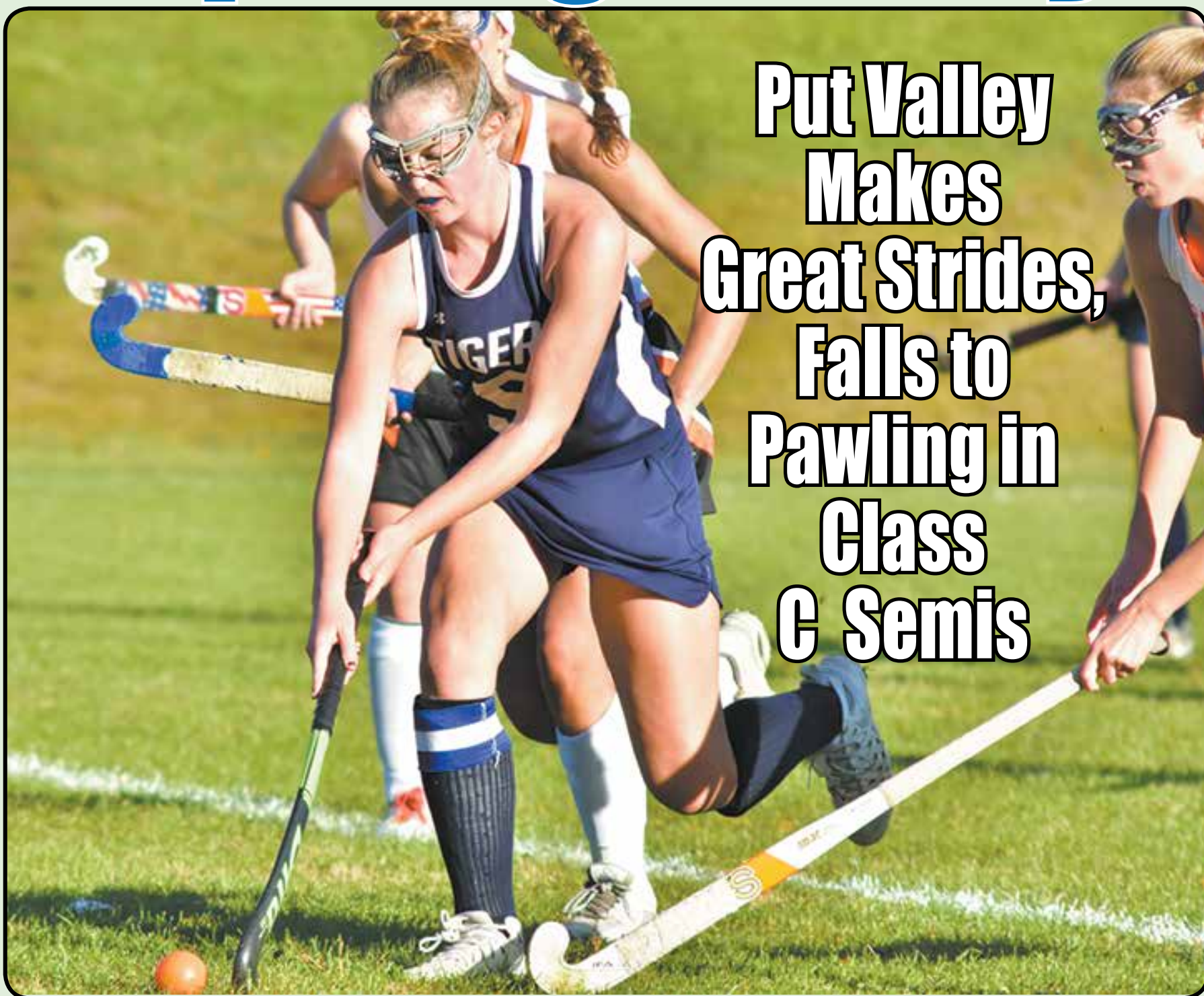


The Putnam
Examiner
Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

Hopalong Cassidy!

**Put Valley
Makes
Great Strides,
Falls to
Pawling in
Class
C Semis**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Putnam Valley junior Captain Colleen Cassidy makes a strong move forward in the seventh-seeded Tigers 2-0 loss to No.6 host Pawling in the semifinal round of the Section 1 Class C Field Hockey Tournament last Thursday when PV reached its first sectional Final 4 since 2012 but failed to mount enough offense against a stingy Pawling defense. With a slew of underclassmen returning next season, the Tigers will challenge themselves to get back to the sectional finals for the first time since 2008.. see Field Hockey Notebook

Sports

Soccer Notebook

Somers Boys, Haldane Girls Add Notches to Championship Belts

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

The Somers boys and the Haldane girls were the lone survivors after championship weekend, each braving difficult weather conditions to survive and advance into the NYSPHSAA tournament as representatives from Section 1.

From its stingy back line, to its rugged midfield, to its potent attack, **SOMERS** High has the necessary star power to produce results and procure Section

The Tuskers won their second Section 1 title in three years, and, with an opening-round bye, advanced to face the Section 9 (Cornwall)/Section 4 (TBD) winner on Saturday at either Section 4's Wright National Soccer Campus in Oneonta or Section 9's Middletown High School, depending on who wins.

Somers senior M Jon Riina, the grinder, had a goal and two assists, including a nifty touch-pass to senior striker Lucas Fecci, who assisted on the Riina tally. With a 4-0 Somers lead just over 23 minutes in,



Somers striker Lucas Fecci sets up first-half goal in Tuskers' 4-2 Section 1 Class A title win over Pearl River Saturday.

1 championships, which Coach Brian Lanzetta's sixth-seeded Tuskers (17-4) did with relative ease in decisive 4-2 Class A title triumph of seventh-seeded Pearl River last Saturday at Lakeland High School.

the rainy, windy weather would make it tough for Pearl River to mount any sort of comeback.

"We knew the weather was going to play a big part in this game so we wanted to come out here and show them who we



Somers M Alex Maher does a belly slide to celebrate Lucas Fecci goal in Tuskers' 4-2 Section 1 Class A title win over Pearl River Saturday.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers M Jon Riina heads ball on goal in Tuskers' 4-2 Section 1 Class A title win over Pearl River Saturday.

are right away," said Fecci, who was also a key player as a sophomore on the 2016 NYS title team. "We came out a hundred percent focused and ready to play. This sectional title is 10 times better than the last one being a senior at all. This is the greatest thing ever. We need to show the younger guys what it's like to when at states; it's the greatest thing in the world. Everything coach does pays off. It's fantastic what he does for us. He does all the little things and they're paying off for us."

Riina was prolific all over the field, doing the little things and the big things. His touches were quick and on-point, always moving forward, finding open teammates and leading to Tusker rushes.

"Like we said, winning a section title was our end goal, but we're not done yet," said Riina, who scored the game-winning goal in the state finals in 2016 as a sophomore. "The message from our seniors was that every game could be our

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Somers M Andrew Lasher sends a header between the pipes in Tuskers' 4-2 Section 1 Class A title win over Pearl River Saturday.

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Soccer Notebook



Somers G Connor O'Donoghue punches one out in Tuskers' 4-2 Section 1 Class A title win over Pearl River Saturday.

last game. We put our stamp on this game in the first half."

After a goal by sophomore wing Ethan Cukaj just five minutes into the game for a 1-0 lead, Fecci and Riina went to work, assisting on each other's goal and swelling the lead to 3-0 before Somers M Andrew Lasher headed one home before the half for a 4-0 lead.

"I've been playing with Lucas since like the first grade and I know every move he's going to make before he makes it," Riina

said. "He helps me out so much. He takes off so much of the pressure. To see him get the ball on his foot and turn up field it's just a thing of beauty. The sectional title is the icing on the cake, so now we're looking to take this thing further. We need some intense practices this week to go out and take the region title, and then we're out to the state tournament looking to win a state title for the second time in three years, baby."

State-ranked (No.17) Somers Coach



Tuskers jump for joy with Section 1 title plaque after 4-2 Section 1 Class A title win over Pearl River Saturday.

Brian Lanzetta inherited two of the top players in program history in Riina and Fecci, and the duo have led by example since they were rookies, along with senior M Alex Maher (1A) and senior D Max Grell, who controlled the back line with keeper Conner O'Donoghue.

"They are special," Lanzetta admitted. "When sectionals started, we said we need to strike first and strike hard. They know how important that first goal is. This group is by far the most talented I've ever worked with. It's been a roller-coaster all season with them, but they flip that switch and know how serious this is when it's time for sectionals. The seniors have really come together and the juniors have really stepped up. I'm just so humbly grateful to be a part of this. Getting out of Section one is the most important thing. Then, everything on top of that is like an ice cream sundae, you get the sprinkles next and then put the cherry on top with a state title."

Somers has now outscored its Section 1 playoff opponents by a 17-3 margin.

The **HALDANE** girls won their eighth consecutive Section 1 Class C title when junior Jade Villella bagged a hat trick, and junior goalkeeper Abigail Platt posted a shutout in the second-seeded Blue Devils' 4-0 win over top-seeded Solomon Schechter at Arlington High last Sunday. The Blue Devils (8-8-1) will challenge Section 9 champion Millbrook Wednesday in the NYSPHSAA regional semifinal at 3:00 p.m. at Arlington. Haldane defeated Millbrook, 2-1, in overtime in last year's regional round. Freshman Katie Shields also scored for the Blue Devils, who have staked their claim as a Class C soccer dynasty like few others in Section 1 history have.

The **Class AA OSSINING** Pride was denied its first championship in 40 years when sixth-seeded Roy C. Ketcham withstood the



Somers wing Ethan Cukaj drills game's first goal in Tuskers' 4-2 Section 1 Class A title win over Pearl River Saturday.

top-seeded Pride's bevy of talent and held on for a 2-1 win last Saturday at Lakeland High, giving the Indians their first Section 1 championship since 2004.

RCK (14-5-1) limited Ossining's high-powered offense and star striker Mateo Marra to just one goal, his 24th of the season, and caught a lucky break when an apparent foul on Marra in the box went uncalled. Ossining (16-2-2) had its finest season in decades cut short as a result of that and a pair of crossbars that denied two quality cranks. The senior duo of Marra and Nolan Lenaghan will go down in Pride history as one of the finest one-two punches to ever grace the Ossining pitch, and the unit will long be recalled as one of its best.



Somers' Alex Maher, Jose Giron and Sean Dickson celebrate after Tuskers' 4-2 Section 1 Class A title win over Pearl River Saturday.

Sports

Grid Notebook

Class B Putnam Valley Advances to its First Section 1 Title Game

Sixth-Seeded Tigers Stun No.2 Pleasantville; Kennedy Earns No.1 Seed; Carmel, Somers Fall in Semis

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

There's just one team left standing in the Northern Westchester/Putnam County Examiner region; one lone wolf that never expected to last this deep into the fall foliage.

Through seven weeks of an otherwise arduous 1-6 regular season, there's not an honest soul in PUTNAM VALLEY who would have looked anyone straight in the eye and said, "We're a championship contender!"

Yet, lo' and behold Coach Ryan Elsasser's Tigers (3-6) are flirting with the first Section 1 Class B championship in program history after two stunning playoff victories: Almost miraculously, Putnam Valley regrouped with an upset win over Nanuet in the opening round, and if that wasn't startling enough, the sixth-seeded Tigers followed that up last Friday with an even more staggering 36-25 semifinal victory against No.2 Pleasantville, the former reigning NYS champion Panthers.

Putnam Valley will face state-ranked (No.3), top-seeded Ardsley in Friday's championship game (4:30 p.m.) at Mahopac High School for the first time ever.

According to senior RB John Listwan, it's like the Tigers flipped a switch and mutated into something nobody saw coming. We know for a fact from talking with coaches and dads of the players,



Putnam Valley senior Darnel Shillingford manhandles a pair of P'Ville defenders in Tigers' 36-25 Section 1 Class B semifinal win.

that the Tigers were extremely depressed about the dreadful start; so what exactly happened over there the southwestern Putnam County thicket to change things?

"I would say that you are pretty much right with that line (about being depressed), but we flipped a switch," said Listwan, who beasted through what can only be described as the single greatest performance in school history. The mighty Listwan deadlifted the Tigers to the title tilt after rushing for a school record 289 yards and four TDs on 30 carries, including a 66-yard, game-sealing scoring jaunt on fourth-and-one after the Panthers trimmed the deficit to one, 18-17.

"We finally said that the regular season didn't matter now and all that matters is what's next, week by week," Listwan, the third-year RB/LB and co-captain, added. "What really changed it is that

everybody on the team got on board and started to give 100% effort every practice and every snap in the games. We most of all started to work as one team for the first

time all season in the quarterfinal game, and then we realized that we knew that good stuff will happen from then on out. Our mistakes on both sides of the ball diminished greatly from focusing more on what we each have to do as a team."

PV senior WR Darnel Shillingford added TD trots of 15 and three yards while the Tigers accumulated 418 yards of total offense.

"I feel that the main change that occurred was that the team started to come together," PV Coach Ryan Elsasser said. "They began to trust each other and trust the process. Once we started working together on the field we started seeing what we could actually do. Before this week's game, we sat in the locker room and took a second to take in the moment. We looked around and I told the team that they belong here, that they deserve to be here. We made it clear to the players that it does not matter how they started the season, what matters is how they finish the season. We asked the kids to leave everything on the field, there is no second chances in the post season, leave the field with nothing left in the tank. In post season games you need the entire team to contribute and the last two games, we have had just that. I am very proud of the entire team and staff in what they are putting on the field."

According to Elsasser, Shillingford broke the following records: Single Season Receiving Record (457 yards); Career Receiving Record (1,051 yards); Career Tackles Record (263). Listwan now owns the following records: Single Game Rushing Record (289 yards); Single Season Rushing Record (1,035 yards) and Career Rushing Record (1,509 yards); Single Season Tackles Record (108, breaking Shillingford's record of 94 from last season).

On and off the field, Shillingford and Listwan have staked their claim as the most dynamic 1-2 punch in program history, win or lose this Friday.

"John Listwan was a force with the ball this week, flying down the field for four touchdowns," Elsasser added. "Darnel Shillingford's impressive blocking led the way for



Put Valley QB Quinn Strang rolls out during an impressive performance that advanced the Tigers to their first Section 1 title tilt.



Carmel RB Sam Dukes powers ahead for gain in Rams' 54-34 loss to New Rochelle in Class AA semifinal Saturday.

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Grid Notebook

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John, and he had two touchdowns of his own. It was an exciting game for these guys. They all deserve it, but no one more so than Darnel and John. Those two guys have been workhorses their entire careers."

Tigers David Maloney and Chris Cottrell each contributed with a sack and DB Joseph Cioffi had another clutch interception late in the game.

"Our offensive and defensive lines were battling in the trenches all game," the coach said. "We fought through aches and pains and the amount of growth I have seen in some of the younger players the last two weeks is astonishing."

CLASS AA

No.2 host New Rochelle (8-1) was put to the test by No.6 **CARMEL** (6-3) in the Huguenots' 54-34 Class AA semifinal win last Saturday. Coach Todd Cayea's have nothing to hand their heads over after their failed attempt to slay the dragon that New Ro' football has morphed into. The road to a Section 1 title runs through

state-ranked (No.6) New Rochelle, the three-time defending Section 1 champs, who have won 11 of the last 15 since 2003, but Carmel was unphased and challenged the Huguenots like few Section 1 teams ever have when the Rams nearly erased a 27-point deficit and was within a touchdown early in the fourth quarter.

Versatile Carmel senior Joe Mascetta put the fear of God into the Huguenot faithful. First, he snagged a touchdown pass from QB Peyton Cayea before halftime. Then, the speedster returned kickoffs for a pair of fourth-quarter scores, racing 81 and 91 yards to paydirt. Cayea orchestrated several clutch drives and threw two touchdown passes, and senior RB Sam Duke slammed into the end zone for another fourth quarter score. But New Ro' responded and will challenge top-seeded, state-ranked (No.15) John Jay EF (9-0) in Saturday's sectional championship.

Carmel never goes down easy, and that's what folks respect most about Carmel football.

"We let everyone know that Carmel football won't go down without a fight," Duke said. "It was a crazy game. We gave up too many explosive plays, but we never gave up and played for each other until the clock hit zero. We just came up short."

"We gave it our best shot, everything we had," Peyton Cayea said.

CLASS A

SOMERS ran into an unstoppable force in John Jay QB Bryce Ford, who Tusker Coach Tony DeMatteo called "the most dynamic football player I've seen in my 50 years of coaching" after the senior posted some awfully gaudy digits in second-seeded John Jay's 29-7 victory over the visiting sixth-seeded Tuskers.

Ford went for 40 carries, 257 yards and three rushing TDs. Through the air, Ford hit on 15 of 20 passes for 123 yards and a score to RB James Machado. He added two picks on defense for the

Indians, who advanced to their first title game since the 2011 loss to Poughkeepsie.

State-ranked (No.13) John Jay (9-0) will play No.16 Rye (8-1) for a Section 1 title Friday at Mahopac (7:30 p.m.).

"We just couldn't stop (Ford)," Coach DeMatteo said. "Off the top of my head, I can't remember facing anyone better than him. We're pretty banged up coming in to the game. Some key guys were hurt last week, three or four of them. I don't think our schedule helped much, but that's the way it goes. It really had an effect on us. We lost everyone from last year's team and the schedule they gave us we never should have had, but



Four Tuskers try in vain to catch Jay QB Bryce Ford in Tuskers' 29-7 Section 1 Class A semifinal loss to Indians last Friday.



Carmel QB Peyton Cayea sheds tackle in Rams' 54-34 loss to New Rochelle in Class AA semifinal Saturday.



Somers FB Jack Kaiser seeks a crease in Tuskers' 29-7 Section 1 Class A semifinal loss to Indians last Friday.



Carmel WR-RB Joe Mascetta picks up blocks and breaks free for kick return TD in Rams' 54-34 loss to New Rochelle in Class AA semifinal Saturday.

these kids climbed out of a big black hole going 0-2 and then getting here, so I'm very proud of them."

Even at full health, the Tuskers would have had a rough time with Ford, who upped his Section 1-best totals to 1,656 rushing yards and 21 TDs while passing for 1,590 yards and 19 TDs.

It was more than a game through halftime, Somers trailing 14-7 at the break. Just before the break, though, Ford's end zone interception stopped Somers' increasing energy with 11 seconds left in the first half and Jay maintained its touchdown lead before dominating the second half.

Somers sophomore Jack Kaiser led the state-ranked (No.27) Tuskers with 17 carries for 86 yards and the lone Tusker score, ending his season with 25 TDs, the second most in school history (Messiah Horne, 30). In all, Somers was out-gained 432-157.

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Sports

Field Hockey Notebook

Cappello Goes Off, Lakeland Wins 10th-Straight Section 1 Title

Putnam Valley Ousted in Semis; Somers Falls in Quarters

By Tony Pinciario

Following a one-goal victory over John Jay-Cross River during the regular season, Lakeland understood it would see the Indians again.

With this in mind, the Hornets implemented a couple of adjustments and carried them out in a dominant 6-1 victory over the third seed in the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey final at Brewster.

Lakeland, the top seed, is now 19-0 on the season. The Hornets play Section 9 champion Rondout Valley in a regional semifinal at Dietz Stadium in Kingston. The winner advances to the regional final, Saturday, 2 p.m., at Lakeland.

The Hornets, under recent Westchester County Hall of Fame inductee Coach Sharon Sarson, have now won a Section 1-record 10 consecutive Class B titles.

However, this was the first time during their run the Hornets did not play Rye for the title.

Senior Julianna Cappello erupted for four goals and Emma Halderman added one goal and two assists. In three sectional games, Cappello has scored eight goals and won the Con Ed Scholar Athlete Award.

"When we played them earlier, we realized they have a strong defender and strong forward so we focused on marking them all the time, not allowing them to receive the ball," said Cappello, who will attend Quinnipiac University next fall and also play field hockey. "We also knew they would come in with a lot of intensity so we wanted to match their intensity, but also rise above that. We focused on keeping our energy positive and not letting them get into our heads."

Cappello got into John Jay's head, giving Lakeland early command with the game's first goal.

"Julianna is such a hard-working player in every single game and she dominated because this game was very important to her as well as the rest of the team," said classmate and fellow captain, Julia Cummings. "This game meant so much to us, so we played as hard as we could to get the win."



RICK KUPERBERG/RAY GALLAGHER/JIM VAN DEVELDE PHOTOS

Lakeland's recent Con Ed Award winner Julianna Capello sets up one of four goals in Hornets' 6-1 Section 1 Class B title win over John Jay Saturday.



Lakeland's Emma Halderman drives past pair of Jay defenders in Hornets' 6-1 Class B title win over Indians Saturday.

Cappello also made an adjustment in her game, allowing herself to become more offensive.

"I tried to stay up toward the goalie, more, than playing a midfielder during the regular-season game," said Cappello, who has a Section 1-leading 38 goals and 23 assists. "I was focused more on the offensive aspect and putting the ball in the cage."

John Jay, who was the only team to score two goals in a game against Lakeland this season, managed just one, spoiling goalie Kellie Smith's shutout.

Cummings and her fellow defenders

were primed to deny John Jay anything, especially inside Lakeland's circle.

"Defensively, we came out very composed and determined to keep them away from our defensive circle," Cummings said.

Lakeland, which owns an unprecedented nine consecutive New York State titles (12 overall), begins the drive for 10. However, Lakeland enjoyed its 10th sectional title on a rainy, chilly October Saturday.

"This championship was unique because first of all, we had to adjust to the freezing cold, rain and wind conditions,"

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Lakeland's Emily Kness powers past Jay defender Cara O'Reilly in top-seeded Hornets' 6-1 Class B title win over Indians Saturday.



Lakeland's Sarah Bussell cranks shot in top-seeded Hornets' 6-1 Section 1 Class B title triumph of No.2 John Jay.

Sports

Field Hockey Notebook

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Putnam Valley junior D Lauren Seiler clears zone in Tigers' 2-0 Section 1 Class C semifinal loss to Pawling last Thursday.



Under the watchful eye of legendary Coach Sharon Sarsen, the Lakeland Hornets hoists their 10th-straight Section 1 title after 6-1 win over John Jay Saturday.



Members of the 2018 Section 1 Class B champion Lakeland Hornets pose after 6-1 title win over John Jay Saturday.

Cumming said. "It is also unique because of the chemistry this team has. We all support each other and want to succeed."

Along with experiencing the joy and euphoria with her teammates, it was even more special to Cappello because she did so with her fellow seniors – Kiera Wax, Emily Kness, Brianna Madison, Sarah Bussell, Cara O'Shea, Gianna Scialdone, Sophia Gloade, Cummings and Smith.

"This year, being our senior season, it's been in our hands and our responsibility to bring our team where it has to be," Cappello said. "The 10 of us led have all had our own individual part in getting us to where we are. For me, it's more exciting to be able to finish as a senior with another sectional championship."

CLASS C

PUTNAM VALLEY, seeded seventh, sent shockwaves through the Class C Field Hockey Championships with a 1-0 victory over second-seeded Albertus Magnus in a first-round game.

Even though Putnam

Valley dropped a 2-0 verdict to eventual champion, Pawling, in a semifinal, the Tigers' strong second-half surge has coach and former Putnam Valley player Courtney Hyndman very happy.

"We had an outstanding season that boosted the girls' morale and their confidence in one another," Hyndman said. "They have done so much for this program and have made everyone so proud of them and all they have accomplished this year. It's the best record and season we've had in years and I am so lucky to have had such a hard working group of girls."

Putnam Valley finished with an 8-10 record and advanced to the sectional semifinals for the first time since 2012, according to Hyndman, who was a member of the 2009 Tigers' team.

Putnam Valley lost, 1-0 and 3-0, to Albertus Magnus during the regular season, but that meant nothing once sectionals started.

Cyera Daughtry scored on a penalty corner 10 minutes into the game and goalie Isabel Healy kicked out five shots for the shutout.

"The girls knew that with the weather and darkness factor they had to score, and score early on," Hyndman said. "We knew it wasn't going to be an easy game being that we played Magnus twice prior to this game, and lost both times, 1-0 and 3-0. The girls just played flawlessly and everything clicked. They were confident in what they were doing, trusted each other, and got the job done. I was so impressed and proud of them. Being back in the section semis for the first time in a long time made it a really exciting time for the program."

CLASS B

SOMERS had a first-round victory then the

Tuskers suffered an unfortunate injury as starting goalie Nicole Garrity broke her foot the day before hosting Pearl River in a Section 1 Class B quarterfinal.

Freshman Carleigh Carbonaro stepped in and was outstanding in her first varsity start, but Pearl River, seeded fifth, prevailed in a shootout, for a 2-1 victory over fourth-seeded Somers.

Pearl River prevailed, 4-3, in the shootout.

Somers concluded the season with a 10-4-2 record. For the second consecutive year the Tuskers earned the fourth seed and two home games in the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championships.

"I'm proud of the way Carleigh stepped in with no hesitation," said senior and captain, Rosalie Murphy. "The result of the Pearl River game was tough because there were so many unexpected variables, but the team tried their best. We worked our way through a lot of tough games and truly helped each other feel confident on the field. We are continuing to make a name for Somers field hockey and I'm eager to see the success continue next year with so much talent remaining."



Putnam Valley's Danielle Cunningham makes push up field in Tigers' 2-0 loss to Pawling.

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CHSAA

KENNEDY CATHOLIC clinched the No.1 seed in the NYSCHSFL Class A playoffs in a 21-7 win over visiting Cardinal Spellman. RB Myles Proctor rushed for 155 yards and a TD while Seth Surret went for 55 yards and two touchdowns, including an electrifying 85-yard punt return he housed for a TD. Run-stuffers Wyatt Rumpf and Cole Esposito controlled the line of scrimmage and both notched double digit tackles.

Kennedy will take on visiting Nazareth

in the opening round of the playoffs Friday (7 p.m.) where the Gaels are hoping for a big showing. Kennedy Coach Dominick Tassone hopes to take the first of three big steps to win the first championship title of any kind in decades.

"This journey really started in my first year back in 2016 where we were able to lay the foundation," Tassone said. "Coming from Florida and Holy Trinity before that I was able to gain experience coaching in the AAA and down South

where football is a religion. I have tried to concentrate on the little things and show our kids the importance of taking care of the little things first. The team this year bought in the minute after the playoff loss last season. That loss has left a very bad taste in our mouths and we've used that to fuel us through the offseason and now through the regular season. I credit our kids and staff and their desire to get back to where we were a year ago, but this year we are determined for a different outcome.

"Our seniors have set the example for the young guys and it really has been a school effort throughout the year," he added. "The next three weeks will be no different and I expect nothing less than focus and hard work. This is a special group and they have every opportunity to put the finishing touches on what has been a great season. We'll focus on November 9th and Nazareth because we know what they bring to the table. It'll be a grudge match and we're up for the challenge."



AGE KAMALSKY PHOTO

No Average Joe!

Carmel WR Excels in No.6 Rams' Class AA Semifinal Loss to No.2 New Ro'

Carmel WR and kick returner Joe Mascetta takes flight for one of his two electrifying kickoffs to the house in the sixth-seeded Rams' 54-34 season-ending loss to No.2 New Rochelle in the Section 1 Class AA semifinals last Saturday night... see Grid Notebook