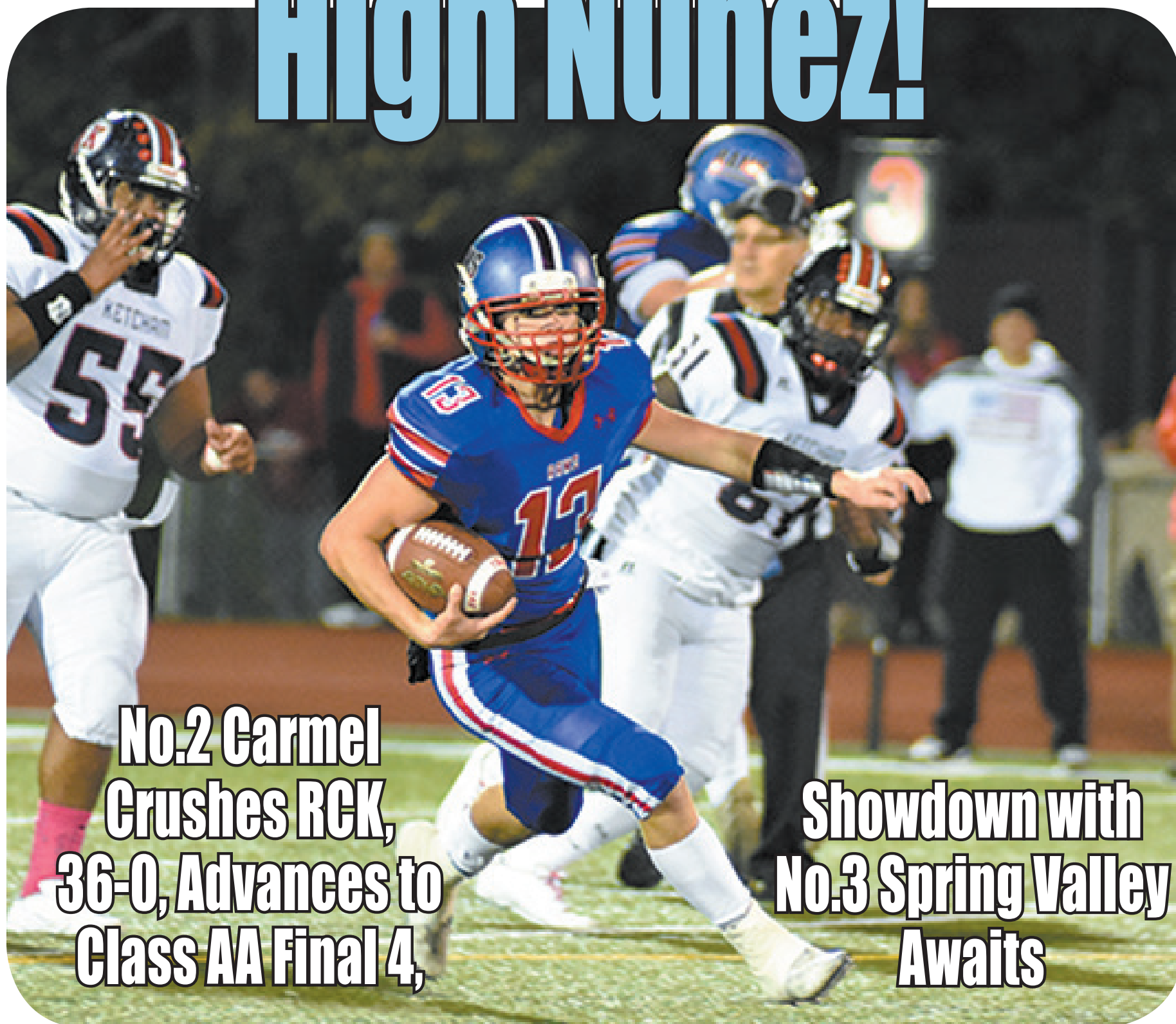


The Putnam
Examiner
Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

High Nunez!



**No.2 Carmel
Crushes RCK,
36-0, Advances to
Class AA Final 4,**

**Showdown with
No.3 Spring Valley
Awaits**

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Carmel senior QB Andrew Nunez takes off for big gain in the second-seeded Rams' 36-0 Class AA playoff victory over visiting No.7 RCK last Friday night when the Rams, who won their seventh straight to improve to 7-1, advanced to this Friday's showdown with No.3 Spring Valley for the rights to challenge the No.1 New Rochelle vs. No.4 John Jay EF winner for the sectional title the following week... see Grid Notebook

Sports

Grid Notebook

Yorktown, Somers, Carmel Advance to Grid Final 4

Husker RB Smith Grinds, Finds End Zone 4 Times in Rout of Brewster

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Well, the Section 1 Class A grid scene played out just as many expected it would last Friday night; with top-seeded John Jay – CR, No.2 Somers, No.3 Rye and No.5 Yorktown advancing to this Friday's sectional semifinals, which produces two of the most appealing Final 4 matchup we've seen in quite some time. Only the big boys have survived to this point, including Class AA Carmel.

YORKTOWN upended **BREWSTER**, 35-7, in a game that, believe it or not, was closer than the final score would indicate. The Bears led 7-0 and stopped Yorktown – three and out – on the Huskers' first possession, but from that point forward there was no stopping Yorktown senior HB Dylan Smith, who was a blow-delivering delinquent and conjured up images of Huskers past; like he was Brett Makar-, Rob Anderson-, Pete Carriello-, Nick- & Paul Satavicca- and Donny Weese-good (sorry to leave out so many former greats, too many to mention).

Still, the score was 14-7 going in to the fourth before Smith piled on. Smith scored four touchdowns, on up-the-gut bull rushes and off-tackle trots and one spectacular jump-ball catch at the pylon.

"Dylan Smith is a dude, period," Yorktown Coach Mike Rescigno exclaimed! "We knew he was going to be special three years ago. He has a nose for this game, jets and the ability to run you over. He has great hands. Most importantly, he wants to be the



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Yorktown LB Eddie Capone (55) tracks down Brewster RB-WR Justin Niles in Huskers' 35-7 Class A playoff win over host Bears Friday.



Yorktown RB Dylan Smith hauls in TD catch over Brewster DB Paul Catalano in Huskers' 35-7 Class A playoff win over Bears Friday.

difference. Like I told Dylan at the end of doubles: Last year was a warm up, Section 1 will know your name very well, very soon."

Truer words have rarely been spoken as Smith presents a nightmare for opposing coaches; Jay boss Jimmy Clark, in particular. The Fairfield-bound Smith, a lax star by trade, finished with 202 yards on 22 carries

for three scores, and snared a 31-yard house call from QB Trevvon Johnson, and had two sacks on the other side of the ball as the state-ranked (No.15) Huskers improved to 7-1, ready to take on reigning champion, top-seeded John Jay (8-0), ranked No.6 in NYS,

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Yorktown QB Trevvon Johnson picks up a block as Brewster's Jack Gusler (32) and Joseph Dominguez (15) look to close in Huskers' 35-7 win.

Sports

Grid Notebook

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BOB CASTNER PHOTO

Yorktown LB Dylan Smith drops in on Brewster QB Chris Donohue in Huskers’ 35-7 win over host Bears Friday.

Friday (6:30 p.m.) in the semifinals. “Smith played great,” Brewster boss Ed Mulvihill said. “He’s a tough runner with speed. He hits the hole quickly with intent! We had some shots early but couldn’t connect. I thought our defense played great. If you told me it would be 14-7 in the fourth quarter, and we had the ball on the 37- yard line going in, I’d have taken that. It didn’t go our way tonight, but I like the direction of the program and how our hard work in the off season is paying off now. We going to work hard this week to win our final game to top off a great season. Going in, we knew we’d have to play a perfect game to be in it. Yorktown has a lot of weapons. You

can’t just focus on one or two guys.” **SOMERS** wasted no time in disposing visiting Clarkstown North, 35-0 in its Class A quarterfinal. Somers QB junior Jackson Kossow and junior RB Jack Kaiser each rushed for two touchdowns and Kossow threw another TD pass to senior RB Charlie Balancia (89 receiving yards) to open the scoring from 25 yards out. Balancia added 88 yards on the ground and the state-ranked (No.14) Tuskers improved to 7-1 and will host third-seeded Rye at 7 p.m. on Friday in the semifinals. T.J. Deagan added 40 yards on two carries for the Tuskers while Nate Rosenzweig rushed for 35 yards on three totes.



The men in the trenches are set to get off ball in Yorktown’s 35-7 Class A playoff win over Brewster Friday.



Brewster RB Mike Martinez takes off on kick return against Yorktown DB Andrew Finateri (11) in Bears’ 35-7 Class A playoff loss to Huskers Friday.

Dom Cheek was a freak on defense for Somers, leading the way with 10 tackles, two for loss, and a sack while freshman Jake Polito had five tackles, two for a loss, and a sack. Man, the Somers defense will be put to the test this Friday against a footloose and fancy Rye offense, and they will be the unit to determine whether or not Somers wins its fourth sectional title since 2012. Rye, ranked No.17 in NYS, entered the 2019 season as the favorites, according to many pundits/coaches/fans based on the play of QB Declan Lavelle. Somers entered the campaign as the Garnets’ primary challengers, and he we are in the semis where something has to give. “We can’t wait, we’re all so ready for this one,” said Balancia, who missed the first

game between the two powers, a 28-24 come-from-behind Somers win. “It’s going to be a wild atmosphere. I’m even more excited because I get to play them this time around.” In non-playoff games, **PANAS** (2-6) defeated Sleepy Hollow, 28-21, as QB Mark Perez threw for 194 yards, inching him closer to 1,000 for the season (971). **HEN HUD** (3-5) was shut out. **LAKELAND** (4-4) failed to manage host Clarkstown South. **CLASS AA** **CARMEL** is one win away from its first Section 1 Class AA championship appearance since 2008 after versatile senior RB/WF Alex Beauchesne scored twice for

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Carmel RB Alex Beauchesne (2) gets corner for plus yards in Rams’ 36-0 Class AA playoff win over RCK Friday.

Sports

Soccer Notebook

Somers Dispatches Yorktown, 7-1; Ossining Advances in AA

Tusker Leitner Nets 5 Goals in 2 Playoff Wins; Pride's Lenaghan Tricks RCK

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

There's a reason why they Section 1 Class A soccer scene is blowing up in our neck of the woods: The committed coaches in places like Somers, Yorktown and Lakeland, among others, are stepping up to make a difference.

There was a time around the turn of the century when the locals couldn't take the field without flopping about, and chippy play was the order of the day, but nowadays the level of respect has seemingly hit new heights, despite the fact that No.3 **SOMERS** blew No.6 **YORKTOWN** away in Saturday's 7-1 quarterfinal blowout.

When coaches respect one another – like the guys from Somers, Byram Hills, Yorktown and Lakeland do – the players reflect it, for the most part. So, when Somers Coach Brian Lanzetta locked up in full hug with Yorktown Coach Ed Polchinski last Saturday after the Tusker blowout, the players on their respective teams understand that the rivalry steps back to the wee '90s when the two programs were squaring off in their former heydays.

There's a ton of history that the current players may or may not know about, including a run between 1989 and 1991 that saw Somers win a pair of sectional titles (1989-91) and Yorktown win another (1990), which, in essence, put the programs on the map.

Somers, winners of two of the last three Section 1 Class A titles, is on the verge of challenging for yet another crown after the thrashing of the visiting Huskers. Somers senior F Bennett Leitner has been on a mission since the playoffs started, scoring five goals in two wins, including a hat trick against Yorktown (13-5) and two more in a 3-1 win over No.14 Lourdes.



RICK KUPERBERG/RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS
Somers senior M Drew Lasher makes last-ditch play on ball in Tuskers' 7-1 Class A playoff win over Yorktown and Marco Landicino Saturday.

"He's been unreal," Somers Coach Brian Lanzetta said. "He's been great all season. His attitude, work rate and his focus is all amazing. He locks in and turns into a machine. What I believe sets him apart is his soccer IQ. He knows how to play the game. His first touch, off-ball movement are all up to par, like a professional."

The state-ranked (No.17) Tuskers (16-1) scored three times in the first 12 minutes and were never threatened as Ethan Cukaj, Drew Lasher and Leitner scored in succession. Yorktown's Timmy O'Callaghan broke up the shutout with a PK.

Somers will play at No. 2 Pearl River (16-

1-1) in Wednesday's sectional semis.

Yorktown worked a 2-1 OT win over No.11 Tappan Zee in OT when Jack Prybylski scored the game-winner for the Huskers. Husker George Popovic tied the score.

If there was any doubt about how tough Class A soccer is this season, take a look at what's left: No.1 Rye (17-1, No.6 in NYS), No.2 Pearl River (16-1-1, No.16 in NYS), No.3 Somers (16-1) and No.4 Byram Hills (16-2, No.20 in NYS), a combined 65-5-1.

No.12 **LAKELAND** was eliminated in a 2-0 loss to No.5 Nyack. The youthful Hornets are rebuilding their program one day, one practice, one game at a time. No.20

PANAS was shutout in a 5-0 loss to No.4 Byram Hills, which will host No.1 Rye in the other side of the semis.

CLASS AA

OSSINING's Nolan Lenaghan stated his case for Player of the Year in the top-seeded Pride's 5-1 opening round Class AA win over No.16 RCK last Thursday. The senior striker struck for the hat trick and the state-ranked (No.10) Pride advanced to the quarters, avenging last year's unfathomable 2-1 loss to R.C. Ketcham in the championship game a year ago.

The Pride then went out Saturday and knocked off a prideful No.8 White Plains program, 2-1, in OT. Jose Padilla scored in overtime for the Pride while teammate Andrick Palma scored the game's first goal. Pride G Carlos Zabarburu (5 saves) for Ossining (15-2-1), which will host No.5 Arlington Wednesday, looking to continue a three-year stretch that is likely the finest in Pride history, which includes just one sectional title in the late '70s.

Lenaghan and company will, fittingly, need to go through the Admirals, perhaps the top program in Section 1 the past decade.

No.13 **CARMEL** busted up one side of the bracket in a 3-2 overtime triumph of No.4 Horace Greeley. Ram Tayte Wong scored what might have been the biggest goal in the last decade, tickling twine and giving the Rams (9-8-1) their biggest win in recent memory, but Carmel was eliminated by No.5 Arlington, 4-0, in the quarters.

No.2 Mamaroneck crushed No.15. **MAHOPAC**, 7-0, as the Indians finished a ho-hum season at 4-10-2.



Somers senior Bennett Leitner has had an incredible playoff run for Tuskers, scoring a hat trick against Jack Prybylski's Yorktown Huskers Friday.



Yorktown's James Pinto (L) and the Huskers were forced to try anything they could to stop Somers' Jose Giron's Tuskers in 7-1 Husker loss.



No.13 Carmel's Tayte Wong (7) broke up the Class AA bracket with game-winning OT goal in 3-2 opening-round win over No.4 Greeley Thursday.

Sports

Girls Soccer Notebook

Class A Somers, Class AA Mahopac Survive, Advance *Hen Hud's Varada Sets School Record in Loss to Somers*

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Like it has for much of the last few seasons, it comes down to the usual suspects. The last two standing -- Class AA Mahopac and Class A Somers -- are the sole survivors among the local large schools from the Northern Westchester/Putnam County region after the conclusion of the opening round of the Section 1 girls' soccer playoffs.

No.4 host Somers (13-2-1) made ran away from No.13 Hen Hud in Friday's opening round of the tournament, breaking open a 1-1 game with four unanswered goals in the second half en route to a 5-1 victory.

Somers took a 1-0 lead on a goal by Dahlia Pepe, but Hen Hud junior Kira Varada added to her school record (26 goals) to knot the



Somers girls are all smiles as they celebrate goal in 5-1 Class A playoff win over Hen hud Friday.

RAY GALLAGHER/ RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS



Mahopac junior Mia 'Monsta' Klammer (L), shown here against Brewster's Sadie Mae Fischer-Diotte, hopes to come up big for Indians.



Mahopac's Hailey Pereira (R) scored twice in Indians' 8-0 Class AA playoff win over Fox Lane Friday.



Somers' Ella Beresford and Jessica Rodriguez are all smiles after Tusker goal in 5-1 win over visiting Hen Hud Friday.



Somers wing Ella Beresford (11) and Hen Hud's Maddy Gough get after it in Tuskers' 5-1 Class A playoff win over Sailors Friday.



Somers' Alix Goldman (12) and Elizabeth Saraceno (6) celebrate Tusker Amanda Brugger's goal in 5-1 win over Hen Hud and Sailor Jess O'Reilly last Friday.

score early in the second half. Varada, who also has a nose for the goal in lax, is among the purest goal scorers in school history.

From that point, it was all Somers as Karlene Kurtz scored twice while teammates Megan Dineen and Alexa Vanga sunk the Sailors for good.

Somers assists went to Jessica Rodriguez, Pepe, Dineen, Kurtz and Danielle Acocella. Erin Clark assisted on the Varada goal for the Sailors.

"I wasn't real happy with the first half," Saia admitted. "We were in control of the game but couldn't finish. Luckily we put one in at the end of the first half to end things on a good note, and

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Sports

Volleyball Notebook

Yorktown, Hen Hud on Class A Final 4 Collision Course

By Tony Pinciari

YORKTOWN opened its 2019 varsity volleyball season with a victory over 2018 Section 1 Class B champion Ardsley and little did the Cornhuskers know it would be good omen.

The Cornhuskers, without any seniors, went on to one of the most successful regular seasons in program history. Yorktown finished 13-4 and, as a result, earned the third seed in the Section 1 Class A Volleyball Championship.

Yorktown opened its quest for the title with a sweep of Clarkstown South, 25-13, 27-25, 25-20. The Cornhuskers hosted No. 6 Eastchester, Tuesday in a quarterfinal. A victory would send Yorktown into a semifinal matchup with undefeated and second-seeded Hen Hud, Thursday.

The final is set for Saturday at Pace University's Goldstein Center.

The seeds for the 2019 season were planted during the 2018 sectional tournament. Yorktown qualified as the 11th seed in Class A last year and upset sixth-seeded Lakeland, after losing the first two games. Even though Yorktown was beaten by John Jay-Cross River in the quarterfinal round, the Cornhuskers were pleased.

"We were down two sets and won the next three to win the first round of playoffs," said junior Olivia Waschenko. "It was so exciting and we felt on top of the world, especially our senior players. I was so happy for them!"

Even though Yorktown knew it was without any seniors, the team was psyched for 2019 based on its promising finish.

"Although we didn't have any seniors coming into this year, we knew we had a very talented group of players and were excited to see if we would have a winning record," Waschenko said. "We were really looking forward to starting our season."

"Winning our very first match of the season against Ardsley, last year's Section 1 Class B title champions, really contributed to our confidence and was the start of our big winning streak."

Yorktown has proven that senior leadership is not always necessary for a team to be successful. The Cornhuskers pride themselves on playing unflappable.

"I would attribute our calm and playing poised to the fact that we trust each other on the court," Waschenko said. "Another major factor that adds to our poise is Coach Kemp's calm demeanor on the sideline."

"We also remember that in the game of volleyball, you have to play one point at a time. This leads us to work hard for every

single point. Whether it's an ace or a kill, we all work as a team to help each other out through every single point."

Earning the third seed in sectionals, behind top-seeded John Jay-Cross River and second-seeded Hen Hud, was a surprise, but one Yorktown gladly liked.

"It is so cool that we are seeded third," Waschenko said. "We have put in a lot of work both during the season and the off-season. Our hard work has definitely paid off!"

The dedication of both Coach Kemp, Coach Killeen, and Coach Sweeney also has a large impact on the way we play."

Jackie Cane led Yorktown with nine kills against Clarkstown South and Allison Torres added six. Kills and five digs Allison Silverman finished with 11 assists. Olivia Fasce registered nine assists and also had six digs and five aces. Jackie Knoesel collected eight digs and Waschenko added five kills.

HEN HUD, the reigning champs, completed an undefeated regular season – 17-0 – and opened defense of its Class A title with a sweep of Beacon.

Despite an unblemished record and a victory over John Jay-Cross River, Hen Hud is the second seed behind the Indians.

Hen Hud hosted No. 7 Walter Panas in a quarterfinal, Tuesday. If the seeds hold true, Hen Hud will play No. 3 Yorktown in a semifinal, Thursday.

The Sailors closed out the regular season on a roll, including the Hall of Fame tournament (Massachusetts) championship.

"Winning the Hall of Fame tournament was an amazing experience and it definitely boosted our confidence as a team and reminded us that we can keep winning and take the sectional title," senior and captain Callie Pidioriano said.

One thing Hen Hud will never do is look past an opponent. Pidioriano and her teammates know what could possibly happen should they look ahead.

"As a team, we never overlook any team that we must face," Pidioriano said. "We stay focused on the team ahead because we know, and have seen before, that upsets happen all the time in volleyball, which is what makes



The youthful Yorktown volleyball team has made its presence felt this fall.

it so interesting. We never underestimate our next opponent and Coach Swertfager reminds us of this before every game."

Hen Hud and John Jay-Cross River fans would like nothing better than to see this final.

"We know that John Jay has a very talented team and program, but so do we so it would be a very competitive match that could go either way," Pidioriano said.

One year after being upset in the first round of the Section 1 Class A Volleyball Championship, **LAKELAND** was not allowing a repeat.

The Hornets, seeded fifth, made quick work of No. 12 Peekskill – 25-16, 25-19, 26-24 – in a first-round match. Lakeland, 14-4 this season, played at No. 4 Tappan Zee in a quarterfinal, Tuesday.

"Anytime you win a sectional game it is special because you get to play another game and have a chance to win the whole thing," Lakeland coach Steve Fallo said. "Peekskill fought the whole match and it was a good test for us. We need to bring our A game against a very good Tappan Zee team. Our team had a terrific regular season finishing 13-4. We play in one of the toughest leagues, which hopefully has prepared us for the tournament."

Lakeland was fueled by Emily Kubicko's 10 kills and 13 digs. Kayla Jennings delivered five kills and 10 digs, Caitlin Wisker contributed five kills and Victoria Tsui rang up 12 assists.

Two losses to conclude the regular season did not affect MAHOPAC as the 11th seed opened the Section 1 Class AA Volleyball Championship with a four-set upset of No. 6 Scarsdale, 25-14, 25-20, 20-25, 25-15. Mahopac played at No. 3 Arlington, Tuesday.

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season. It's a lot of pressure on the girls, it's a lot of pressure on the coaches, but we usually have a great bunch of kids who want to work really hard to achieve the goals we set every year. We do the best with what we have."

No.4 **MAHOPAC** (14-3) was in total control during an 8-0 shutout of No.13 Fox Lane. Coaches touted the "Great team effort." Indian Julia McGrinder scored twice, her first and second varsity goals. Mahopac's Grace DiVincenzo, Sabrina Nogula (2G), Hailey Pereira (2G) and Jenna Daly all found

Arlington swept the regular-season set from Mahopac.

"It was a great win for the team," Coach Jay Melville said. "We have been competitive in a lot of our matches this year and kept coming up short. We really started to play well at the end of the season. Even though we lost to Arlington and Yorktown, I was happy with how the team played. We cut down on our errors and played better at the net."

Colleen Kelly finished with 20 assists and nine digs for Mahopac, now 8-10 this season. Jenna Palmiero registered 25 digs and Gabriella Rocchio added 16 digs. Diana Kone had a team-leading 12 kills and also collected 10 digs. Caroline Feeley contributed nine kills and six blocks and Bella Marinelli also had nine kills.

"We definitely played our best match of the season against Scarsdale," Melville said. "We had our lowest error total of the season and also set a match-high total for blocks. Our aggressive play definitely carried us through the match."

Even though Arlington took both matches from Mahopac, Melville said his team played much better the second time.

Class B PUTNAM VALLEY, which had the makings of a No.4 seed after a solid regular season, was disqualified from tournament action for having played 22 matches, two of the maximum. The stunning decision left players, coaches and parents in total dismay. PV Superintendent Jeremy Luft went down swinging for the girls, but was met with "radio silence" by Section 1 officials, who stuck to their guns, despite the fact that the student athletes did nothing wrong.

Ray Gallagher contributed to this story

Class A Somers, Class AA Mahopac Survive, Advance

after we let Varada score that one to tie it, we were able to play the way we're capable of playing."

Somers, which is rife in soccer history, has been playing at a very capable level for much of the last decade, competing in six sectional championships, winning four sectional titles since 2010 (5 since 2006) and a state title in 2014, plus a NYS runner-up in 2011. However, unless the Tuskers can ramp up their sense of urgency in the next round, they could fall short of their lofty expectations.

"We can't play like that in the next round and expect to win," Saia said. "We have to pick it up for the full 80 minutes."

But he does have a sneaky suspicion that they will rise to the occasion.

"I think it's the culture that Keenan (Assistant Coach Deegan) and I have created," Saia said. "You come here to play and you expect certain things from your players and they expect to reach certain levels. It's not good enough to be 10-6 around here, five or six losses is considered a bad

the back of the net off assists by Nogula, DiVincenzo, Amanda Beberman, Alexa Rispoli, Meghan Cichon, Pereira and Olivia Conlin. G Sophia Curcio (3 saves) and the stout Indian defense recorded the shutout.

The Indians were set to take on No.5 Horace Greeley (11-4-2) in last night's quarterfinal. The semifinals are slated for Halloween Day against either top-seeded Arlington, the reigning three-time champs, or John Jay EF.



Carmel Sports Club Hosts Family & Children's Aid with MLB Alumni



Former 1969 NY Mets great Art Shamsky poses with Tyler Gallagher at Carmel Sports Club Saturday. (FCA) is a community-based, non-profit organization offering innovative and responsive programs and services to heal and support children and families in crisis. Visit www.fcaweb.org for more.



Former Mahopac grad and Seattle Mariner P Dave Fleming works with group of youngsters at Carmel Sports Club Saturday.



Local youngsters line up for autographs with former MLB greats at Carmel Sports Club who partnered with Family & Children's Aid & the MLB Alumni Association.



Former Detroit Tiger and Eastchester High grad John Doherty addresses youngsters at Carmel Sports Club Saturday.

Yorktown, Somers, Carmel Advance to Grid Final 4

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Carmel's Jayson Rahming (4), Will Boalt and Matt Murphy (52) lead defensive charge in Rams' Class AA playoff shutout of RCK Friday.

the surging Rams (7-1), winners of their last seven. Carmel will host No. 3 Spring Valley in next week's semifinals at 7 p.m. Friday and the community will continue to fight for "Booch's" mom, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

Folks across the region have stepped up for Beauchesne's mom while, he, in turn, continues to produce and dedicate this

season to his mom, a beloved figure within the Carmel football community.

"This definitely shows that our community is one of the best out there," said Beauchesne, who rushed for 64 yards on 12 carries. "My family is extremely thankful for everyone that has supported us. My teammates and coaches are always positive and it helps with everything going



Carmel junior Ryan McDonald and Ram Manager & Super-fan Caleb pose during light moment in Rams' 36-0 win over RCK Friday.

on. I know my mom is my number one fan, so every time I'm on the field I play for her."

Same holds true for his teammates, who put up 22 first-half points and cruised to the win when QB Andrew Nunez hit on 3-of-10 passes for 92 yards and rushed five

time for 48 yards and a score. Ram Zach Aiello tacked on another score for Carmel.

MAHOPAC (2-6) fell to host North Rockland, 14-3, in a non-playoff game and will hope to close the season on a winning note when the Indians host Ramapo on Halloween (6 p.m.).

Smithological Creature!



Yorktown RB Defines Career in 35-7 Playoff Rout of Brewster



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Yorktown senior RB/LB Dylan Smith displayed some special qualities last Friday night in the 5th-seeded Huskers' 35-7 Section 1 Class A quarterfinal win over No.4 host Brewster: Lighting up the Bears for 202 yards on 22 carries, including three TDs to go with two catches, including this 31-yard highlight reel grab over Brewster's Paul Catalano (17). Smith, who drove for the pylon (inset) and conjured up images of Huskers' past, added two sacks on defense, allowing Yorktown to advance to Friday's Section 1 Class A semis to face No.1 John Jay #OhLordy... see Grid Notebook