

# Examiner Sports

# Ram it Home!



## State-Ranked (No.7) Carmel Punishes CBA in NYS Quarters, 51-7; Newburgh Next

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

There was plenty to celebrate last Saturday at Mahopac High where state-ranked (No.7) Carmel crushed Section 2 champion Christian Brothers Academy, 51-7, before basking in the glory of the NYSPHSAA Class AA regional title, which came about largely through the efforts of Andrew Fiore (7), Dylan Shields (28), TJ Fusco (85) and Trevor Cayea (12), who were quick to get with Vincent Mazzamuto (1) after a key pick-6. The Rams will face No.9 Newburgh in Saturday's NYS semifinal at Middletown High School (6 p.m.)... see Grid Notebook





# Sports

## NWE/Putnam Grid Notebook

# Carmel Routs CBA, 51-7, Advances to NYS Class AA Final 4

## State-Ranked (No.7) Rams Get No.9 Newburgh in NYS Semis #RoadtoCuse

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor @  
Directrays

**MAHOPAC** -- The Albany-based Christian Brothers Academy traveled well. The buses pulled up at Mahopac High School last Saturday and their boisterous fans filled half the bleachers, but it wasn't long before the ride home would turn to misery. A 41-yard strike between Carmel QB Kevin Dall and WR Andrew Fiore set up a first-and-goal from the two yard line, which was followed by a two-yard TD plunge from FB Nick Rosaforte for a 7-0 midway through the first quarter. Carmel DB Vincent Mazzamuto, who had a team-high seven tackles, returned a fumble 35 yards for a TD on the ensuing possession at 3:45 of the first quarter for a 13-0 lead.

CBA (9-3) knew from jump street that Carmel (11-0) meant business, and Coach Todd Cayea's state-ranked (No.7) Rams kept the pedal to the medal en route to a 51-7 thrashing in the regional final of the NYSPHSAA Class AA football tournament.

Carmel will challenge state-ranked (No.9) Section 9 champion Newburgh Free Academy Saturday at Middletown High School (6 p.m.) with a berth to the state finals on the line.

Section 2 champion CBA, ranked No.17 in NYS, tried to respond to Carmel's



Carmel's Nick DiLeo (L) and Kevin Dall (R) get together with Andrew Fiore after his tone-setting first-quarter catch in 51-7 Class AA playoff rout of CBA.

initial blow, but Carmel DB Trevor Cayea triggered a fumble with a big hit that put the ball in the hands of Mazzamuto, who raced 35 yards, untouched, for a touchdown and 13-0 lead with 3:45 to go in the first quarter. Mazzamuto, who played the game of his life, was everywhere.

"I just put my head down and played Carmel football," Mazzamuto said. "We're champs and they're champs, so it came down to heart and effort tonight. I think this might have been my best game ever. I'm just glad to have helped us get the win."

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Carmel's game-breaking senior WR Andrew Fiore charges forward in 51-7 Class AA playoff rout of CBA Saturday at Mahopac.



Carmel's Fearsome Foursome of Dominick Telesco, TJ Fusco, Scott Danvin and Owen Bowland survey scene in rout of CBA.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Carmel DB Vincent Mazzamuto beats last line of defense for a pick-6 TD in Rams' 51-7 NYS Class AA playoff rout of CBA.





Carmel DB Vincent Mazzamuto applies hit in Rams' 51-7 rout of CBA.

*continued from previous page*

Dall was as poised and calm in the pocket as he's been all season, leading the charge by connecting on 9 of 10 passes for 179 yards and a clutch 25-yard TD pass to Patrick Kiernan. He added 44 yards on eight carries and was in total sync with Fiore throughout the day.

"Me and Kevin have been playing football together since third grade, so our connection has always been there," said Fiore, who had four grabs for 97 yards "But we put in a play to line me up at fullback to get me a good matchup and it worked out great, and Kevin delivered a great ball and I just had to secure the catch and make a play."

Carmel sophomore LB Matt Risley closed out the scoring with a 70-yard scoop and score, following in a ball-jarring sack

by Kiernan. The Rams have now outscored their opponents by a 425-56 margin this season. CBA was held to 87 yards on 27 carries.

"Our coaches, as they always do, had a great game plan," said Carmel RB Josh Massi, who finished with two TDs and 58 yards on 19 carries after what looked like a damning second-quarter fumble. "My teammates picked me up. They weren't going to let me stay down for long. Get a game plan, watch some film, time to move one."

A 51-7 outcome would suggest a complete blowout but CBA was leigt, according to Coach Cayea. Carmel amassed just 121 yards on the ground and another 179 via air, so yards were tough to come by. Opportunity, though, was something Carmel jumped on.



Carmel DB Nick Rosaforte takes off after key INT in Rams' 51-5 defeat of CBA in NYS Class AA playoffs.

"That was a really good football team we just played," Cayea said. "We knew we had to come out and play our best game against them. CBA is a well-coached team, probably one of the best teams we played all year. Our kids were up for the challenge though. A lot of will, a lot of grit and a lot of heart. They come out every week and take care of what they are responsible for. The coaching staff is enjoying every moment we have with them. Every phase is working now. We don't know much about Newburgh right now, but we will by tomorrow."

Carmel K Nick Sodano hit on 6 of 7 on PATs and nailed a 32-yard field goal after a momentum-swinging 80-yard kickoff return by Dylan Shields as time expired in the first half. Rosaforte set up the second Massi TD with a 32-yard interception return, and RB Shields added a six-yard touchdown run for a 44-7 lead with 6:37 left in the game.



Carmel's Andrew Fiore (L) rushes to teammate Patrick Kiernan after his clutch TD grab in Rams' 51-7 rout of CBA.



Carmel Rams pose with NYS Class AA regional title plaque for just 2nd time in school history after 51-7 win over CBA in last Saturday's state quarterfinals.

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**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**



# Marcus, Dass Jr. Score Twice in Somers' Blowout of Burnt Hills

## State-Ranked (No.9) Tuskers to Face No.11 Rye in NYS Semis #RoadtoCuse

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

**MAHOPAC** -- When Somers grid Coach Anthony DeMatteo has needed the tough, between-the-tackles yards this season for his state-ranked (No.9) Tuskers (11-0), he often calls No.33's number. Senior captain Derek Marcus has been that guy DeMatteo has called upon to do much of the grunt work en route to the NYSPHSAA Class A semifinals, so it felt especially good when Marcus got loose for a pair of touchdowns -- while setting up a third -- as the Tuskers took a 28-0 halftime lead en route to their 48-14 quarterfinal conquest of state-ranked (No.7) Section 2 champion Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake (9-2) last Friday.

"Yeah, I feel like I needed one of those games to get going," said Marcus, who has a team-high 10 scores for the season. "The coaches were money with the play calling, and the lineman creating huge holes really helped me out and made me look good. I think this will really carry over into the Rye game."

Ah, the Rye game. Somers' win, coupled with state-ranked (No.11) Rye's 31-21 win over Section 9 champion Minisink Valley (No.14), sets up this Friday's 5:00 p.m. state semifinal rematch at Middletown High School against Coach Dino Garr's Garnets (11-1), whom the Tuskers edged 26-23 for the sectional title on Nov. 12 #Slugfest.

Rye, a first-time at-large entrant into the state tournament, a three-time state champ and three-time finalist, is said to be fully healthy now, so the Tuskers will need their finest week of preparation and their best game-day effort if they are going to forge their way to the Syracuse Carrier Dome #RoadToCuse for what would be Somers' first state finals appearance since winning it all in 2016.

"Oh yeah, I'm sure we will give it everything we have at practice this week," said Marcus, who finished with 45 yards on six carries, including TD jaunts of 32 and four yards. He added two catches for another 36 yards "Everyone on the team realizes what's at stake."

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Somers players celebrate Mikey DeFilippo's clutch INT in Tuskers' rout of Burnt Hills.



Somers defenders TJ Olifers, Luke Kennedy, Ethan Krauss and Kenny Milani were all business on their side of ball in 48-14 win over Burnt Hills Friday.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Somers RB Ravi Dass Jr. turns corner in Tuskers' 48-14 NYS Class A quarterfinal win over Burnt Hills Friday at Mahopac.



Somers QB Matt Fitzsimons rolls out to find open man in Tuskers' 48-14 win over Burnt Hills in NYS Class A quarterfinals.



# Sports

## NWE/Putnam Grid Notebook

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Somers senior safety Michal DiFilippo, who had an interception and a fumble recovery in the first half, played a huge role in providing QB Matt Fitzsimons (14 of 18, 178 yards) with short fields to work with. It was “Fitz” who plunged in from a yard out for a 21-0 lead after Marcus was stopped at the one.

If there was any doubt about the outcome heading into the break, Somers senior RB Ravi Dass Jr. put an end to any speculation. Dass Jr. finished eight carries for 68 yards, including a 36-yard jaunt to paydirt, which preceded a 52-yard punt return to the house for a 42-7 lead.

Dass Jr. and the rest of the RB stable followed mighty offensive lineman Nicky Crecco, Ryan Cole, Johnny Crecco, George Forbes, Anthony Carino, Timmy Azimi, Francesco Gioffre and Jake Polito, plus tight ends Dylan Faller and Ethan Krauss.

With six tackles apiece, senior captains Trey Mancuso and Krauss led a stingy Somers defense, which held the Spartans to 40 first-half yards. Luke Savino went 4-for-4 on PATs despite a biting wind.

“Coming into the game we knew what we had to get done and we did that,” Krauss said. “The game plan was on point on both sides of the ball, and no doubt Somers has one of the best coaching staffs in the state.

Without them, we couldn’t have had such a great game plan coming into the game. Our defense is one of the best in the state and our point differential (394-81) shows that.”

Matt Kapica and Stefan Swee, who capped the scoring with a 44-yard, fourth-quarter TD, also scored for the five-time Section 1 champion Tuskers, who are appearing in the state tournament for the fourth time since 2012, fifth since 2000.

“The win was satisfying but now we will move on and focus on Rye,” Mancuso said. “Give it up to our coaches for a great game plan on both sides of the ball. They had us ready and we executed. They keep us focused on directly what’s in front of us.”

This is Rye’s ninth foray into the state semis and 10th entry into the state tournament since 1993. It’s no secret: There’s mutual respect but no love lost between two of Section 1’s finest football programs.

“We have another war on our hands,” said first-year Tusker boss DeMatteo.

The other side of the bracket features Section 6 champion Jamestown (No.2 in NYS) and Syracuse-based Section 3 champ Christian Brothers Academy (No.18). The winners of Friday’s semifinals will head to Syracuse for Friday, Dec. 3rd title tilt at 3 p.m.



Somers’ Trey Mancuso (35) and Derek Marcus (33) celebrate a Marcus TD in Tuskers’ 42-14 NYS Class A playoff win over Burnt Hills Friday.



Somers OL Francesco Gioffre sets up block in Tuskers’ NYS Class A playoff rout of Burnt Hills Friday at Mahopac.



Somers LG Francesco Gioffre and LT Jake Polito paved a mean path in Tuskers’ 48-14 NYS Class A playoff win over Burnt Hills Friday.

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# Sports

## Volleyball Notebook

# Hen Hud, Panas Come Up Just Shy in State Title Quest

By Tony Pinciario

When **HEN HUD** convened on the first day of varsity volleyball practice in late August, seniors Mackenzie Calhoun and Franny Tissoni welcomed a young team, which would include two eighth-graders.

After a Covid-shortened 2020 season, which denied Hen Hud an opportunity to play in the Northern Westchester/Putnam County Tournament, the senior tandem was not sure what to expect. However, once preseason progressed and the regular season began, Hen Hud would mature and develop into its usual dominant self.

Hen Hud steamrolled through the regular season, won the Section 1 Class B title and returned to the New York State final four, where it was in 2019. Unlike 2019, when the Sailors were eliminated after pool play, this year, Hen Hud found itself in a familiar place -- playing for a state title.

John Glenn, the Section 11 champion, would prevail, though, defeating Hen Hud, 25-21, 20-25, 25-22, 25-21 to win the state Class B title at the Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls, Sunday.

Hen Hud finished the season with a 26-1 record and a tremendous sense of achievement.

"I'm completely satisfied with this weekend and this season," Calhoun said. "I know we lost and I know I should be sitting on my floor crying now. But who would've thought we would win sectionals because we're so young. I'm proud of that, getting back to the state final four and doing better. It was a great match and we played our hearts out."

While the 2019 state final-four team had eight seniors, the top players in Hen Hud's rotation included two sophomore and two eighth-graders, to go along with two seniors and three juniors. With this youth,

it was important for Calhoun and Tissoni to help the underclassmen get acclimated and feel comfortable.

"Franny and I looked at the seniors who resonated with us the most," Calhoun said. "We wanted to lead the team in the right direction through friendship and camaraderie and this team was able to form a bond."

This bond was evident when Hen Hud found itself in an unfamiliar situation after splitting its first four pool-play games with Marcellus and John Glenn, Saturday. Hen Hud needed to sweep Broadalbin-Perth in order to secure a spot in the state final.

"We definitely had an urgency to do this to make it to tomorrow," said Calhoun of sweeping Broadalbin-Perth. "There was a little pressure, but I think we needed that pressure and a little fire under us to make us win and get us out of the little funk we were in."

Even though Calhoun and Tissoni graduate in June, they leave with lasting memories and the knowledge that Hen Hud returns a seasoned, state final-four team in 2022.

"I am so happy with how my final season went," Calhoun said. "The girls were amazing and we have so much love for each



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Members of the Walter Panas volleyball team pose with their NYS Class A runner-up plaque Saturday at Glen Falls.

other. It was insane that my last volleyball game I got to be on the state stage, playing for Hen Hud volleyball, which has given me so much throughout my career.

"I am so excited that this team is able to stay together next year. I'm also excited to see the super youngsters continue to grow and mature as players. I know my career is done, but I will always be a Hen Hud volleyball fan."

For the second consecutive week, **PANAS** faced adversity and the Panthers responded with a huge win.

Panas rallied from game point, and also a six-point deficit, to win the first game of its pool-play match with Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, 28-26. This clinched a spot in the New York State Class A title match, also against Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake.

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake went on to beat Panas, 25-8, 25-18, 25-13, in the final at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls to win its second consecutive state title.

Panas finished the season with a 20-3 record. The Panthers went 3-3 in pool play, splitting with Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, Wantagh and Niagara-Wheatfield.

Rallying to win the first game against the 2019 state champions allowed Panas to exhale, knowing it did not face the pressure

of needing to take the second game.

In its regional final, Panas rallied from a 2-1 deficit to earn a state final-four berth.

"For us, that first game was a now-or-never moment," said senior and captain Tristan Demas. "It was really intense and nerve wracking, considering no one had taken a set from Burnt Hills the entire day. We are definitely a team that rises to the occasion. We focused on keeping a positive attitude and played one point at a time. Every one of us left our hearts on the court. Every time someone got a ball up or even got a touch, we were all hyping each other up about it which only increased our energy."

After not reaching the sectional and county finals the past two years, Panas returned to Class A supremacy. It was somewhat of a surprise to the team.

"I don't think any of us were expecting to go to states in the beginning," Demas said. "Once we started winning all of our games and actually saw what we were capable of, we all sort of realized that we could go all the way. And we went as far as we possibly could, and I couldn't be happier about that."

"To be back at states knowing we earned our spot there is so crazy to me. This whole journey was a team effort and everyone on the team contributed something towards us ending up back in that arena."

Demas, along with classmates Alanna Mansell, Maddy Mulroy, Siena Bieber, Alyssa Rocuzzo, Kayla Neville and Tiara Balancio go out as champions and have left their legacy on a Panas program synonymous with volleyball excellence.

"I'm confident that the future will continue to rise up and continue to play with confidence and passion," Demas said. "That's a key factor in winning games and I know they're capable of continuing that."



Members of the Hen Hud volleyball team pose with their NYS Class B runner-up plaque after falling to John Glenn, 3-1, in state finals at Glens Falls Sunday.



Sports

Save the Date: Slam Dunk Showcase to Feature Local Talent

WESTCHESTER COUNTY PARKS

Slam Dunk Showcase '22

Sunday, January 9

Iona College

Girls Challenge

PUTNAM VALLEY

10:15 am

(H) WALTER PANAS

HARRISON

12:00 pm

(H) ALBERTUS MAGNUS

URSULINE

5:15 pm

(H) MAHOPAC

Boys Challenge

MIDDLETOWN

1:45 pm

(H) MT. VERNON

WALTER PANAS

3:30 pm

(H) WHITE PLAINS

BRIARCLIFF

7:00 pm

(H) HASTINGS

slam DUNK SHOWCASE

Times are subject to change.

Leitner Strikes Again, Takes 10th Place at X-C Federation Meet



Yorktown senior Sydney Leitner cools down after taking 10th place in the NYS Federation Cross Country Championship at Bowdoin Park Saturday, capping a brilliant high school cross country career with a time of 18:42.

PHOTO VIA TWITTER

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# Examiner Sports

## Somers is on the Marcus!

**Tuskers Fry Burnt Hills in NYS Class A Quarters, 48-14; Semifinal Rematch with Rye on Deck**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers senior RB Dreek Marcus (33) cruises to paydirt and celebrates one of two touchdowns he would celebrate with teammates as the state-ranked (No.9) Tuskers fired on all cylinders and cooked Section 2 champion Burnt Hills to the tune of 48-14 in the quarterfinals of the NYSPHSAA Class A football tournament last Friday at Mahopac High where Coach Anthony DeMatteo's Tuskers advanced to the state semis for a highly anticipated rematch with Rye, the at-large entry in the tourney that knocked off Section 9's Minisink Valley... see Grid Notebook