

ExaminerSports

**When
Worlds
Collide!**

**State-Ranked
(No.1) Somers
Knocks Out
Mahopac, 3-0**

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers sophomore M Brady Leitner (L) and Mahopac senior M Sean Vaughn went airborne to collide on a 50-50 ball in the state-ranked (No.1) Tuskers' 3-0 victory over the visiting Indians last Friday when undefeated Somers (11-0) inched ever-so-close to locking up the League II-C title. A win over visiting Yorktown (11-1-1) today would all but clinch it... See NWE/Putnam Soccer Notebook

Sports

Shorthanded White Plains Falls to the Admirals

By Andy Jacobs

White Plains football coach Mike Lindberg has found himself in the unenviable position of having to improvise with the Tigers' starting backfield so far this season.

On Friday afternoon, those improvisational skills of his reached a breaking point. By the start of the fourth quarter against the host Arlington Admirals, Lindberg realized he really didn't have anyone left who could carry the football for him.

"I just think we kind of ran out of running backs," he would say shortly after his Tigers had fallen 28-14 in a game they twice held a one-touchdown lead. "We had a lot of injuries to one position, and when you have a lot of injuries to one position it just puts you in a tough spot."

The two teams were deadlocked 14-14 at halftime, but the Admirals took possession to start the third quarter and promptly marched 60 yards in nine plays, grabbing the lead for good when Brad Nieves burst through the middle for a nine-yard touchdown. Nearly four and a half minutes later, Arlington's bruising back, Daeon Lynch, broke a couple of tackles on his way to his second TD of the game, this one from 14 yards out, all but dooming White Plains to its second loss in five games.

"Obviously it was big," said Lindberg of the third-quarter dominance by the Admirals. "But I still thought we had a chance. I think if we had our guys the whole game, it would've been a little closer, maybe even we pull out a win. But we didn't."

The day began with White Plains getting the football and keeping it for 17 plays and over six minutes. But the Tigers' long drive finally stalled when quarterback Jay Biondi's fourth-and-goal pass from the



White Plains senior quarterback Jay Biondi throws a pass in Friday afternoon's game at Arlington.

5-yard line to favorite target Danny LaSalle fell incomplete. Another promising drive late in the half ended when Nicolas Spista was stopped at the Arlington 2-yard as time expired.

"At the end of the half, I think if we had one more play we'd probably score," said Lindberg. "We just ran out of time. The other one, I thought we had a chance in the back of the end zone. We just didn't hook it up. I thought we moved the ball in the first half very well. And then I think in the second half, we got worn down. We had a bunch of injuries, a bunch of guys got hurt. Other guys were asked to step in and they weren't ready for the big time yet."



White Plains senior running back Nicolas Spista uses the Heisman pose trying to elude Arlington's Ian Griffin in the Tigers' 28-14 loss up in Dutchess County.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Danny LaSalle of White Plains returns a kick during the Tigers' road game vs. the Arlington Admirals.

White Plains did manage to get on the scoreboard first after forcing the Admirals into a three-and-out on their first possession of the game. A short punt gave the Tigers excellent field position and, three plays later, Biondi fired a pass to the left to LaSalle, who got to the sideline and raced into the end zone for a 36-yard touchdown. The point-after by Spista gave White Plains a 7-0 lead with 1:42 left in the opening quarter.

But Arlington responded with an 11-play, 59-yard drive, tying the score three minutes into the second quarter on a 1-yard run by Aidan Chaffee and the PAT from quarterback Michael Rescigno.

A long kickoff return by LaSalle then set the Tigers up at the Admirals' 30-yard line. Just five plays later, Biondi connected over the middle to Anthony Logan in the back of the end zone on a perfect pass for a 9-yard touchdown. Spista's kick gave White Plains a 14-7 advantage with 6:54 remaining in the half.

The power running of Lynch brought Arlington right back, though, and his 8-yard



White Plains junior Jacob Lee carries the football in Friday's game at Arlington.



The Tigers' Elijah Pierre runs past Arlington's Aidan Chaffee in the first quarter of Friday's 28-14 loss to the host Admirals.

touchdown capped a 46-yard drive that tied the score with 4:21 left on the clock before intermission.

Biondi was able to complete four passes late in the half, but his final one, to Spista, led to the senior fullback getting knocked out of bounds as time expired. When play resumed after a lengthy halftime break, Arlington soon took command and the Tigers' hopes for a big road win were quickly dashed.

"At the end of the day, this was a non-league game and our goal all along has been to win the league, get a number-one seed and a home playoff game. That's all still in front of us," said Lindberg, whose Tigers got star back Elijah Pierre back for just one quarter Friday before he was forced to the sideline and also had to play without Isaiah Graham, who had rushed for 206 yards and three TDs in last week's rout of Port Chester.

Now it remains to be seen if Lindberg will have any of his top backs available to play next Friday night when the Tigers host Fox Lane in a key Class AA, League C matchup. He conceded he was using the fifth running back on his team's depth chart late in the game against the Admirals.

"As frustrated as I was, I was very proud of the other guys that stepped up and stepped into the role," he said. "Yes, I would've loved to have won, but I was proud of the way the kids fought."



White Plains head coach Mike Lindberg directs his team in the fourth quarter against host Arlington.

Sports

A Late Field Goal Lifts the Panthers to a Big Victory

By Andy Jacobs

More than a month into the 2021 season, the Pleasantville football team was faced with its biggest hurdle on Saturday afternoon — a foe from Bronxville led by dynamic senior quarterback Conor O'Neil.

Even though O'Neil provided spectators with plenty of highlights, it was the host Panthers who celebrated first and last. They scored an 80-yard touchdown on their initial play from scrimmage and eventually emerged victorious after John McCarthy booted a 22-yard field goal with just over two minutes remaining that was the difference in a 25-22 win.

Despite 231 yards passing from O'Neil to go along with several jaw-dropping escapes from Pleasantville pressure, it was four turnovers by the Broncos that derailed their fast-paced offense and helped the Panthers roar back from behind at a cloud-covered Parkway Field to remain unbeaten and improve to 5-0.

"I mean, listen, he has it all, obviously," said Panthers head coach Tony Becerra after watching his team frantically try to slow O'Neil down every time Bronxville had the ball. "But he's also got kids to throw to and then when you couple that and focus on everything else, then you've got 44 (Tommy Garofalo) running hard."

Garofalo finished the day with 136 yards on the ground and a pair of touchdowns. His second one, from three yards out with 6:55 to go in the third quarter, gave Bronxville a 22-14 advantage. But the Panthers quickly responded with a six-play, 53-yard drive capped by a dazzling cutback 25-yard touchdown run by Daniel Picart. Moments later, Picart carried the ball into the end zone again for the two-point conversion that tied the contest and set the stage for a dramatic fourth quarter.

It was Picart who was also on the receiving end of a 37-yard touchdown pass from Michael Lacapria three and a half



Pleasantville sophomore Daniel Picart evades a tackle as he carries the football in the third quarter of Saturday afternoon's 25-22 win over Bronxville at Parkway Field.

minutes into the second quarter shortly after teammate Owen Mooney had recovered a Bronco fumble. Late in the half, Picart picked off a long pass from O'Neil in traffic and returned the ball nearly to midfield as time expired.

"He's a special kid on the football field," said Becerra of his sophomore star. "We're fortunate to have him for this year and two more years. As we get into the postseason, we've got to start developing some depth because teams are just gonna key on him and we've got to be able to rely on other guys."

Senior Kieran Cotter is certainly another Panther who won't be ignored by future opponents. He electrified the Panthers fans by bolting 80 yards for a touchdown on Pleasantville's first play of the afternoon just three minutes after the opening kickoff. McCarthy provided the extra point and Pleasantville seized a stunningly quick 7-0 lead.

But later in the first quarter, Cotter was stopped short on a fourth-and-one try and Bronxville took over at its own 27-yard line. A 40-yard jaunt by Garofalo down close to the goal line was immediately followed by his one-yard touchdown run. The multitalented O'Neil then ran left into the end zone for a two-point conversion that gave the Broncos an 8-7 edge with 4:24 left in the quarter.



The Panthers' Aidan Picart tries to elude Bronxville defensive lineman Joseph Matthews in the second half of Saturday's victory over the Broncos at Parkway Field.

The Broncos then took advantage of a Panther turnover on the kickoff. O'Neil connected on a 10-yard pass to Chris Kelty in the end zone to complete a six-play, 40-yard drive. On yet another two-point try, O'Neil escaped a tackle and tossed to Luke Stephens to give Bronxville a 16-7 lead nearly 10 minutes into the game.

"Well, thankfully those happened early in the game where you don't have to press the panic button just yet," said Becerra of the Broncos' pair of two-point conversions. "So we were able to bide our time and get to a position where we could get close and then eventually go ahead with a field goal."

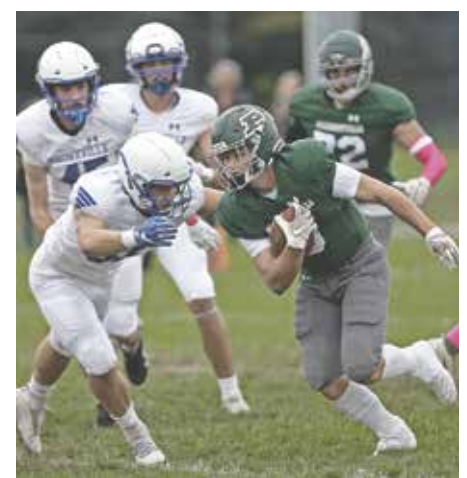
Pleasantville got a big break early in the second quarter when an errant snap from center caromed off the helmet of O'Neil and Mooney fell on the football. Three plays later, Lacapria lofted a perfect pass into the arms of Picart in the right side of the end zone. The PAT from McCarthy narrowed the Panther deficit to 16-14.

The Broncos increased their precarious two-point halftime lead when Garofalo powered his way past the goal line on a three-yard run nearly midway through the third quarter. But O'Neil's pass on the two-point attempt fell incomplete and Bronxville had to settle for a 22-14 margin.

Just three and a half minutes later, Picart hit the brakes behind the line of scrimmage, shifted to his left and found his way to the sideline en route to his second touchdown of the day. His follow-up, two-point-conversion run tied the score with 3:29 left on the clock in the third quarter.

O'Neil was moving the Broncos' no-huddle offense up the field midway through the final quarter when Mooney stepped up again, intercepting an underthrown screen pass intended for Garofalo. The Panthers took over at the Bronxville 47 and they slowly advanced the ball over the next three minutes all the way to the 5-yard line.

On fourth-and-three, Becerra



Kieran Cotter of Pleasantville breaks through the line of scrimmage as he runs for an 80-yard touchdown on the Panthers' first play from scrimmage vs. visiting Bronxville.

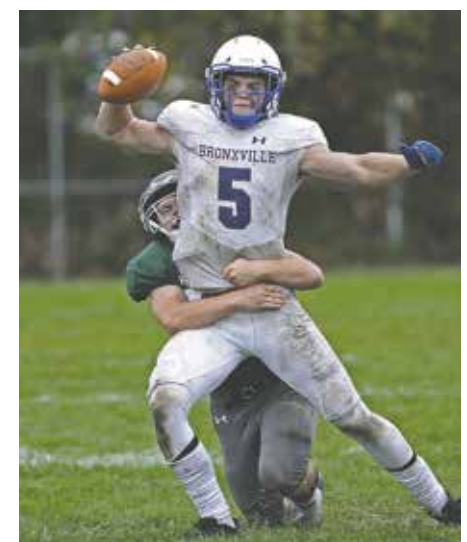
summoned McCarthy to attempt a field goal. His 22-yard kick easily cleared the crossbar, giving the Panthers their first lead since the opening quarter.

"I have full confidence in John McCarthy kicking," said Becerra. "With this kid, yeah, he could've gone for more."

But there was still 2:09 left on the clock and one of the most dangerous players in the section to deal with. O'Neil returned the kickoff to his own 33, but heavy pressure from the Panther defense soon left him facing fourth-and-five with 1:22 to go. His long pass to Kelty fell incomplete, sealing the Broncos' fate.

Afterwards, Becerra was extremely relieved his team had been able to prevent O'Neil from leading a last-minute, game-winning drive.

"It doesn't matter — down or distance," he said. "It could be fourth-and-25, if that kid has the ball in his hand, you've seen all day, him scrambling and throwing deep downfield, anything can happen. Anything. If we have to see Bronxville again in the postseason, it'll be a tough matchup again. I wouldn't look forward to that."



Bronxville star quarterback Conor O'Neil is forced to throw the ball away by Pleasantville's Justin Kang during the Broncos' final possession of Saturday's game.



Nick Paternostro returns a kickoff in the first quarter of Pleasantville's 25-22 win over visiting Bronxville.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Sports

SPORTS SCENE



Briarcliff senior Arianna Vizcaino races up the field with the ball in last Wednesday's 4-0 win at Pleasantville. She scored three of the Bears' goals.



Pleasantville goalkeeper Heather Vamossy gathers the ball to thwart a scoring chance for Briarcliff's Sora Marable.



Byram Hills junior Sydney Nichols gets a kick away despite the defense of Pelham's Alle Hughes.



Fox Lane's Sadie Vandercar concentrates on a backhand as she plays third singles last Tuesday against the John Jay Wolves.



Alyssa Margolin of Byram Hills, the top-seeded singles player in the Section 1 tennis tournament, hits a backhand return during the Bobcats' Senior Day matchup vs. Edgemont last week.



Jasmine Powell of Fox Lane lines up a forehand return during her second-singles match against John Jay in Cross River last week.



Byram Hills eighth-grader Scarlett Pfistner tries to move past Pelham's Rebecca Nicholas at midfield in Thursday afternoon's game.



Chloe Bernstein of Byram Hills follows through on a serve during Thursday afternoon's home match against Edgemont.



Briarcliff players, left to right, Eliza Aldrich, Rebecca Kratz, Ava Makaron, Sora Marable and Talia Fante form a defensive wall during last week's 4-0 win over the Pleasantville Panthers.



Sora Marable of Briarcliff gets control of the ball after a throw-in, with Pleasantville's Riley Vavolizza defending in Wednesday's game won by the Bears.

Sports



Pleasantville senior Georgia Peters chases the ball with Briarcliff's Arianna Vizcaino close behind during last Wednesday's game won by the visiting Bears.



Byram Hills' Sydney Levy scampers to her right for a forehand return in her match at second singles last Thursday against visiting Edgemont.



Grace Corelli of Byram Hills makes a run late in the first half of Thursday's game against visiting Pelham.



Talía Fante of Briarcliff surveys the field as she controls the ball in the first half of last Wednesday's 4-0 victory at Pleasantville.



Byram Hills senior Beth Corelli chases the ball along the right sideline in the Bobcats' home game vs. Pelham.



Remi Berliner of Byram Hills passes the ball to a Bobcat teammate during Thursday afternoon's 2-1 loss to Pelham.



Pleasantville junior midfielder Gianna Doto moves the ball across the field in last Wednesday's home game vs. Briarcliff.



Fox Lane's Ally Waldman gets set to hit a backhand return in her match at first singles vs. host John Jay last Tuesday.



Briarcliff senior midfielder Samantha Franks has her eyes on the ball as she gains possession in last week's win at Pleasantville.



Sadie Kim of Pleasantville sends a pass to a teammate in the first half of last week's game vs. archival Briarcliff.

Sports



Briarcliff standout Brandon Rispoli heads for the end zone on his 56-yard touchdown run three minutes into the second half of Saturday's game vs. Byram Hills.



Byram Hills junior running back Gavin Javorsky tries to elude the pursuit of Briarcliff/Hamilton defensive players Mike Rebisz and Alex Kirshenbaum in the second half of the Bobcats' 42-28 victory.



Byram Hills quarterback Jared Cohen scores on a two-yard run in the fourth quarter to give the Bobcats the lead for good in Saturday's win at Briarcliff.



Ben Dreilinger of Byram Hills hauls in a five-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter vs. host Briarcliff/Hamilton.



Briarcliff junior quarterback Ben Raphael is pressured by Evan Weiss of Byram Hills as he tries to throw downfield in the fourth quarter of Saturday afternoon's game.

Byram Hills Outlasts the Bears in a Saturday Afternoon Shootout

There were touchdowns galore late Saturday afternoon at Briarcliff High School, where the Byram Hills Bobcats wound up scoring the final two of them in a 42-28 victory over Briarcliff/Hamilton.

The two teams were deadlocked 14-14 at halftime and still tied at 28-apiece heading to the fourth quarter. But Bobcats senior quarterback Jared Cohen, who had already tossed three touchdown passes earlier in the game, ran two yards for another TD with 4:44 remaining in the game, completing a 15-play, 72-yard drive that gave Byram Hills the lead for good.

Byram Hills all but sealed the outcome exactly a minute later when Michael Rocco added another two-yard touchdown run, this one coming two plays after he had picked off a pass at the Bears' 20-yard line.

The Bobcats, now 3-2 this season, had started the day's scoring when they moved 65 yards in eight plays on the opening possession of the game. Cohen capped the drive on fourth-and-seven by rolling right and throwing to Ben Dreilinger for a 23-yard touchdown. Late in the quarter, Byram Hills senior Evan Weiss picked up a fumble by the Bears and scored from two yards out. The PAT from Luke Weiler stretched the lead to 14-0.

Early in the second quarter, the tables were turned as Briarcliff/Hamilton recovered a fumble at the Bobcat 20-yard line and, on first down, quarterback Ben Raphael connected with Jaylen Savage in the end zone for a Bear touchdown. Daniel Satran's point-after cut the Briarcliff deficit to 14-7.

With a minute left in the half, Savage picked off a pass and ran the ball down to the Byram 2-yard line. Two plays later, the Bears' Brandon Rispoli ran in for a two-yard touchdown and the teams left at halftime even at 14-14.

An interception by the Bobcats' George Gjelij 45 seconds into the second half gave Byram Hills the ball at the Briarcliff 15. On fourth-and-three, Cohen found Rocco over the middle on a nine-yard touchdown pass. But just one minute later, the Bears responded as Rispoli got to the right sideline and outran everyone to the end zone for a 56-yard touchdown. The extra point was no good, leaving the Bears trailing 21-20.

Nearly midway through the third quarter, Cohen capped a five-play, 55-yard drive with his third TD pass, five yards to Dreilinger in the right side of the end zone. Weiler's kick gave Byram Hills an eight-point advantage.

The Bears managed to get even in the final minute of the third quarter as Raphael hit Adam Harris with a pass over the middle and the junior wide receiver fended off a tackle before racing past a pair of Bobcats for an electrifying and zig-zagging 48-yard touchdown.

Raphael's two-point run around right end tied the score and gave the Bears' fans hope their team would soon earn its first win of the season.

But the long and lengthy drive by the Bobcats in the fourth quarter dashed those hopes. Cohen's go-ahead two-yard touchdown run on fourth down put Byram Hills ahead for good and it wasn't long before Rocco added his game-clinching plays, first an interception and then a touchdown.

-Andy Jacobs



Adam Harris of Briarcliff/Hamilton reacts after his electrifying 48-yard catch and run for a TD in the third quarter.



Michael Rocco of Byram Hills looks for running room as he carries the ball during the Bobcats' 42-28 win at Briarcliff this past weekend.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys Soccer Notebook

Somers, Westlake, Lakeland Set to Lock Down League Titles

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

Section 1 soccer is nothing to sneeze at any more. After decades of mediocre futbol, the times they are a changin'. A concerted effort by coaches across the section has witnessed a notable change in culture and results. The days of a "bag-of-balls-some-cones-and-a-half-assed-coach" are no longer permissible, and Section 1 is on the prowl these days; led by a 2016 charge that saw Class AA New Rochelle, Class A Somers, Class B Hastings and Class C North Salem win state titles. When we look back on things, the decade leading up to 2016 will likely be the era that triggered a change and set forth a vigorous effort to take Section 1 soccer as seriously as we do other sports. #KeepBuildingBoys. Let's dive in, shall we.

CLASS A

After edging **HORACE GREELEY**, 1-0, earlier in the year, state-ranked (No.1) **SOMERS** left little doubt in Wednesday's 4-1 win over the Quakers. Daniel D'Ippolito and Jacques Verard each tickled twine twice for the Tuskers while Jake Riina, Andrew Fasone, Brady Leitner and Mike Micceri each had an assist.

Somers (11-0) was all business in Friday's 3-0 win over visiting **MAHOPAC** when the Big Dipper dropped a pair of first-half goals and Bennet Leitner added another -- from D'Ippolito -- before the half when Somers Coach Brian Lanzetta called off the dogs. Somers remains on the fast track to face Section 9's Beacon in the opening round of the state tournament for those that put the cart before the horse.

"We will be grateful for the opportunity if we get there," Somers Coach Brian Lanzetta said #VivaItalia!

Somers' second-teamers are on par with much of Section 1's first-teamers #Facts, so depth only adds to a unit that seems to be

capable of representing Section 1 in the NYSPHSAA tournament for the third time in five years.

Mahopac (2-8-1) began the week with a 2-0 win over winless **BREWSTER** when Manny Perez scored from 25 yards out in the 26th minute off a Luke Healy feed. Healy padded the lead from Liam Kounios 21 minutes later. Indian G Max Matailo (5 saves) notched the shutout.

As they have been for the last two seasons, **BYRAM HILLS'** Ross Eagle (2A) and Nico Bisgaier were filthy good against Ardsley in a 6-0 Bobcat win. The senior duo had two goals apiece while Luke Berliner and Evan Boekel also found the back of the net. Benny Rakower (3 assists) was a prime-time playmaker. G Fred Saltstein's six saves to surging Byram's third shutout in a row.

YORKTOWN's George Popovic helped the Huskers (11-1-1) make short work of John Jay CR, the reigning N.West/Putnam large school champs. Popovic popped off for a natural hat trick and a three-goal lead before state-ranked (No.11) Yorktown cruised to a 5-0 win. He also added an assist on a Peter Tinaj tally. Gabe Hughes also scored while assists went to Matt Pozo, Nick Varela and Derek Belloff-Davis. Husker G J.P. Frucro needed five saves to record Yorktown's second shutout of the season. Popovic felt the loss to Somers was an eye-opener, ensuring the Huskers are ready for Round 2 this week with the League II-C title on the



Somers' Liam Healy traps ball as Mahopac's Shane Waring defends in host Tuskers' 3-0 win over Indians Friday.



Mahopac's Sean Vaughan and Somers freshman Hyugo Todo battle for position in Indians' 3-0 loss to host Tuskers Friday.

line.

"The loss against Somers really shaped us up," the senior captain said after going for two goals and three assists in a 9-1 win over Brewster Friday. Tinaj added two goals and two assists. "We are really looking forward to playing them again. We are all aware that the score was 5-2, but we strongly believe that the score didn't accurately display how the game went. It wasn't our night and we have to live with that. They're a great team, probably the best we've played all year. We must give them that, but we don't think they are anything we can't hang with."

"Class A is stacked," Popovic added. "Any game on any given night could go either way, which I love. It brings competitiveness to every game, and we look forward to being there fighting for a section championship. We are in a great place right now. I personally believe we've caught fire, catching big results in our last three games. We are looking forward to bringing the same energy

Tuesday against Somers."

LAKELAND finally had its statement win last Thursday, a 4-3 come-from-behind OT triumph of state-ranked (No.19) Lourdes, which puts the Hornets in the driver's seat for the League II-D title. The host Hornets were down 3-0 when middle Mike Rodriguez went to work. The junior sniped his fourth game-winning goal in OT. Bryan Jaramillo, David Rodriguez and David Pinkowsky all found the back of the net. G Chris Ciraco made seven saves in the win.

"We're building something here," Lakeland Coach Tim Hourahan said. "We're staying in the shadows but this team is fun to be around and really showed some guts."

Rodriguez added a hat trick in Saturday's 6-1 win over Yonkers.

PEEKSKILL's Johnny Moroch completed a natural, unassisted hat trick 14 minutes into the second half for a 3-0

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Somers junior Jack Van Tassel attempts a tackle on Mahopac's Manny Perez in Tuskers' 3-0 win over Indians Friday.



Peekskill seniors pose with coaches after knocking off state-ranked Lourdes Friday.



Somers senior F Bennett Leitner sets up goal in Tuskers' 3-0 win over visiting Mahopac Friday.

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lead en route to a 5-2 win over **WALTER PANAS**. Alex Sapatanga scored twice for the Red Devils (9-5). Koky Duarte and Eddie Chicaiza were credited with the Panther goals. The Red Devils followed up the win with a huge 2-0 win over Lourdes Friday when Sapatanga converted a PK in the 25th minute and Zion Arevalo turned on a Morocho feed in the 64th minute for the surging Red Devils, winners of four in a row. Peekskill G Angel Menjivar (10 saves) notched the shutout.

CLASS AA

Marko Borovyk, David Maldonado (1A), Matt Matera (1A) and Michael Sugar all scored for **CARMEL** in a 4-1 win over Ramapo. The state-ranked (No.17) Rams (9-3) got a pair of assists from Neel Walia, who was also busy in Thursday's 4-1 rout of RCK. Walia had a goal and an assist. Matera, Borovyk and Kyle Klammer (1A) each scored for the Rams, who will face the meat of their schedule this week when they host Arlington and state-ranked (No.5)



Carmel freshman M Kevin Hernandez figures to be a big part of future plans.

MATTHEW TURRI PHOTOS

John Jay EF Wednesday and Thursday, respectively. The game against the Admirals will probably be for second place in League I-A, one of the state's toughest leagues, which has aptly prepared the Rams for a deep Final 4 run.

OSSINING came up with a huge 2-1 win over **WHITE PLAINS** Saturday when Gianni Downes headed home a corner from William Mejia just five minutes before the half. The Tigers (6-8) then broke down defensively when Exon Umanzor followed with a goal off an assist from Mariano Marra one minute before the break. The Pride's (7-4-4) stingy defense took over from there. It will be tough for current No.8 Ossining or No.10 White Plains to earn a seed higher than No.8, but nobody wants to see either club in the first round.

CLASS C

HALDANE (6-7) spotted North Salem a 1-0 lead but Max Westphal and Matt Silhavy responded in kind for a 2-1 Blue Devil win Saturday when G Ronan Kiter (4 saves) posted the clean sheet. The Blue Devils are on a collision course with state-ranked (No.6) Hamilton for Class C sectional title.

NOTES: WESTLAKE is ranked No.10 in NYS and on track for its first sectional title since #Forever. Let's not dismiss Irvington and two-time defending champion Bronxville, which makes the No.1 seed all the more important. The Wildcats have a very tough final portion of the schedule in which to prepare for the rigors of Class B soccer.

Section 1 Championships -- at Lakeland High -- October 30: Class A, noon; Class B, 2:30 p.m.; Class AA, 5 p.m.; Class C, 8 p.m. Outbracket games begin Oct.20, opening round Oct.21.



Carmel senior M David Maldonado's Rams have faced stiff competition in League I-A and should be ready for upcoming playoffs.



Somers senior M Daniel D'Ippolito is checked by Mahopac senior M Sawyer Gagnon (3) in Tuskers' 3-0 win over Indians Friday.

Examiner-Area Top 10 Pitch Poll

No.1 SOMERS -- State-ranked (No.1) Tuskers (11-0) are seeking their third trip to Middletown -- home of the state finals -- in the last five years, and the Class A faves might have to go through Section 9's Beacon (No.9) early in states should they survive Section 1 as expected. #StayHumble!

No.2 YORKTOWN -- State-ranked (No.11) Huskers (11-1-1), the current No.3 seed in Class A, will hope to avoid the No.4 seed, which would set up a semifinal with Somers.

No.2A CARMEL -- State-ranked (No.17) Class AA Rams (10-3) just played No.5 John Jay EF to a tough 2-0 loss, so they can play with anyone in the section, and this current two-year run is probably the best in school history. The Dutches powers -- JJEf and Arlington (18-3-1 combined) -- are pretty damn impressive and could be the last two standing when all is said and done.

No.4 WHITE PLAINS -- Class AA Tigers (6-8) had head-to-head on Ossining before Saturday's 2-1 loss, and the 8 WP losses have come to teams with a combined 64-26-4 Class AA record, so take that into account.

No.4A OSSINING -- Class AA Pride (7-4-4) are a talented but vexing unit. 2-3-3 in last 8 and 1 goal in the last 3 (prior to Saturday) wasn't gonna get it done for the current No.8 seed, but all that changed in Saturday's 2-1 win over White Plains.

No.6 BYRAM HILLS -- Class A Bobcats (9-2-1) had 5-game win streak snapped in pivotal 4-2 loss to Eastchester. Hadn't seen a ton of quality W's but that began to change with 3-0 win over Rye Saturday and could further change if Bobcats could beat Section 9 heavyweight Beacon last night.

No.7 LAKELAND -- Class A Hornets (7-4) finally got that statement win they needed against state-ranked (No.19) Lourdes. Winners of 3 straight, Hornets could be getting hot at the right time while potentially locking down the league title this week with a 2nd win over Lourdes. Lakeland was also set to host one of Section 1's greatest soccer days yesterday -- Sect.1 vs. Sect.9 -- #CheersCoach!

No.7A PEEKSKILL -- Class A Red Devs (10-4) have made significant strides last 2 years. Big game Monday at Lakeland.

No.9 WESTLAKE -- State-ranked (No.10) Wildcats (11-1) are on a collision course with No.5 Irvington as they seek the first section title in school history, and they deserve to be a lot higher if not for Class B slate. Need to secure that No.1 seed to avoid a Bronxville (semis), Irvington (finals) path.

No.10 GREELEY -- Class A Quakers (6-5-2), outside of Port Chester, have yet to beat a winning club, but one-goal losses to Somers and TZ suggest they have some real grit.

HM VALHALLA/BCLIFF/P'VILLE -- The trio have a combined 21-12-4 record but couldn't get so much as a sniff of the League III-A title front-running Westlake has run away with.

-- by Ray Gallagher

Sports

NWE/Putnam Grid Notebook

Class AA Carmel, A Somers on Fast Track to League Titles

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

The Road to Syracuse is a long and winding highway from Route 17 to I-81 with pit stops along I-87/I-90 for the last two grid teams standing at the NYSPHSAA finals. Getting there is easier said than done, but it's fun to speculate right now in places like Class AA **CARMEL**, ranked No.14 in NYS, and No.13 Class A **SOMERS**. The undefeated Rams (5-0) and Tuskers (5-0) are not about to put the cart before the horse, but it's beginning to look like a two-horse race for each in their respective conference as the run for the roses will commence with the playoffs opening on Oct. 29. Both are a win away from locking down their league titles and securing the No.1 seed in the playoffs.

CLASS A

SOMERS is closing the gap that some in the know suggest might exist between the state-ranked (No.13) Tuskers and No.8 Rye. The Somers playbook went to the next level in Friday's 44-8 rout of visiting Our Lady of Lourdes, who had no answer for Tusker junior QB Matt Fitzsimons.

"Our coaches have really been expanding the pass game and it has been working," said Fitzsimons, who hit on 9-of-10 passes for 143 yards and fired a career-high four TD strikes, two to Trey Mancuso (75 yards, 4 catches) and one to Ravi Dass (2 catches, 27 yards) and Michael Bookall (2 grabs, 31 yards). "The staff we have is great and knows exactly how to attack our opponents. My teammates around me are playing amazing and I couldn't ask for anything more. Yet again the game plan was money."

Mancuso has been money of late, leading the Tuskers in receptions and yards.

"Matt (Fitzsimons) is ridiculously accurate," said Mancuso, who has three TD grabs in the last two games. "He throws a very 'catchable' ball. We worked a lot of the summer to develop a rapport and it's paying off."

The ground game was equally effective, led by senior RB Drek Marcus, who logged



Somers junior QB Matt Fitzsimons fired what is widely believed to be a school record 4 TD passes in Friday's rout of Lourdes.

70 yards on four carries, including a three-yard scoring ploy.

"On all the carries I barely got touched, so the O-line was making it easy for me," Marcus said

Somers DL Dylan Faller was a monster on D, recording 11 tackles.

All eyes turn to the Week 6 showdown with state-ranked (No.28) John Jay CR (4-1) with the League A-North title on the line. In what should/has been a track meet in recent seasons, Somers, which has allowed just 28 points, has the upper hand on defense. Both teams are exceptionally coached, which should make for a doozy.

MAHOPAC saw junior RB Joey Koch blow up **BREWSTER**, 31-6, when he took 19 carries for 152 yards and two scores for the Indians, who needed this game badly for playoff security. Matt Mahoney added six carries for 32 yards and a score for the Indians (3-2). Mahopac QB Anthony DeMatteo connected with seven different receivers, hit on 9 of 15 for 158 yards, including a 40-yard TD strike to WR Patrick McMahon. Indians Tyler Maewsky and Max Gomes each pick off a pass on defense, Gomes doing his thing in the end zone.

The Bears (3-2) fell below the line to automatically qualify for the postseason in what could be described as a sub-par performance when it really mattered.

YORKTOWN RB Jack Carlin had 15 carries for 125 yards and Vito DeBellis added another 12 carries for 106 yards in the Huskers' (2-3) 16-6 win over host **LAKELAND** Friday. RB Giacomo Miccari added 42 yards and scored the Huskers' lone TD. Yorktown K Vincent Lyon hit on 3 of 3 on field goals to ensure the win. Husker DL Vincent Cappelli (10 tackles) led a defense that limited Lakeland (1-4) QB Steven Dedvukaj to 16 of 31 passing for 125 yards, including nine strikes to WR Tyler Ronk (70 yards). Hornet RB Vin Scaglione rushed for 50 yards, including a TD. Both teams are on the outside looking in as playoffs are on the horizon. The Huskers will need to upset Mahopac and Lourdes to do so.



Mahopac RB Joey Koch gets lift from OL Adam Montalvo after 1 of 2 TDs Koch would score in rout of host Brewster Friday.

RAY GALLAGHER / GIL MCMAHON PHOTOS

CLASS AA

CARMEL started its Rockland County tour with a 38-7 lambasting of host Clarkstown South Friday, the first of three tangoes with South, Suffern and North Rockland. All three are expected to get a heavy dose of senior RB Dylan Shields, who was a one-man wrecking ball, going for a career-high 143 yards and four TDs on just 16 carries to lead an rushing attack that amassed 270 yards on 38 carries.

"The O-line has done an amazing job all year winning the line of scrimmage and being physical, which has given me great room to work with," said Shields. "Our offense keeps improving every week and our defense has been dominant this year, so hopefully we can continue to get better and get to where we want to go."

Ram Nick DiLeo caught three balls for 75 yards from QB Kevin Dall (7 of 9, 156 yards), and WR Andrew Fiore returned a kickoff for a touchdown for Carmel, who will host Suffern Saturday (1:30 pm) on Homecoming Day. Injured Carmel senior RB Josh Massi is set to return in Week 7, giving the undefeated (5-0), state-ranked (No.14) Rams the finest 1-2 RB punch in Class AA for the postseason.

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Carmel senior RB Dylan Shields rushed for 142 yards and four touchdowns on 18 carries in Friday rout of host Clarkstown South.

Week 6 Examiner Area Super 7 Grid Poll

No.1 CARMEL -- Coach Cayea's state-ranked (No.14) Class AA Rams (5-0) will face their stiffest test Saturday vs. state-ranked (HM) Suffern on Homecoming Day with the League I-D title on the line for the red, white and blue. Suffern handed the Rams their only loss in the last 11 games last spring #RevengeWillBeSweet.

No.2 SOMERS -- Coach Anthony DeMatteo's state-ranked (No.13) Class A Tuskers (5-0) are starting to open up the playbook and the talent is there to do so. The four TD passes by QB Matt Fitzsimons is believed to be a school record, though confirming these things are never easy. Could only confirm the following: Kevin Olifers, Rob and Chris Violante all threw 3 TDs in a game, so it's looking good for Fitz.

No.3 PLEASANTVILLE -- Coach Becerra's state-ranked (No.25) Class B Panthers (5-0) passed their first big test of season in 25-22 win over Bronxville when Kieran Cotter and Daniel Picart took over.

No.4 MAHOPAC -- Coach Dominick DeMatteo's Class A Indians (3-2) rocked Brewster in pivotal win and now have a clear path to an automatic playoff berth should they dispose of Yorktown and Panas, as expected, the final two weeks. #DontSleepOnYorktownTho

No.5 BYRAM HILLS -- Coach Berk's reigning Class B champion Bobcats (3-2) have put up the most points (160) but it's defense that wins titles, and they allowed Briarcliff 28 and 94 points overall.

No.6 FOX LANE -- Coach Giuliano's Class AA Foxes (4-1) had their statement win, 23-14, over JJE, but the biggest statement of all would be a triumph of White Plains Friday and a lock on the League I-C title in coach's first year at the helm.

No.7A HEN HUD -- Coach Big Cat Catano's Sailors (3-2) go for 35-7 win over Westlake and they are suddenly in the mix of potential No.1 seeds if Ardsley beats P'Vill in Week 6 and Sailors beat Briarcliff as expected #TieBreakers would then decide.

No.7B VALHALLA -- If Coach Castellano's state-ranked (No.12) Class C Vikings (4-1) had a rushing attack to go with Dawson's awesome passing attack they would be the heavy Class C favorites. Still, they will collide with No.17 Dobbs Ferry on the 22nd in what should/could be a championship prelude.

HM WHITE PLAINS -- Coach Lindberg's Class AA Tigers (3-2) had a rough go with Arlington in 28-14 loss, but all would be forgotten with a win over Fox Lane, which would secure League I-C title Friday.

HM BREWSTER -- Coach Mulvihill's Class A Bears (3-2) were given every chance to hang in this poll, but we gotta tell it like it is sometimes.

HM HALDANE -- Coach McConville's Class D Blue Devils (4-1) will have their mettle tested at home Saturday by Valhalla.

-- by Ray Gallagher



Hen Hud RB Anthony Panettieri has rushed for four TDs in Sailors' last two wins, including two in impressive 12-7 win over state-ranked Ardsley.

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CLASS D

HALDANE QB Ryan Van Tassel continued his solid season under center when he hit on 6 of 13 for 157 yards and two touchdowns in the Blue Devils (4-1) 28-15 win over rebuilding **CROTON**.



Mahopac DB Max Gomes steps in for end zone INT on Brewster's Dom Bonamassa in Indians' critical league win over host Brewster.

Blue Devils Ryan Irwin and Thomas Tucker each caught a TD pass to send the Homecoming Day crowd home happy. Irwin was unstoppable, rushing for another



Brewster WR Bryce Washington and the Bears found little room to operate in loss to visiting Mahopac Friday.

score and hauling in two picks on D. Jake Mason combined on 10 tackles to lead the Blue Devils, who strut into the meat of their schedule now with state-ranked Valhalla

(4-1), Blind Brook (3-2) and Dobbs Ferry (5-0) on the horizon. Winning one of those three against the three Class C powers would be acceptable.

Carmel Edges Rival Mahopac, 1-0



Carmel's Laila Rosenquest has step on Mahopac's Marie Camastro in Rams' 1-0 win over host Indians Friday when Ram Claire Bumgarner (8) scored the game's lone goal. NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Sports

Girls Soccer Notebook

Surging Lakeland Stuns Hen Hud in OT on Hormazabal Goal

By Tony Pinciario

As the 2021 girls' varsity soccer season is winding down toward sectionals, **LAKELAND** is hitting its stride. The Hornets did not have time to take a breath last week with four games, but it did not affect them as they were a perfect 4-0. Lakeland is now 10-2-1 with three regular-season games remaining.

Lakeland punctuated its four-win week with a thrilling 2-1 overtime victory over **HEN HUD** as HaiLian Rowan finished a Tyler Hormazabal pass with 8.9 seconds remaining in the second overtime.

"I, personally, was overwhelmed with joy and was so proud of our team for pushing through the whole game," said senior and captain Linda Daly of the Hen Hud game. "It definitely was a memorable moment. I think us working together made it possible to get through this week. Every time we step on the field we are playing for each other and we all have a common goal of winning the league this year."

Last year, the Hornets won their first-round Northern Westchester/Putnam small-school tournament game. However, Daly said the 2020 season came to an abrupt end because of a Covid shutdown. Not only did Lakeland's 2020 season come to a premature conclusion, it marked the final game for seven seniors, including three starters. As a result, Lakeland began preparing for the 2021 season once the 2020-21 school year concluded.

"Our team is very committed to soccer and has been working hard from summer league to each practice and game we have had," said Daly, a four-year varsity starter.

Coming together as a team was evident last week as it began with Lakeland having to complete a suspended game with Nanuet. Lakeland came out flying in the second half with five goals for a 5-3 win as Grace Hahn and Daly scored twice apiece. Deanna Lage added one goal and one assist and Hahn also had an assist.

Lakeland travelled to **PEEKSKILL** to play on its new turf field and was a rude guest as Daly had a hat trick in the win. Keira O'Grady, Laura MacDonald, Rowan and Hahn also had goals. Nadia Parisi rang up two assists and Daly and Lage each had



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Lakeland junior M Deanna Lage and the Hornets have reeled off 5-straight wins after knocking off Hen Hud, 2-1, in OT Saturday.

one.

Earlier, the Hornets shut out Hen Hud, 3-0, on goals from Rowan, Lage and Hahn. Keyleigh Mula and Parisi had assists.

"One of our keys to success has to be our team dynamic," said Daly, an All-Section selection her sophomore and junior years. "We are a very close team that supports each other in everything we do."

This season has been enjoyable and memorable for veteran Coach Shawn Sullivan.

"I love this team," Sullivan said. "I have been coaching high school sports for a long time and I've never had a team this special. They are highly-skilled, competitive, great teammates and winners. They are all honor students and leaders at Lakeland. The highlight of my day is spending two hours on the field with them every day!"

SOMERS opened the week exacting revenge on **HORACE GREELEY**, with five second-half goals in a 5-0 win. The Tuskers followed with a hard-fought 2-1 win over **MAHOPAC** and closed out with a 4-1 victory against a strong **YORKTOWN** team.

With the three victories, Somers improved to 8-4 overall and 7-1 in league action. Somers held a 3-1 advantage at halftime against Yorktown. After the Tuskers scored the game's first two goals, Yorktown answered on a Jules Vano goal, but Somers responded quickly on an Ava Giudice tally.

"It was a great way to go into halftime



Yorktown's Emily Ward is hunted by Somers D Amy Lasher (20) in Huskers' 4-1 loss to visiting Tuskers Saturday.



Somers' Laura DiPalma (14) and Yorktown's Martina Prybylski (13) engage for 50-50 ball in Tuskers' 4-1 win over host Huskers Saturday.

because we were able to make a statement right before the break," senior and captain Lily Mandel-Mueller said. "We were able to shift the momentum back to us. This victory meant a lot, especially because before the game Yorktown was seeded one below us in sectional seeding."

Somers and Mahopac were even at 1-1 at halftime. Somers' Coach Kelci Hegg noted that after Anne Maguire sustained a concussion, the Tuskers needed to make adjustments.

"We have a strong defensive unit, led by senior captains Lily Mandel-Mueller and Alicia Hawkins, and senior goalkeeper Noemi Lucciola," Hegg said. "We were able to keep Mahopac off the board for the rest of regulation."

Somers freshman Julia Arbalaez had the decisive goal, her second of the game, as Giudice registered her team-leading seventh assist. Hegg made the necessary adjustments at halftime of the Greeley game and her team erupted with five goals.

"After losing 5-4, in OT, earlier this year, it seemed the game would be poised to be a dog fight after a scoreless first half," Hegg said. "We made adjustments at halftime and the players quickly executed. The first goal was an amazing give-and-go between Anne Maguire and Julia Arbalaez. After the first goal, we really found our rhythm."

Arbalaez finished with two goals, Mandel-Mueller, Giudice and Tiana Righetti also netted goals. Tori Righetti collected two assists.

"Senior Tori Righetti looks to finally be returning to form after suffering a knee injury earlier this year with her two assists," Hegg said. "I'm very proud of the way the players managed to take control of the second half. We need to bring a better mentality in the first half, but that will come with experience as we are still a very young team."

PANAS went 1-0-1 for



Somers' Martina Adornetto and Yorktown's Kaitlyn Judge get after 50-50 ball in Tuskers' 4-1 win over host Huskers Saturday.

the week, beginning with a 5-0 victory over **PUTNAM VALLEY** and closing with a 1-1 overtime draw with Our Lady of Lourdes. Kaylie Mellars had a career-high four goals against Putnam Valley. Giuliana Rodriguez added one goal and one assist and Kayla Guevara registered two assists.

"We focused on our offensive execution all week at practice and it showed in this game," Panas Coach Matt Schiff said. "We were able to connect passes through our central players and create spaces between their backline. We made purposeful runs into the box and were able to be dangerous all game."

Lourdes found a way to hold Panas to one goal, by Molly Mueller in the first half, before the Warriors evened the score midway through the second half.

"Lourdes put a ton of pressure on us in both overtimes but our defense played well and limited their opportunities," Schiff said. "I'm really proud of our team's effort today. They played tough through 100 minutes of soccer and ended with a good result against a quality opponent."

YORKTOWN sandwiched a win, 2-1 over Brewster, around a pair of defeats -- 1-0 to John Jay-Cross River and 4-1 to Somers. Goalie Erisa Krasniqi made seven saves against John Jay.

Jules Vano opened the scoring, assisted by Katie Tomeny, for Yorktown against Brewster and she also assisted on Kaitlyn Judge's goal to make it 2-0.

"When Jules scored to make it 2-1, I was hoping it would boost us to play better and look to keep possession when we won the ball," Yorktown Coach Richard Armstrong said. "Unfortunately, Somers answered. Somers was the better team, but we will focus on our remaining three games."



Yorktown's Julianna Vano scored for Huskers in 4-1 loss to Somers, despite drawing crowd of Lily Mandel-Mueller, Tiana Righetti and Julia Arbalaez.



Yorktown's Drita Tinaj and Somers' Lily Mandel-Mueller collide for head ball in Huskers' 4-1 loss to visiting Tuskers Friday.

MATTHEW TURRI PHOTOS

PLAYOFF PREVIEW AT PARKWAY



**Daniel Picart Carries the Football
in Pleasantville's Comeback Win
Against Bronxville on Saturday**