

ExaminerSports

Cooler Heads!

No.3 Yorktown Prevails, Pulls Curtain Down on No.6 Byram Hills, Huskers Advance in PK's, 4-2, No.2 Somers Awaits

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Yorktown junior D Sean Horlacher and Byram Hills senior F Nico Bisgaier (9) go all out, as did every player on the pitch, for a head ball in the third-seeded Cornhuskers' penalty-kick win over the visiting sixth-seeded Bobcats last Saturday when 110 minutes of scoreless soccer in the Class A quarterfinals led to a 4-2 PK victory for Yorktown, which will visit No.2 Somers in Wednesday's Section 1 Class A semifinals... see NWE/Putnam Boys' Soccer Notebook

Massi Returns in Carmel Rout of North Rock, Rams Earn No.1 Seed



Carmel RB Dylan Shields splits pair of would-be tacklers in Rams' rout of visiting North Rockland Friday.

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

While he was standing on the sidelines rooting on his teammates the previous three weeks, **CARMEL** senior RB/LB Josh Massi underwent a rigorous rehabilitation after having some meniscus on his knee cleaned up. All the while, you could see him chomping at the bit under his jersey -- his helmet and pads under lock and key -- while his state-ranked (No.12), undefeated Rams (7-0) reeled off three wins without him.

Carmel Coach Todd Cayea took the leash off Massi in Friday's 38-0 league rout of visiting North Rockland, and the lead dog delivered a ferocious three-TD effort to go with 162 yards.

"He's a difference maker," Coach Cayea said after his Rams wrapped up the No.1 seed in the upcoming Section 1 Class AA playoffs where Carmel will open against visiting Fox Lane Friday.

Getting off that leash was a team effort, according to Massi.

"It was amazing to be back with my boys and play for our community," said Massi. "I

only get into that end zone because of my awesome team and group of coaches. I was able to stay fresh during the three games off with the help of an elite support team. We found our gear and never let off the gas against a very athletic North Rockland team. My coaches and teammates are amazing talents driven to go all the way!"

By "all the way" Massi means the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, home of the NYSPHSAA championships since 1993. Carmel has never been there, but the Rams are driving under the influence of effective and efficient teamwork, stoked by big-play capability, an unusual willingness to grind and a defense second to none.

Tied with Class A Somers for the fewest points allowed (28), Carmel pitched its third shutout of the season in an overwhelming performance against North Rockland (3-4). Rams FB Nick Rosaforte rushed four times for 47 yards and hauled in a 14-yard Kevin Dal aerial for a score. Dall hit on 6-of-13 passes for 63 yards and added 12 rushing yards from under center. Matt Risley added a one-yard TD plunge. Thomas Keating rushed eight times for 72 yards as the Rams amassed 334



Carmel RB Josh Massi chugs for some of his 162 yards in Rams' rout of North Rockland Friday.

yards on 39 carries (a whopping 8.6 yards per pop) behind the section's top offensive line -- Owen Boland, Scott Danvin, Anthony Briante, Jack Kane, Nick Oster, Ryan Lagan and TJ Fusco.

The top-seeded Rams will host No.4 FOX LANE Friday in the opening round of the Class AA playoffs.

CLASS A

SOMERS waltzed through **LAKELAND** in a 38-0 win over the banged-up Hornets (1-6) when Tusker QB Matt Fitzsimons connected on 6-of-8 passes for 162 yards and a pair of TD strikes to Trey Mancuso (3 grabs for 69 yards) and Ravi Dass Jr. (53 yards).

Tusker RBs Derek Marcus (33 yard TD), James Balancia (12-yard TD) and Luke Savino all found paydirt and Savino also kicked a 44-yard field goal and went 5-for-5 on PATs.

No.4 Harrison will visit top-seeded

Somers, ranked No.11 in NYS, Friday (7 p.m.) in the opening round of the sectional tournament..

No.3 Clarkstown North will visit No.2 **MAHOPAC** after Coach Dom DeMatteo's Indians (5-2) made short work of visiting PANAS (0-7) in a 44-6 runaway. Mahopac QB Anthony DeMatteo (8-of-10, 249 yards, all in first half) completed what is believed to be a school record five TD passes. Two of those strikes went to senior WR Patrick MaMahon (2 catches, 102 yards). Steven Perrone (2 catches, 55 yards), Michael Callahan and Ryan Rondeau all caught a TD pass while RB Joey Koch rushed for 83 yards and a TD on 10 carries. It was his 11th rushing score of the season.

BREWSTER (5-2) will visit No.2 Pelham (6-1) after the Bears (5-2) posted a 28-7 win over John Jay CR. Brewster senior QB Chris Donohue did not misfire a pass, hitting

continued on next page



Carmel QB Kevin Dall fires pass on run in Friday's win over North Rockland.

MATTHEW TURRI / RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Carmel WR Vinny Mazzamuto picks up 25 yards on key catch in Rams' win over North Rockland.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Grid Notebook

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on 7-of-7 for 110 yards while rushing for a score and firing a 42-yard acrobatic catch by Matt Dunn to set up another score. Brewster RB/LB Massimo Parrello returned an interception 68 yards for a score and Jack Golinello had two sacks for Brewster defense that stepped up when it needed to against a Jay offense that attempted 41 passes.

"Matt Dunn was completely laid out horizontally and stretched to make a pivotal catch at a pivotal time," Brewster Coach Ed Mulvihill said of the big grab. "It was one of the best catches I've seen in a while."

Martinez walked it in from the two-yard line and the Bears were up 14-0 going into halftime.

"We were able to run the ball and control the clock in the first half," the coach said. "(Jay Coach) Jimmy Clark's teams are explosive. They come into the game averaging 30 points per game, and our game plan was to try and keep them off of the field as much as possible because they roll downhill and are very tough to stop when they are executing their offense. He's one of the top coaches in the section, so we needed to have a great week of practice to get ready for them and the players did everything we asked of them."

Nick Sayegh paced the Bears with 10 tackles but Golinello had the game of the night. He finished with eight tackles (5 for a loss) and two drive-crushing sacks.

"Jack was constantly in the backfield," Mulvihill said. "We moved him to d-end this season (he played safety last year) and the move has paid off. He is very fast and is a matchup problem for some tackles."

YORKTOWN did not make the playoffs but the Huskers (3-4) showed no quit on senior night in a 35-24 win over visiting Lourdes. Yorktown senior RB Marco McKnight had a career day, rushing 20 times for 220 yards and three TDs. McKnight also took a fumble 90 yards to the house. Versatile Husker DL Vincent Cappelli was in on 27 tackles and Jack Carlin added 11.

CLASS B

HEN HUD (4-3) will be hosting a playoff game for the first time since 1999 (unofficially), according to A.D. Tom Baker after the Sailors sunk Briarcliff, 28-7. Sailor



Somers junior QB Matt Fitzsimons is shredding the Tuskers record book for single-season marks in TD passes and yards.



Carmel's D, led by Owen Boldan (60), TJ Fusco (85) and Scott Danvin (79), pitched its 3rd shutout of the season and has allowed just 4 TDs all year.

RB Anthony Panettieri had 30 carries for 175 yards and two touchdowns. Chris Parkes added a score and Will Richer had a 28-yard pick-6 for the second-seeded Sailors, who will host No.3 Byram Hills, the reigning Class B champions.

"Panettieri is the kind of kid every coach wants," Hen Hud skipper John Catano said. "He's the kind of kid that goes out there every day and does his job, never complains, runs hard, plays hard and is just a great all-around football player. He's just a fantastic kid."

CLASS D

HALDANE is cooking good. The state-ranked (No.13) Blue Devils improved to 6-1 after QB Rayn Van Tassel's two fourth-quarter TD strikes championed a 20-14 come-from-behind win over Blind Brook Saturday. Julian Forcello (5 grabs, 38 yards) and Ryan Irwin (5 for 60 yards rushing) each hauled in a TD pass from Van Tassel (10-of-19, 112 yards). RB/LB Evan Giachinta was the horse the Blue Devils rode in on. The 6'2" 180-pound sophomore did it on both sides of the ball, rushing for 51 yards and a TD on 18 carries while making four tackles (2 for loss), a sack and an interception on



Yorktown senior RB Marco McKnight rushed for career-high 221 yards and two TD's in win over Lourdes.



Haldane QB Ryan Van Tassel fired two TD passes in Blue Devils' come-from-behind win over Blind Brook Saturday.

Haldane will visit Class C heavyweight Dobbs Ferry, ranked No.11 in NYS, Saturday (1:30 p.m.) in what might be their biggest test of the season.

Week 8 Examiner Area Super 7 Grid Poll

No.1 CARMEL -- Coach Cayea's state-ranked (No.12) Class AA Rams (7-0), the No.1 League B seed, look like a team with no flaws entering the postseason, but as they continue to improve, so does League A/C No.1 New Rochelle, but the competition in League B has prepared the Rams to represent in states. We've booked a room in 'Cuse just in case.

No.2 SOMERS -- Coach Anthony DeMatteo's state-ranked (No.11) Class A Tuskers (7-0) are another primary reason to plan ahead for the #RoadtoCuse. We can always cancel rooms but it'll be tough to book a room if both Carmel and Somers are rocking Willow Street's Dinosaur BBQ the weekend after Thanksgiving #DrinksAreOnYall.

No.3 PLEASANTVILLE -- Coach Becerra's state-ranked (No.24) Class B Panthers (7-0) proved their legitimacy in 35-7 win over Westlake and this sophomore RB Daniel Picart has emerged as a Player of the Year candidate in Class B if the Panthers push on.

No.3A MAHOPAC -- Coach Dominick DeMatteo's Class A Indians (5-2) saw the coach's son fire 5 TD passes and best we can tell that's a school record for young Anthony, who will need to go next level against Clarkstown North in this week's upcoming playoffs (former Indian great Greg Gordon fired 4 TD's passes back in 1991).

No.5 WHITE PLAINS -- Coach Lindberg's Class AA Tigers (5-2) have earned a No.2 seed in AA/A-C League and will host a No.3/B Arlington club that is battle tested and anything but a sure bet to beat. This will be a battle.

No.6 BYRAM HILLS -- Coach Berk's reigning Class B champion Bobcats (4-3) are not the club anyone wants to draw, but they will head to Hen Hud as a favorite given the 42-7 Week 3 trouncing of the Sailors, who are a different team now.

No.6A HEN HUD -- Coach Big Cat Catano's Sailors (4-3) have energized the folks within the region, including my long-lost cronies at Fulgum's Bar & Grill, which should be rocking before and after Friday's opening round playoff tilt vs. Westlake, considering the fact Hen Hud hasn't hosted a home playoff game since 1999.

No.7 HALDANE -- Coach McConville's state-ranked (No.13) Class D Blue Devils (6-1) need to explain to every other struggling Class B/C/D program how to field a competitive small-school outfit in these trying times #ForTheGoodOfTheGame.

HM YORKTOWN -- Coach Ypsilantis' Class A Huskers (3-4) rose to the occasion on senior night behind a pair of their finest seniors on and off the field; Vincent Cappelli and Marco McKnight #Bravo.

HM FOX LANE -- Coach Giuliano's Class AA Foxes (5-2) have had a terrific season but managed the toughest draw in Section 1 by catching Carmel in round 1 of playoffs.

-- by Ray Gallagher

Sports

NWE/Putnam Girls Soccer Notebook

Giudice, Somers Advance in Class A; Lakeland, Yorktown Ousted



Somers senior Tori Righetti (5) controls in Tuskers' 7-0 playoff win over Yonkers Friday.

By Tony Pinciario

Junior Ava Giudice came into the 2021 **SOMERS'** girls' varsity soccer season as a player on the rise. The midfielder was ready for a breakout season and Giudice has done just that. Giudice established herself as an offensive option, whether she is setting up her teammates or putting one in the back of the net.

Giudice displayed her offensive wizardry as a surging Somers, seeded sixth, opened the Section 1 Class A Girls' Soccer Championships with a 7-0 victory over No. 11 Yonkers. Somers was set to play at No. 3 Pearl River last night. Pearl River defeated Somers, 1-0, in overtime, during the regular season.

Giudice assisted on her team's first three goals of the game before scoring two of her own for a career-best five points.

"I think Ava has great vision of the field," said captain and teammate Lily Mandel-Mueller. "And along with her technical abilities she is able to create a multitude of opportunities and is clinical in her finishing."

Freshman Julia Arbalaez continued her impressive season, scoring Somers' first and third goals with Maddie Lyle netting the second goal. All were assisted by Giudice.

Giudice made it 4-0 on a feed from Alicia Hawkins. She added her second of the game



Somers freshman M Tiana Righetti surveys her options in 7-0 playoff win over Yonkers Friday.

on a corner kick.

"We were able to convert our chances, but Ava (Giudice) stole the show with her three assists and two goals," Somers' Coach Kelci Hegg said.

Rachel Menna, assisted by Lindsay Gill, and Hawkins closed out the scoring with their first goals of the season.

Somers has raised its level of play the second half of the season, winning six of its last seven games. Playing at a high level going into sectionals is what all teams strive for.

"I think that it is important to peak at the correct time in a season and we have been

catching a good rhythm at a crucial part of this year for the team," Mandel-Mueller said. "The amount of training, as well as the competitiveness in our training sessions have been carrying over well into our games. Our positive mentality has also continued to intensify throughout this time."

Pearl River defeated Somers in the third game of the season. Mandel-Mueller said the goal came off of a free kick. She and her teammates know they are a vastly-improved



Somers freshman Julia Arbalaez, who scored twice, rises for header in Tuskers' first-round playoff rout of visiting Yonkers Friday.

team since that game.

"It was a close game and our team played well," Mandel-Mueller said. "We have developed as a team, since then, and are well-prepared to play them."

Seventh-seeded **HORACE GREELEY** and 10th-seeded **YORKTOWN** engaged in a marathon first-round Class A game that was

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Somers junior Ava Giudice (2G, 3A) sets up a goal in Tuskers' 7-0 playoff win over Yonkers Friday.



Somers junior Maddie Lyle nets goal in Tuskers' 7-0 playoff win.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Girls Soccer Notebook



Versatile Lakeland senior captain Linda Daly cranks free kick that narrowly missed goal in 4th-seeded Hornets' 2-0 upset loss to No.13 Harrison Friday.

decided by penalty kicks.

The Quakers prevailed, doing so in penalty kicks, 4-3, after the score was even at 1-1 through regulation and overtime. Ramsey Edson scored for Greeley in the second half to send it to extra time.

With the penalty-kick round square at 3-3, Greeley had the last chance and Hannah Fetzer buried her shot for the game-winner. The Quakers played at No. 2 Rye, Monday, in a quarterfinal.

The teams split their league matchup with Yorktown taking the first game, 2-1. Greeley rebounded the week leading up to sectionals with a 4-1 triumph. Greeley captain and goalie Kaylin Genda was involved on both ends of penalty kicks. Genda is also one of Greeley's top five shooters. Being a shooter allows Genda to prepare herself for facing a penalty kick.

"As far as saving shots, I feel as though I have a bit better of a mindset because I also take them myself," said Genda, who



Lakeland sophomore F Grace Hahn lines up shot in Hornets' 2-0 playoff loss to visiting Harrison Friday.

converted her penalty kick. "I usually guess based on the shooter's hip position, but I never completely commit just so I can change directions, if needed."

"As far as remaining composed, I try to mentally block everything out, but with a big crowd like we had at the game, it can be hard. I practice them a lot so during games penalty kicks don't feel too different/special, which is what I think helps me the most."

Jules Vano tallied Yorktown's lone regulation goal of an assist from Emily Ward.

LAKELAND's excellent season came to a premature conclusion as the fourth-seeded Hornets (12-4-1) were shocked by No.13 Harrison, 2-0, in a Section 1 Class A opening-round game last Friday.

"I felt like we did a nice job of controlling the middle third, but couldn't finish in the attacking third," Lakeland Coach Shawn Sullivan said. "We didn't get enough crosses or attack central with enough combination play to really put pressure on their back line or goalkeeper. They made two nice plays and



Talented Lakeland freshman Kayleigh Mula splits two defenders in 4th-seeded Hornets' 2-0 loss to No.13 Harrison Friday.

shots, and that was the difference."

Despite the loss, Lakeland did receive good news as senior Linda Daly was selected the Con Ed student-athlete of the week.

"I was very pleased with the improvement we made all season," Sullivan said. "This group of seniors was really special. They helped put Lakeland girls' soccer back on the map. I will miss them all. Linda Daly and Nadia Parisi will go down as two of the best to ever put on a Lakeland girls' soccer uniform."

HEN HUD was eliminated from the postseason after losing 4-1 on PKs after a

scoreless regulation and OT stanza.

Fourth-seeded **PLEASANTVILLE** worked a 3-0 opening-round win over Dobbs Ferry when Maddie Braverman scored twice, and Jess Beck hit another for the Panthers, who will see No.5 North Salem next. No.2 **BRIARCLIFF** will host No.7 Rye Neck with eyes on the big prize down the road.

Christina Kelly and Ellie Barnett each scored in No.8 **WESTLAKE's** 2-1 win over **CROTON** with the Wildcats advancing to face No.1 Bronxville in the Class B quarters.

LuLu Van Sauer scored for Croton.



Lakeland senior M Nadia Parisi looks for crease in host Hornets' 2-0 loss to Harrison Friday in opening round of Class A tournament.



Lakeland senior F Tyler Hormazabal gains advantage on Harrison defender in Hornets' 2-0 playoff loss to Huskies Friday.

Yorktown, Somers to Meet in Class A Semis, Byram Ousted

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

YORKTOWN senior striker George Popovic, Section 1's top scorer, knew from jump street that he had a stalker in the third-seeded Cornhuskers penalty kick win (4-2) over visiting No.6 **BYRAM HILLS** in the Section 1 Class A quarterfinals last Saturday.

Bobcat D Benny Rackower was attached to the hip for the first 80 minutes of regulation, and the next 30 minutes of overtime leading up to PK's, but it was at that point when Rackower, perhaps the best player on the field that day, could do nothing to prevent Popovic from notching Yorktown's fourth penalty kick tally in a 4-2 PK win. Yorktown (16-1-1), which saw goalie JP Frucco boldly go where few have gone before by denying a pair of Byram Hills (13-4-1) penalty kicks, advanced to Wednesday's semifinals against second-seeded **SOMERS** in what many had hoped would be the sectional final matchup between the state-ranked (No.4) Huskers and the (No.5) Tuskers (16-1).

"I don't know who he was but all respect to that kid (Rackower), he was a beast," Popovic said of Rackower, who also gave the Bobcats numerous chances to score off some of the finest long throws Yorktown had defended all season. But, time and time again Frucco, and his band of merry defenders, cleared their zone for 110 minutes before the junior netminder stood on his head by stopping two of Byram's four PK attempts.

"It was nerve racking but I've been preparing for this moment for a long time," said Frucco, who finished with nine saves in regulation, 11 overall. "Making these saves in a quarterfinal playoff is just crazy. We put a lot of trust in George and when he hit that last PK it was crazy. I was just waiting for him to hit it so I could get over there and celebrate it with him.

"Every time he (Rackower) had the ball for a long throw, we knew they had a good scoring chance," Frucco added. "We just had



Byram D Benny Rakower (13) is clearly not thrilled by a move orchestrated by Yorktown's George Popovic in Bobcats' OT playoff loss to host Huskers Saturday.

to hold up our end and keep it out and that's what we did."

Yorktown's Peter Tinaj, Jack Prybylski and Mason Murphy also hit their PK's against the Bobcats, who dominated the first 30 minutes, out-cornered and outshot the Huskers.

"Soccer can be a very, very cruel game," Byram Coach Matty Allen admitted.

Yorktown was truer on PK's, leading to a win many thought they stole.

"Coach Matty Allen, that's my man over there, all respect for him," Popovic said. "But we know how to win all types of games. We showed that today. We showed we're the best in every aspect. Ever since summer league, we know we can rely on JP. he put his head down and just went to work, making the jump from J.V. to varsity. He's been the MVP for the past two weeks for us."

Yorktown's attention now turns to Somers, with whom they split during the regular season.

"Obviously, we wish this was the finals, Yorktown/Somers would have been a great final," Popovic said. "I love those guys like they were my brothers. I got some guys I play club with over there, so it's going to be a war like it always is. I'm trying to bring this town a section championship, and I'm going to do whatever I can."

Popovic didn't get a ton of opportunities against Byram with Rackower in his shadow, and the move to man-mark Popovic up and down the field caught Yorktown off guard.

"No, we weren't expecting that tactic," Husker Coach Zoran Milojevic said. "It never works, honestly. Mesi, Ronaldo... they don't get man-marked like that. I don't get the tactic, but I guess it worked for them for most of the game,



Byram Hills' Zach Pero (R) skies for header over Yorktown's Michael Duffy in Bobcats' OT playoff loss to host Huskers Saturday.

but you can't man-mark on penalty shootout. We scouted each other and thought we knew exactly what they would do. It's unfortunate it came down to PK's, but I thought we had some scoring chances. They had more pressure, more corner kicks, but sometimes soccer luck doesn't go according to plan."

In Yorktown's 6-2 opening-round win over No.14 Nyack, Tinaj (2G, 2A) was on fire. Derek Belloff-Davis (1G, 1A) and Popovic (1G, 1A) were key. Prybylski and Matt Pozo also scored for Yorktown.

The top four seeds all advanced Saturday, including No.2 Somers after a 3-1 win over No.10 Nanuet. Somers striker Bennett Leitner scored a pair of goals for the Tuskers who also saw Noah Saks tickle some twine.

continued on next page



Byram's Connor Boeuel and Yorktown's Harry Griff can't avoid a collision in Bobcats' OT Class A playoff loss to host Huskers Saturday.



Huskers (L-R) Peter Tinaj, Mason Murphy, Nicholas Valera and George Popovic celebrate Jack Prybylski's PK goal in Class A playoff win over Byram Hills.



Yorktown's Mason Murphy (R) gets head to ball over Byram's Nico Bisgaier in Huskers' OT playoff win over Bobcats.



Yorktown goalie JP Frucco makes one of two PK saves in Huskers’ Class A playoff win over Byram Hills Saturday.



Yorktown goalie JP Frucco reacts to one of two PK saves he made in Huskers’ OT Class A playoff win over Byram Hills Saturday.



Somers senior Bennett Leitner makes his move on goal in 2nd-seeded Tuskers’ 2-0 win over No.15 Rye in Thursday’s opening round.

continued from previous page
Somers advanced to the quarters behind a crisp 2-0 win over No.15 Rye last Thursday when Leitner assisted on goals from Daniel D’Ippolito and Jacques Verard.
“To win a championship you’ve got to beat the best,” Somers Coach Brian Lanzetta said. “We’re ranked fifth (in the state) now,

and Yorktown is fourth, so we’re not the best. We’re gonna have fun and give it our best, I guarantee that!”
The winner moves on to face the No.1 Tappan Zee/No.4 Eastchester survivor as the top four seeds have all advanced to the semis.

Examiner-Area Top 10 Pitch Poll

- No.1 SOMERS** -- State-ranked (No.5) Tuskers (16-1) must accept my apologies for the “macarena” joke on Twitter. I now understand that it was the “Tshabalala” dance, as performed by the many pro clubs across the globe #GottaWatchMoreSoccer. Suspect we’ll see it again in what we reckon will be a one-goal win over Yorktown Wed.
- No.2 YORKTOWN** -- State-ranked (No.4) Huskers (16-1-1) are two wins away from 2nd sectional title since 2017, third since 1990, but the road through Somers will be a substantial bump if they can’t provide more offense than they did in PK victory over Byram.
- No.3 BYRAM HILLS** -- Class A Bobcats (13-3-1) are way better than Coach Allen led us to believe when we initiated these rankings a month ago #CraftyCoaching. Still not sure how Yorktown kept the Bobcats off the board with Rackover’s long throws being what they were.
- No.4 WESTLAKE** -- State-ranked (No.13) Class B Wildcats (16-1) have a pair of state-ranked clubs -- No.19 Bronxville and No.4 Irvington -- standing between them and the first title in school history.
- No.5 CARMEL** -- Class AA Rams (12-6), seeded 4th, had a solid run since the spring season, but No.5 Mamaroneck was on another level in 3-0 season-ending win.
- No.6 BRIARCLIFF** -- Fifth-seeded Class B Bears (10-5-2) have found another gear by reaching semis with wins over No.12 Hastings and No.4 Valhalla, time to apply some credit to this club. No.1 Irvington up next.
- No.7 WHITE PLAINS** -- Class AA Tigers (8-9) gave Port Chester fits in the 10/7-seed 1st round game, but a good Rams program survived 2-1.
- No.7A OSSINING** -- Class AA Pride (7-6-4), seeded No.9, lost a defensive war at No.8 New Ro’, 1-0.
- No.9 LAKELAND** -- Class A Hornets (9-8-1), seeded No.13, nearly busted up a bracket when they took No.4 Eastchester to the wire in yet another 1-0 loss, their 4th 1-0 setback in the last 6 games #FutureLooksBright.
- No.10 PEEKSKILL** -- Class A Red Devs (11-6), seeded No.9, couldn’t score against No.8 Lourdes, but this unit, coupled with last spring’s club, have put Peekskill back on the soccer map.
- No.10A GREELEY** -- Class A Quakers (8-7-2), seeded No.12, took No.5 Saunders to PK’s but lost a scoreless battle. Quakers didn’t bust up the bracket like we predicted but they died trying.
- by Ray Gallagher



Somers freshman Hyugo Todo narrowly misses scoring chance in Tuskers’ 2-0 win over Rye Thursday.



Somers players erupt after clinching 2-0 opening-round Class A playoff win over Rye Thursday.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys Soccer Notebook



Tuskers (L-R) Daniel D'Ippolito, Jacques Verard, Bennett Leitner and Aedan Hopper are in full celly mode after scoring big goal in 2-0 win over Rye Thursday.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Somers senior Captain Michael Micceri sets up scoring chance in 2-0 Class A playoff win over Rye Thursday.



Somers senior Jacques Verard lines up crossing feed in second-seeded Tuskers' 2-0 win over No. 15 Rye.

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Sports

Field Hockey Notebook

Mahopac, Carmel Advance to Class A Quarters



Members of the 10th-seeded Mahopac field hockey team are beyond ecstatic after upsetting No.7 Ossining, 2-1, Saturday.



TWITTER PHOTO

Fifth-seeded Carmel got goals by Laila Rosenquest, Gracie Sonnergren, Claire Bumgarner and Aubrey Dall in 4-0 Class A playoff win over Ursuline Saturday.



Mahopac's Kristina Rush moves on Ossining's Ella Castrillon in 10th-seeded Indians' 2-1 upset of 7th-seeded Pride Saturday.

NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Mahopac's Katrina Levitz (1G) and Ossining's Arianna Smith get after it in 10th-seeded Indians' 2-1 upset of No.7 Ossining Saturday.



CONGRATULATIONS to our Local Athletes on a great Fall Season!

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP QUEST!



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Sports

White Plains Beats the Patriots and Earns a League Title

By Andy Jacobs

A bit of déjà vu on Friday night paved the way to a league title for the White Plains football team.

For the second consecutive week, a Tiger opponent sliced a two-touchdown deficit in half with plenty of time remaining only to see White Plains respond to the challenge with a pair of game-clinching, fourth-quarter touchdowns.

A short TD run by Elijah Pierre with eight minutes remaining and then a long one by Isaiah Graham just over three minutes later provided the finishing touches for the Tigers, who earned a 29-7 victory under the lights over the host John Jay Patriots and captured the Class AA, League C championship.

"I'm so proud of 'em," said Tigers head coach Mike Lindberg amid the celebration by his giddy team after it had just finished with a 5-0 league record. "I mean, literally, we've faced adversity all year with injuries and stuff like that. And they just kept fighting. New kids stepped up. Every chance they had, a new kid stepped up and just did their job."

Facing a Patriot team desperate for a win to keep its slim playoff hopes alive, White Plains broke a scoreless tie with two touchdowns in rapid succession in the second quarter and never looked back. When John Jay clawed back into the contest with a touchdown late in the third quarter, the Tigers answered just as they had a week earlier in a key win over Fox Lane — with two more touchdowns that shut the door on a comeback.

"These guys, they don't really get scared of stuff like that," said Lindberg about the second-half touchdown by Fox Lane last week and then John Jay this week. "They just play and they know we'll be just fine. They know we can score very rapidly, so they're not worried about that stuff."

The Tigers fumbled the ball away at midfield on their first possession of the evening, then had a 63-yard touchdown pass from Jay Biondi to Pierre called back on their second, so the game remained scoreless after one quarter.



White Plains senior Danny LaSalle leaves John Jay lineman Arthur Miceli behind as he runs with the football in the second half of Friday's game up in East Fishkill.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

"I'm very proud of just how they were resilient," Lindberg said. "We could've folded when we had the first touchdown called back. But we just kept motoring along."

White Plains began its third drive of the game late in the first quarter deep in its own territory and proceeded to march 83 yards in nine plays. It began with back-to-back runs of 15 yards and then 16 by Nicolas Spista and finally ended two plays into the second quarter when Biondi rolled right and threw the ball into the end zone where Danny LaSalle hauled it in for a 10-yard touchdown. The point-after kick was blocked, so the Tigers' lead remained 6-0.

The Patriots, who finished 3-2 in the league, quickly went three-and-out, enabling the White Plains offense to start a new drive from the John Jay 46. On first down, Pierre ran to his right, followed his blockers and got to the right sideline, where he found a path all the way to the end zone. Pierre then took a pitch from Biondi and ran in for the two-point conversion that increased the Tigers' lead to 14-0.

John Jay soon managed to move the football down to the White Plains 20-yard line, but on fourth-and-five, quarterback Jake Vanderoef's pass toward the right sideline was picked off by linebacker Jack Herman, who returned the ball to midfield.

"Our defense has been playing lights out," said Lindberg. "The kids are flying around, they're making tackles and we're just playing



Nicolas Spista of White Plains tries to run past John Jay's Brady Felicetto during the Tigers' 29-7 road win on Friday night.

tough, physical football."

The Herman interception nearly led to more points for the Tigers, but the first half ended with Biondi's third-down pass under pressure from the Jay 15 picked off in the end zone. The third quarter began with White Plains recovering its short kickoff at the Patriots' 34. Unfortunately for the Tigers, a mistimed snap on first down led to a 13-yard loss and thwarted the scoring threat.

John Jay finally gave its fans something to cheer about on its first possession of the second half with a 13-play, 68-yard drive. A sure touchdown pass by Brady Felicetto on third-and-19 was dropped in the end zone, but a flag on the Tigers kept the drive alive and eventually Felicetto ran in from a yard out, bringing Jay to within 14-7.

But that just set the stage for more fourth-quarter heroics from the Tigers for the second week in a row. They responded with an eight-play, 80-yard drive that was highlighted by a sensational double-cutback 21-yard run by Graham on the first play of the fourth quarter. Pierre finished the drive with a two-yard touchdown run and then Mason Lang followed by reaching the end zone too on the two-point try. The Tigers'



The Tigers' Jack Herman runs with the ball after intercepting a pass in the second quarter vs. host John Jay.



White Plains running back Elijah Pierre carries the ball in the first half of Friday night's game.

lead was suddenly 22-7.

When the Tigers got the ball back again, it took them just four plays to go 90 yards, the last 65 coming from the speedy Graham, just back from injury, as he quickly got to the left sideline and then outraced everyone to the end zone. The PAT from Spista extended the lead to 22 points with just 4:45 remaining.

"As you see, offensively, we're pretty dangerous when we have all our guys," said Lindberg, who has had to make do without Graham and Pierre at various times this season.

With a successful regular season behind them, the Tigers' attention shifts to the start of the Section One playoffs and next weekend's quarterfinal playoff game they'll host against Arlington.

"Well, we've got a home playoff game, but now you've got to respect your home," said Lindberg. "You've got to take care of it. You've got to take care of business at home."



White Plains sophomore Kevin Johnson and his Tiger teammates had reason to smile after they clinched the league title with Friday night's win.

Sports



Pleasantville's Alice Cabral dribbles up the field in Friday's 3-0 playoff win over visiting Dobbs Ferry.



Hannah Fetzer of Greeley battles for possession in the Quakers' come-from-behind playoff victory against Yorktown late Friday afternoon.



Pleasantville sophomore Jess Beck runs to the ball in the first half of Friday's opening-round home playoff win over Dobbs Ferry.



Riley Vavolizza of Pleasantville sends the ball up the field in the first half of the Panthers' playoff win on Friday afternoon.



Hallie Rackoff of Greeley surveys the field for open teammates as she dribbles the ball in the Quakers' overtime playoff win over visiting Yorktown on Friday.

2021 GIRLS' SOCCER PLAYOFFS



Greeley's Rowan Edson looks to settle the ball during the Quakers' overtime playoff win against Yorktown.



Horace Greeley's Fiona Brown gets set to blast a free kick vs. visiting Yorktown in Friday's first-round playoff game.



Pleasantville freshman Skylar Aghen races up the field with the ball during Friday's first-round playoff win over the Eagles of Dobbs Ferry.



Ramsey Edson of Horace Greeley gets control of the ball in Friday afternoon's home playoff victory over Yorktown.



Pleasantville senior forward Maddie Braverman is about to score the first of her two goals in Friday's 3-0 playoff win over visiting Dobbs Ferry.



Tim Isola of Briarcliff has his sights set on the bouncing ball during Thursday's opening-round playoff win.



Luca Mulhare of Westlake gets set to kick the ball near the left sideline in the Wildcats' playoff game vs. visiting Pawling.



Briarcliff sophomore Sebastian Lai takes the ball across midfield in the Bears' 4-0 first-round playoff victory over Hastings.



Valhalla senior Thomas Casale turns on the speed as he heads for the goal in the Vikings' 5-0 playoff win over visiting North Salem.



Valhalla junior Oliver Tecuapetia battles for the ball in the air in last Thursday's first-round playoff win vs. North Salem.

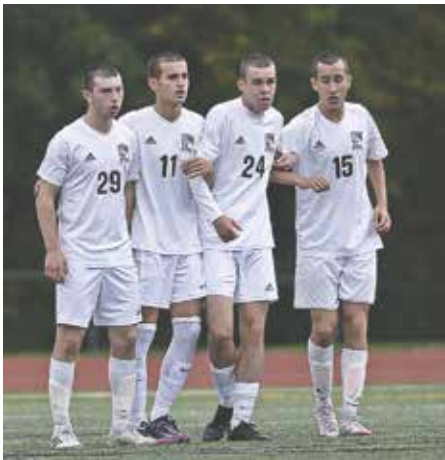


Gianluca Ruggiero of Westlake races upfield with the ball in Thursday's 4-1 playoff victory over visiting Pawling.

2021 BOYS' SOCCER PLAYOFFS



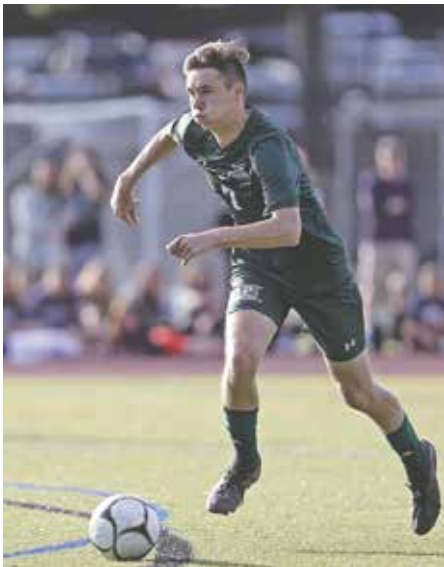
Byram Hills senior midfielder Evan Boekel moves the ball across the field during Saturday's quarterfinal playoff game at Yorktown.



Byram Hills players, left to right, Ross Eagle, Lorenzo Amorosino, Aiden Heffner and Josh Spiegel form a defensive wall during Saturday's playoff game in Yorktown.



Westlake junior forward Vangelis Bishkoff controls the ball during the first half of Thursday afternoon's 4-1 home playoff win.



Rainer Duchmanh of Pleasantville eyes the goal as he prepares for a free kick in Thursday's 3-0 playoff loss to Blind Brook.

Sports



Nicolas Bisgaier of Byram Hills and Sean Horlacher of Yorktown battle in the air during the second half of Saturday's playoff quarterfinal, won by the Huskers in an overtime shootout.



Dimitri Tonelli of Valhalla heads the ball during the Vikings' 5-0 opening-round playoff victory against North Salem.



Byram Hills senior Luke Abbruzzese settles the ball in the Bobcats' quarterfinal showdown with Yorktown that was finally decided by overtime penalty kicks after a 0-0 deadlock.



Valhalla goalkeeper Lucas Zonetti stays ready to make a save late in the first half of Thursday's 5-0 playoff win over the North Salem Tigers.



Ben Young of Briarcliff chases the ball during the Bears' first-round playoff victory at home last Thursday afternoon.



Briarcliff senior forward Alex Annise gains control in the second half of last Thursday's 4-0 home playoff win vs. the Hastings Yellow Jackets.



Nikian Sauthoff of Pleasantville has control of the ball late in Thursday's Panther playoff loss to visiting Blind Brook.



Pleasantville freshman Jack Saldana settles the ball during the Panthers' 3-0 first-round playoff loss.



Westlake's Martin Sunjic boots the ball toward the goal in the Wildcats' opening-round playoff win over the Pawling Tigers.



Pleasantville junior Luke LaMagna pursues the ball in the Panthers' season-ending playoff loss to Blind Brook last Thursday.



Pleasantville's Adriana Catalano finished 17th at the Westchester County meet.



Fox Lane's Harry Griff finished in third place and the Foxes won the team title at the Westchester County Championships on Saturday at Somers High School.



Fox Lane junior Morgan Eigel, who placed fifth, heads for the finish line.



Pleasantville's Alex Searle races to the finish line to place second.



White Plains' Sophie Ginsberg finished eighth.



Fox Lane's Sebastien Schonfeld

focus on

CROSS COUNTRY

2021 Westchester County Championship



Greeley's Matthew Carnes, left and Hugh McGuire.



Briarcliff's Giovanni Culotta paced the Bears in 11th.



Fox Lane's Willie Cuono on her way to 11th at counties.



Ronan Staab led White Plains in 14th.



Briarcliff's Giovanni Culotta took 11th.

Sports

Blue Crew Storms Through Heat for Championship

The KLBS Blue Storm 12U softball squad captured the championship at the Hudson Valley Raptors 12U Pink October Fastpitch tournament, held Oct. 16-17 at Sprout Brook Park in Cortlandt Manor.

The Blue crew stormed its way to an undefeated 6-0 in the tournament, outscoring opponents 60-26 to win the championship hardware. The perfect string of victories included a 5-2 triumph over the Ardsley Heat in the tournament finals.

Coach Ross Sacco's Storm weathered the challenge against a lineup of strong programs, beating the Yorktown Huskers, 12-2, the host 12U Hudson Valley Raptors, 13-5, and the Orange County Bombers, 10-6, in bracket play on Saturday, earning a top seed for Championship Sunday.

The Blue Storm edged the younger KLBS Blue Storm 11U team, 9-8, in the quarterfinals, in what proved to be the team's closest contest of the tournament, illustrating the strength of the broader Blue Storm program. The team then bested Yorktown for a second time, 11-3, before beating the Heat in the championship game, battling elite hurlers in both matchups.

Maria DeGaetano and Natalie Sacco enjoyed outstanding tournaments in the circle to lead the Blue Storm pitching staff, with DeGaetano going the distance in both the semifinals and finals, allowing just four runs over 10 innings with an eye-popping 20 punch outs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRIS VALENTE

KLBS Blue Storm 12U took home the championship at the Hudson Valley Raptors 12U Pink October Fastpitch Softball Tournament. L-R: Samantha Saldutti, Ava Rose Kalarchian, Emma Covino, Riley Sacco, Maria DeGaetano, Sofia Valente, Elise Templeton, Coach Dom Valente, Marisa Antolino, Natalie Sacco, Arielle Davidson, Coach Ross Sacco, Leilani Forni, Lauren Goodrich, Gracy Holm-Joergensen, Coach Mark Saldutti, Helena Hudson, and Coach Paul DeGaetano (not pictured: Lauren Metro).

Helena Hudson and Lauren Metro each drove in crucial runs in the semifinal win

over Yorktown, while Marissa Antolino sparked the Blue Storm in the finals with

a hit, ultimately scoring the decisive run. Leadoff hitter Elise Templeton batted a whopping more than .800 for the tournament, setting the table with half a dozen walks and 11 runs scored, delivering in her role and then some to get on base.

The coaching staff praised the performance of the entire team, saying every member of the group contributed to the trophy-winning effort, noting how the dominant play helps prove that a town travel team can compete at a high level. The staff also highlighted the fielding of the entire infield throughout the weekend, saying tons of runs were saved thanks to the defense repeatedly flashing their leather.

"I wish I could mention everyone because I am so proud of the effort the girls and coaching staff put forth this weekend," Coach Sacco remarked. "This was their first tournament win, and they made it happen because they are such a tight-knit group. There are no internal rivalries on our team, the girls support each other's successes and failures without ego. That's what KLBS is about."

The Katonah-based KLBS, which serves Katonah, Bedford, Pound Ridge, North Salem, Lewisboro and Mt. Kisco, offers recreational teams, camps, travel teams, clinics and the Blue Storm tournament team. More information: <http://www.klbs.com.leag1.com>

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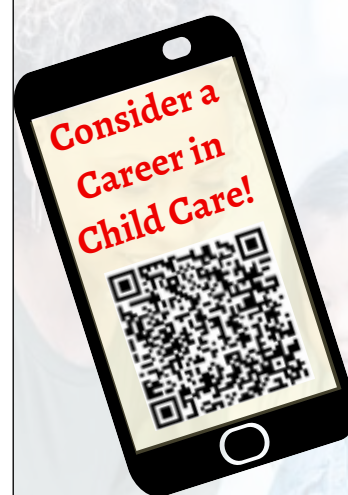
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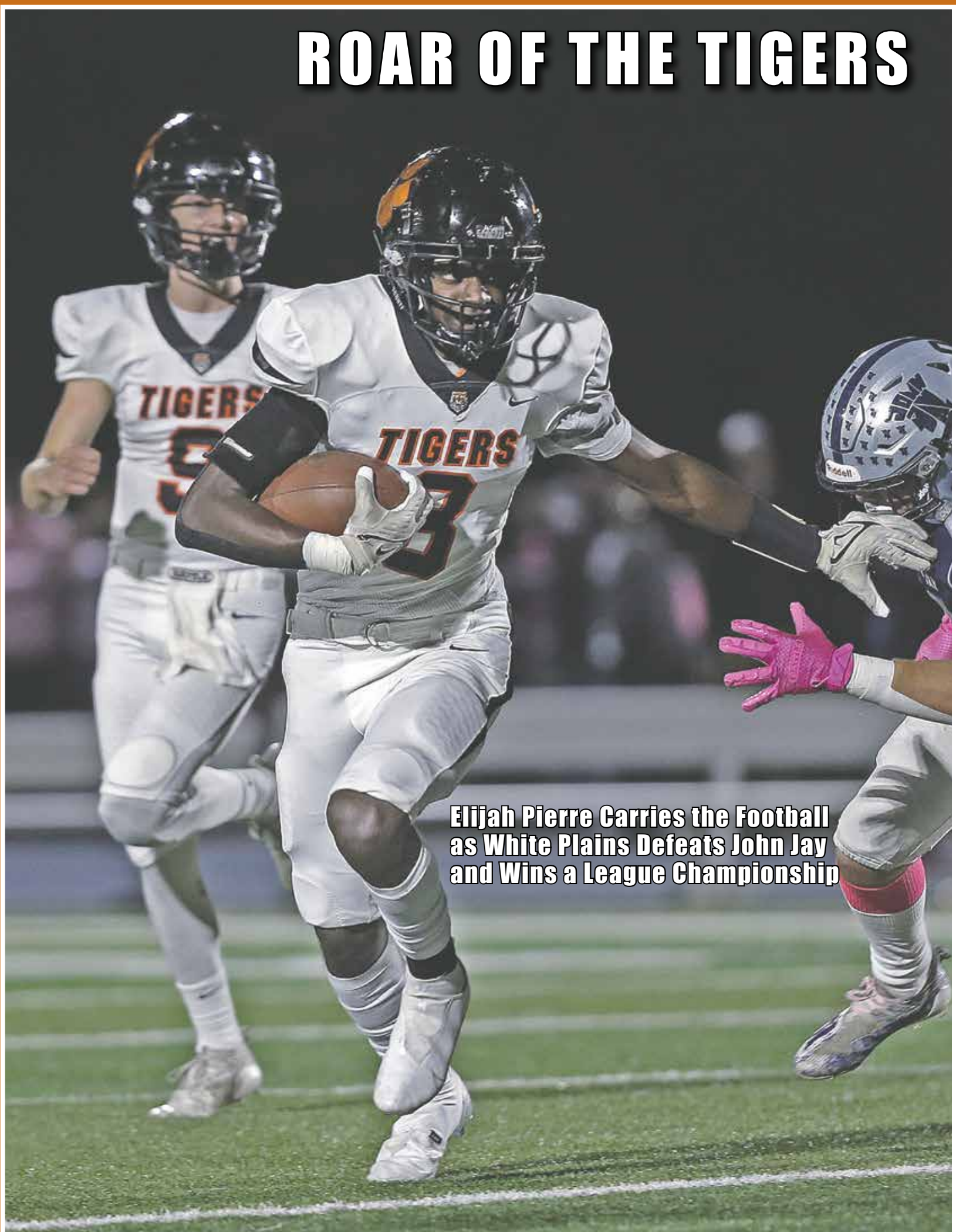
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ROAR OF THE TIGERS



**Elijah Pierre Carries the Football
as White Plains Defeats John Jay
and Wins a League Championship**