

The Putnam,  
Examiner  
Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

Tommy Dearest!



**Mahopac Junior Hangs Loss on North Rock'; Nets Game-Winning Goal in OT, Indians Advance to Final 4**

Mahopac junior M Tommy Elliot (9) scored three goals, including the game-winner in overtime in the 5th-seeded visiting Indians' 6-5 Section 1 Class A playoff win over North Rockland last Friday. Elliot also scored three goals and dished an against Ossining in a 14-4 win last Wednesday, which he and Matthew Riley (inset) celebrated. Mahopac was set to visit No.1 Mamaroneck last night... see Boys' Lax Notebook

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO



# Sports

## Girls' LAX Notebook

# Hen Hud, Yorktown, Carmel Still Dancing in Final 4's

By Tony Pinciario & Ray Gallagher

Even though HEN HUD lost to BREWSTER during the regular season, the Sailors defeated the reigning Section 1 Class C champion Bears when it mattered more – sectionals.

Kira Varada netted a game-high five goals as fourth-seeded host Hen Hud defeated fifth-seeded Brewster, 11-10 in a Section 1 Class C quarterfinal.

Hen Hud played top-seeded John Jay-Cross River, Monday.

"Our victory over Brewster was a result of all our hard work and everyone playing to their full potential," senior and captain Haley Merchant said. "Brewster is an amazing team and the win was a testament to our grit, desire to win, and trust in each other. We scored the game-winning goal, off of a foul call, with less than two minutes to go and were able to keep them away from goal for the rest of the game. A win over Brewster gives us confidence in our own abilities and the team. It also shows the strength and depth



RAY GALLAGHER/BOB CASTNER PHOTOS

Hen Hud's Haley Merchant, who scored game-winning goal, works her way around a quartet of Brewster defenders in Sailors' 11-10 playoff win over Bears.

of our program, and pays tribute to our triumph over adversity."

Fiona McGovern added a hat trick and two assists and Merchant added two goals.

Hen Hud Coach Rob Molfetta prepared his team for sectionals with a difficult schedule. As a result, Hen Hud has been playing excellent lacrosse, especially in the weeks leading up to sectionals.

"We didn't pay much attention to the standings, no team can really be judged by their seed," Merchant said. "However, we were proud that our tough schedule paid off and we were ranked well. When we all play as a unit and trust each other, some of the best lacrosse comes out of it. That's what we've been able to accomplish, especially in these last two weeks, bonding over our shared goal and our love for the game and each other."

John Jay needed overtime to overcome Hen Hud previously. The Sailors learned a few things about the Indians and made the adjustments.

"After the first John Jay game, we've worked hard to refine our defense to work against their attack," Merchant said. "They were excellent at the draw in our first game, and many

practices have been dedicated to figuring out how to balance that power and use their draws to our advantage. I feel that we are more than capable of victory, it's just a matter of putting everything together when it counts."

Brewster began defense of its title with a 12-8 victory over Pearl River.

"We beat Hen Hud in the regular season, but it was a close game, so we knew it was going to be a battle in the quarterfinals," Brewster Coach Sara DiDio said. "It was definitely a back-and-forth game. Unfortunately, it was not the ending we had hoped for, but the girls played well and fought hard until the end."

Marina Souza led the Bears with a hat trick while Haile Ratajack added two goals and two assists. Megan Beal and Margo Cunningham each had two goals.

In the first-round win over Pearl River, Beal rang up four goals, Ratajack added three and Maggie DePaoli and Olivia Meola scored two goals apiece.

"I'm proud of the girls and everything they accomplished this season," DiDio said. "We finished with a 12-6 record,

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Hen Hud's Erin Clark keeps close dubs on Brewster's Haile Ratajack in Sailors' 11-10 Section 1 Class C playoff win over reigning champion Bears Friday.



Hen Hud G Madison Porter is harassed by Brewster's Margo Cunningham, who did scores twice for Bears in 11-10 Class B loss to Sailors Friday.



Brewster's Meagan Beal is triple-teamed by Hen Hud players, including Grace Moretti (14) and Colleen Ryan (2) in Bears' 11-10 playoff loss to Sailors.



Brewster's Marina Souza (20) scored three goals but it wasn't enough for defending champs in 11-10 playoff loss to Brooke



Mahopac A Sophia Defrancesco cranks shot in Indians' 7-4 Class A semifinal loss to Mamaroneck Saturday.



# Sports

## Girls' LAX Notebook

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Yorktown sniper Jesse Barer rips shot in Huskers' 18-4 Section 1 Class B quarterfinal win over Somers and Tuskers Noelle DeMarinis and G Sarah Morea last Thursday.



Yorktown's Kelsey McDonnell takes run at Somers' Alexa Pittman in Huskers' 18-4 Class B quarterfinal win over Tuskers Thursday.



Mahopac freshman Ava Jennings (7) shows Gigi Genovese some love after late second-half goal fueled hope for



Carmel M Katherine Taranto had four goals in Rams' 14-9 Section 1 Class B win over Clarkstown North Friday.

which is a great accomplishment. Our defense really started working together and I'm glad they will all be returning next year. I can't say enough about our midfielders who put in the work on the draw circle and on both ends of the field. Our attack was really moving the ball well and getting some great looks on cage.

"I'm especially proud of my five seniors -- Meagan Beal, Maggie DePaoli, Haile Ratajack, Marina Souza and Jane Scinta, who have made such a lasting impact on our program," she added. "They have been instrumental in our success over the years and have left their mark here at Brewster. I know all five will do great things as they start a new chapter in their lives."

**CLASS A**  
**MAHOPAC** was riding a lengthy winning streak entering the Section 1 Class A Championships and opened with a 13-6 win over Scarsdale.

The quest for a trip to the championship was stopped by Mamaroneck's strong second half as the Tigers defeated Mahopac, 7-5,

in a semifinal. Mamaroneck will play North Rockland for the Class A title.

Mahopac led Mamaroneck at the half, 4-2, but Mamaroneck's defense limited the Indians' high-octane offense to only one goal in the second half.

Gigi Genovese had two goals for Mahopac. Sophia DeFrancesco, Christina Lopreato and Zina McInerney also had goals. Referees also took a late goal off the board for an illegal shot, much to the chagrin of the Indian faithful and Coach Jim Lieto.

"I couldn't be prouder of how hard this team worked for three months," Lieto said. "These are some of the finest young ladies I have ever had the privilege to be around. It was an honor being able to get to know the Class of 2019 and I wish all of them the best as they move on past Mahopac High School.

Mahopac, which finished with a 13-5 record, held an 8-3 lead at halftime in the opening-round win over Scarsdale.

DeFrancesco finished with a team-leading three goals, followed by Nicole Panny with two goals and two assists. Ava Jennings and Lopreato had two goals apiece and Colleen MacNeil and Lindsay Neilis each had one goal and one assist.



(L) Olivia Meola's goal is celebrated by Brewster teammates Meagan Beal and Haile Ratajack in Bears' 11-10 Section 1 Class C playoff loss to Hen Hud Friday.



Mahopac senior Zina McInerney attacks cage in Indians' 7-5 Section 1 Class A semifinal loss to Mamaroneck.

**LAKELAND**, seeded fourth in Class A, opened the Section 1 Class A tournament with a 12-9 victory over White Plains. Emily Kness registered four goals and two assists and Megan Mucci and Katelyn Cerrato each had two goals.

The Rebels then dropped a 15-7 verdict to top-seeded and defending champion North Rockland. Jenna McCrudden led the Rebels with three goals and Keirra Ettere and Julia Araujo had two goals apiece.

**CLASS B**  
**YORKTOWN** crushed **SOMERS** behind Jesse Barer's five goals. Kelsey McDonnell added four goals for the second-seeded Huskers. Ellie O'Donnell (3G), Alexa Borges (2G, 2A), Izzy Cicinelli (1G, 2A), Lindsay Boyle (1G, 1A), Maddy Marr (1G) and Sophia Spallone (1G) all supported G Sophia Altman (5 saves). Yorktown was set to host No.3 Fox Lane last night.

"The team has been very focused and

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## Sports

## Boys' LAX Notebook

## Haldane on Map, Yorktown, L/P, Mahopac Reach Final 4's

By RAY GALLAGHER  
Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays

We're just going to go ahead and call the 2019 season a breakout campaign for Class D **HALDANE**, which just reached its first Section 1 Final 4 in program history after the third-seeded Blue Devils' 13-12 quarterfinal overtime win over No.6 Dobbs Ferry last Friday, which makes that regular-season win over Putnam Valley look like peanuts.

Yeah, many of the regulars are reppin' at the Final 4, including Class A's No.5 **MAHOPAC** and No.7 **LAKELAND/PANAS**, plus Class B's No.1 **YORKTOWN** and No.2 **JOHN JAY**. And many of the usual suspects in the lower classes; like Class C's No.1 Rye and Class D's No.1 Bronxville, No.4 Pleasantville and No.2 Briarcliff are still dancing.

But Cinderella Haldane, ranked No.13 in NYS, gets the glass slipper this year. The Blue Devils (14-2) are as athletic as they've ever been and they were going to need every ounce of it and more in last night's Class D semis against state-ranked (No.2) Briarcliff. Win or lose, Coach Ed



RAY GALLAGHER/BOB CASTNER/ROB DIANTONIO/MRS.G PHOTOS

Haldane's Sam Giachinta (25) takes clean run at Dobbs players in Blue Devils' overtime triumph of Eagles in Class D quarters.

Crowe's Haldane program is finally on the Section 1 lax map. That's what a Final 4 appearance does for a program. What the Blue Devils do from here will determine whether or not this was a monster step in the right direction, which a former also-ran like Briarcliff has recently done, or simply a cyclical act.

Blue Devil Darrin Santos scored an unsettled goal from 15 yards out with 2:23 gone in the extra session for his second goal of the game and 100th career point on the crank. It was Blue Devil senior Sam Giachinta, who made his name on the Haldane gridiron as its all-time great, who forced overtime and paced the Haldane

attack with four goals and four assists.

"It feels great to set school history with the best season ever recorded and reaching the final four for the first time," said Giachinta, arguably the finest male athlete in school history. "We're ready to receive more accolades, and as a team to get this done and win the section title."

Mame Diba finished with hat trick and two assists, including his 100th career goal. Jagger Beachak scored three times for Haldane, which overcame a 10-6 deficit to make the history it made...

Gotta give **MAHOPAC** and **LAKELAND/PANAS** a ton of credit for getting to the Class A Final 4 when things were looking pretty bleak just a few weeks back. We're talking about the second and third greatest programs in the history of Section 1 lax here (in no order behind Yorktown); though John Jay might bark back at that, so we're making a big deal for good reason.

Mahopac's offense was looking pretty anemic as the Indians struggled to tickle the twine in early May. Second-year Coach Joe Bucello, a former goalie at Yorktown, was feeling the heat, or at least he should have been, but the unit stuck behind their coach and each other and will face top-seeded Mamaroneck today with a championship berth on the line.

"We just don't want this to end," Bucello said. "We love each other!"



Somers M Brandon LaSpina makes a run in Tuskers' 12-10 Section 1 Class B quarterfinal loss to host Fox Lane Saturday.

The visiting Indians (10-7) were loving every second of junior M Tommy Elliot's game-winning goal – his third of the game, which kept Mahopac's season alive in a 6-5 overtime triumph of No.4 North Rockland last Friday. Indian G Mike Argila notched 18 saves and scooped nine GBs in an MVP-like performance. Senior M Drew Riolo had one goal and one assist while freshman Mike Harney and Matt Riley added one goal apiece for the Indians, who are up against it at state-ranked (No.5) Mamaroneck today.

"The whole overtime moment was just crazy to be honest," Elliot admitted. "It was so nerve racking. We called a timeout and got ourselves ready to clear and play offense. John Dundon got the ball to and I was looking to get open to get the ball, however, I back-door cut my defender, cut and switched my left and shot it low

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Mahopac freshman Mike Harney has provided a big lift to a once-stagnant Indian attack, just in time for Class A playoffs.



Mahopac G Mike Argila is hounded by Ossining's Dylan Rivie in Indians' 14-4 Section 1 Class A playoff win over Pride Friday.



Mahopac's Drew Riolo takes run at Ossining's Faans Haque in Indians' 14-4 Class A opening-round win over Pride last Friday.



# Sports

## Boys LAX Notebook

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SEAN VICTOR PHOTO  
Lakeland-Panas players celebrate their Section 1 Class A quarterfinal win over Scarsdale.



Yorktown senior A Shane Dahlke deposits one in Huskers' Section 1 Class B playoff win over Nyack Saturday.

for a goal to win. After that dogpile, well, that an unreal feeling. It was one of the greatest feelings afterward, knowing that my teammates and I are still dancing in

### Hen Hud, Yorktown, Carmel Still Dancing in Final 4's

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are giving it there all," Yorktown Coach Lauren McCauley said. "They knew going into the game vs. Somers they would have to play the full 50 minutes. It is hard to play a team three times in one season. Somers has a lot of talent and even though we came out on top in the regular season, anything can happen during playoffs. The girls worked hard for this win on both sides of the field. Now, we prepare for Fox Lane. They have some key players and are a well-coached team that we cannot underestimate. The team is looking forward to getting back out on the field Monday and will be giving it there all."

**CARMEL**, the No.5 seed, is still afloat on the Class B circuit after it 14-9 win over Clarkstown North Friday. Carmel's Margaret Flocco had five goals and an



Somers M Conor Jaykus looks for opening in Tuskers' 12-10 Section 1 Class B quarterfinal loss to host Fox Lane Saturday.

the playoffs..."

Lakeland/Panas Coach Jim Lindsay is so low-profile that he barely gets his just due, but this cat can flat-out coach with the best in the section; just ask second-seeded Scarsdale, which took it on the chin for the third time in four seasons at the hands of Lindsay's Rebels (7-10). Lindsay never hits the panic button, and the dividends are paid annually when this program seems to regularly reach the Class A finals or better; whether they rise from the ashes as they have the last two seasons or when they enter as the

favorites.

"There's no point in freaking out, I've already lost most of my hair," Lindsay

joked. "We just stay the course, trust the process, and keep trusting that we're trying to do will pay off eventually. I've been fortunate to have kids and good assistant coaches as well."

His players are fortunate to have the former 1997 Section 1 champion -- a rare win over Yorktown -- on their side.

"Coach is very good at putting together a game plan all we have to do is execute," said L/P senior G.J.P. Walsh. "He's unbelievable I learn something new every practice."

Rebel Tom Nolan's game-winning goal, off a look from M Sean Laukaitis with 2:39 left in the fourth, was followed by some stellar defensive play on the other end, featuring Walsh (12 saves), who was the difference maker.

"It was awesome," Walsh said. "The defense executed the game plan so well and the offense stepped up big and put the ball in the back of the net when we needed it the most. It was overall a great team win."

Rebels Matt Makar (1A), Mason Nocito and Mikey Walsh all scored a pair for the Rebels. Alex Davoli added one goal while Reed Thompson

dished three assists for the Rebels, who will look to avenge an early-season loss to No.3 Wappingers in today's Class A semis.

State-ranked (No.5) **YORKTOWN**, the No.1 seed in Class B, advanced to the Final 4 in breezy fashion, doing so behind six goals from Alex DeBenedictis in a 15-3 rout of No.8 Nyack, which sets up today's semifinal game with visiting No.4 Horace Greeley.

Reese Andrews (2G, 2A), Shane Dahlke (1G, 3A) and Tim O'Callaghan (1G, 3A) were his primary feeders. Chase Longordo added his first varsity goal.

Once Greeley is dispatched, the Huskers will turn their attention to reigning sectional champion John Jay CR, ranked No.6 in NYS, in the hopes of avoiding to become the first team in school history to lose consecutive title tilts #ThinkAboutThat. That game, which would be the fifth consecutive title tilt between the two Section 1 juggernauts, and the 16th championship playdate overall, would be played Friday at Lakeland High School. The Huskers hold a 13-2 championship edge on the surging Indians, who are playing as well, if not better than, any team in the section as of press time.



Yorktown's Blake Borges is hounded by two Nyack defenders in Huskers' Section 1 Class B playoff romp last Saturday.



Mahopac's Colleen MacNeil works off pick set by Avery Przymyski in Indians' 7-4 Class A semifinal loss to Mamaroneck Saturday.

assist while M Katherine Taranto had four goals for the Rams, who faced top-seeded Suffern last night during a historical campaign no matter the outcome.

#### CLASS D

**PUTNAM VALLEY** had its Section 1 Class D title hopes dashed by North Salem, 9-8, in a quarterfinal.

North Salem, which will play Bronxville for the title, led Putnam Valley at halftime, 7-4.

"I thought our final game was the perfect ending to our season and demonstrated the growth of this team," Putnam

Valley Coach Courtney Hyndman said. "The girls left every single bit of their heart on that field, only losing by one goal the second time against North Salem (first time it was 15-9). We had a tough schedule, as a whole, playing some solid teams this year and being placed in the Class D power league, so it wasn't an easy ride. However, the girls had a strong desire to work hard and improve each day to show up as the best versions of themselves each time they stepped on the field. I am definitely a proud coach of their commitment to the team, and their never quit attitudes."

Jessica Walsh led Putnam Valley with three goals and Jacklyn Phillips added two goals and two assists. Catherine O'Sullivan and Jordan Tucker also had goals.



## Sports

## Baseball Notebook

## Lakeland, Put Valley Takes Top Seeds in to Sectionals

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays

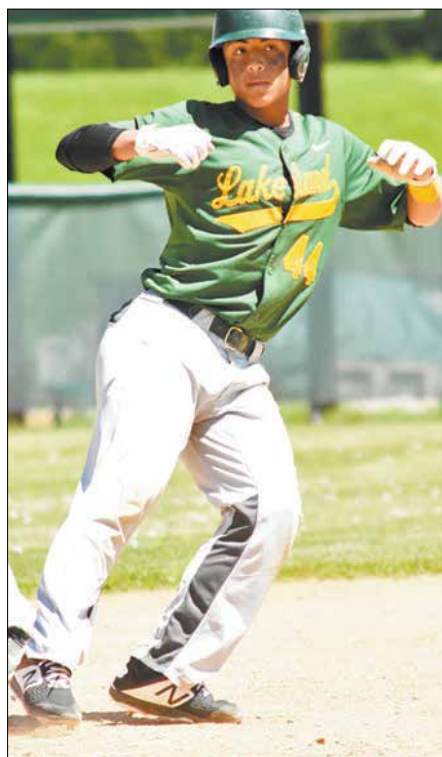
Nerves will be frayed, anxious moms will look away, edgy dads will yell a little louder, umpires will be barked at with greater ferocity and some teams will go home sooner than they were expecting... Such is life on the Section 1 playoff circuit.

With two top seeds – Class A **LAKELAND** and Class B **PUTNAM VALLEY** – divided by a meager mile, it's safe to say that this was a top-flight regular season in our neck of the woods, but the second season, which opened yesterday on a diamond near you, separates the pretenders from the contenders.

## CLASS A

State-ranked (No.1) Lakeland (19-1) would appear to have the better side of the bracket on paper, which is worth less than the free newspaper you just picked up. No.16 Eastchester was up first, with the No.8 Beacon/No.9 Harrison on deck. Make no mistake, Eastchester, Beacon and Harrison have rich histories in this tournament, and all are eager to size up the bulls-eye on Lakeland's larger-than-life back. After the quarterfinals, Lakeland might draw No.4 Nyack, the only team to defeat Lakeland this season, so the bracket may look easier with No.2 Rye and No.3 Byram Hills on the other side, but that's the beauty of baseball... that's why nerves of steel, as much as talent, will ultimately prevail.

The thing is, no one in Class A has the pitching rotation Lakeland Coach Bill Casey has with Section 1 Player of the



Lakeland freshman Nick Badillo is one of many extremely talented underclassmen on the current Hornets squad, ranked No.1 in NYS.

Year-in-waiting Joey Vetrano at the top, No.2 Evan Berta, No.3 Jason Greene and versatile Zach Cohen and Kevin Burke eating up innings as relievers and potential starters. Plus, the lineup 1-9 knows its roles, making Lakeland the prohibitive favorites; much as Casey hates to read it. An 18-game win streak, including a 12-1 manhandling of No.7 BREWSTER (11-7-1), sealed the deal last Thursday at Veterans Park in Brewster. Vetrano hit a three-run yard bomb, which is still rolling somewhere behind Ace Endico, and doubled while Burke cracked a two-run dinger.

Vetrano, just a junior, mind you, has had the kind of season few in Lakeland history have ever had. He's played flawless defense at 1B. He's 7-0 on the mound, firing 39.2 innings while scattering 18 hits. The 6'3" lefty has allowed just three earned runs, which translate to a 0.53 ERA. An astounding 58 batters have been sent down K-way, against just nine free passes.

At the plate, 'Joey Bats' is stroking to the tune of .444 with a .580 OBP. Of his 28 hits, 20 have gone for extra sacks, including 11 homers, four double and five triples, resulting in 34 runs and 31 RBI. He leads off because opposing teams have to pitch to him to open the game (he has 14 walks), or his numbers might be even more astounding if he hit in the middle of this prosperous lineup.

Lakeland has had its fair share of great pitchers who could also hit and play every day, including two-time NYS Gatorade Player of the Year Jonathan de Marte and former Old Dominion prospect Anthony Eannacony – among others – but it's entirely possible that Vetrano goes down in history as the most versatile prep in Lakeland history. And if it weren't for Vetrano, all of Section 1 would be blowing smoke at Berta, who is the most underrated player in the section, hitting over .500, playing a mean CF and serving as one of the best No.2 pitchers on any staff in the section.

Brewster will draw No.10 Nanuet and should they survive that No.2 Rye is chomping at the bit for a chance to erase last year's shocker when the No.16 Bears busted up the Class A bracket with an opening-round upset of the top-seeded Garnets. Whoa, that would be some



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac's Kyle Brandsetter and scalding hot slugger Joe Lacaparra (34) hope to boost the Indian offense in this week's Class AA playoffs.

serious drama.

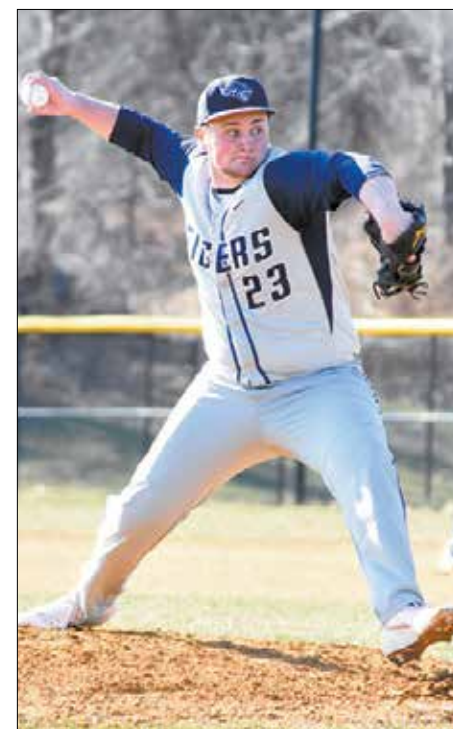
Fifth-seeded **HEN HUD** (13-6-1) has an interesting draw with a visit from No.12 Pearl River and a potential trek across the river to No.4 Nyack before a possible look at Lakeland in the semis. Some recent playoffs have been cruel to the Sailors over the past few years, despite terrific regular seasons, so a deep run would change their fortunes. Ace Nick Hiltley is who the Sailors will pin their hopes upon. Much like Lakeland, we go back a long way with this program, so we're pulling for the boys in blue to #GetErDone, #AnchorsUp!

No.11 **YORKTOWN** (12-8) has an interesting draw against No.6 John Jay CR (12-8), with whom the Huskers split with during the regular season. Jay always brings it in the post. There's not much separation between the No.2 seed and the 11, the Huskers just three games back in the loss column from No.2 Rye and No.3 Byram Hills, both on their side of the bracket. This could be a wild, unpredictable ride, though Rye has to be more motivated than most.

No.15 **PANAS** (9-11) and No.17 **SOMERS** (8-12) were each eliminated in the outbracket round.

## CLASS AA

**MAHOPAC** (11-8) is roaring into the playoffs as the No.9 seed with a first-round matchup against No.8 Clarkstown South after knocking off top-seeded and state-ranked (No.4) RCK, 8-2, in the final week of the season. The Indians split a pair with RCK and that provided a ton of confidence going forward, especially when ace RHP Casey Tewey takes the hill. Tewey scattered nine hits and made huge pitches while upsetting RCK, one of the top program in the state year in and year out. Slugger Joe Lacaparra continued to wield one of the hottest bats in section, driving home five runs with a home run and two hits in all for the Indians, who should see RCK in the quarterfinals, unless No.16 **CARMEL** (6-14-1) can stage an epic first-round



Putnam Valley P John Millicker is key part of a Tiger staff with a combined ERA just a shade over 1.00.

upset last night. RCK was due to see Rams sophomore ace Jack Sullivan, who is an up-and-comer, but has a tall order before him.

It'll be interesting to see if No.4 **OSSINING** (15-5) can live up to its high seed after posting one of the best seasons in school history under League I-D Coach of the Year Scott Deleso. The Pride drew No.13 Clarkstown North, which has seen some solid competition across the river. There are some pundits among us predicting this as a potential bracket-breaker in Class AA. Either way, No.5 Mamaroneck lies in wait, and that's been a death sentence for teams from this region in the past.

## CLASS B

State-ranked (No.22) **PUTNAM VALLEY** (15-4), is, without question, the hottest team heading into the tournament. The Tigers are riding high on the heels of a 13-game win streak after a 4-0 season-ending win over North Salem and a perfect league slate (6-0). The League III-E champion Tigers are getting it done in a fashion similar to their Little League heyday: No over-the-top superstars, just guys doing what's expected of them. Coach Joe Natalie's senior class -- including P/SS T.J. (Don't call me Travis) Brescia, John Millicker, Franky Curran, Bobby Kroboth, Matt Carlsen, Alex O'Brien and John Listwan (among others) – have been skunked in terms of sectional titles in football and basketball, so they are hoping to make the most of this last run.

The pitching staff has a combined microscopic ERA of 1.01. Brescia (5-0, 0.63 ERA) has whiffed 51 dudes over 33

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# Lakeland, Mahopac, Put Valley Eyeing Big Prizes

By Tony Pinciario

**LAKELAND** is heading into the Section 1 Class A Softball Championships riding a wave of momentum.

The Hornets shut out Somers and beat archrival Panas (4-2), improving to 19-0. Lakeland closed out the regular season, Monday, against Brewster.

Lakeland, the 2017 Section 1 Class A champions, have all but secured the No. 1 seed going into the highly-competitive and always difficult Section 1 Class A Championship.

The Hornets, especially their seniors, are a focused group after being denied a 2018 title-game appearance by eventual champion Ardsley.

"The team is really excited and ready for sectionals," said senior and pitcher Claire Fon. "I feel like since we did lose in the semifinals last year everyone is definitely determined for this year's tournament play."

What makes the Section 1 Class A Softball Championship so rough is the



RICK KUPERBERG/RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Panas SS Julia Petrovich swipes 2B as Lakeland's Shannon Scotto awaits throw in Panthers' league loss to Hornets last Wednesday.

These three teams are in the mix, again, this year, as are **HEN HUD** (19-1), Our Lady of Lourdes, **PANAS**, **SOMERS**, Pelham and Harrison, to name a few.

**PANAS** threw a scare into Lakeland as

**HEN HUD** is looking over Lakeland's shoulder as the Sailors closed out the regular season with five wins and they own a 19-1 record. Hen Hud is a perennial sectional contender and this year is no different as the Sailors continue to raise their level of play with each game.

"We just won our league title so I think we finished on a very high note and want to carry that momentum into sectionals," said senior and captain Thea Barbelet. "I feel that peaking later, as a team, gives them the same momentum, allowing them to come into sectionals with a lot of energy and cohesiveness."

Barbelet likened the Section 1 Class A Softball Championships to the State Championships.

"Section 1 is similar to states and is highly competitive, meaning that upsets are always possible," Barbelet said. "Our team has been on both ends of an upset before."

**PUTNAM VALLEY** concluded an outstanding regular season, blanking Edgemont, but dropping a 5-4 verdict to Rye Neck.

The Tigers, who won their first league title since 2009, finished the regular season with a 13-7 record and will await their seeding in the Section 1 Class B Championships.

Emily McKenna, who shut out Edgemont, for her third in-a-row, registered her 100th varsity hit in the Rye Neck game. McKenna, who tripled for the milestone hit, joins Alex and Keiko Waters, who also collected their 100th varsity hits earlier this season.

"Coming into the game (Rye Neck) I knew I had to be close, but nobody would tell me exactly how many I still needed, so it was pretty exciting when after I hit it, my whole team came running out to third base to congratulate me," McKenna said.

As exciting as her hit was, McKenna and her teammates were even more thrilled with the league title.

"Winning the league title was one of



Mahopac's Shannon Becker threw yet another no-hitter at Carmel last week in Indians' 18-0 win over Rams.

our goals for this season," McKenna said. "We've had some tough battles against Pawling the past couple of years. To get two victories over them this year was really important for our team, especially being that Putnam Valley had not won a league title since 2009. It means a lot to me and my teammates that we were able to do this together."

McKenna tossed a one-hitter against Edgemont and also had three hits and three RBI. Alex Waters had three hits and five RBI and fearless SS Frankie Reyes also had three hits and drove in three.

Despite the final result against Rye Neck, Putnam Valley centerfielder Sonya Garcia made an excellent defensive play and doubled up the baserunner. The Tigers are where they want to be going into sectionals, playing excellent softball.

"Our team has great chemistry and would do anything for each other and anything to win," McKenna said. "We are pretty excited going into sectionals and I feel that our coaches will have us prepared for anything sectionals may bring."

**MAHOPAC** P Shannon Becker continued racking up strikeouts, 18, and posting zeroes in an 18-0 shutout of Carmel. She has 332 whiffs for the season, a school record for #MahopacsKoufax, who was a dropped third strike away from a second perfect game against the rival Rams. Becker is also hitting .448 for the 17-3 Indians.

**SOMERS** enters the Section 1 Class A Championship with a 10-10 record.

The Tuskers, like Putnam Valley, had three players register their 100th varsity hits this season – Manhattan-bound Gabby Mazzotta, Karly Moscarello and Tori Pagliaro.

Somers coach Dave Scagnelli faced Lakeland twice this year, losing 4-3 and by shutout. He considers Lakeland to be the favorite.



Lakeland 3B Stella Bale slaps tag on Panas' Tahari Williams in Hornets' win over Panthers last Wednesday.

depth and quality of the qualifying teams. A first-round upset is always looming and this forces teams to be at their best.

"Class A clearly has a lot of strong teams within it," Fon said. "We have played many great teams and some of these games have been a battle. It's always good to face teams like that. You never know who you may face as a team so we are going to be prepared for each game and do our best and will stay composed as we have this season."

Last year, three Rockland teams – Pearl River, Nanuet and Tappan Zee – advanced to the Section 1 Class A semifinals.

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innings, and Millicker (4-0, 0.81 ERA) has allowed just 10 hits in 26 innings; neither has lost a game this season. O'Brien (2-2, 1.09 ERA) and Carlsen (3-2, 0.82 ERA) have suffered through some hard-luck situations but both have eaten innings with regularity, chucking 26 innings each. If the Tigers play solid defense behind

the Panthers took a 2-1 lead in the fourth inning. Lakeland responded with single runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

Amber Lopez, Krystal Badillo and Amanda DiClerico each had two hits and drove in a run. Fon struck out nine and scattered six hits. This challenge, leading up to sectionals, is what a team wants.

"Panas has been a very good team over the past few years and whenever we play them it's a good game," Fon said. "A game like this is always good to have played, no matter what time in the season. But it is beneficial for it to be before sectionals because it prepares us for what's ahead."

this quartet and hit in clutch spots, the PV may be looking at their first sectional title appearance since the Pat Considine era (circa 2008). If they don't this is a bracket-buster in the making with the likes of No.8 Keio – a post-season juggernaut over the last decade -- potentially waiting in the quarterfinals.





RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



# Golly, Gi!



## Joy Turns to Sorrow in Mahopac's 7-5 Class A Semifinal Loss to Mam'neck

Mahopac sophomore A Gigi Genovese scored twice for the second-seeded Indians who celebrated (inset) a 4-2 lead at the break, but it wasn't enough to offset a 5-1 second-half surge from No.6 Mamaroneck in the host Indians' 7-5 Section 1 Class A semifinal setback last Saturday when the Tigers denied Kat Klammer's Indians (inset) and advanced to the title tilt to face Fox Lane Wednesday (7 p.m.)... see Girls Lax Notebook