

ExaminerSports

Chips & D'Ip!



Somers Senior D'ippolito Nets 4 Goals, Tuskers Win 3rd Class A Chip in 6 Years

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers senior F Daniel D'ippolito (inset with G Anthony Tucci) scored four goals and set up another as the second-seeded, state-ranked (No.4) Tuskers hoisted their third Section 1 Class A title plaque in the last six years after taking out No.4 Eastchester, 6-5, in one of the wildest title tilts in Section 1 history last Saturday at Lakeland High where the Tuskers advanced to face Section 9 champion Beacon in the opening round of the NYSPHSAA tournament Wednesday... see Soccer Notebook

Lucky 13! Lakeland Keeps on Streaking, Wins Class B Crown

By Tony Pinciario

LAKELAND had two goals disallowed and faced going into halftime of the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey title game down a score. That did not sit well with Sacred Heart-bound senior Jaden Ray and her teammates. So, 64 seconds before halftime, Ray made a momentum-changing play.

Following Ray's insert pass to Gabby Santini, Ray pounced on the rebound of Santini's shot and evened the score for her 20th goal of the season. Lakeland carried the momentum into halftime and would never relinquish it.

Santini scored on Lakeland's first penalty corner of the second half and the defense made it hold as the top-seeded and host Hornets overcame second-seeded John Jay-Cross River, 2-1.

It was Lakeland's 13th consecutive Section 1 Class B title and 21st overall championship. New York State Hall of Fame Coach Sharon Sarsen also registered her state-leading 689th win.

Lakeland, now 17-0-2, will play Section 9 champion, Kingston, in a regional final, Saturday (11/6), 3 p.m., at Rondout Valley High School (Section 9). The winner advances to the state Final 4 at Centereach (L.I.) High School where it will play the Section 2/Section 3 winner, in a semifinal, Saturday, 11/13, 2 p.m. The semifinal winners meet for the title Sunday, 11/14, 3 p.m.

"I cheered before I even scored the goal," said the Sacred Heart-bound Ray, with a laugh. "I've been able to get those kinds of rebounds in practice and in the Greeley game. It was right there on my stick. I'm thinking, 'This is perfect.'

"Getting us on the scoreboard brought us to another level and made us hungrier for the ball. That changed the game."

That was quite a different feeling from the two disallowed Lakeland goals.

"The disallowed goals were really annoying, especially the one where they said the shot was high," Ray explained. "I tipped the ball up in the air on the goal. Just knowing that we did score, even though it didn't count, we were so pumped up to score and set ourselves up."

Lakeland received its first corner four minutes into the second half and it was perfectly-executed. Ray sent the pass to the top of the circle, to All-NYS middle Mia Smith, the section's premier player, who controlled it and dished to her left to an open Santini. As the John Jay defender challenged Santini, she gave a quick dodge and deposited a ground-hugging shot into the cage.

"Everything was perfect on that corner," Ray said. "Everyone is so proud of Gabby. She kept it simple and pushed it in."

Before Ray tied the score at 1-1, Lakeland received a scare. A few minutes earlier, John Jay appeared to score its second goal. However, the official blew the whistle for a Lakeland foul, in the circle, before



Lakeland's Jaden Ray jumps for joy with Mia Smith as they celebrate biggest goal of budding freshman Gabriella Santini's (10) career in 2-1 title-clinching win over John Jay.

the goal. As a result, John Jay was given a penalty corner that Lakeland thwarted when sensational G Celeste Pagliaroli made one of eight saves on the day.

"I think the feeling would have been different if it was 2-0 and it would have been more difficult, because we might have started overthinking and started pressing," Ray said.

Lakeland and John Jay played to a 1-1 draw in the regular season. Ray and her teammates went to work on making adjustments off of that game knowing a sectional meeting was highly possible.

"We felt we connected pretty well in that game, but finishing was an issue," Ray said. "We practiced finishing by working on a bunch of drills for the forwards and they picked it up today."

Lakeland returns to state play for the 13th consecutive year and 15th since 2003 when current Lakeland Junior Varsity field hockey Coach Danielle Fiore and Copper Beech Middle School Modified field hockey coach Andi Coiro led the Hornets to the state Class A title. Lakeland also won the 2006 Class A state title, led by Melissa Gonzalez, Kara Connolly, Amy Voelkel and Rebecca DiSisto. This quartet were freshmen on the 2003 state-title team.

Having the state field hockey championship back after the pandemic eliminated it in 2020 has Ray and her teammates excited. Ray and Smith were members of the 2019 state-title team.

"I remember my sophomore year we had amazing seniors and strong juniors and watching them be so good inspired everyone," Ray said. "Winning this sectional title is an amazing thing and we worked really really hard for it."

Lakeland drew a first-round bye before beating No. 9 Hen Hud, 7-0, in a quarterfinal and the No. 5 Horace Greeley, 2-0, in a semifinal.

CARMEL continued its rise toward Class A supremacy under coach Aislinn Breslin.

The Rams won the league title, registered

10 wins during the regular season and were seeded fifth in the Section 1 Class A Field Hockey Championships.

Carmel defeated No. 12 Ursuline (4-0) in a first-round game and then dispatched No. 4 R.C. Ketcham, 5-4, in overtime, in a quarterfinal. Carmel avenged a 5-0 regular-season loss to Ketcham. Top-seeded Scarsdale defeated the Rams, 2-0, in a semifinal.

Carmel finished with a 12-6 record, capping a memorable six years for the five seniors -- Kasey Lewis, Claire Bumgarner, Gracie Sonnergren, Karoline Costa and Nikki McGough.

"Our whole team is very proud and pleased with our success this year, especially our seniors, having it being our last year we play field hockey together," McGough said. "It started with winning our league and then the bar kept getting raised each time we won our sectional game."

McGough and her teammates were hoping to get another chance against Ketcham. They wanted to prove the regular-season game was an aberration and McGough added the punctuation mark with the decisive goal in the second seven-vs.-seven overtime.

"We went into the game as the underdogs and came out on top," McGough said. "This mentality continued into our semifinal against Scarsdale, as we were not going down without a fight."

McGough and her fellow seniors graduate with many memories and fun times during their six years playing, starting on modified in seventh grade. They will miss the camaraderie, but know that Breslin will continue making Carmel a perennial power.

"I believe the program's future will continue to be successful and grow," McGough said. "Coach Breslin has been doing everything she can to get girls involved. She will be running clinics at Carmel Sports Club this winter. She is truly a great coach and a person who wants the best for her players."

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Lakeland senior Mia Smith has the plaque and leads charge toward parents and fans after Hornets won their 13th Section 1 title in a row Sunday at The Hive.

Sports

continued from previous page

In its first year in Class B, a young **HORACE GREELEY** team went 7-6-3 during the regular season and earned a fifth seed in the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championships.

Greeley, the 2019 Section 1 Class A champion and state runner-up, blanked No. 12 Brewster, 6-0, in the first round as Olivia Pascione had a hat trick and Cat Salamida added two goals.

The Quakers traveled to No. 4 Pelham for a quarterfinal and emerged with a 1-0 overtime victory on Dani Halperin's goal.

Greeley's season came to a close in a 2-0 loss to eventual Section 1 Class B champion Lakeland. The Quakers went 9-7-3 for the year.

"We had a very young team this year," Greeley coach Suhkwinder Sandhu said. "This is the first time most of our players have gotten playing time on varsity. But, this was a great season for rebuilding and we did a lot better than we thought we would have because of the speed we improved at. We have created a solid base for the next few years."

HEN HUD used a late-season surge to finish with one of the best years in program history.

The Sailors went 3-0-2 in their final five games to finish the regular season with a 9-5-2 record and the No. 9 seed in the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championships.

Hen Hud opened with a 2-1 victory over No. 8 Nanuet before falling to eventual Class B champion, Lakeland, in a quarterfinal. As a result, Hen Hud completed the 2021 season with a 10-6-2 record.

"This season has been great," said senior and captain Taeghan Dapson, who assisted on both goals against Nanuet. "The effort from everyone on the field and the leadership positions that our seniors have taken this year has really allowed for a lot more success than past seasons."

"The team we had this season, a majority of our team started playing in the past two years. Something that has been prominent in all of our new players is the pure drive to succeed and do well. Attitudes like this have raised our game to new heights."

Dapson and her classmates will graduate

with the program having established a firm foundation under coach Melissa Locatelli.

"It's hard to say goodbye, but we are graduating with the best season we've had in a while and a solid group of young girls to continue to play."

Hen Hud scored in the opening minute against Nanuet, then played a solid game, defensively, especially in the circle.

PLEASANTVILLE entered the 2021 season facing a difficult schedule as the Panthers played some of the top teams in Class A and Class B.

Coach Kristen Coffey and her girls responded with a berth in the Section 1 Class C Field Hockey Championships.

The Panthers, seeded 4th, defeated No. 5 Irvington in a thrilling first-round game that was even at 1-1 through regulation and the two 10-minute seven-v-seven overtimes. As a result, the game went to a shoot-out with Pleasantville scoring twice, to Irvington's once.

Maeve McCourtney scored for Pleasantville in the fourth quarter to send the game to overtime.

Pleasantville ran into top-seeded and Section 1 Class C champion North Salem in a semifinal and the Tigers prevailed. McCourtney scored, assisted by Natalie O'Malley, and goalie Izzy Baxter made 10 saves.

"We had an extremely difficult schedule this season and exceeded all expectations," veteran Pleasantville Coach Kristen Coffey said. "Our team worked together from start to finish and while it is always difficult for the season to come to an end, the memories made through practices, games and team bonding activities will last a lifetime."

The 2022 season will be promising for Coffey.

"We return 13 players next season so there is a strong base to build off of for next year," Coffey said.

PUTNAM VALLEY, under the guidance of second-year coach Tracy Parchen, was on the rise this year. The Tigers finished the regular season with a 6-6-4 record, including a 7-0 win over a Class A Ossining team that had nine wins.

Putnam Valley was seeded ninth in the Section 1 Class C Championships and won

its first-round game against No. 8 Rye Neck, 2-1, in double overtime.

Senior and captain Julia Cunningham had the decisive goal, assisted by Ava Harman. Gabby Alvarez also scored, with Ava Buerkle assisting.

Putnam Valley lost to eventual Section 1 Class C champ and top seed North Salem, 3-1, in a quarterfinal. Julia Carlin had the goal.

As a result of going 1-1 in sectionals, Putnam Valley finished with a very respectable 7-7-4 record.

The future appears promising for **YORKTOWN** following a 5-8-4 season and sectional berth.

Even though the 11th-seeded Cornhuskers lost to No. 6 Pearl River in the first round, Yorktown took another step in the progression process under second-year Coach Courtney Hyndman.

"We are progressing in the program here," Hyndman said. "Coach Esteves, Coach McAulay and myself are trying to build something special. We had a talented group of girls and had a better record than the year prior. The girls stepped up big time this year and competed well against some Section 1 powerhouses, such as Bronxville, who we tied, 1-1."

"We are losing two seniors, this year, who will be missed dearly in Abbie Ellison and Maya Servedio. Although losing these two girls leaves some holes on the field, we are excited to be returning 18 players. You have to remember there is no youth program or modified programs in Yorktown, so the first time these girls pick up a stick is typically

Field Hockey Notebook



Lakeland captains Celeste Pagliaroli and Mia Smith hoist the hardware after Hornets completed 2-1 Section 1 Class B title-clinching win over John Jay CR Sunday.

freshman year. We are looking to build in the off-season and have these girls continue to grow together. It is a tight-knit group that will have 10 seniors to lead and set the tone for the underclassmen. We are excited to see what's to come for this team and program for the fall of 2022."

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Members of the Lakeland field hockey team pose with 13-straight Section 1 title plaque, 21st overall, after beating John Jay CR Sunday.

D'Ippolito's Scores 4, Paves Path to Somers' 3rd Sectional Title in 6 Years

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports editor @Directrays

If every high school soccer game played across the globe was as riveting as last Saturday's Section 1 Class A title game, the sport would explode in popularity. Second-seeded Somers (18-1) and fourth-seeded Eastchester (15-3-1) exchanged leads five times and fought through three ties, before the state-ranked (No.4) Tuskers secured a 6-5 title triumph, their third in six years under sixth-year Coach Brian Lanzetta.

The state-ranked (No.16) Eagles battled relentlessly, forcing Somers keeper Anthony Tucci (nine saves) to up his game, which he did with a diving stop in the closing minutes to preserve a victory triggered by the four goals off the foot of senior F Danile D'Ippolito, the game's clear-cut MVP.

"Daniel's the best player in the section,

hands down, one of the best to ever play at Somers," Lanzetta roared about the D-I prospect, who has gained interest from Seton Hall and Elon among others. "He is just on another level, one of the best players that Section 1 has seen in 10 years. To score four goals and dish a couple of assists in a championship game is just unreal. The boys showed heart. We've been fueled by some of the media who have doubted us. A lot of things about the press when people say Somers survived or this and that, but hands down we've been the best team. We lose a double overtime game to Somers and get dropped in the rankings, that's the kind of stuff that motivates us. I'm very proud right now that they proved that we are the best in Section 1, and our goal right now is to get back to a third state championship game in six years. I want another ring."

Somers needed more than motivation when the Eagles rallied for three unanswered goals to take a 5-3 lead with 28:38 left. The Tuskers needed a change in strategy, a lift off the bench and its seniors to take over.

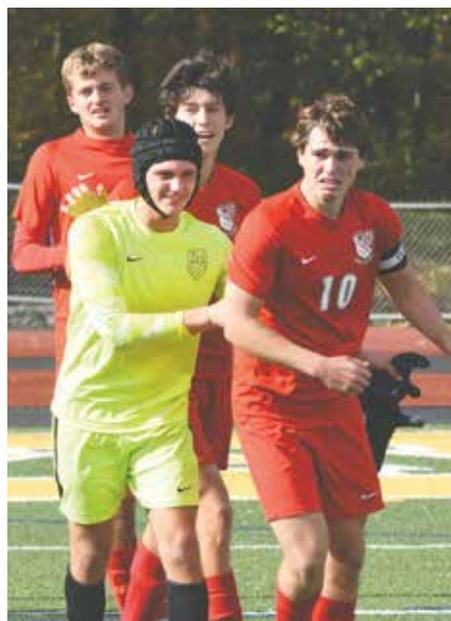
"Eastchester has a bunch of ballers and we have two sophomores playing at center back," Lanzetta said. "The fact that they even got us to this game just shows their ability and mentality. In a sectional final, you can get a little bit rattled, but at Somers we just keep rebuilding with what we have."

"We made a huge adjustment when we brought senior Ethan Cohen off the bench to play at center back," Lanzetta added. "He's a great athlete who came in off the bench cold to do his best for his teammates, and Dip, Bennet (Leitner) and (Jaques) Verard took the game over on the attack. This is the beauty of soccer. It's a round ball and it bounces any which way and there is nothing better than playoff soccer in Section 1."

Fourth-year senior striker Bennett Leitner worked the far sideline throughout and cashed in on the first of two huge assists when he crossed the ball into a crowd and found Noah Saks near the goal line for the tap-in, making it 5-4 Eagles with 21:20 to



Somers senior Daniel D'Ippolito cranks game-winning goal in Tuskers' 6-5 Section 1 Class A title win over Eastchester Saturday at Lakeland.



Somers' Dan Hopper, Anthony Tucci, Ethan Cohen and Dylan Ingraham are a mix of happy tears and total joy after winning sectional title Saturday at Lakeland.



Somers' Noah Saks taps home game-tying goal in Tuskers 6-5 title win over Eastchester.

continued on page 4



Exuberant Tuskers revel in their championship moment Saturday at Lakeland after knocking off Eastchester, 6-5, for 3rd sectional title in 6 years.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Somers assistant Coach Justin Huff and Coach Brian Lanzetta get a Gatorade bath after 6-5 Section 1 Class A title win over Eastchester Saturday.



Somers' Daniel D'Ippolito (13) and Jaques Verard celebrate Dip's GWG in 6-5 title win over Eastchester Saturday.

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play.

Somers got fouled above the top of the box and D'Ippolito snuck the next one in on a restart that caught the entire stadium napping, tying the score at 5-5. Leitner then found a slight crease to push a ball to D'Ippolito in the box, which he drilled, for the go-ahead goal with 18:18.

"This was a roller-coaster ride," the Big Dipper said. "We went up, we went down, it was an actual roller-coaster ride. We always believed in our boys to the end. Fight, fight, fight... that was our mentality."

Trailing 2-1, Somers, which advanced to the finals after Wednesday's 4-3 win over No.3 Yorktown, did just that when Verard knotted the score at 2-all just before the break off a D'Ippolito assist. D'Ippolito gave the Tuskers the lead right out of the break before Eastchester rang off three unanswered. When things looked their bleakest, Leitner rose to the occasion.

"We're just a resilient group of guys," Leitner said. "We know what we're capable of. We knew it wasn't over when we went down by two. It wasn't over until that clock

continued on page 4



Somers F Noah Saks did all he could to pressure Eastchester in Tuskers' 6-5 title win over Eagles.



Somers senior Daniel D'Ippolito reacts to one of four goals scored in 6-5 Section 1 Class A title win over Eastchester and another in win against Yorktown.

Examiner-Area Top 10 Pitch Poll

No.1 SOMERS -- State-ranked (No.4) Tuskers (18-1) will dial up their intensity this week with Section 9's state-ranked (No.5) Beacon in their sights in the opening round of the NYSPHSAA tourney Wednesday in the hopes of seeing top-ranked Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell in the state quarters with a trip to Faller Field and the Final 4 on the line.

No.2 WESTLAKE -- State-ranked (No.13) Class B Wildcats (18-1) knocked off a pair of state-ranked clubs -- No.18 Bronxville and No.4 Irvington -- to secure the first sectional title in school history and better prepare them for the rigors of state play where they will open up against unranked surprise Section 9 champion Marlboro before visiting the Long Island survivor in the quarters. Oh, and good luck defending your first sectional title with Byram Hills dropping down to Class B next season.

No.3 YORKTOWN -- State-ranked (No.6) Huskers (16-2-1) will lose a ton of highly skilled seniors, which will test a sound feeder system that seems to replenish year in and year out.

No.4 BYRAM HILLS -- Class A Bobcats (13-3-1) -- a perennial powerhouse -- are already the favorites to win the Class B title next season.

No.5 CARMEL -- Class AA Rams (12-6) are onto something here, so let's hope they can stick and stay under this new regime that turned them around.

No.6 BRIARCLIFF -- Fifth-seeded Class B Bears (10-6-2) came on strong in playoffs but met their match against top-seeded Irvington in 3-1 setback.

No.7 WHITE PLAINS -- Class AA Tigers (8-9) are always gonna be a team to fear.

No.7A OSSINING -- Class AA Pride (7-6-4) have a strong feeder system in place and should return a wealth of newcomers.

No.9 LAKELAND -- Class A Hornets (9-8-1) have a slew of young talent to unleash in 2022.

No.10 PEEKSKILL -- Class A Red Devs (11-6) have had two solid years running and could be building something sustainable.

No.10A GREELEY -- Class A Quakers (8-7-2) were much better than the sub.500 record would indicate.

-- by Ray Gallagher

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys Soccer Notebook

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"This title is the best of all," Leitner added. "It's just been a blessing. This one is special because in the past I was just a young guy being led by a bunch of seniors. Now, I took that step to be a leader on this team. It's a feeling that doesn't compare to any other feeling. I hope these young guys take this and run with it and continue this Somers dynasty.

"We're not done, for sure," Leitner said. "With the expectations put on us this year, a

lot of teams that win a section title feel like they've reached their expectations. That's not the case with us. To this point, we've still underachieved. There's more to do. We'll celebrate for a little bit but get back to work as soon as possible."

The Tuskers had that same mindset after knocking off Yorktown (14-2-2) and reaching their third sectional final game since 2018. D'Ippolito finished with two goals and two assists and got kicked in the face on one of his tallies, a nifty header he pushed home against three Husker defenders.

Yorktown, which had a terrific season and put the only blemish on Somers' record this season, got goals from David Beitler and Harry Griff, plus an own-goal.

"Three lapses of concentration cost us

the game," first-year Husker Coach Zoran Milojevic admitted. "Their second goal with two seconds before the end of half was a turning point, and their fourth goal was the dagger."



Somers players and coaches hug it out much to the chagrin of Eastchester after Tuskers' 6-5 Section 1 Class A title win Saturday.



Yorktown junior D Sean Horlacher fends off Somers F Brady Leitner in Huskers' 4-3 semifinal loss to Tuskers.



Yorktown senior George Popovic escapes a hairy situation from Somers' Jake Nolan in Huskers' 4-3 Class A semifinal loss to host Tuskers Wednesday.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Somers senior F Bennett Leitner sets up game-tying assist in Tuskers' 6-5 Class A title win over Eastchester.



Yorktown's Lucas Buono plants foot to the kisser of Somers' Daniel D'Ippolito in Huskers' 4-3 semifinal loss to Tuskers.



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Five Local Grid Clubs Survive, Advance to Sectional Semis

Carmel, Somers, Mahopac, Byram Hills, P'Ville Moving On After Decisive Wins

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Dierctrays

The amount of Examiner-area representation is strong as we enter the semifinals of the Section 1 Class AA, A and B grid tournaments this week. Five Examiner-area teams advanced to their respective Final 4's, including Class AA Carmel, Class A's Somers and Mahopac and Class B's Byram Hills and Pleasantville. Four of the locals were eliminated, including Class B's Hendrick Hudson, Class AA's White Plains and Fox Lane and Class A Brewster, which lost -- in overtime -- in disastrous fashion to Pelham, 20-17.

Let's start there, since the loss was agonizing and, perhaps, the game of the week. **BREWSTER** had every chance to win in the final seconds of regulation but the third-seeded Bears (5-3) were stopped on two straight quarterback sneaks from the 1-yard line before time expired in regulation. Problem was, the Bears were told by Coach Ed Mulvihill to spike the ball on third down after failing to cross the plane on second

down, which would have set up a short fourth-down field goal attempt for the win at the end of regulation. Brewster QB Chris Donohue, a battler from Day 1, thought he saw a way into the end zone on third down, but the O-line wasn't on the same page and failed to block accordingly, Mulvihill said. Donohue then came up short and time expired in regulation with the Bears on the Pelham one.

"We told the kids to try the sneak on second down, and if it doesn't work, line up and spike the ball and we'll kick the field goal on fourth," Mulvihill said. "There was some miscommunication at the end of the game but we had our opportunity to win it."

Ironically, Brewster did hit a field goal in overtime to take a short-lived lead, but Pelham's Daniel Fredbeck scored from less than one yard out on fourth down in overtime to secure Pelham's first playoff win since 2010.

Brewster scored two touchdowns in a 58-second span early in the fourth quarter to take a 14-6 lead when Brewster responded with a nice drive and capped it off with a 29-

yd TD pass from QB Chris Donohue to Matt Dunn. Kevin Perez kicked the extra point and the Bears led 7-6. On the ensuing possession, Pelham attempted a screen pass but Brewster's Jack Golinello intercepted it and dashed 14 yards to the one-yard line where Donohue converted the sneak and the Bears had the lead.

"It was a windy night with a threat of rain, both sides were ready for a little smash mouth football," Mulvihill said. "Pelham came in at 6-1 and played the elite Rye team close last week. We knew they were big and physical and that we would have to match their intensity and I think we did that all game, but

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Carmel QB Kevin Dall was a whirling, twirling dervish in 36-0 Class AA playoff win over visiting Fox Lane Friday.



Carmel RB Josh Massi had his way in Rams' 36-0 Class AA playoff win over visiting Fox Lane Friday.

TONY HUMBERTO / GIL MCMAHON / RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Carmel defenders Dylan Shields and Vinny Mazzamuto (1) converge for sack as Rams pitched their 5th shutout of season in 36-0 Class A playoff win over Fox Lane.



With karma on their side, the red, white and blue Carmel Rams take field prior to 36-0 playoff win over Fox Lane Friday.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Grid Notebook

continued from previous page

Pelham was able to convert some big third downs and some penalties hurt us in key spots.”

In overtime, Perez kicked a 30-yard field goal to give Brewster the 17-14 lead but a pass interference call gave Pelham 1st a goal at the 10 yard line. On third and goal from the one, Pelham attempted a QB sneak but the Bears held the line. However, on fourth and goal from the 1- foot line, Pelham made the decision and had the push to go for the win instead of the game-tying field goal.

“They were able to nudge the ball across the goal for the win,” Mulvihill said. “I was very proud of the way we battled all game.

Things didn't turn out the way we wanted but it wasn't from lack of effort. They gave us everything they had. That's what great players do. If they can apply this lesson to their lives they will all be very successful fathers, husbands, and community members. That's a win for all of us.”

No.1/North **SOMERS**, ranked No.11 in NYS, advanced to the semifinals behind a 35-10 win over No.4/South (wild card) Harrison and was off and running when senior RB Derek Marcus (5 rushes, 24 yards) raced to paydirt, untouched, from seven yards out with 6:42 left in the first for a 7-0 lead when Luke Savino split uprights for the first of

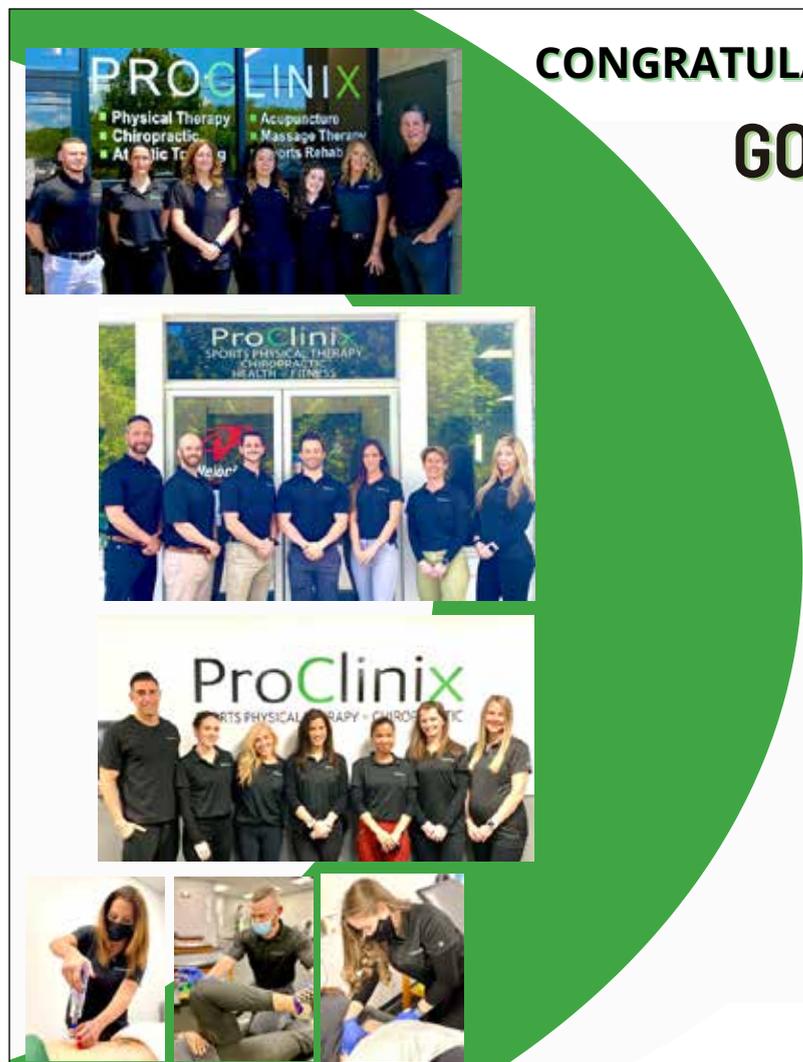
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Led by high-flying Colum Ranaghan (24), Mahopac storms field before crushing Clarkstown North in Class A playoff game Friday.



Mahopac QB Anthony DeMatteo, a recent Con Ed Award winner, slings it in Indians' Class A playoff rout of Clarkstown North.



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Sports

NWE/Putnam Grid Notebook

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five PATs. It was the first of two Marcus TD trots.

Somers RB Matt Kapica extended the lead to 14-0 when he scooted off right tackle for a 31-yard TD with 10:41 left in the second. Dass set up Somers' third score with an electrifying catch and run to the two-yard line, later capped off by Kapica's second TD jaunt. Somers RB Savino (4 rushes, 75 yards) added another score for the Tuskers, who were set to take on No.2/South Pelham Friday with junior QB Matt Fitzsimons (10-of-10 passing, 187 yards) hitting his stride.

Tuskers Johnny Crecco (11 tackles, sack) and Dylan Faller (9 tackles, fumble recovery) led a stingy defense that fully expects to shut down Pelham while advancing Somers to its sixth Section 1 Class A title game since 2012.

"We stepped up our practices, got more focused and disciplined in order to beat Harrison," Savino said. "The coaches worked on continuing to balance the offense with a good mix of rushing and passing. Fitz is simply amazing and continues to be a great QB for the team. Our defense played out of their minds with Crecco and Faller leading the way."

No.2. A-North **MAHOPAC** took a 7-0 lead when recent Con Ed award winner Anthony DeMatteo slung a 41-yard TD pass to speedster Max Gomes with 7:45 left in the second quarter en route to a 34-7 win over visiting No.3 B-South Clarkstown North last Friday. It was Gomes third TD grab of the season and DeMatteo's 11th TD pass.

An eight-yard scoot from Indian RB Joey Koch (24 carries, 173 yards) provided a 14-0 lead with 9:13 to go in the third. South cut the deficit in half before the half, but Koch went in again from the six for a 20-7 lead (PAT blocked).



Somers OL Anthony Polito (7) and TE Dylan Faller (R) have cleared a mean path for the Tusker run game all season.

On the drive, WR Patrick McMahon snagged a crucial 45-yard grab from QB Dematteo (9 of 12 for 138 yards), who put deft touch on the pass, to set up a first-and-10 from the 12.

A 51-yard TD gallop from Koch off left end sealed the deal with 7:21 left in the fourth, giving the Indians (6-2) a 27-7 lead. Koch added his fourth TD of the day from nine yards out for a 34-7 lead, the game's final margin and his team-best 15th TD of the season. Koch is now 157 yards shy of a 1,000-yard season.

"Joey Koch has been one of the most dynamic players in our league since Week 1," Mahopac Coach Dominick DeMatteo said of the junior. "He has now evolved into one of the more dynamic players in all of Class A. Most importantly, his work ethic and support for his teammates reflect the qualities of a leader."

Mahopac senior Steven Perrone had 14 tackles, eight solos, to lead the Indians, who will visit state-ranked (No.6), No.1/South seeded Rye Friday.

CLASS AA

CARMEL got on the scoreboard first and never looked back in a methodical 36-0 win over visiting Fox Lane. The state-ranked (No.9) Rams (8-0), seeded No.1B, hit on a first-quarter drive, capped by QB Kevin Dall's four-yard keeper with :51 left in the first for a 7-0 lead, the PAT from Nick Sodano good. Dall, incredibly efficient throughout, took a read-option run in from four yards out for a 21-0 lead with 2:11 to go before the half, which the Rams took into the break. It was Dall's second rushing TD of the game to go with 60 rushing yards on nine carries. With 10:57 left to play Carmel FB Nick Rosaforte padded the lead with a score for a 33-0 edge. A pick by Ram DB

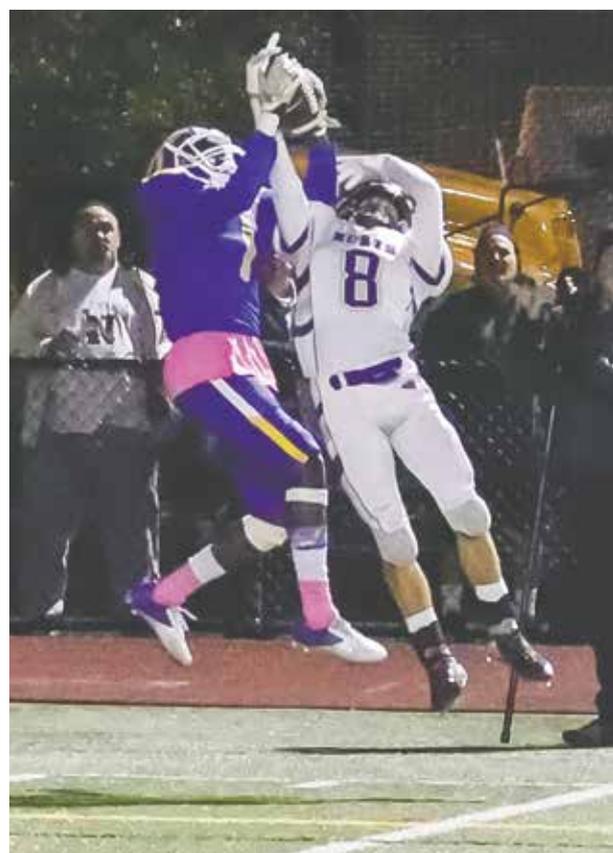


Somers RB Matt Kapica (10) and Derek Marcus both rushed for two scores in 35-10 Class A playoff win over Harrison Friday.

Andrew Fiore sealed the deal on the ensuing possession. Carmel stud RB Josh Massi added 15 carries for 119 yards and a score for Carmel, which rushed for 294 yards as a team. Ram RB Dylan Shields (4 rushes, 52 yards) also rushed for a touchdown for Carmel, who will host No.2B Suffern in Friday's semifinal (7 pm). The Rams handled Suffern in their regular-season matchup and could be headed on a collision course with No.1A New Rochelle, provided the Huguenots can survive No.3B Arlington.

CLASS B

HEN HUD had no answer for Byram Hills QB Jared Cohen, who hit on 15 of 21 passes for 330 yards and five touchdowns, including three to Sean Siegel in the reigning champion Bobcats' 35-21 win over the second-seeded host Sailors, who represented their community with pride while overcoming injuries to host their first playoff game since 1999.



Mahopac WR Max Gomes hauls in big catch in Indians' Class A playoff win over Clarkstown North Friday.

TONY HUMBERTO / GIL MCMAHON / RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Week 9 Examiner Area Super 7 Grid Poll

No.1 CARMEL -- Coach Cayea's state-ranked (No.9) Class AA Rams (8-0), the No.1 League B seed, continue to climb the state polls on the #RoadtoCuse. At this point, anything less than a trip to Central NY would be settling for something the Rams don't have in them. A fifth shutout against Fox Lane! Hope cocktologist Timmy McDonald updated the scoreboard at the Knights of Columbus #292PointsFor28Against!

No.2 SOMERS -- Coach Anthony DeMatteo's state-ranked (No.11) Class A Tuskers (8-0) will get a load of upset-minded Pelham, but we'll put our rep on the line and suggest the Tuskers will make hay toward Arlington -- home of the sectional finals for the 1st time -- for what would be their sixth Section 1 title appearance since 2012.

No.3 PLEASANTVILLE -- Coach Becerra's state-ranked (No.20) Class B Panthers (8-0), with a trip to Arlington on the line, get an explosive Ardley club with recent history on its side in what could/should be a whale of a game #SoldierOnBoys.

No.3A MAHOPAC -- Coach Dominick DeMatteo's Class A state-ranked (HM) Indians (6-2) will get the test of a lifetime in a semifinal showdown with No.6 Rye, which has all the hoopla and reputation on its side. It'll take a near-perfect game for the Indians to prevail on the Sound Shore but it's not unthinkable if the Indians can block out the Garnet mystique and bring their A-game #ShowUs!

No.5 BYRAM HILLS -- Coach Berk's reigning Class B champion Bobcats (5-3) lost a ton to graduation, yet here they are in the semifinals with a legit chance to upset top-seeded Nanuet after QB Jared Cohen (15 of 21 for 330 yards, 5 TD passed) shredded Hen Hud #UpsetsHappen!

No.6 VALHALLA -- Coach Troilo's Class C Vikings (5-3) were knocked from the NYS rankings but managed to put up a 50-banger on Hastings, which sets things up nicely for the playoffs and the impending run at state-ranked (No.11) Dobbs.

No.7 WHITE PLAINS -- Coach Lindberg's Class AA Tigers (5-3) ran into a buzzsaw against an Arlington program that has reached its fourth Final 4 in the last six years, which is remarkable for a program that was anything but legit before 2010.

HM HEN HUD -- Coach John 'Big Cat' Catano's Sailors (4-4) did not fare well in their secondary, allowing 330 yards through the air in playoff loss to reigning champion Byram Hills.

HM HALDANE -- Coach McConville's state-ranked (No.13) Class D Blue Devils (6-2) need to regroup after getting schooled by Dobbs Ferry in a 57-12 loss to the Eagles.

-- by Ray Gallagher

Sports

Two Early Goals Carry Westlake to the Class B Championship

By Andy Jacobs

Head coach Joe Callagy had an inkling a day like this past Saturday might be in the cards for his Westlake boys' soccer team a few years back when he started to see some of the things his young players could do on the field.

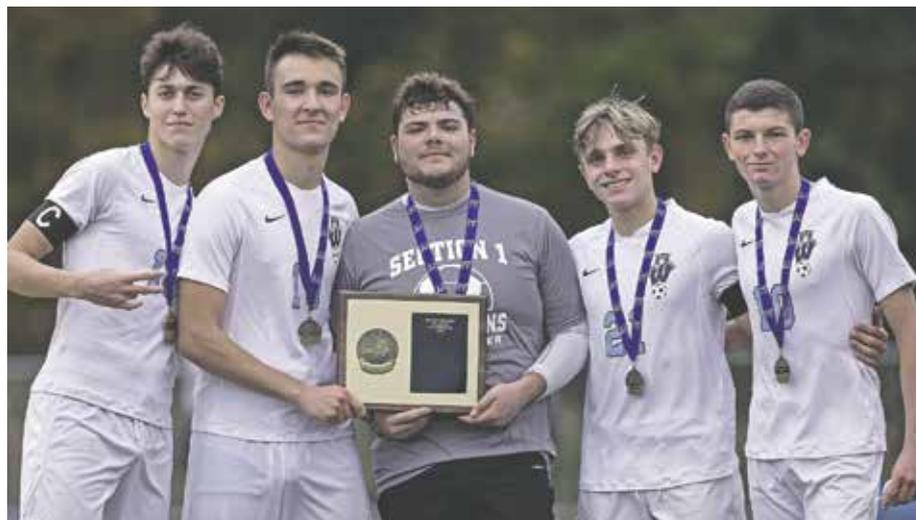
"We realized what this team was capable of three years ago," he was saying late Saturday afternoon, "when I had this group of seniors as sophomores. That's the point when I knew that this particular season could be really special. And it's really just been about building up to that point."

Only moments before, Callagy had been on the receiving end of a Gatorade shower from his giddy players after time had expired in their thrilling 2-1 victory over top-seeded Irvington in the Section One, Class B championship game at Lakeland High School.

Westlake star Gianluca Ruggiero's two goals early in the game provided a quick advantage before goalkeeper Francesco Michilli and the rest of the defense stepped up to protect it the rest of the way as the Wildcats, now 18-1 in this memorable season, earned the first sectional title in the school's history.

"Oh my gosh, it's unreal," said Ruggiero shortly after he and his teammates had received their championship medals and the coveted plaque they had been dreaming of for years. "This is the third-ever appearance. We lost back to back (2005 and 2006), and the third time's the charm. First-ever in school history."

It was Ruggiero, the 5-foot-8 dynamo, who put the Wildcats on the scoreboard not long after the contest began. Like a blur just over four minutes in, he ran past Bulldog



Westlake players, left to right, Isaiah Ortiz, Martin Sunjic, Francesco Michilli, Gianluca Ruggiero and Luca Mulhare proudly pose with the Class B championship plaque after defeating top-seeded Irvington on Saturday.

defender Charlie Miles before getting taken down in the box. Awarded a penalty kick, he easily deposited the ball on the far side past keeper Liam Sawian.

Less than seven minutes later, the Wildcats' Luca Mulhare deftly stepped in front of a Bulldog pass near midfield, then sent a perfect lead pass ahead to the streaking Ruggiero, who settled the ball to the turf with his head and in full stride right-footed a shot past the diving Sawian to give Westlake a 2-0 lead with 29:40 still remaining in the opening half.

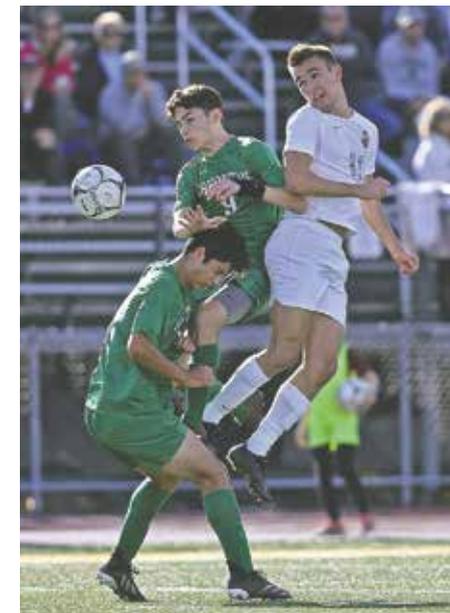
"One on one with the goalie," said Ruggiero. "Just aim for the net and then hope for the best."

"We knew then that it was far from over, but just to have that advantage from the start and then go from there, I mean, he's done

that all season, just putting the pressure on other teams' defenses, and he's been huge," said Callagy about Ruggiero, who also provided a pair of goals in the Wildcats' semifinal win over Bronxville three days earlier.

The Bulldogs managed to counter with a goal from Isaiah Boyles just three and a half minutes after Ruggiero's second, trimming the lead in half and creating drama that never ceased the rest of the afternoon. The tension intensified even more when Mulhare was red-carded with 14:09 left in the game, forcing the Wildcats to finish up the pressure-packed game short-handed.

But Michilli was seemingly everywhere, time and again beating the Bulldogs to the ball on scoring chances and winding up flat on the turf with it as precious time ticked off the clock. His final save,



Westlake's Martin Sunjic heads the ball past Irvington's Sydney Monness during a midair battle at Saturday's Class B final won by the Wildcats.

when Boyles came dangerously close to tying the score, came with 75 seconds to go.

"What he did really well in that second half was just winning those 50-50s and coming out of the box and being aggressive," said Callagy. "He's been starting for three years and it's just the culmination of a lot of hard work and attention to detail."

That culmination for all the Wildcats now has them poised to play a state regional playoff game on Wednesday afternoon against Section Nine champ Marlboro at Middletown High School. Ruggiero, for one, is chomping at the bit to see what the next chapter holds for the Wildcats.

"Oh, I can't wait," he said. "Can't wait. *continued on next page*"



Gianluca Ruggiero gets to the ball a second too late in his attempt for a third goal as Irvington goalkeeper Liam Sawian gains possession in Saturday's title game.



The Wildcats' Isaiah Ortiz fights to maintain possession in the first half of Saturday's championship game against Irvington.

Sports

continued from previous page
Looking forward to it.”

So too is Callagy, whose fourth season at the Westlake helm will now last a while longer.

“Yeah, another two days of practice and then we’ve got another game to prepare for,”

he said while admitting he knew nothing at the moment about the upcoming foe from Ulster County.

“We were getting to this point first, and we’ll worry about the rest going forward.”

For the Westlake soccer program, that’s quite a unique experience.



Westlake goalkeeper Francesco Michilli falls on the ball to thwart an Irvington scoring chance in the second half of the Section 1, Class B championship game at Lakeland High School.



The Wildcats’ Gianluca Ruggiero takes the ball toward the goal in Saturday’s Class B final vs. top-seeded Irvington.



Westlake junior Luca Mulhare pleads with the officials in the second half of Saturday’s Class B final.



Westlake senior forward Alex Guaman gets past Sydney Monness of Irvington during first-half action on Saturday at Lakeland High School.



Roberto Molina of Westlake and Rahul Srivastava of Irvington battle for the ball in the Wildcats’ 2-1 victory in the Class B sectional championship game.



Thomas Lyden keeps his eyes on the approaching ball in Westlake’s championship game vs. Irvington.



Westlake head coach Joe Callagy is baffled by a non-call from the officials during the second half of the Class B championship game.

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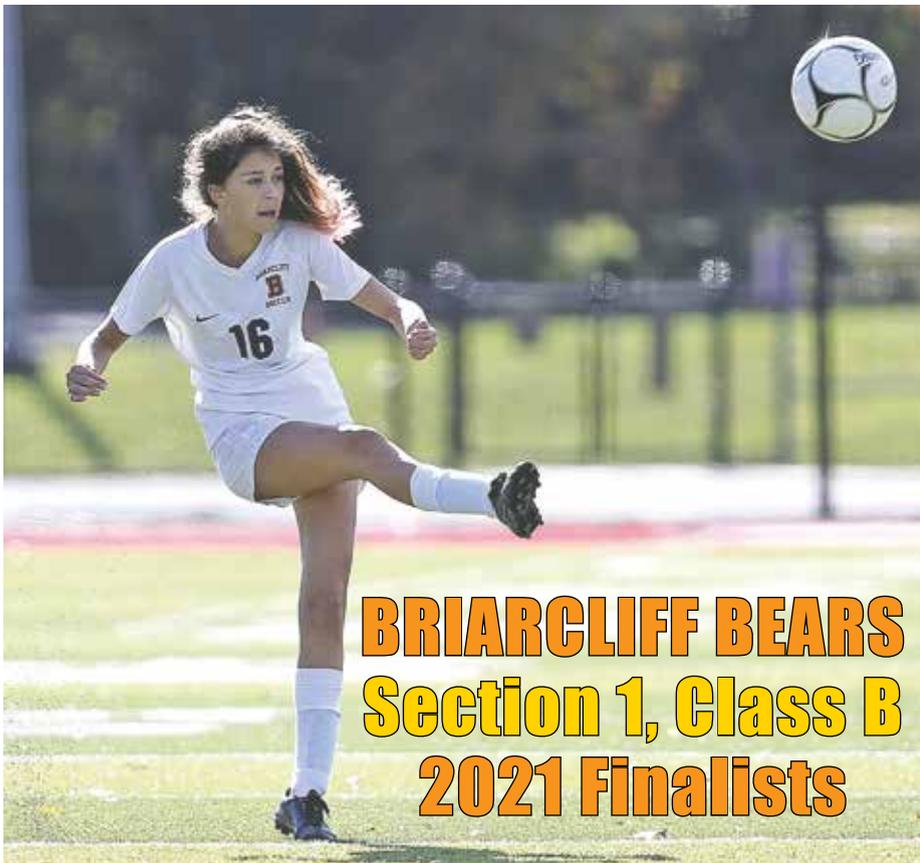


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Sports



BRIARCLIFF BEARS Section 1, Class B 2021 Finalists

Briarcliff senior defender Eliza Aldrich clears the ball in the Class B title game, hosted by Nyack High School.



Sora Marable has reason to smile after her goal in the Bears' 1-0 semifinal win over Irvington on Thursday afternoon.



Marina Varriano races after the ball in last Thursday's semifinal win over Irvington.



Sarah Aframian surveys the field as she gains possession of the ball in the second half of the Section 1, Class B title game.



Briarcliff goalkeeper Dylan Zednik gets set to kick the ball away during the 1-0 semifinal win at home over Irvington.



Giddy Briarcliff players, including Emily Snider and Rebecca Kratz, run over to congratulate goalie Dylan Zednik following the Bears' 1-0 win in the Class B semifinals.



Bears senior Talia Fante sends the ball upfield in the first half of Sunday's championship game vs. Bronxville.



Arianna Vizcaino takes the ball past midfield in the Bears' loss to top-seeded Bronxville in Sunday's sectional final at Nyack High School.



Senior midfielder Rebecca Kratz moves toward the goal in Briarcliff's 1-0 semifinal victory over Irvington on Thursday.



Briarcliff senior Emily Snider controls the ball against the top-seeded Bronxville Broncos.



Junior defender Gabriella Chioccola dribbles up the field during the first half of Sunday's Class B championship game.

Sports



Dani Halperin of Greeley moves up the field with Lakeland's Mia Smith in pursuit during the Class B sectional semifinal.



Kiera Sheerin of Pleasantville passes the ball in the second half of Friday's 6-1 semifinal loss to eventual Class C champion North Salem.



Pleasantville's Natalie O'Malley tries to win a race for the ball during Friday's Class C sectional semifinal vs. host North Salem.



Greeley's Melannie Schob gives chases for the ball in the first half of Friday's semifinal game against host Lakeland.



Ava Hongan of Pleasantville sets her sights on the ball in the Panthers' season-ending playoff loss at North Salem.

2021 FIELD HOCKEY PLAYOFFS



Pleasantville's Caitlin Rubsamen sends a long hit up the field during the Panthers' 6-1 loss to host North Salem in the Class C semifinals.



Ryan Sullivan of Pleasantville moves the ball up the field in the second half of Friday's Class C semifinal game.



The Horace Greeley defense, led by senior goalie Fiona Hayes, comes charging out to try to thwart a Lakeland penalty corner in the first half of Friday afternoon's Class B semifinal.



Catherine Salamida of Greeley (right) battles for possession with Lakeland's Meaghan Casey in Friday's semifinal game, won by the Hornets 2-0.



Horace Greeley senior Olivia Pascione chases after the ball in Friday's 2-0 Class B semifinal loss to Lakeland.



Emma Schwartz of Greeley controls the ball along the right sideline in the Quakers' season-ending semifinal playoff loss at Lakeland.

Sports

Byram Hills Starts the Playoffs by Defeating the Sailors

By Andy Jacobs

Neither the wind nor the Hendrick Hudson defense had much success stopping Byram Hills quarterback Jared Cohen on Friday evening.

The Bobcats' senior signal caller completed 15 of 21 passes for 327 yards and five touchdowns to lead Byram to a 35-21 victory over the host Sailors in the opening round of the Class B sectional playoffs. Three of the scoring passes were to Sean Siegel, who finished the night with eight catches for 193 yards.

In a matchup of teams that both finished the regular season at 4-3, the Bobcats got on the scoreboard first and never trailed the rest of the way. On their second possession of the night, they moved the ball 71 yards on 10 plays, overcoming a pair of penalties at the start of the drive and scoring when Cohen rolled to his left before finding Michael Rocco in the back of the end zone for an eight-yard touchdown.

A key fourth-and-14 completion at the Sailors' 40-yard line to Siegel kept the drive alive and enabled the Bobcats to jump ahead with 1:44 remaining in the opening quarter. Hen Hud used the running ability of Anthony Panettieri to even the score three minutes into the second quarter. His 12-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-one capped a 57-yard drive that began after the Cohen-to-Rocco TD pass.

But the Bobcats, who had overwhelmed Hen Hud 41-7 when the teams met a month earlier, quickly grabbed the lead again, this time for good. A 41-yard touchdown pass from Cohen to Siegel on a fourth-and-seven play, followed by Luke Weiler's point-after-kick, gave Byram Hills a 14-7 lead with 7:08 left in the first half.

After forcing the Sailors into a three-and-out, the Bobcats again struck rapidly, extending their lead to 21-7 when Rocco ran for 16 yards on first down and then Cohen



Byram Hills quarterback Jared Cohen searches for an open receiver vs. Hen Hud. He finished with five touchdown passes in the 35-21 win.

completed a 37-yard scoring strike to Siegel on the next play. But a 32-yard touchdown pass by the Sailors that was caught by Rocco Capicotti with 2:32 to go brought Hen Hud to within 21-14 at halftime.

Hen Hud's opening drive of the third quarter stalled at the Bobcats' 25-yard line and it didn't take long for Byram to open up a bit of a cushion. On first down, Cohen tossed a short pass to his right to Gavin Javorsky and the junior running back did the rest. He made a quick cut to his left and then bolted past everyone in the Sailor secondary and dashed to the end zone for an electrifying 75-yard touchdown. Just under five minutes into the second half, the Byram Hills lead was suddenly back up to 14 points.



Byram Hills senior Gino Secchiano runs with the ball after catching a first-half pass in Friday night's opening-round playoff victory.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



The Bobcats' Michael Rocco carries the football in the first half of Friday night's playoff win over host Hendrick Hudson.

When the Sailors answered by moving the ball all the way to the Byram 34-yard line, the Bobcats' defense stepped up as George Gjelij and Joey Brown combined to stop a third-and-two run for a two-yard loss and then quarterback Chris McGuire was sacked on fourth down. Just moments later, on third-and-six, Cohen lofted a perfect pass into the waiting arms of Siegel, who had gotten a step on his defender.

The 56-yard touchdown pass and the PAT from Weiler gave Byram Hills its final points of the night and opened up a commanding 35-14 advantage with 1:38 remaining in the third quarter. The Sailors did manage to respond as Capicotti returned the kickoff to the Bobcat 41 and then caught a long pass from Kyle Perez on first down for a touchdown.

But it was too little to overcome the big Byram Hills lead. Even though the Bobcats squandered two scoring chances in the fourth quarter by fumbling the ball away, they were never really threatened in the waning moments. The Sailors' last gasps came with three consecutive incomplete passes at midfield that turned the ball over on downs with 2:35 left in the game.

The victory earned the Bobcats a semifinal showdown this coming Saturday afternoon against Nanuet, a team they lost to at home, 19-14, in the fourth week of the season. The winner of that game will play for the Class B championship at 4:00 on Saturday, November 13 at Arlington High School.



Byram Hills running back Gavin Javorsky looks upfield as he carries the ball late in the first of Friday's playoff victory.



Ben Dreilinger returns a kick during the Bobcats' 35-21 Class B playoff win over host Hendrick Hudson.



A familiar sight all evening, the Bobcats' Sean Siegel tosses the ball to the officials after reaching the end zone on one of his three TD receptions.

Sports



The Quakers' Connor Melis finds room to run in the first half of the victory over host Poughkeepsie in Saturday's Independent League final.



Greeley quarterback Ryan Wohl runs with the football during Saturday's 28-20 win over Poughkeepsie in the Independent League title game.

Greeley Defeats Pioneers in League Final



CJ Hessert of Greeley picks up some yardage in the Independent League final vs. the Poughkeepsie Pioneers.



The Greeley defense, led by Julian Coku (60) and Ashton Samkoff, makes a tackle in the first half of the 28-20 win over Poughkeepsie that avenged the Quakers' only loss this season and made them Independent League champions.



The Quakers' Owen Schoonmaker stops Poughkeepsie quarterback Dahomey Francis by grabbing his jersey in Saturday's Independent final.



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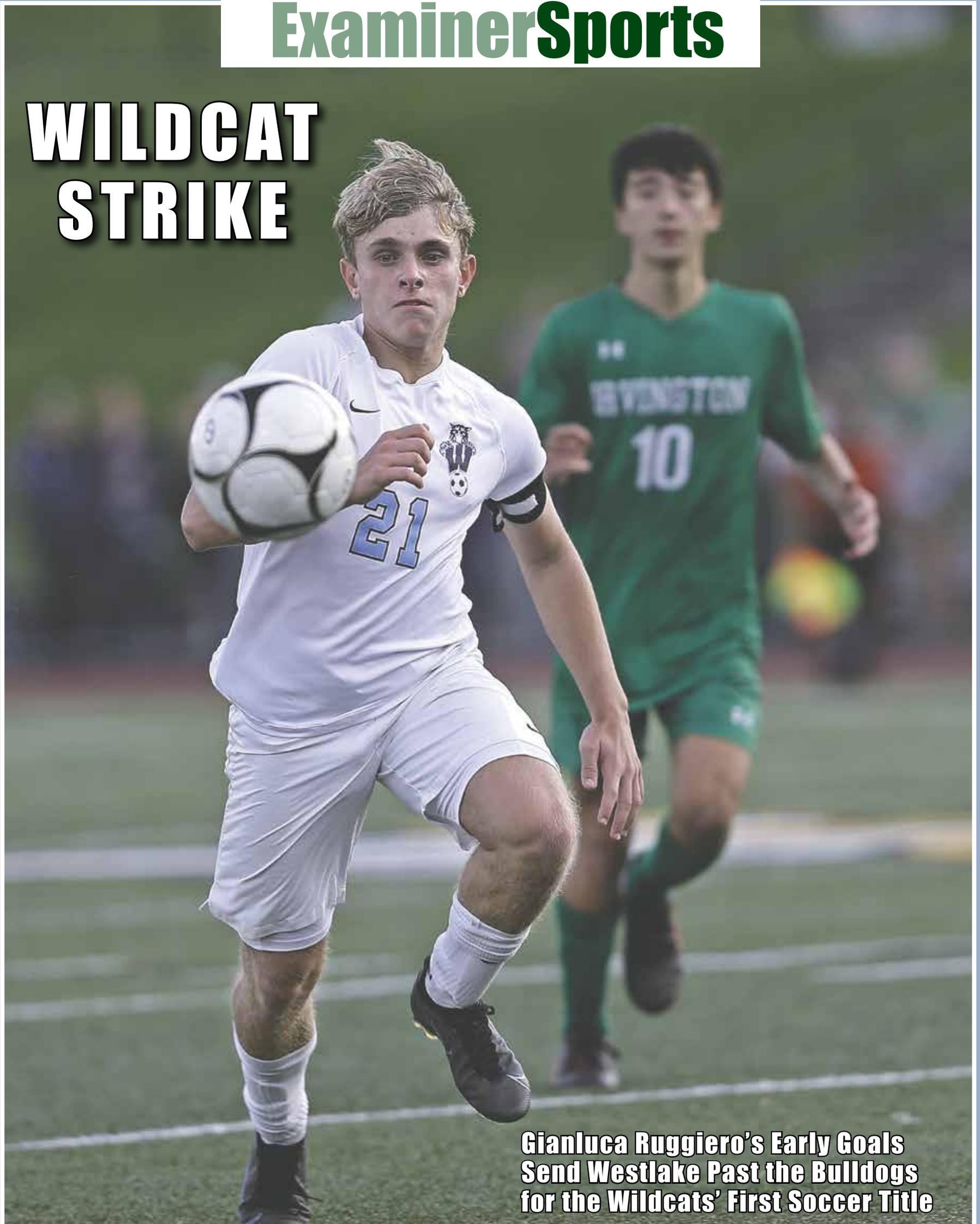
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