

The Putnam Examiner Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

Hot Stock Tip!

**No.2 Putnam Valley
Bullish on Section 1
Hoop Market; Tigers
Rout No.15 Valhalla,
Face No.10 Dobbs Next**

Fiery Putnam Valley junior F Arianna Stockinger, a staple of the PV hoops diet, takes a run at the rack in the second-seeded Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B opening-round playoff win over visiting No.15 Valhalla last Thursday. The Tigers advanced to last night's quarterfinal round against No.10 Dobbs Ferry, who defeated the Tigers 49-44 when they met in a Slam Dunk challenge back in December, with a Final 4 berth and a trip to the Westchester County Center on the line... see Girls' Hoops Notebook



Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Class A Lakeland Lone Local to Advance to Quarters

Panas Falls in 2OT, Peekskill Ousted at Byram; Class AA Mahopac Nipped at Mt. Vernon

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

We mentioned way back in our hoops preview section in early December that the 2020 basketball campaign -- much like 2019 -- would be a rough one for the local clubs in and about Northern Westchester/Putnam County, and sometimes it's just awful when you're right about something you truly wish you were wrong about.

Well, the opening round of the Section 1 tournament came and went last weekend, and Class A **LAKELAND** was the lone boys' team from this region to advance to the quarterfinals last Friday in a 59-41 win over visiting No.12 Clarkstown South. The fifth-seeded, height-challenged Hornets (17-4) committed to defense and crashed the boards on one end while senior guards Augie Karaqi (18 points), Jeff Owusu (10) and Jack Kruse (10) each went for double digits on the other.

"Our defense wasn't too good early in the year, but we committed to it in practice and we've emphasized defense more and it showed tonight," said Lakeland senior G Rob Nardelli, who added nine points, including two big treys in key spots. "We've got playmakers, not just one or two, more like six-seven of them, and we all trust each other."

As he always is, Owusu was a royal pain, collaring 10 rebounds, dishing three as-



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Lakeland F Aidan Welcome gets easy two in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown South Friday.



Lakeland senior G Augie Karaqi goes for two of 18 points in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown South Friday.



Lakeland G Rob Nardelli drops two of his nine points in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown North.

sists and adding four steals for the Hornets, who won an opening-round game for the first time since 2009 under former Coach Henry Weltman and advanced to face No.4 Poughkeepsie, the reigning state champs, Wednesday.

"Coach talked about it all year, if we can play defense, this team can be the best in the section, no doubt," said Karaqi, the All-Section senior. "Poughkeepsie will be a tough team to beat, but if we play the way we did today we get the 'dub'."

If Lakeland can display that type of two-way commitment against the Pioneers (15-6) with a Final 4 berth on the line, the Hornets could be back at the County Center for the first time since 2009. Lakeland went to the sectional finals in 2006-07 (the infamous shot clock game vs Peekskill) and then again in 2008-09 (during the Ralph Watts-to-Peekskill transfer season) but has never won the section. Previously, the 2002 Hornets reached the Final 4 but were defeated

by Nyack in the semis.

Kruse is looking to end the County Center drought at Lakeland.

"We know we can score," the All-Section swingman said. "We're ready for Poughkeepsie. It's what we want. We're ready."

Lakeland Coach Steve Fallo knows what's at stake and likes what he saw against the Vikings, who were run out of the gym in the second quarter.

"We went from giving up 66 points per game to 56, and that's just a credit to them," Fallo said. "They know they can put up points with anyone but in playoff basketball that doesn't matter. You have to play defense and they made that commitment. We're ready to go. They'll play anybody right now. They think they can go up there and score with anybody, but now we have that other side of the ball working defensively. We think we can shut people down."

Poughkeepsie, the League II-E champion, features two solid players in All-Section Ja-

vel Cherry and All-Conference Shaun Johnson and has won 13 of its last 14, including nine in a row. Clearly, shutting them down won't be easy...

PANAS turned around a sub-par 2019 season and deserves props for doing so, not to mention the effort given by Coach Mike Auerbach's ninth-seeded Panthers (13-8) in their 70-67 double-OT loss to No.8 host Harrison last Friday.

Panas senior Tom Palmaffy, a workhorse all season, finished with 18 points and six rebounds while senior Robert Ennis, a two-sport star at Panas, added 16 points, including a game-tying hoop to send the game to the second overtime session. His last-ditch attempt from distance to force a third OT came up short.

"Certainly, a tough way to end the season, to say the least," Coach Auerbach said. "I'm really proud of the way our guys competed and battled until the end. "We jumped out

continued on next page

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Lakeland G Mike Arcure sinks two in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown South Friday.

on them early then had some trouble scoring in the second. We played one of our best quarters of the season in the third to take a five-point lead into the fourth. We were up a few late and just couldn't do enough to close them out. Both overtimes were very competitive, and we had our chances. Tom Palmaffy was great before fouling out with about a minute and half remaining in regulation. Robert Ennis was very good, as he's been all year. Josh Nnadiri hit some big shots as did Caleb Evans. Lorenzo Santucci was really good off the bench. He provided a big spark for us offensively.

"All in all, we're really pleased with how the season went," he added. "Obviously, we would have loved the opportunity to move on and take a run at Tappan Zee but with all the ups and downs we had, different guys in and out of the lineup all year, we really feel our kids did a terrific job piecing it together to give us a good chance to win each night."

More than that, Panas, which seems to always have a puncher's chance to compete, stayed relevant...

No.15 **PEEKSKILL** gave No.2 Byram Hills fits, making a valiant run in the fourth quarter of the Red Devils' (11-11) 69-58 season-ending loss to state-ranked (No.23) Bobcats. Peekskill senior Antonio Taylor dropped 26 points to conclude a solid All-

Section campaign while junior G Brennan Heaven added 16 for the vastly improving Red Devils, who are hopeful for a return to past greatness in the near future.

"We have seven returning juniors, which is a great start," Peekskill Coach Tim Turner said. "In addition, we have some JV and freshman players who can contribute at the varsity level next season."

Imagine Section 1 basketball with a competitive Peekskill, the 17-time Section 1 champs, back in contention again...

YORKTOWN's Brucaj brothers did all they could (Roni Brucaj had 14 points and Eddie Brucaj added 11 points and 10 rebounds) in the 16th-seeded Huskers' 60-35 loss to top-seeded, state-ranked (No.19) host Tappan Zee last Friday, but the 2019 Class A runner-up Dutchmen were too much to handle in their Red Sea environment. Yorktown (11-11) had won seven of its last nine going into the field of 16, thus turning its season around while becoming relevant and building hope for the future under Coach Mark Pavella...

CLASS AA

MAHOPAC truly built upon its future in a 57-44 loss to host Mount Vernon last Saturday. Not only did the 13th-seeded Indians (10-11) give the three-time defending Section 1 champions fits, trailing by one at the half, and they were in it to win it for three-plus quarters until the fourth-seeded Knights finished with a typical fury. Seniors Matthew McMahon (13 points) and John Cosentino (11) led the Indians while sophomore G Patrick McMahon added nine points. Ryan Reilly and Vin Bastone provided great effort, according to Coach Tom McMahon.

"Mount Vernon was the culmination of a season of hard work and building a culture," the first-year coach said. We showed up and played extremely hard and competed for 32 minutes. As a coach, that's all you can ask for. We are a young team, so it is definitely something to build on for the juniors and sophomores coming back. We will miss the leadership of our senior class and will need new leaders to emerge this off-season to continue what they started."

No.15 **OSSINING** received an incredible individual effort from sophomore G Jaeden Carr in an 80-64 opening-round loss at No. Horace Greeley. Carr, who is worth building the program around, went for 29 points while dishing four assists and snagging five caroms. He missed nine games this season due to injury, but showed significant ability when in the lineup.

"Jaeden is a very special player," Pride Coach Mike Casey said. "He's one of the top point guards in the section... born and raised in the O."



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Ossining sophomore Jaeden Carr went for 29 points in Class AA playoff loss to Greeley but will be among finest point guards in Section 1 next year.



DOM DEMATTEO PHOTO

The McMahon brothers, soph Patrick and senior Matt (R) share one last moment on court while dad-coach, Tom, does his thing in 57-44 Class AA playoff loss to Mount Vernon Saturday.

Senior Mark DeAngelis (14 points) and junior Khy'Leil Hawkins (9 points, 5 assists) were solid contributors, but Coach Matt Simone's state-ranked (No.15) Quakers -- the team to beat, many believe -- were simply too much for the Pride to handle, having lost to them for the third time this season.

CLASS B

No.9 **CROTON-HARMON** picked a bad time for a rough start when No. 8 Bronxville held the Tigers (11-10) without a field goal in the first quarter while assuming a 14-1 lead that Croton would never overcome in a season-ending 60-38 opening-round setback.

Mount(ain) Do!

Carmel Senior Propels Rams to 2nd Playoff Win in 20 Years



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO

Carmel senior F Steven Mount (17) leads a charge of Rams, including Gavin Golisano (L) and Graham Ludwig (2), toward a raucous dogpile at the Brewster Ice Arena last Saturday night when the fourth-seeded celebratory Rams won their 2nd playoff game in 20 years in epic fashion, a 7-6 overtime triumph of No.13 White Plains on one of two goals by Mount. Rams Chris Cieciora (2G), 2A, Ludwig (1G), Golisano (1G), Luke Golisano (1G, 2A), Brendan Murphy (5A), Noah Richardson (2A), Jack Lagan (2A), Rob Paradiso (1A) and goalie Breandan Richardson (29 saves on 35 shots) all filled the stat sheet on a historic night for the program. Carmel (14-6-1) hosts the Rivertowns Legends today at 8:15 pm at the BIA.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Panas vs. Hen Hud: One Goes Home, One to County Center

Class AA Mahopac, Ossining, Class B Put Valley, Class A Somers Advance to Quarters

By Tony Pinciario

Panas, along with Somers, Lakeland, Brewster, John Jay-Cross River and Yorktown, form one of the deepest, toughest leagues. Every League II-C game is like playing a sectional game.

As a result of this difficult, grueling league schedule the teams knock off each other and it leads to lower seeds.

Panas persevered and earned a seventh seed, while Somers was an eighth seed, John Jay the 12th seed and Brewster and Yorktown had play-in games.

"We played a pretty tough schedule this season," Panas senior Kristen Scrobola said. "There weren't really any games we walked into saying we will beat this team, no problem. We had five of the seven other teams still playing on our schedule. We knew every game we would have to give it our all. I think playing as many good teams as we did helped us prepare for sectionals."

Panas opened the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament with a 50-48 victory Clarkstown South on a Kristen Cinquina basket with 10 seconds remaining.

Panas (16-5) will now play at No. 2 Hen Hud, in a quarterfinal, 5p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26. The winner of this game will face the No. 3 Tappan Zee-No. 6 Pearl River victor in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

Cailean Nolan led Panas with 18 points and also had eight rebounds and five assists. Cinquina added 16 points and five assists, freshman Kelsey Cregan grabbed 10 rebounds and Erijona Rraci contributed eight points and six rebounds. Panas Coach Matt Evangelista credited Kat Reynoso with playing excellent defense.

Scrobola is very familiar with Hen Hud's dominant player, Caitlin Weimar.

"Caitlin is a very good player," Scrobola said. "I had the pleasure of playing with her

for a few years, as well as a few of the other girls on the team. Although we will be putting a lot of focus on Caitlin, we are aware of some of the things the other girls can do, and will do our best to be prepared."

One thing Weimar excels at is controlling the boards, so Panas knows they will have to be relentless rebounding.

"Rebounding is a huge part of this game, as well as every game," Scrobola said. "The best way is to put it is all five of us need to put a body on someone, and pursue the ball. Rebounding can make or break this game for us. Hen Hud has a little bit of a size advantage, but I can promise you we will do everything we can to get as many rebounds as possible."

Panas, like the remaining seven teams, has one goal in mind – the gold ball.

"Every year we are determined to get to the county center, but who isn't?" Scrobola said. "This year we want more than just the county center. We want a gold ball and we are determined to get it."

CLASS A

HEN HUD, seeded second, received a scare from No. 15 Yorktown, before rallying to a 45-42 victory in a Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship first-round game.

Yorktown led, 37-34, entering the fourth quarter. Hen Hud (20-1) will host No. 7 Panas, Wednesday, in a quarterfinal. The winner faces the No. 3 Tappan Zee-No. 6 Pearl River victor in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

"It was a very intense game," Hen Hud senior Weimar said. "They came out hitting lots of 3s, which we didn't expect, but we had to adjust and step up on defense. We played together and it was a great team win."

Weimar finished with 18 points and 19 rebounds. Mylene Smith added 13 points and Grace Moretti chipped in 12 points, six steals and four rebounds. Weimar cited Hen Hud's victory, in a close game with Clarkstown South, as beneficial.

"That helped us because we didn't have a lot of games this year that were close in the fourth quarter," Weimar said. "Having that game helped prepare us and gave us some experience on what to do, how to play and how to keep our composure."

SOMERS drew the eighth seed in the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship and began with a 63-33 win over No.



Hen Hud's Colleen Ryan cuts off Yorktown's Melissa Severino in Sailors' 45-42 opening-round Class A win over Huskers Friday.

RAY GALLAGHER/BOB CASTNER PHOTOS

9 Yonkers. The Tuskers (14-7) reward is to play at No. 1 Rye (18-3) in a quarterfinal, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Somers' Coach Marc Hattem noted that his team opened the 2019-20 season with a 54-35 loss to Rye.

"We are excited to play them again," Hattem said. "They are really good. They are the best team in Class A, in my opinion."



Mahopac junior G Mia Klammer gets up for two points in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.



Mahopac sophomore G Julie DeBrocky fires trey for two of her 13 points in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.

They are big and skilled. When we saw them the first time we weren't healthy, so we look forward to battling them with a full squad."

Dani DiCintio scored a game-high 24 points and Pooja Rao added 17 points against Yonkers.

BREWSTER drew the 14th seed, but was forced to play an out-bracket game against No. 19 Eastchester. The Bears rallied from a 15-point deficit in the third quarter and go overtime for a 55-47 win. Brewster then faced No. 3 Tappan Zee and dropped a 55-30 verdict, finishing the season with a 12-10 record.

In the Eastchester game, Adrianna Calicchia was 4 for 4 from the free-throw line in overtime and finished with nine points. Alexis Mark had a team-high 20 points and also grabbed 10 rebounds. Grace Galgano had 18 points, 14 rebounds and nine blocked shots.

Brewster was within five points of Tappan Zee, 26-21, with four minutes remaining in the third quarter. Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said Tappan Zee closed the third with an 11-1 run. Galgano led the Bears with 10 points, 14 rebounds and seven blocks.

"I couldn't be prouder of how the girls played," Castaldo said. "I told them they needed to rebound, sprint back on defense and contest every three-point shot to be in the game, and to win it, we needed to make shots. Unfortunately we just didn't make shots."

YORKTOWN, like Brewster, had to play its way into the tournament and did so with a victory over No. 18 Nanuet. The youthful Cornhuskers (they started 2 freshmen, 1 soph, 1 junior, 1 senior), seeded 15th, had No. 2 Hen Hud on the ropes after three quarters, holding a three-point lead. However,

continued on next page



Hen Hud's Caitlin Weimar (R) and Yorktown's Ashley Zeolla get after rebound in Sailors' 45-42 Class A playoff win over Huskers Friday.

Sports

continued from previous page



Mahopac G Julia Paolicelli coolly gains lane for shot in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.

Hen Hud limited Yorktown (10-12) to five points in the fourth quarter of a 45-42 win. Sophomore Melissa Severino had 16 points.

"I think Melissa (Severino) was helped by the fact that we had three other kids hit two 3s each and that kind of opened it up a little," Yorktown Coach Brian Mundy said. "They couldn't just key on her on the perimeter with other kids shooting well. She did a good job moving without the ball and was able to hit four threes. 'We knew we were going to have to live with giving up some open looks outside in order to protect the paint. Unfortunately, they ended up hitting the one more



Putnam Valley senior G Cyera Daughtry goes for two points in Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Valhalla Thursday.



Mahopac sophomore G Melanie DeMeo drops two of her 15 points in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.



Putnam Valley freshman Eva DeChent skies for two of her 18 points in Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Valhalla Thursday.

outside shot they needed. From where we were the first week of the season to where we ended up, I actually think we outperformed, a little."

CLASS AA

MAHOPAC was even with R.C. Ketcham at halftime, but dominated the second half in a 57-35 first-round win in the Section 1 Class AA tourney.

The fifth-seeded Indians (15-6) play No. 4 Albertus Magnus in a quarterfinal, Friday, Feb. 28. The winner moves on to face the victory of No. 8 White Plains-No. 1 Ursuline in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

Mahopac limited Ketcham to just 12 points in the second half behind stifling full-court pressure.

"Mia Klammer was instrumental in the win with six steals and she did a great job defensively," Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "She caused havoc all over the floor."

Caitlin O'Boyle led Mahopac with 18 points and 20 rebounds. Melanie DeMeo added 15 points and Julie DeBrocky finished with 13 points.

"As for Magnus, it's going to be challenging, but like they say 'On any given day'," Coach Scozzafava said.

OSSINING, seeded sixth, beat No. 11 Fox Lane, 77-49 in the first round. The Pride (13-8) will play at No. 3 Our Lady of Lourdes (16-5), Friday, 5 p.m., in a quarterfinal-round game. Lourdes defeated Ossining, 83-50, Dec. 13, but that was a Pride team still learning about itself.

"The difference between our team then and now is tremendous," senior Julia Iorio said. "We have come a very long way and took a turn for the best. We have been working very hard to become the team the public us used to seeing."

The winner of this game will face the No. 2 Arlington-No. 10 John Jay-East Fishkill winner in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

It's ironic that Ossining and Lourdes are playing in the quarters when these teams have played in the Section 1 Class AA championship game numerous times.

During Iorio's career, Ossining has never been anything but a No. 1 seed so the sixth seed is something new.

"We understand that we are usually the top dogs and now we aren't, but it actually takes a lot of pressure off us and now puts it on the top seeds," Iorio said. "We just have to go out there and play with maximum effort because we now don't have to worry about satisfying the section."

Iorio and her teammates were prepared for the postseason, and the victory over Fox Lane proved it.

"Our team was ready for sectionals," Iorio said. "We have all been putting 100 percent into this sports. We have worked

Girls' Hoops Notebook



Mahopac freshman G Lauren Beberman is hounded by RCK defender in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.

hard every day over break and are ready for whatever comes our way."

CLASS B

Putnam Valley are the second seed in the Section 1 tournament and opened with a convincing 66-27 win over No. 15 Valhalla. Kelli Venezia poured in a game-high 24 points and Eva DeChent added 18 points.

Putnam Valley (17-3) hosted No. 10 Dobbs Ferry (10-11), in a quarterfinal, Monday. A victory would send the Tigers to the semifinals, Tuesday, March 3, at the Westchester County Center to face the winner of No. 3 Hastings-No. 6 Pleasantville.



Putnam Valley senior G Kelli Venezia goes for two of her game-high 24 points in Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Valhalla Thursday.

O'Boyle(d) Alive!

No.5 Mahopac
Turns Up Heat,

Knocks off No.12
RCK in
Class AA Opener

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Mighty Mahopac junior F Caitlin O'Boyle takes its straight through the heart of the Roy C. Ketcham defense for two of her game-high 18 points -- to go with a game-high 20 boards -- as she assumed domination in the 5th-seeded host Indians' 57-35 Section 1 Class AA opening round playoff win over No.12 RCK last Saturday when Mahopac advanced to this Friday's quarterfinal round against No.4 Albertus Magnus, ranked No.11 in NYS... see Girls' Hoops Notebook