTION**



They Went to Jared!

Put Valley Locks up 2nd Place Finish in D-II Tourney; Eliopoulos Named Most Outstanding Wrestler



ROCK OGO PHOTOS

Putnam Valley junior wrestler Jared Eliopoulos (R) worked against all odds this season to overcome a debilitating elbow injury he suffered last year to become the 2016 132-pound champion and Most Outstanding Wrestler last Saturday at the Division II championships where two-time defending champion Put Valley fell 9.5 points shy of a three-peat to host Pearl River. The Tigers sent five Section 1 champions to the upcoming NYS meet, including Eliopoulos (inset with MOW trophy), Noah Kelvis (126), Mikey Bruno (99), Kyle Sams (113) and Satoshi Abe (120)... see Wrestling Notebook

Brewster, Carmel, Yorktown, Panas Advance to Field of 16

Bears Eliminate Lakeland; Somers, Mahopac Ousted

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

If one were to make the mistake of looking past 14th-seeded Brewster High in the Section 1 Class A tournament, one might be on the smashed side of a busted bracket. The surging Bears, winners of three-straight and six of the last seven games, cruised to a 54-49 outbracket win over visiting Lakeland last Friday night, ending the season for the 19th-seeded Hornets (8-13).

Brewster (12-9) advanced to the field of 16 where Coach Tom Nelligan's Bears would face No.4 Our Lady of Lourdes today (6 pm) after Bears senior F Sam Adama led the charge with 16 points and eight rebounds. The 6'3" Adama, who battled injuries for the first half of the season, was too strong inside and deft of touch outside.

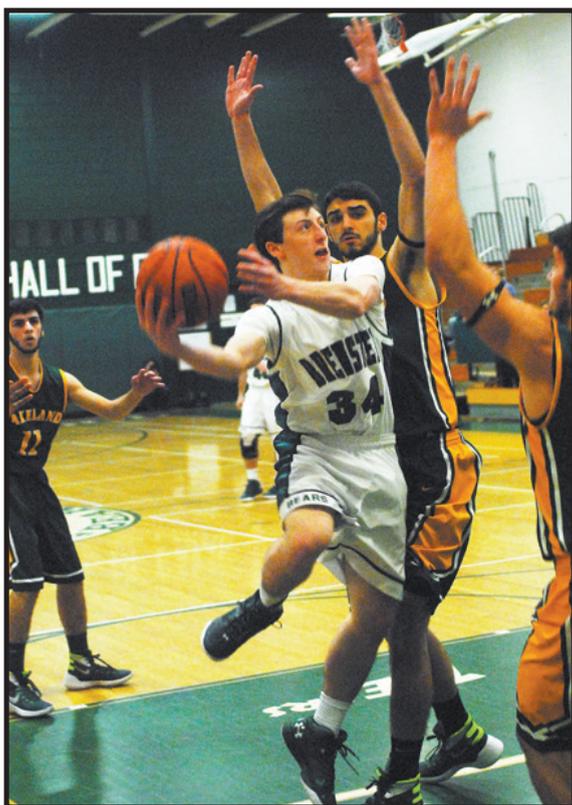
"It all starts with our defense," Adama said of the senior-laden Bears. "And then down on the other end I was feeling it, so we were penetrating them. We just like to play together as a team and play hard and when our mind is right we're a very hard team to beat."

Coach Nelligan's Bears had an answer for every Lakeland run and when it wasn't Adama getting it done for the Bears it was the backcourt tandem of seniors Jon Palmieri and Kevin Blank, who added 11 points apiece for Brewster. Lakeland senior F Trevor McCarthy stroked a pair of late



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Brewster G Kieran Taylor has inside track to rack on Lakeland's Tim Fallo in Bears' win over Hornets.



Brewster G Jon Palmieri looks for two of his 11 points against Lakeland's Nick Fazio and Nick Jarosz in Bears' 54-49 win over Lakeland last Friday.

3's and left everything he had on the court in an impressive effort that impressed Nelligan.

"It hasn't always been Masterpiece Theatre but we get the job done," Nelligan said of the Bears, who will face Lourdes for the first time this season after tying for second place with Somers in League I-D behind front-running Fox Lane, the No.2 seed in the Class AA tournament. "Adama has had a great second half of the season. We got him back and he's playing well right now. It's been a few years since a Brewster team's got to 12 wins, so this is nice for the kids. We answered Lakeland's run but give (Lakeland Coach Fallo) Steve's kids credit, especially McCarthy. He had a great game today. This was the fourth time we played Lakeland this season. And he hadn't been the factor he was tonight. He's a good player.

"We've got some pieces

and our kids really like each other," Nelligan added, "so we'll see what we've got here in the tournament. On some nights we look pretty good. We've beaten some really good teams; we've beat Beacon, we've beat Put Valley. We're good at the end of games and the kids think they can beat anybody when we play well."

Panas 59, Gorton 52: the bus ride home from the Cross Hill Academy in Yonkers was a fun one for 18th-seeded Walter Panas last Friday night, thanks, in part, to the fact that Panther F Shakiem White was unstoppable. The senior drained a game-high 23 points to go with 11 rebounds as the Panthers advanced to the field of 16 where they will face No.2 Byram Hills today (4:30 p.m.).

Panas point guard Brandon Hodge and G Stephan Reyes added 13 points apiece and did a fine job of establishing and inside-outside threat against

the 15-seeded Wolves.

"It wasn't the prettiest game but we got the win," Panas Coach Shawn Sullivan said. "Gorton was up four with two minutes to play and we scored the last 11 points of the game for the win. The guards did a nice job of getting Shakiem the ball down low and he converted. Both Hodge and Reyes made a lot of nice passes and hits some big 3s in the win. I was very pleased with our effort and not giving up. We battled to the end for the win."

Pelham 59, Somers 52: At No. 10 Pelham, junior swingman Marc Maestri had 15 points to lead No. 23 Somers. Nick Gargiulo and Lorenzo Bicknese each had nine for the youthful Tuskers, who lose just one starting senior and could be impactful in Class A next season and beyond should they continue to devote time in the off-season under a very committed coach in Chris DiCintio.

CLASS AA

Carmel 90, John Jay-East Fishkill 57: No. 12 host Carmel saw five players reach double digits and an entire unit reach its potential last Friday night when the Rams (11-10) played their best game of the season.

Ram senior F Matt Haughney paved the way to Wednesday's opening-round clash with host Ossining by dropping 21 points on the Patriots; as the Rams advanced to travel to No.5 Ossining Wednesday (6:15 pm.).

Carmel's Brian Harlin and Ryan Train



Brewster's Angel Baez gets a clean look at iron in Bears' outbracket playoff win over Lakeland last Friday.



Lakeland's John Mule' attacks rack in Hornets' season-ending loss to Brewster last Friday.

added 15 points apiece while Brendan Cody (12 points) and Quinn Willman (10) also reached double digits. So inquiring minds wondered how a team that scored 27 against Putnam Valley and RCK and hadn't cracked 50 points since a mid-January win over Mahopac could go for



Yorktown's Glen O'Loughlin goes up for two in Husker win over Mamaroneck.

90 in the throes of a four-game skid.

"Couldn't give you any other answer than us playing team ball," Assistant Coach James Loughran said. "The determination and heart this group brings whether we're on a four-game losing streak or a six-game winning streak is incredible. They know what they're capable of doing, we all know what they're capable of doing. Ninety points is no shock when you're doing all the little things right. I always believed because I know the work ethic of these kids."

Yorktown 53, Mamaroneck 45: No.15 host Yorktown saw junior F Tanner Dyslin come of age in his first varsity payoff game. Injured for a good portion of the season, Dyslin returned to scored 22 points and collar six boards as the Huskers (12-9) advanced to the field of 16 where they will face No.2 Fox Lane Wednesday (5:00 p.m.). Yorktown senior G Nick DeDennaro added 19 critical points.

"Tanner is really playing at a high level," second-year Yorktown Coach Kevin Downes said. "He is so efficient. He scored 22 points against Mamaroneck on 8-10 shooting. He's also been very good defensively and rebounding. He had a great start to the season then got injured and came back from surgery, which just shows his toughness and commitment. I'm very proud of him."

The Huskers haven't fared well against the Foxes this season, having suffered a pair of losses by an average of 17 points.

Arlington 59, Mahopac 45: No.13 host Mahopac had defeated Arlington by 21-points to conclude the regular season last Tuesday, but an undermanned Mahopac had its season end abruptly last Friday; mostly because the Indians (11-10) were without senior G Christian Donahoe, who sat out with an ankle injury.

NWE/PUTNAM FAB FIVE POLL (Section 1 teams only)

No.1 PUTNAM VALLEY – Coach McDonnell's state-ranked (No.8) Class B Tigers (18-2), seeded No.2 in the tournament, will have to go through Irvington, and the Pleasantville/Westlake winner to get to the County Center where they can expect a rematch with a formidable No.3 Blind Brook they just handled before a potential rematch with top-seeded, state-ranked (No.3) Briarcliff, whom they lost to in mid-January. It's now or never fellas' and I'm betting on



Yorktown G Nick DeGennaro scores two of his 19 points in Class AA outbracket win over visiting Mamaroneck last Friday.

NOW. With just six players getting major minutes in the rotation, discipline and a high hoops IQ will be the key to success.

No.2 OSSINING – Coach Casey's Class AA Pride (16-4) have won 7 in a row and face a Carmel club they eat by 18 in mid-December. The Pride, which clinched a share of its first league title since 2006, have a trio of players -- Obie Toppin, Alan Griffin and AJ Stokeley – who will be nearly impossible for Carmel to contain, so we expect the 5th-seeded Pride to visit No.5 Saunders with a Final 4 berth on the line, what would be Ossining's first since 1982, according to school officials

No.3 HEN HUD – Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (13-7), the No.8 seed, will host No.9 Harrison in what just might be the best opening round game of the tournament. We know what we will get from All-Section swingman Jesse Breeding, but it will take an abundant effort from Sailors 2-through-7 to reach the quarters and face No.1 Tappan Zee for a shot at their first Final 4 since 1991.

No.4 BREWSTER – Coach Nelly's Class A Bears (12-9) have a penchant for pulling out close games and if there's a true bracket-buster among us, we're thinking this is the club to do so; provided

the Bears believe, like we do, that they match up well with No.4 Lourdes and No.6 Beacon.

No.5 YORKTOWN – Coach Downes' Class AA Huskers (12-9) picked up the pieces from a 3-game skid and did what they had to do vs. Mamaroneck to crack the field of 16.

HM CARMEL – Coach Venditto's 12th-seeded Class AA Rams (11-10) will need another monster scoring effort to hang with No.5 Ossining and their best defensive effort of the season; something along the lines of that first-half effort against Put Valley back in Dec.

HM SOMERS – Coach DeCintio's young Class A Tuskers (7-14) are already in next year's top 5 poll, unless we hear about a lack of commitment in the off-season, which seems unlikely.

HM CROTON – Coach Thom's 12th-seeded Class B Tigers (9-11) need to find a way to get their outgoing coach one last playoff win against a very beatable No.5 Woodlands (10-9) team that will find it very tough to three-peat.

HM MAHOPAC – Coach Simone's Class AA Indians (11-10) were without the keys to the ignition when forced to play without injured senior G Christian Donahoe in a 59-45 loss to Arlington.

Sports

Wrestling Notebook

Put Valley Sends 5 to States, Takes 2nd in D-II Tourney

Melikian, Larm, Knox, Artope, Burbano, Semenetz, DiNardo All Crowned Champs

By Tony Pinciario

Noah Kelvas had a junior year that no wrestler should endure.

Two weeks into his season, the current Putnam Valley senior suffered a torn meniscus which led to surgery. Following the surgery, he was diagnosed with a hernia, but developed an infection from the knee surgery, which delayed the hernia procedure and ended all hope of returning to action.

Kelvas, the 2013 Section 1 Division II 106-pound champion, returned to the mat healthy this year. He had an excellent regular season and carried that into sectionals where he was, once again, crowned a champion at Pearl River High School last Saturday.

Kelvas was dominating the 126-pound final before pinning Edgemont's George Mellor at 5:26.

The Tiger had five champions – Mike Bruno (99 pounds), Kyle Sams (113), Satoshi Abe (120), Jared Eliopoulos (132) and Kelvas – among its 12 placefinishers, but Pearl River edged out Putnam Valley (282 points-272.5) for the Section 1 Division II team title. Pearl River had 15 placefinishers in all.

Eliopoulos, who pinned Edgemont's Kyle Aslanian in the 132-final, was named Most Outstanding Wrestler. Sams and Abe won their second consecutive sectional titles, giving PV four underclassmen as champions.

All the champions in the Division II and Division I Championships stamped their ticket for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Division I and Division II Wrestling Championships,



ROCK OGO/CARLA SAMS/RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS
PV coaches Will Carano (L) & Evan Kneuer (R) pose with Section 1 champions Mikey Bruno, Kyle Sams, Satoshi Abe, Noah Kelvas & Jared Eliopoulos.

Friday-Saturday, Feb. 26-27, at the Times Union Center in Albany.

Kelvas closed out the regular season winning the 126-pound title at the Peter Caruso (Mahopac) Tournament. Even though Putnam Valley had two weeks with no matches prior to sectionals, Kelvas was ready.

"Finishing first at the Mahopac tournament was a great way to end the regular season and I definitely felt that I was at my peak going into sectionals," Kelvas said.

Once the referee slammed the mat to signify the pin, it hit Kelvas what his second sectional title meant.

"I was relieved and happy that all my hard work paid off," Kelvas said. "I was able to persevere from my injuries and come back. Last year, I felt like I hit rock-bottom. Mentally and emotionally I felt beaten, but I was looking forward to and glad to come back this year and finish it off winning in the sectional finals."

Even though Pearl River stopped Putnam Valley's bid for a third straight sectional title, the Tigers had all of their wrestlers place.

"I'm very proud of our team," Kelvas said. "We knew how tight it was going to be the whole time, but every single one of us was able to pull it off and place. And Owen McDonald, wrestled his hardest and did a great job. Coach Carano was also proud of us. He said we went out there and we all wrestled and fought as hard as we could and gave it 110 percent."

McDonald was seeded seventh, but was a 106-pound finalist.

DIVISION I

Alexander Melikian was hoping for another opportunity to face John Jay-Cross River's Evan Frank, especially after Frank decided him 3-1 in the Westchester County 182-pound final.

The Lakeland senior received his chance and evened the score in a much more important match – the 182-pound final of the Section 1 Division I Wrestling Championships/New York State Qualifier.

Melikian initiated a shot with eights seconds remaining

and secured a takedown with two seconds in overtime for a 3-1 victory and his first sectional title. Melikian is Lakeland/Panas' first champ since Joe Hauser, a Lakeland graduate, won a title in 2009.

"I wanted to keep grinding him and I wanted to put him that position," said Melikian of the decisive takedown. "Coach Tortora at Iowa Style says, 'You can drag guys into the deep water where we can swim, but they can't.'"

"Something in my head clicked. There was eight seconds left and I felt he was prone so I went after him and all of my training kicked it."

Melikian wasn't sure he had the two points until he heard the referee yell out, "Takedown."

"It took a while for it to register, but I it feels great and I am ecstatic," said Melikian, a Catholic State runner-up for Kennedy (Somers) last year.

Teammate Brandon DiDomenico placed fourth in the 106-pound weight class.

BREWSTER senior Mike Larm was preparing for sectionals by discussing it with his older brother, Tom, the Ossining varsity assistant. Tom, also a former Brewster wrestler, gave Mike advice and one point, in particular, stood out.

"Tom has always told me that you pin to win," Larm said.

Larm carried out his brother's words, registering four pins on his way to the Section 1 Division 1 285-pound championship. Teammate Grant Cuomo will be joining Larm in Albany after winning the 152-pound crown.

"I came in wanting to wrestle aggressively, like I've done all year, and it happened that way," said Larm of the pins.

Larm had three pins in the first period, including the title match against Tappan Zee's Edwin Rodriguez. His fourth pin came 14 seconds into the second period. Larm has been undefeated since a loss in the third-place match of the Eastern States in early January.

"Coming into this I felt I had a target on my back and I really wanted to prove myself so I felt I really stepped it up," Larm said. "After Eastern States, I made a few adjustments, but noting crazy. I just felt I had to tighten things up. Winning feels great and I am grateful to my brother and my coaches for all they've done."

Cuomo posted a 15-2 major decision over New Rochelle's Jordan Wallace in the final. Cuomo took control in the opening 30 seconds with a takedown that he locked up a tight cradle for a 5-0 lead.

HEN HUD made its first showing



Putnam Valley's Noah Kelvas takes center stage after winning his 2nd Section 1 title.

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Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

Somers, Peekskill, Brewster, Panas Poised to Make Class A Run

All Systems Go for Reigning Three-Time Class AA Champ Ossining

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

It's been a long time since anyone can remember a better regular season by Class A local schools, including second-seeded Somers (18-2), No.5 Peekskill (15-5), No.6 Brewster (16-4) and No.10 Panas (13-7); which makes four of the top 10 seeds hailing from the Northern Westchester/Putnam area in this week's Section 1 tournament.

And when you add in three-time reigning NYS Class AA champion Ossining (18-2), we are looking at an epic regular season and high hopes for all when it comes to playoff aspirations and the road to the Final 4, the Westchester County Center and the coveted Gold Ball.

CLASS AA

OSSINING enters as the No.1 seed and knocking off Coach Dan Ricci's Pride would be nothing short of miraculous, unless the unit, which starts three talented freshmen – Aubrey Griffin, Kailah Harris and Jaida Strippoli – gets engulfed by the



Brewster G Dayja Medina hopes to lead 6th-seeded Bears to Final 4.

moment. Ossining's great fallback plan is cutting loose All-NYS senior Shadeen Samuels, arguably the finest player in Section 1 and NYS. The Seton Hall-bound Samuels, a finalist for the NYS Gatorade Player of the Year, has to stir the drink if Ossining is going to continue the most impressive run in the history of NYSPHSAA girls' hoops.

"It's all systems go," Coach Ricci said after the state-ranked (No.1) Pride had a terrific scrimmage against Capital Prep from Hartford, CT, Saturday. "I think we are peaking at the right time. My hope



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Peekskill's All-NYS G Lanay Rodney and Coach Kim Saxton have a tough road to hoe in Class A playoffs.

is that freshmen are ready now after 20 games under their belt. Aubrey is playing great. Kailah is much improved and Jaida is great at times but still has her freshmen moments. We need to cut down our turnovers and we'll be fine."

The Pride, winners of 75-straight against NYSPHSAA foes and 81 in a row over Section 1, were expected to make quick work of No.16 Clarkstown North in the opening round before taking on the White Plains/Lourdes winner in the quarters. No.4 New Rochelle is the best bet for a semifinal opponent, with No.2 North Rockland or No.3 Scarsdale expected in the finals.

It'll be hard for Ossining to not look ahead to a March 1st date with the eventual Section 4 champion (possibly Binghamton) in the opening round of the



Ossining's Aubrey Griffin is as talented a freshman as we've seen in these parts since former Pride sensation Saniya Chong.

state tournament and an ensuing showdown with the likely Section 9 champion, Monroe-Woodbury in the NYS quarters.

MAHOPAC (10-10) drew the No.12 seed and will visit No.5 Arlington Wednesday (6:15 p.m.).

YORKTOWN (8-12) drew the No.17 seed and will visit No.2 North Rockland Wednesday (4:15 p.m.)

CLASS A

SOMERS added senior G Gabby Rosenzweig to its list of 1,000-point scorers last week when the All-Section captain dropped 22 points and hit 12 for 12 from the line, the milestone point coming

from the charity stripe less than one minute in to the 50-44 win over Yorktown.

Being a 1,000-point scorer herself, Somers Coach Kristi Dini assessed the situation with pride and recollection. Rosenzweig has meant as much, if not more, to Somers hoops than any player Dini has coached in her four seasons on the Tusker sideline.

"I'm just so happy for her," Dini said of the four-year player, who she broke in with. "It's not an easy thing to do, but he does so much for her teammates and this program, so to see her accomplish this was very special for all of us."

State-ranked (No.17) Somers, which won for the ninth time in a row and set a school record for wins (18), will go through Hen Hud in today's first round (6:00 p.m.) and the Pearl River/Panas winner in the quarters to reach the County Center for the first time anyone can recall.

PEEKSKILL may have received the toughest draw in the tournament, what with No.4 seeded Albertus Magnus, the defending Class A champion, potentially lying in the quarterfinal wings and top-seeded Ursuline in the semis. So, just to reach the Final 4, the state-ranked (No.13) Lady Red Devils will have to go into hostile territory and beat Magnus, the Catholic powerhouse in the NYSPHSAA tournament, after an opening-round bout with No.12 Nanuet today at 4:30 p.m.

The Lanay Rodney-led Red Devils should cruise past the Golden Knights but they would have to defeat the state-ranked (No.8) Falcons to reach the County Center where top-seeded, state-ranked (No.3) Ursuline should be waiting. It's entirely possible that Peekskill may have received the toughest draw in the history of the



Ossining's Jaida Strippoli and Peekskill's Lisana Burnett are hoping to step up in prime time.

Section 1 tournament. If the Red Devils play hard from start to finish and enter the tournament with an "Us-Against-The-World" mentality, Peekskill could certainly beat the odds at their home away from home, the County Center.

BREWSTER Coach Mike Castaldo guided the Bears to their finest year in quite some time and garnered the No.6 seed, which drew visiting No.11 Pelham in today's opening round at 5:00 p.m. when seniors Frannie Merkel and Dayja Medina hope to continue their magical campaign.

"I'm just so proud of what these girls accomplished," Castaldo said. "It's the best year we've had a Brewster in quite a few years. We feel like we can pose some match-up problems for teams and hope to take advantage of that."

Beyond Pelham, Brewster will likely see No.3 Rye in the quarters.

PANAS will visit No.7 Pearl River today (6:00 p.m.) as Coach Matt Evangelista's Panthers try to prolong what has been Panas' best season in a number of years. A win at Pearl River would likely pit the Panthers against No.2 Somers.

CLASS B

PUTNAM VALLEY (14-6) drew the No.7 seed and will host No.10 Westlake Wednesday (5:00 p.m.) in the hopes of taking their top-five regular season to greater heights. An opening-round loss would put quite the damper on an otherwise terrific season. No.2 Briarcliff would be their second-round opponent should the Reena Olsen/Alysa Stockinger-led Tigers be so fortunate.

Mahopac, Somers/NS Split League I-A Bragging Rights

Brotherly Love at Somers Skating up a Storm

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

With a share of the League I-A title on the line last Wednesday at the Brewster Ice Arena, the Mahopac Indians produced a 3-2 win over visiting Hen Hud/Haldane and snagged fifth-year Coach Chris Lombardo his first league crown.

Mahopac (12-7) will have to settle for a share, though, as co-champion, splitting bragging rights with surging Somers/North Salem (14-4-2) because Section 1 is not counting any of the mandatory crossover games against the league record, leaving only 10 games to judge the league title on. Both the Indians and Sabers went 9-1 in those games and split the season series.

Chris Bednar, Joe Mastrocola and JP McKenzie each scored once for Mahopac in the win over Hen Hud/Haldane and Coach Lombardo was proud on behalf of his club.

"The first goal we set at the beginning

of the season was a league championship," the coach said. "The kids have worked hard to accomplish that goal. I would also like to congratulate Coach Vetere and his Somers/North Salem team for being Co-Champs. We knew coming into the year that depth would be a strength. It hasn't been just one guy that has carried us. We've been able to play 11-12 forwards, 5-6 D consistently and have received great contributions from them all. And we've been able to rotate three goalies during the regular season. Not many other teams can do that. It has just kept up the competitive spirit in practice. This is the first time I can remember getting scoring from so many players. Using that depth has really allowed us to have fresh legs in the third period of games. And the third period has been the big difference in several of our games



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Hen Hud's Quinten Evangelou and Joe Fareed put the pinch on Mahopac's Jon Mastrocola in Indians' 3-2 win over Sailors at BIA last Wednesday.



Hen Hud's Mike Harmancin and Joe Fareed try to slow down Mahopac's Chris Bednar in 3-2 Indian win.



Mahopac's Jon Mastrocola was a force in 3-2 win over Hen Hud-Haldane.



Somers senior RJ LaSpina has led the team to a 14-4-2 record, the best in program history.

this year."

SOMERS senior forward RJ LaSpina, and kid brother Brandon, a freakish freshman, have torn it up all season for the Sabers, who were unbeaten in the last six, including Saturday's 4-3 victory over Pearl River. Brandon LaSpina scored with .1 second left to lift the Sabers to the come-from-behind win and secure the best record in school history. Jon Henning tied the game 7:30 left, and RJ LaSpina assisted on each goal.

The dynamic duo, and linemates, have combined for 76 points this season, including 41 goals and 35 assists while leading the Sabers to their second league title ever. RJ has 21 goals and 20 assists

while Brandon has 20 goals and 15 assists on the year.

"It's the greatest feeling to look up and see my brother next to me on the ice," RJ said. "From playing together in the backyard, or out on the pond, it's as if we have been playing on the same line for years. It's a chemistry that can't be broken, and it has brought us success on the ice. We play strong teams and strong individuals, however, the chemistry we have finds the loopholes and allows us to put points on the board."

The LaSpina boys are all about T-E-A-M, though, and the feeling is they're far from done, having gone 9-1-1 in the last

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Sports

Mahopac, Somers/NS Split League I-A Bragging Rights

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Mahopac's Chris Bednar shrugs off a hit from Hen Hud's Mike Harmancin in Indians' 3-2 win over Sailors.

11. A second pair of top-notch brothers, the Henning boys -- G Tim and versatile sophomore Jon -- add to the family chemistry among Coach Vetere's Sabers.

"For the team, winning a part of the league championship is a huge accomplishment," RJ said. "Somers/North Salem hockey has only done this one other time in the history of the team, so to be a part of both winning teams is an honor. We have a great group of talented, persistent players, who hard work, which has led to our success lately. Everyone on the team is getting their names on the scoresheet, and we look forward to keep that rolling through the playoffs."

YORKTOWN saw Anuj Gupta bag a hat trick in the Huskers' 9-1 win over Pawling. Cian Keohane added four assist while G Dylan

Tolbert notched 30 saves and the Huskers finished the regular season at 10-9-1. Shaun Benson reached a milestone in the win, going for his 100th career point.

BREWSTER's Antonio Barone notched a goal and an assist in the Bears'

3-1 win over Pawling. Kevin Moroney and Joe Rodriguez each scored once for the Bears, who finished the regular season at 17-2-1 and second place in League I-B behind John Jay CR.

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Put Valley Sends 5 to States, Takes 2nd in D-II Tourney

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in the Section 1 Division II Wrestling Championships a memorable one for longtime, outgoing Coach Paul Lavallee, finishing third, behind champ Pearl River and Putnam Valley.

The Sailors had 11 placefinishers, including five finalists, led by champions Sebastian Burbano (160) and Jordan Artope (182). Matt Kempfski (195), Colin Park (220) and Illham Nasirov (285) were runners-up.

Burbano registered a 10-8 victory over Pleasantville's Lou Quintanilla, who was 26-0 entering the final. Burbano posted an escape to even the score at 8-8 with 20 seconds remaining in the match, then added the decisive takedown with eight ticks on the clock.

"Coming into the match, I knew he was good on his feet so I knew that I had to be better," Burbano said. "After I had a 4-1 lead in the first, I felt more comfortable."

Even though Burbano was trailing, 8-7, to start the third, he kept pushing the pace.

"One thing I have been working on all season is my conditioning with high-intensity conditioning," Burbano said. "I knew he couldn't hold me down because I knew that I was tiring him out."

Winning a sectional title was great, but Burbano was just as psyched for the team's performance.

"Coming into the season we had a lot of young kids with no experience, but we pulled together," Burbano said. "With all the hard training they put into it, they really stepped up to the task. It was also a great send off for Coach Lavallee, this being his last year coaching varsity."

MAHOPAC junior Garrett Semenetz came into the Section 1 Division I Championships as the top seed at 99 pounds.

"I felt the pressure and it was nerve-wracking because there were high expectations of me and I wanted to live up to them," Semenetz said.

His performance proved that he conquered whatever pressure he may have felt as Semenetz cruised to

the 99-pound title. He punctuated it with a 13-0 major decision over Arlington's Dennis Robin in the final.

Teammate Mike DiNardo added his second consecutive sectional title, pinning Arlington's Tanner Nielsen in the 195-pound final.

"I had pinned the second seed and majored the third seed this season, but that didn't matter," Semenetz said. "I still had to wrestle smart because anyone could have upset me."

Semenetz's closest match was a 10-6 decision in the semifinals, but the final score was not indicative of the match.

"What pleased me about the way I wrestled was the amount of points I scored, especially in the final, and I did not allow my opponent to score," he said. "I feel like I'm on top of the world."

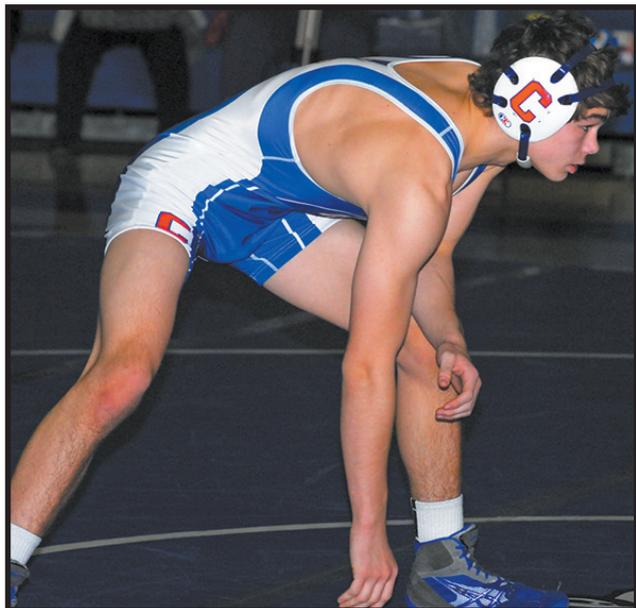
Yorktown had two placefinishers as

Connor Thomas took third at 160 pounds and Josh Grant finished fifth at 182 pounds.

Grant advanced to the championship semifinals and Thomas, after losing the quarterfinal round, wrestled back to third. He defeated top-seeded Alex Leone of Carmel in the consolation semifinals then fifth-seeded Daniel Price in the third-place match.

CARMEL senior Kevin Knox won the 132-pound weight class for his second straight sectional title. Teammates Ahken Chu (138) and Alex Leone (160) finished third and fifth, respectively.

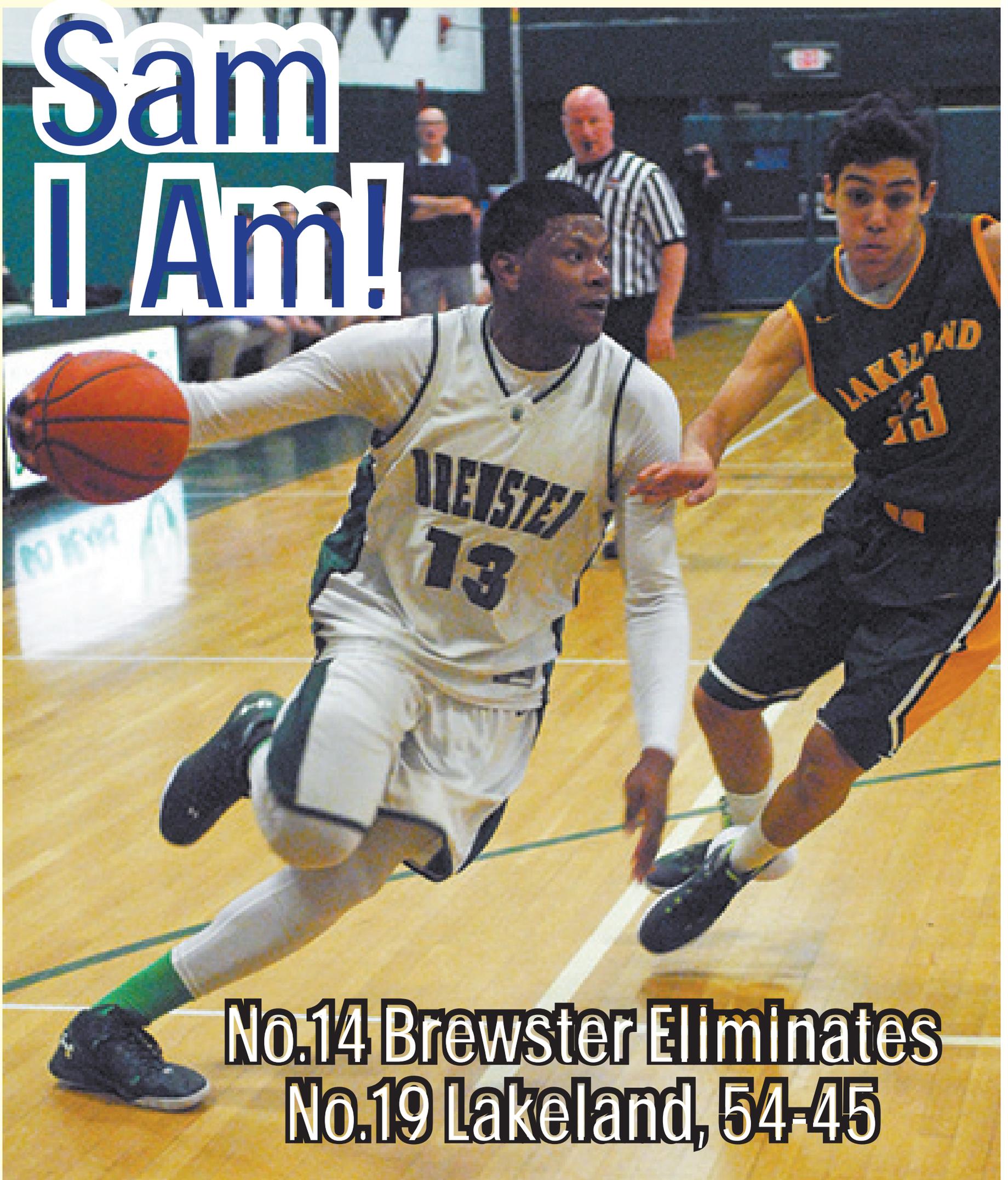
NOTES: In Division 1, 11 out of 15 champs, five seconds and a slew of placefinishers hailed from Coach John Degl's Iowa Style Wrestling Camp. It's safe to say ISW is the place to train in section one these days.



Carmel's Kevin Knox was crowned 132-pound champion at the D-II Section 1 tournament last Sunday.



Putnam Valley 7th-grader Will Carano puts a hold on foe en route to 4th-place finish in D-II sectional tourney Saturday.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Brewster senior F Sam Adama drives the lane on Lakeland's David Kale for two of his game-high 16 points in the 14th-seeded Bears' 54-49 win over No.19 Lakeland in Friday's outbracket action of the Section 1 Class A tournament where the surging Bears advanced to today's opening round against No.3 host Our Lady of Lourdes... see Boys' Hoops Notebook