Senior Michael DeBono and Fox Lane Hang On to Defeat the Yonkers Force in a Thrilling Game on Saturday Night
The win of the week goes to CLASS B host HEN HUD after Coach John ‘Big Cat’ Catano’s Sailors stunned state-ranked (No.12) Ardsley, 12-7, last Friday. In doing so, the rumbling Sailors (2-2), who had an impressive fourth-quarter, goal-line stand to preserve the win, sent reverberations throughout Class B, which is seemingly up for grabs after this massive upset of the two-time reigning sectional champs. And a healthy Hen Hud squad is now firmly in the mix with the likes of Ardsley, Pleasantville, Nanuet and reigning champion Byram Hills.

Indeed, Class B looks like a dog fight from here on out after Sailor RB Scott Lupi (5 carries 48 yards, 47 yards receiving) showed his burst and versatility while RB Anthony Panettieri (16 carries for 56 yards) did the grinding and was rewarded with a pair of rushing TDs from five and three yards out. Dan Martinez (5 carries for 23 yards) and QB Chris McGuire (7 carries for 17 yards, 4 for 11 passing for 103 yards) were key contributors for the Sailors.

Defensively, DB Will Richer showed a nose for the ball with two interceptions, a fumble recovery and four tackles. Lupi (10 tackles, 1 caused fumble) was a monster on D. Dajhan Daniels and Ben Andersen added five tackles apiece to thwart the recent two-time sectional champions (2018-19).

"We were able to get on the board first with two first-half scores, and then our defense came up big, especially late in the game on our final goal-line stand," Catano said. "The boys really came to play. Beating a club like Ardsley; this is one of our program’s biggest wins in recent memory."

CLASS A

SOMERS needed just 12 plays from scrimmage -- three of which found paydirt for a 21-0 edge -- before host YORKTOWN knew what hit them en route to a 35-0 Tusker triumph of the rival Huskers last Friday. Somers RB’s Ravi Dass (2 rushes, 41 yards), Derek Marcus (3 rushes, 16 yards) and Luke Savino (4 rushes, 49 yards) each rushed for a score while Trey Mancuso (43 yards) and Dass (64 yards) reeled in long scoring strikes from QB Matt Fitzsimons (6 of 10, 135 yards, 2 TDs). The long flag route to Mancuso provided a four-score cushion and killed what was an otherwise glorious mood at Yorktown, which featured a pink-out by its massive Crop to help support local cancer funding. (The $1,065 raised in the 50-50 raffle was not claimed by someone who deserves a nod of approval and will be donated directly to Support Connection to support breast cancer).

As for the Mancuso TD, "Matt just threw a nice back shoulder pass and I just adjusted..." continued on page 4

Hen Hud senior QB Chris McGuire slings one in Sailors’ 12-7 shocker over state-ranked Ardsley Friday.

Somers DB Trey Mancuso breaks up pass intended for Yorktown WR Justin Price (27) in Tuskers’ 35-0 win over Huskers Friday.
Somers QB Matt Fitzsimons readies to fires pass in Tuskers’ 35-0 win over host Yorktown Friday.

Somers RB Luke Savino strides toward end zone in Tuskers’ 35-0 win over host Yorktown Friday.

Somers RB Matt Kapica rumbles for yardage in Tuskers’ 35-0 defeat of host Yorktown Friday.

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**NWE/Putnam Grid Notebook**

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**Week 4 Examiner Area Super 7 Section 1 Grid Poll**

No.1 CARMEL -- Coach Cayea’s state-ranked (No.16) Class AA Rams (4-0) will head across the river in Week 5 for the first of three battles with Rockland County’s finest, including Clarkstown South (3-1), plus visiting state-ranked (No.23) Suffern (3-1) and North Rockland (2-2). The No.1 playoff seed will be on the line, so get ’er done, son!

No.2 SOMERS -- Coach Anthony DeMatteo’s state-ranked (No.13) Class A Tuskers (4-0) crushed Yorktown and looked like a team that would not only challenge No.8 Rye for a Section 1 title, but one that might have the skills to represent in states where, whomever advances, would be sure to see Section 9 nemesis Cornwall (No.4 in NY5).

No.3 BREWSTER -- Coach Mulvihill’s Class A Bears (3-1) are entering the make-or-break part of their schedule with games against Mahopac, Lakeland and John Jay CR over the final three weeks. A pair of losses could force them to rely on residual points to qualify for playoffs, two wins and they’re in. No.3 through No.6 in this useless poll are interchangeable, and the drop-off after Carmel/Somers is pretty significant.

No.3A MAHOPAC -- Coach Dominick DeMatteo’s Class A Indians (2-2) were not nearly crisp enough offensively in their 20-14 loss to John Jay EF, and with the top three teams in each league automatically qualifying for the playoffs, Mahopac is suddenly on the outside looking in as they venture to Brewster in Week 5 in a 50-50 must-win situation.

No.5 PLEASANTVILLE -- Coach Becerra’s Class B Panthers (4-0) saw Daniel Picart silence the Put Valley crowd with an electrifying 89-yard kick return to the house en route to a 28-0 win. Bronxville and Ardsley up next, so we’ll know more for sure come Oct.15.

No.6 BYRAM HILLS -- Coach Berk’s reigning Class B champion Bobcats (2-2) failed to flex on a Nanuet club that is suddenly looking like legit sectional title contenders (what would be its first since 2009) and sure-fire B-North league title winners.

No.7 HEN HUD -- Coach Big Cat Catanos’s Sailors (2-2) have to get a serious mention after shocking state-ranked (No.11) Ardsley, 12-7, with a couple of late defensive stands the boys will talk about forever at Fulgum’s Bar & Grill when they are legal to do so.

HM VALHALA -- Coach Art Troilo’s state-ranked (No.5) Class C Vikings (3-1) 26-20 loss to Class D power Tuckahoe should give Haldane reason for concern, considering they will square off for the Class D marbles in Nov. Vikings will surely tumble in useless state polls and they’ll need to recover from this awful loss if they expect to see Dobbs or Magnus in the finals.

HM WHITE PLAINS -- Schedule has been kind of soft to date in League AA-C but Coach Lindberg’s Class AA Tigers (3-1) are beating those put before them, aside from a non-league loss to Scarsdale. RB Isaiah Graham had 13 carries for 206 yards and 3 TDs in Tigers’ 54-21 win over Port Chester while Jet Lee (pretty cool name) had 4 catches for 95 yards and a score.

HM FOX LANE -- Coach Giuliano’s Class AA Foxes (3-1) are in the same boat as White Plains, a semi-soft slate of challengers outside of a non-league loss to Suffern, but the two will tango for AA-C League title and bragging rights in Week 6 on Oct. 15.

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by Ray Gallagher
October 5 - October 11, 2021 Examiner Media

Sports

continued from page 2 to it,” said Mancuso, who made a couple of shifty moves inside the 10 before plowing in for the score.

While the mood dampened on the Husker sideline, Somers Nation was out in force to support their state-ranked (No.13) Tuskers.

“We knew that it was gonna be a big game; it’s Somers against Yorktown, and it was their homecoming, but we knew what we had to do and we did it,” Somers senior captain TE/LB Ethan Kraus said after landing five tackles for a defense led by senior DL Dylan Faller’s eight sticks, three for loss. “There were a lot of factors that took a part in that win.”

Beginning with the fact that Somers is just scratching the surface of its playbook while buying into a get better or go home mantra.

“We have come a long way so far but it’s not over yet,” Kraus said. “We get better every week no matter who we are playing because like coach d always said, ‘You either get better or worse, you never stay the same’. A lot of us live by that and it’s helping us form into a better team each week.”

The offensive and defensive lines were dominant in the trenches, led by Faller and Kraus on the defensive side and massive junior OT Jake Polito on the O-line. The 6’3” 285-pound Polito suggested that the entire community has bought into what the Tuskers are selling.

“It’s the whole community right now,” Polito said. “We are also just getting closer as brothers and everything’s just clicking like you said. We make a conscious effort to be deliberate everyday in practice to ‘beat’ the other team on a given day, then we go out on a Friday and do it one more time.

Also I’d like to give a shoutout to Sal’s Pizza in Lincolndale on Lovell Street for always hooking it up after our practices,” Polito added. “He said he’ll name a pie after me if I shouted him out.”

(At hope’s Big Sal is a man of honor. Might I suggest the Jake Scar-Polito Pie; a total ripoff of Chicken Scarpariello, a classic Italian-American recipe with juicy chicken chunks, sweet Italian sausage, and a vinegar, sweet-sour pan sauce.)

Husker RB Marco McKnight (44 yards, 17 carries) found little room to run all night, but did help set up a 45-yard field goal attempt in the first half, which was blocked. Husker QB Justin Meyreles departed early in the second-quarter with an apparent injury, opening the door for backup QB Vito DeBellis’ 40-yard pass to Thomas Costello, but the Huskers (1-3) fumbled inside the five on their only realistic scoring attempt.

MAHOPAC found the sledding tough at John Jay CR where the host Wolves (3-1) snapped a 14-all deadlock with the game’s final score en route to a 20-14 League A-North win over the Indians (2-2). Four Mahopac ball carriers combined for just 100 yards rushing on 26 attempts for a shade under four yards per carry, which won’t get it done against a high-flying, up-tempo attack like John Jay. Indian junior RB Joey Koch rushed 10 times for 35 yards and a fourth-quarter, game-tying scoot to paydirt while senior RB Steven Perone had seven carries for 24 yards and the game’s initial score. Mahopac QB Anthony DeMatteo was limited to 7-of-15 passing for just 45 yards (four grabs to Max Gomes for 34 yards) and another 31 rushing yards on five totes.

After tying the score at 14, the Mahopac defense, which had been stout all night behind sacks from Anthony Porco and Adam Montavaldo, did not come up strong on the Wolves’ final drive. Still, Montavaldo, who took the loss hard, believes the Indians were their own worst enemy.

“I think that we lost to ourselves,” the senior captain said. “I think that we came in with a wrong attitude and that led to us not playing well. I do think that John Jay was better than we expected but was not better than us. We lost to ourselves.”

With playoffs getting closer and the Indians on the brink, that is something the they’ll need to address this week.

BREWSTER (3-1) is making the most of its potential, putting itself in a strong position to make the playoffs should Coach Ed Mulvihill’s Bears finish strong with a couple of tough games on the horizon. After handling WALTER PANAS with ease, 40-6, Friday, Brewster is set to host Mahopac this Friday (7:30 pm) in a Week 5 tilt that Mahopac desperately needs to stay afloat in A-North. The Bears will also visit John Jay (3-1) in Week 7, leaving the very little wiggle room for losses and a highly intriguing matchup with the Indians.

Against the Panthers (0-4), the Bears rushed for over 300 yards on Homecoming Day. RB Will Martinez paced the Bears with 78 yards on 11 carries with a TD while teammate Massimo Parrello ran for 54 yards on four carries, including a TD. Alex Rienzi added two carries for 51 yards and a TD. Parrello also connected on 4 of 7 passes for 49 yards, including a 19-yard TD strike to Nick Sayegh, who also brought the house down with an 82-yard punt return for a score. “It was homecoming and the atmosphere was electric,” Mulvihill said. “The stands were packed, the fans were loud, lots of smiles on the Brewster side. We have a great community, which always supports us. It’s a great place to play.”

LAKELED led Lourdes 14-12 at the half but the Hornets (1-3) couldn’t stop a punting Warrior (2-3) ground game in the second half of a 30-18 A-North setback. Lakeland QB Steve Dedvukaj continued an impressive rookie campaign by hitting on 12 of 25 passes for 143 yards and three TD strikes to big-play threat Tyler Ronk (7 catches, 3 TDs, 103 yards). Lakeland’s defense was led by Stephen Carroll (9 tackles), Joey Malaspina (8) and Connor McGannon (7).

Lakeland has been bitten hard by the injury bug, including four of their five starting linemen and a pair of key skill players, and Coach Mike Meadows has been forced to run out second- and third-stringers who have impressed with their will to compete.

“They are fighting and giving me everything they have,” the coach said. “The kids continue to play hard and make no excuses. I was so proud of Dedvukaj and Ronk.

CLASS AA

CARMEL (4-0) got on the board first when senior RB Nick Shields pushed in from two yards out for a 6-0 lead at 7:09 of the first quarter en route to a 40-7 AA-North victory over host John Jay EE.

A 67-yard TD jaunt by Jay RB Aidan Gallagher after the ensuing kick gave Jay 7-6 lead at 6:49.

Carmel WR Andrew Fiore had the answer and gave the state-ranked (No.16) Rams a 13-7 lead at 10:23 of the second quarter, hanging in a seventh-yard TD strike from QB Kevin Dall. Shields had a huge third-down sack on the ensuing Jay possession, followed by a bad snap on fourth down, which gave the Rams the ball on the Jay 16 (a holding call pushed the Rams back to the 26). Shields finished the short drive from five yards out at 4:49 before the half for a 20-7 lead.

After another three-and-out, Carmel took over another short field (at the Jay 31) with 2:58 before the half. Dall went naked-bootleg on 4th-and-1 for a 22-yard TD scoot with 1:06 to go for a 27-7 lead… game, set, match! Rams RB Thomas Keating added a pair of second-half TD runs for the final margin.

CLASS D

HALDANE put down host Hastings, 20-13, behind a pair of scores from QB Evan Giachinta (4-yard rush, 17-yard pass) and two TD strikes from QB Ryan Van Tassel (183 passing yards), including a 79-yarder to Julian Forcello and the game-clinching strike to Giachinta (16 rushes, 75 yards). The Blue Devils (3-1) were led on defense by Ryan Irwin (9 solo tackles, 4 for loss, 4 assists, 1 sack). Haldane will host Croton Friday (7 pm) in its only night game of the regular season before a staunch Week 6 test from Valhalla.

RAY GALLAGHER / TONY HUMBERTO / GIL MCMAHON PHOTOS
**NWE/Putnam Boys' Soccer Notebook**

**D’Ippolito Scores 1, Sets up 3 in Somers’ 5-2 Win over Yorktown**

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

Over the course of the last three-plus decades, Section 1 soccer teams from Northern Westchester and Putnam County have been hard-pressed to field one division one prospect, let alone the three would-be candidates SOMERS Coach Brian Lanzetta has at his disposal in 2021. Those three playmakers -- senior F Jacques Verard (2G), senior M Daniel D’Ippolito (1G, 3A) and senior F Bennett Leitner (1G) -- did nothing to discourage college scouts when they combined for seven points in the state-ranked (No.1) Tuskers’ 5-2 win over visiting No.7 YORKTOWN last Thursday.

D’Ippolito’s first-half goal provided a 3-0 edge and was the stuff of highlight reels, as he beat two of the section’s top athletes to get off a left-footed haymaker to snipe the top far post.

“Daniel’s IQ and passion for the game is what sets him apart,” Somers Coach Brian Lanzetta said. “He honestly could play in Italy, I believe. He has super skill and touch on the ball. He knows when to attack and when to slow it down. His head is always up surveying the field.”

Aedan Hopper added a goal for the Tuskers (7-0) while Peter Tinaj and Michael Duffy each scored for the Huskers (8-1-1) off feeds from George Popovic.

“We were rightfully an underdog, but we only played well the first half,” Yorktown Coach Zoran Milojicic said.

The silver lining for Yorktown is they scored twice against a Somers defense that hadn’t allowed a goal all season.

D’Ippolito and Hopper each scored and set up another for the Tuskers in their 4-0 win over winless MAHOPAC last Tuesday. Tuskers Kevin Lewitt and Jack Silverman also scored. The shutout was the Tuskers’ sixth consecutive. Somers finished the week with a 2-1 win over John Jay CR Saturday with D’Ippolito netting both goals.

Yorktown had a nice bounce-back win over Mahopac, 4-2, on Saturday. Tinaj scored twice (from Popovic and Chris Coppola) while Matthew Pozo (from Popovic, Popovic from Nick Varela) also scored. Colin Woring and Will Estrada scored for Mahopac.

The Huskers also tripped up winless BREWSTER, 4-0, earlier in the week when Derek Belloff-Davis, Mason Murphy, David Beiter and Coppola each tickled the twine. The assists came from Tinaj, Gabriel Hughes and Pozo.

In a bit of a shocker, HEN HUD blackened LAKELAND, 3-0 when Tyler Robinson scored a pair of goals for the Sailors. Aidan Irwin also tallied for the Sailors (4-5). Jonah Williams made seven saves to shut out the Hornets (5-4).

The Sailors could not build upon that big win and suffered a 3-2 loss to WALTER PANAS Saturday when Panther sniper Kyle Arraiano notched the game-winning goal, snapping a 2-2 tie with 33 seconds to play. Eddie Chicaiza scored two goals in the first half for the Panthers (3-6), who saw Arraiano, Alex Guerbara and Nick Gutierrez set up a tally.

PEERSKILL’s Kevin Mendoza led the Red Devils (6-4) with two goals and three assists in an 8-2 win over Gorton. Alex Sapatanga added two goals and two assists for the Red Devils, who were also knocked off by Lakeland, 3-2, earlier in the week when Hornet Mike Rodriguez iced the game with his third goal of the night with 12.8 seconds to play. Sapatanga had both goals for the Red Devils, who defeated Lakeland in last year’s playoffs.

**NOTES:** There are 15 teams in Class A with records above .500, and Greeley (4-3-2), the current No.14 seed, has played Somers tougher than anyone in a 1-0 loss. Plus, John Jay CR (4-5), the current No.16 seed, played pretty even with Somers before a one-goal loss. All we’re saying is Class A is loaded, and don’t nobody sleep on perennial power Byram Hills (6-1-1), the No.5 seed as of press time.

**CLASS AA**

CARMEL rallied for a 3-2 win over visiting RCK Wednesday, down 2-0 Anthony Vara found Marko Borovyk for the first of three unanswered goals. Neel Walia then pushed a through ball to Borovyk to knot the score at two. Borovyk completed the hat trick by converting a PK in OT. Ram G Joe Galeano made five saves, including a penalty kick. The state-ranked (No.16) Rams (7-2-1) could not sustain that momentum in a 1-0 league loss to surging Arlington (6-2-1), which hurt the Rams chances of catching state-ranked (No.2) John Jay EF (10-1, 2-0) for the League 1-A title, making today’s scrum with the Patriots all the more important. Carmel’s two losses have to foes with a combined 14-3-2 record.

OSSINING (6-2-4) tied Fox Lane 0-0 Saturday after beating Scarsdale B, 3-0, Thursday behind two assists from Mariano Marra and solo goals from Exxon Umanzor (header), Kevin Quezada and a bomb from Justin Tuba.

Yorktown senior M Martin Harold Griff soars for head ball in 5-2 loss to host Somers Thursday.

Somers senior F Jacques Verard (7) and senior M Daniel D’Ippolito acknowledge Tusker nation after Verard’s 2nd tally gave Tuskers cushion in 5-2 win over Yorktown.

Yorktown junior D Sean Horlacher (20) defends Somers senior F Bennet Leitman in Huskers’ 5-2 loss to Tuskers Thursday.
Put Valley Turns Corner, Lakeland Nips Rival Mamaroneck

By Tony Pinciario

When Julia Cunningham and her Putnam Valley varsity field hockey teammates learned of who their new coach would be in 2020, they could hardly contain their excitement.

“We were exhilarated, as a team, to have Coach Parchen return to coaching last year,” said Cunningham of now second-year coach Tracy Parchen. “We knew with her as our coach this would finally rebirth the Putnam Valley girls’ field hockey team and the last two years this has definitely shown.”

Parchen’s return to coaching brought Putnam Valley instant credibility. After all, when Parchen began coaching in 2002 (before stepping away after 2006 to start her family) she immediately established Putnam Valley as a rising Section 1 Class B power. This came to fruition in 2005 when Parchen led the Tigers to the Section 1 and New York State Class B field hockey championships. During its 2005 postseason run, Putnam Valley, led by All-NYS goalie Kim Kastuk, did not allow a goal.

Even though Parchen “retired” after 2006, many of her players, highlighted by center midfielder Ashley Morgan, brought Putnam Valley its second Section 1 Class B title in 2008. That year, Putnam Valley defeated four-time state champion Rye in a semifinal and Lakeland in the sectional final. That was the last time Lakeland lost in a Section 1 Class B title game.

While the girls were excited to have Parchen return, the veteran coach also welcomed it. “I came back and started coaching modified field hockey in 2019,” Parchen said. “I was planning on continuing at the modified level in 2020, but last season when they decided to run some of the sports levels but not all of them due to the pandemic, they needed a varsity field hockey coach, so I figured since there was no modified I would do the varsity and here I am. Even though we had a tough season last year, I was happy that I came back.”

Class C Putnam Valley is currently 3-4-2 this season after a scoreless draw with Pleasantville and a 6-1 win over Class B Putnam after a 2-2 tie with Class B Yorktown. “After having such an abnormal season last year with an unexpected quarantine, we were excited that this year brought a higher opportunity to grow together and become closer as friends both on and off the field,” said Cunningham, a four-year starter on defense.

“We were ready to play our game and focus on the work we needed to put in. Coach Parchen stressed the importance of conditioning our bodies and putting all our efforts toward the game.”

Following a rough start, Putnam Valley has raised its level of play and it showed with the Panas and Pleasantville, one of the top Section 1 Class C teams.

Ava Harman had a hat trick and added an assist against Panas. Allesandra Granieri finished with two goals and Shayla Lussier collected three assists. Sierra Gabriel and Alexandria Jacobs also had assists. Goalie Kylie Recuppio was the star of the Pleasantville game with 12 saves.

“It was a great game,” said Parchen. “The girls have been working hard on marking, defensively, which has made a difference in our games. Our senior defenders, Shyla Lussier, Alex Jacobs and Julia Cunningham played great defensively.”

Cunningham and her teammates are enjoying their time with Parchen. “I’m confident that the team will have success next year and Coach Parchen will continue to strengthen the program’s future,” Cunningham said. “Putnam Valley is very fortunate to have such dedicated and compassionate coaches like Coach Parchen and Coach Edwards.”

Parchen feels the same way about her team. “It is just as much fun as it used to be,” Parchen said. “It’s a little more difficult this time around because I am managing my own family at home as well. I definitely enjoy being out on the field every day with the team. The team has been working hard and trying to get better every day. It is a great group of girls that I have known since they have been in 5th grade.”

LAKELAND continued to roll with three more victories making it a perfect 10-0 this season.

The Hornets stung Brewster (8-0), John Jay-East Fishkill (2-0) and closed the week by beating Section 1 Class A power Mamaroneck (3-1). All-NYS M Mia Smith scored twice against Mamaroneck and Alyssa Petrolli had the third goal. Gabby Santini, Jaden Ray and Emily Yazzetti registered assists. Santini had Lakeland’s goals against John Jay-East Fishkill and Yazzetti had an assist. Smith rang up four goals and Ray added three goals and two assists against Brewster. Eva Vulaj finished with a goal and Charlotte Sabert had an assist.

PLEASANTVILLE went 1-1-1 for the week, improving to 5-1-2 as the Panthers continue to make themselves a dangerous team when the Section 1 Class C field hockey championships begin. The Panthers defeated Our Lady of Lourdes, 3-0, as Natalie O’Malley scored twice and Caitlin Rubsam finished with a goal and an assist. Maeve McCartney added an assist and Izzie Baxter made five saves for the shutout. Pleasantville and Putnam Valley played to a 0-0 draw with Baxter making four saves. Baxter finished with a career-high 24 saves, including two stops on penalty strokes in a 5-0 loss to Class B power John Jay-Cross River.

HEN HUD (3-4) had a landmark win for the program, 2-1 over perennial Section 1 Class C champion Bronxville.

“It was an amazing win and the girls are so proud to play so well against a great opponent like Bronxville,” Hen Hud coach Melissa Locatelli said. “Defensively, we played an amazing game holding Bronxville to just one goal.”

Logan Gougelmann and Sydney Munanka were the goal scorers, Paige Johanssen had an assist and Emily Hunt made three saves.

YORKTOWN lost a pair of close games -- Arlington (1-0) and Ossining (2-0) -- before erupting for a 5-0 win over Edgemont.

“The girls played exceedingly well and had nice defensive games against Arlington and Ossining,” Yorktown coach Courtney Hyndman said. “By Saturday, our offense really connected and got the job done in their win against Edgemont. We start getting into league play this week so we’re hoping to be successful and have good ball movement and play hard offensively.”

PANAS lost to Putnam Valley and Ossining, Kyle Edwards scored the Panas goal against Putnam Valley and Olivia Weinbaum scored against Ossining. Makenzie Schmidt assisted on both goals.

Mahopac’s Katrina Levit, who scored a goal, is checked by Brewster’s Meaghan O’Gorman in Indians’ 2-1 win over Bears Wednesday.

Mahopac’s Riley Massett goes on attack against Brewster’s Isabella Boissonnault in Indians’ 2-1 win over Bears.

Lakeland senior M Mia Smith cranked two goals in unbeaten Hornets’ 3-1 win over Class A heavyweight Mamaroneck Saturday.

NIKKI GALLAGHER / RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS
White Plains Scores 41 Unanswered Points in Rout of the Rams

By Ryan J. Degan

Mental toughness in high school football can make or break a championship season, often being the difference-maker in a team’s ability to come back from tough losses or overcome point deficits.

The White Plains Tigers showed an abundance of mental toughness on the road Saturday when they defeated Port Chester 54-21, overcoming an early deficit and scoring 41 unanswered points on their way to a convincing victory.

“In the second half, we were able to (run away with it), but we were actually losing going into halftime,” said White Plains’ head coach Mike Lindberg. “We actually were not playing terribly on offense in the first half. We never even punted in the game, actually. We just had some bad luck, some penalties and a couple of things not really going our way. The offensive line did a really great job, we were able to run the ball really well.”

After the Tigers fell behind 21-13 late in the second quarter, the game reached a real turning point with just over a minute left in the half when quarterback Jay Biondi led his team 80 yards for a touchdown, polishing off the impressive drive with a four-yard run into the end zone.

Receiving the ball to start the second half, the Tigers drove down the field and scored once again. They later crossed the goal line four more times after that to turn the game into a rout.

“I will say the running game was really where it was at,” Lindberg added. “I think we had about 300 yards rushing. [Graham] really stepped up for us.”

Other notable performances for the Tigers came from junior Jacob Lee (known as “Jet Lee” to his teammates), who made four catches for 116 yards and a touchdown, including a 52-yarder to start the fourth quarter, and senior Danny LaSalle, who snagged four catches for 62 yards.

Bouncing back from a week three loss to the Scarsdale Raiders, Lindberg thinks his players have remained focused on their overall goal of securing a home-field playoff berth with a shot at the championship, and they are so far well on their way to doing so.

“If we beat Fox Lane and John Jay, that’ll make us league champs and give us a home playoff game,” he said. “All season long, we’ve been saying that that’s our goal. So we want to play well, continue to improve and those last two games will dictate where we are for the playoffs.”

On Friday, the Tigers will again be on the road to take on the Arlington High School Admirals, with kickoff slated for 3:00.
Late Goal-Line Stand Lifts Foxes to a Homecoming Win

By Andy Jacobs

Marching 78 yards on 11 plays while using up nearly all of the game’s final seven minutes, the Yonkers Force were poised to leave the Fox Lane football team and its huge Homecoming crowd thoroughly disappointed on Saturday evening.

But with the ball resting mere inches from the goal line and just 40 seconds left on the clock, the Force called one final timeout to set up what seemed an inevitable game-winning touchdown. The Bee Gees’ ‘Stayin’ Alive’ blared over the PA system as Fox fans waited anxiously to see if their team could somehow stop Yonkers for a fourth straight time inside the 5-yard line.

What the play was that Yonkers planned during the timeout will forever remain a mystery to the Fox Lane faithful because it never happened. Serendipity intervened just in time to save the Foxes as a high snap from center sent the football sailing through the waiting hands of quarterback Atticus Oelkers. In an instant, Fox Lane defensive back Luke Feingold pounced on it to preserve a 19-14 lead and assure the Foxes of their third win in four games this season.

“Oh man, it’s good,” said head coach Drew Giuliano moments after witnessing his first exhilarating finish at the helm of the Foxes. “I don’t care what the score is, how many mistakes we made. That’s good.”

The Foxes had found themselves trailing 14-7 midway through the third quarter before battling back to grab the lead. Feingold, the man of the moment in the final seconds, had been on the receiving end of a perfect strike from quarterback Eric Miller on a third-and-19 play down the left sideline that turned into a 43-yard touchdown with just under a minute remaining in the quarter.

When the point-after kick was blocked, Yonkers maintained its lead until senior running back Michael DeBono scored on a fourth-yard touchdown run for the Foxes with 6:45 left in the game. DeBono’s TD capped a brief four-play, 16-yard drive set up by another bad Force snap, this time one-hopping past the punter deep in Yonkers territory.

“We knew this team was gonna be tough,” said Giuliano. “People think what they want about Yonkers, but we know what we saw on film, and that’s a tough school we played against. We knew they were playing hard and we knew they didn’t give a damn who we were.”

On the heels of their lopsided 34-14 win at Port Chester the week before, the Foxes began the night against the Force with the ball at their own 45-yard line following a squib kickoff. On first down, Miller connected with Pedro Silva on a 47-yard pass play to the Yonkers 8-yard line. But that’s where their opening drive stalled following back-to-back incomplete passes to Logan Matson in the end zone.

Fox Lane senior quarterback Eric Miller fires a long pass in the third quarter of Saturday night’s 19-14 victory over the Yonkers Force.

Fox Lane defensive back Luke Feingold recovers a Yonkers fumble in the final minute of Saturday’s game to preserve the Foxes’ precarious 19-14 lead.

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But Fox Lane got the ball back just over eight minutes left in the first quarter and proceeded to move it 53 yards in seven plays, scoring the game’s first points when Miller faked a handoff and ran in himself from a yard out. The PAT from Matthew Antonino gave the Foxes a 7-0 lead with 3:38 to go in the period.

But the Force were able to seize the lead late in the second quarter when quarterback Oelkers found Malachi Keels wide open down the field. Keels caught the ball and sped the final 35 yards untouched to the end zone to complete a 73-yard touchdown pass. Then Oelkers and Keels connected again for a two-point conversion that gave Yonkers an 8-7 edge.

The Foxes threatened in the final minutes of the second quarter, but Miller lost the ball on a fumble after a five-yard run to the Yonkers 6-yard line with 46 seconds remaining and the Homecoming halftime festivities began with Fox Lane trailing by a point.

“Yeah, we definitely had opportunities to put it away early and we didn’t capitalize,” said Giuliano. “We continue to struggle holding onto the ball. That’s always scary. It’s stuff we’ve got to work on.”

The Foxes’ Pedro Silva carries the football in the first half of Saturday night’s game vs. Yonkers.

Yonkers opened the second half with a 10-play, 80-yard drive that ended with Oelkers, on fourth down at the 1-yard line, easily trotting to his right for a touchdown. The two-point pass try failed, so the Force had to settle for a 14-7 advantage with 6:06 left in the third quarter.

Fox Lane’s immediate response was an eight-play, 64-yard drive featuring the running of DeBono and ending with Miller’s superb pass down the left sideline to Feingold, who got behind two Force defenders and caught the ball in stride as he reached the end zone.

The fourth quarter began with the Foxes trailing by a point, but DeBono’s four-yard run up the middle finally enabled Fox Lane to overtake the Force, now 1-3 this season. Before the ensuing kickoff that would soon lead to all the late-game drama, Giuliano took his team aside and delivered a message.

“I was like, ‘Guys, we just need to be mentally prepared for any situation that’s gonna come forward,’” he said. “Everyone kind of rallied with each other and it showed on the last play when we were able to make a stop. And it was just chaos.”

The Foxes defense converges to bring down Yonkers quarterback Atticus Oelkers late in the fourth quarter of the Foxes’ dramatic 19-14 victory.

The Foxes’ Pedro Silva carries the football in the first half of Saturday night’s game vs. Yonkers.

Fox Lane defensive back Luke Feingold recovers a Yonkers fumble in the final minute of Saturday’s game to preserve the Foxes’ precarious 19-14 lead.

Brian Bailey and his Fox Lane teammates had plenty to celebrate after they made a goal-line stand in the final moments of Saturday night’s Homecoming win over the Yonkers Force.
Quakers Defeat Irvington for Fifth Consecutive Win

By Andy Jacobs

On a night when Horace Greeley High School paid tribute to the 50th anniversary of its 1971 football team that had gone unbeaten two years running and amassed a 20-game winning streak, the current crop of Quaker players continued to make a little bit of history themselves.

Quarterback Ryan Wohl ran 23 yards for a second-quarter touchdown and Boden Bounds and David Nikc each found the end zone in the second half as Greeley defeated visiting Irvington 21-6 Friday night to remain unbeaten at 5-0 this season. The Quaker defense delighted a big Homecoming crowd by blanking the Bulldogs until the game’s final play.

“The defense won us the game,” said Quakers head coach Joe Kearns afterwards. “The defense was the story tonight. They’re the reason we won.”

The two Independent League teams were still scoreless as the first quarter came to an end. But the Quakers were four plays into an 81-yard drive that was put on pause briefly as a video celebration of the 1971 team played on the scoreboard and Neil Young’s ‘Long May You Run’ played over the PA system.

Five plays into the second quarter, Wohl put the Quakers on the scoreboard when he ran up the middle, cut to his right and crossed the goal line for a 20-yard touchdown. The point-after kick from Ani Dhanawade gave Greeley a 7-0 lead two minutes into the period.

The Quakers threatened to increase their lead late in the half, moving the ball all the way to the Bulldogs’ 7-yard line. But a holding penalty on third down led to two incomplete passes that ended the drive and Greeley had to settle for a 7-0 halftime advantage.

“I’m gonna give the credit to Irvington and their players and coaches,” said Kearns. “They are a gritty rivertown team and they’re very well coached. They came here and they wanted it more in the first half. I thought our defense was outstanding, but I thought they wanted it more. The fact they did that with that number of kids (24), I have more respect for them than any team we’ve played this year.”

The Quakers, who had scored a season-high 40 points in last week’s rout of Peekskill, began the second half with the ball at their own 21-yard line and proceeded to march 79 yards in 11 plays, most of them runs by Wohl and Bounds. It was Bounds who scored from two yards out five minutes into the second quarter to give Greeley a 14-0 lead.

“We did make a few adjustments at halftime and we were able to connect on it a little bit,” said Kearns about pass completions to CJ Hessert and Sam Grossberg during the scoring drive. “And then our running back, Boden Bounds, was outstanding tonight. He actually started cutting the ball back off of our power, and that’s not something we practiced. He was reading the linebacker. He was bouncing out on his own or cutting back. And it was great. I’ve got my assistants going, ‘Nice play call.’ That wasn’t my play call. That was just a running back being a running back and finding grass.”

The Quakers’ defense really excelled early in the fourth quarter when, on successive plays, Julian Coku and Nikc tackled Bulldog quarterback Alec Schrader for big losses and then Hessert intercepted a third-and-25 pass deep down the field. Greeley increased its lead to 21 points with just over two minutes remaining as Schrader couldn’t handle a low snap on second-and-long and Nikc scooped up the loose football and scampered 20 yards into the end zone for a touchdown.

In their enthusiasm for adding to the Greeley lead, Nikc left the ball spinning like a top on the turf as teammates hovered over it, drawing a flag from the officials and the wrath of their coach.

“I’ll say this about the scoop and score,” said Kearns. “It was an outstanding play, but we ruined it with an end zone celebration and that will never happen again. That was embarrassing and that will never happen again. We have great kids, but we’re still learning how to win. I addressed it and we talked about it after the game. It doesn’t mean we don’t have great kids. But that’s a big mistake. That’s something we don’t do at this school.”

Irvington finally managed to get on the board with a seven-play, 68-yard drive that concluded with a 16-yard screen pass from Schrader to Marcus Canton as time expired. The Quakers, still unbeaten in their first year playing an independent schedule, will now turn their attention to next Saturday afternoon’s game up at Poughkeepsie.

“Well, they’re gonna find out on Monday it doesn’t mean very much because we’re gonna work harder than we have all year,” said Kearns of his team’s 5-0 start this season. “The practice plan is not gonna be built around fun on Monday.”

Boden Bounds of Greeley is pursued by the Irvington defense as he carries the ball during the Quakers’ fifth straight win on Friday night.

Horace Greeley senior Michael Rodriguez finds running room in the first half of the 21-6 win over visiting Irvington.

Greeley lineman Julian Coku pressures Irvington quarterback Alec Schrader during the first quarter of Friday night’s game.

David Nikc runs with the football to the end zone after recovering an Irvington fumble late in Friday night’s Greeley Homecoming victory.

Greeley quarterback Ryan Wohl picks up big yardage on the ground early in the third quarter of Friday night’s game.

The Horace Greeley defense swarms to make a tackle in Friday’s 21-6 Homecoming victory over the Irvington Bulldogs.
Horace Greeley freshman Nina Byrne sends the ball up the field in last Monday’s 1-0 loss at Roy C. Ketcham.

Sara Wilson of Pleasantville lines up a backhand during her match in first singles last Thursday at Briarcliff.

Westlake’s Charlotte Catarina and Briarcliff’s Talia Fante are stride for stride as they pursue the ball along the left sideline.

Briarcliff’s Ali Giardini gets set to slice a backhand in her 8-2 win at third singles vs. visiting Pleasantville.

Pleasantville’s Chloe Balin moves forward to hit a backhand in her second-singles match on Thursday vs. host Briarcliff.

Westlake’s Sarah McCormack and Briarcliff’s Nico Vargish battle for possession in last week’s 0-0 tie on the Bears’ home turf.

Abigail Dolan of Horace Greeley rushes upfield with the ball vs. the Ketcham Indians last Monday afternoon.
Arianna Vizcaino of Briarcliff takes the ball up the field with Westlake’s Jennifer Straface giving chase during Thursday afternoon’s 0-0 tie.

Briarcliff senior Sophia Zielinski controls the ball at midfield in the Bears’ 0-0 tie with visiting Westlake last Thursday.

Miyako Cornelius of Pleasantville belts a forehand return in her match at third singles against Briarcliff’s Ali Giardini last week.

Westlake senior Gianna Eglauf takes the ball across the field with Briarcliff’s Sora Marable in close pursuit.

Rosie Swidler of Briarcliff reaches to hit a high forehand return during her second-singles win in last Thursday’s home match against Pleasantville.

Westlake junior goalkeeper Morgan Leitch moves quickly to make a save in the second half of last Thursday’s 0-0 deadlock at Briarcliff.

Sora Marable of Briarcliff chases the ball at midfield in the Bears’ 0-0 tie with visiting Westlake last Thursday.

Gabriella Chioccola of Briarcliff is chased by Westlake’s Jillian Raguso in Thursday’s 0-0 deadlock.

Westlake junior goalie Morgan Leitch moves quickly to make a save in the second half of last Thursday’s 0-0 deadlock at Briarcliff.

Westlake players, left to right, Krista Dronzek, Alexandra Gjokaj and Jillian Raguso form a defensive wall in the second half vs. host Briarcliff.

Gabriella Chioccola of Briarcliff is chased by Westlake’s Jillian Raguso in Thursday’s 0-0 deadlock.

Greeley sophomore Dani Halperin controls the ball at midfield in the Quakers’ game at RCK last week.

Aidan Lane of Greeley controls the ball in the first half of last Monday’s road game against RCK.

Aidan Lane of Greeley controls the ball in the first half of last Monday’s road game against RCK.

Westlake players, left to right, Krista Dronzek, Alexandra Gjokaj and Jillian Raguso form a defensive wall in the second half vs. host Briarcliff.

Greeley senior midfielder Hannah Mortman moves up the field in the fourth quarter of the 1-0 loss to host Ketcham.

Horace Greeley players, left to right, Hannah Mortman, Nina Byrne, goalie Fiona Hayes, Stephanie Novick and Olivia Pascione charge out of the goal during a Ketcham penalty corner in last Monday’s game.
State-Ranked Somers Shines Brightest Stars on Yorktown in Pitch, Grid Sweep

Somers senior M Daniel D’Ippolito, who scored a gorgeous goal and assisted on three others, is harassed by Yorktown’s M Jack Prybylski (L) and M Mason Murphy in the state-ranked (No.1) host Tuskers’ 5-2 victory last Thursday over the Huskers, who had an equally rough Friday night on the gridiron when Somers WR Trey Mancuso hauled in this nifty 43-yard TD strike (inset) from QB Matt Fitzsimons in the state-ranked (No.13) Tuskers’ 35-0 trouncing of the host Huskers... see NWE/Putnam Boys’ Soccer/Grid Notebooks