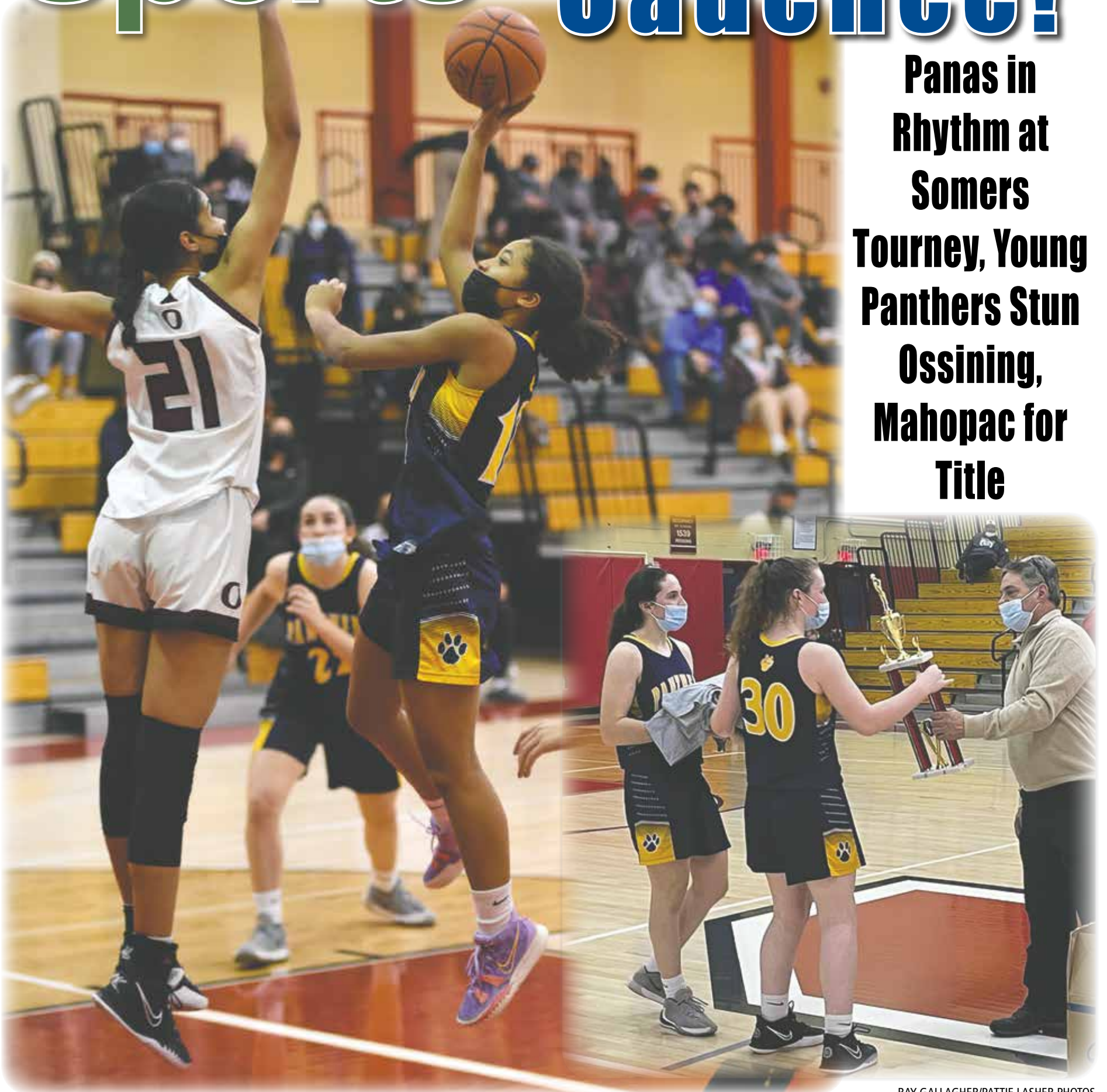


Examiner Sports

Proper Cadence!

**Panas in
Rhythm at
Somers
Tourney, Young
Panthers Stun
Ossining,
Mahopac for
Title**



RAY GALLAGHER/PATTIE LASHER PHOTOS

Walter Panas freshman Cadence Nicholas (12) secured All-Tournament honors at Somers' 25th annual Michael DePaoli Memorial Basketball Tournament where the budding star informed Ossining and senior C Karen Perriott (21), plus the rest of Section 1, of the Panthers' intention to dominate the hardwood this winter and next with a cast of youthful characters joined by junior captains (inset) Julia Gallinger (22) and tourney MVP Kelsey Cregan (30)... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Sports

NWE/Putnam Girls Hoops Notebook

Youthful Panas Pins Somers Tourney Title to Résumé

Undefeated Panthers, Lakeland on Collision Course for League Title

By Tony Pinciario

Four senior starters graduated from the **PANAS** basketball team that was the 2021 Northern Westchester/Putnam small school runner-up. This left Panas Coach Matt Evangelista with a young team, which included two freshmen starters. However, once preseason kicked into high gear, junior and returning starter Kelsey Cregan was witnessing the team gelling.

"The new players that came up to varsity were all very skilled and we had a variety of players," said Cregan, a three-year varsity player. "We had one girl who came up and fits in with our post players and is very tough under the boards. Kiara Williams and Cadence (Nicholas) are great defenders and Cadence and Sophia (Tavarez) are the fastest players I've ever played with. We have some really good shooters, too."

As a result of the returning nucleus and talented newcomers, Panas is 8-0 after winning four games last week, including Somers' 25th annual Michael DePaoli Memorial Tournament last Saturday.

Panas, after beating Nanuet and Yorktown earlier in the week, defeated Ossining (62-56), in the first round, and Mahopac (50-41) in the Somers title game. The victory over Ossining was Panas' third consecutive over the Pride spanning two years.

"We gelled quickly because of our communication on and off the court," Cregan said.

Cregan, along with seniors Lindsay Kagan, Lizzie Bergamini and Adriana Zazzini were thrust into leadership roles,



Mahopac F Lauren Beberman takes run at Somers F Lauren McCartin in Indians' win over Tuskers at Somers tourney action Friday.



Panas freshman G Sophia Tavares makes move on Ossining senior G Michelle Mercado in Panthers' 62-56 win over Pride in opening round of Somers tourney.

this season, with the graduation departures. Cregan said this group received an assist from Nicholas and Tavares.

"Cadence and Sophia were with us last year as eighth-graders, and they are all very close friends with the three freshmen," Cregan noted.

After winning its first four games, Panas knew it was in for a difficult week with

four games, especially against four quality opponents. The first four wins were nice, but these next four gave Panas a good feeling.

"For us, and definitely for the underclassmen, it was good to see that we could win games," Cregan said. "Even with our opponents maybe underestimating the



Mahopac G Julia Paolicelli takes shot against stout defense from Somers F Lauren McCartin in Indians' win over Tuskers at Somers tourney Friday.



Panas F Kelsey Cregan gets fouled by Ossining C Nicole Perriott in Panthers' 62-56 win over Pride in Thursday's opening round of Somers tourney.



Mahopac G Melanie Demeo gains step on Somers G Ava Guidice in Indians' win over Tuskers in Somers tourney Friday.

ability of this team because we are young. This (Somers tournament) was a confidence booster for us because we knew we were a good team and we could go out and compete and beat good teams."

Not many teams can say they beat Ossining three consecutive times, but Panas is one. Cregan and her teammates knew Ossining would be psyched to face Panas after losing twice last year. However, Panas

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Panas freshman sniper Katie Hofmann eyes up two of her game-high 21 in win over Ossining at Somers tourney Thursday.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Girls Hoops Notebook



Panas F Julia Gallinger goes at Ossining C Karen Perriott in Panthers' Somers' tourney win over Pride Thursday.

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was ready.

"There's something about playing Ossining," Cregan said. "I know, myself, I get excited and my energy level was high. To beat Ossining, that was one of our first big accomplishments this season."

Katie Hofmann led the way against Ossining with 21 points. Cregan had a double-double with 18 points and 19 rebounds and Nicholas finished with 13 points.

In the final, Nicholas had a game-high 19 points and also had six rebounds. Tavares finished with 17 points and nine rebounds and Cregan, the tournament MVP, had eight



Ossining G Michelle Mercado excelled in Pride's third-place win over host Tuskers in Somers tourney Saturday.

points and 16 boards. Nicholas and Tavares were named all-tournament.

Nicholas and Cregan had 14 and 10 points, respectively, against Yorktown.

Panas needed some last-minute heroics, against Nanuet, to remain undefeated as Nicholas scored the go-ahead two with 15 seconds on the clock. Evangelista said Julia Gallinger grabbed a rebound and sent Nicholas on her way with a great outlet pass.

Nicholas scored a team-best 19 points in the win. Tavares had 11 points, five rebounds, five assists and five steals and Cregan scored 11 points and collected 12

rebounds.

Panas will host Brewster Tuesday and play at Rye Thursday to close out December. Early indications are that Panas and Lakeland will have a couple of heated tip-offs in January (20th, 29th), which could ultimately determine the league title and district bragging rights.

LAKELAND is a perfect seven, as in 7-0, after the Hornets swept a pair of Rockland County teams – Nyack (67-48) and Nanuet (55-52).

Tyler Hormazabal finished with a game-high 21 points against Nyack. Nichole Ljuljic chipped in 18 points and Sarah Devane scored 14 points.

The Hornets held off Nanuet behind 19 points from Hannah Devane. Hormazabal was held to 14 points, but did record five steals, and Ljuljic also had 14 points.

Lakeland Coach Miranda Mangan credited Kellie Sullivan with playing great defense.

"We had some ups and downs this week," Mangan said. "We definitely didn't play our best, but the girls were able to regroup and refocus in the end. Our game with Nanuet was really physical. They are a tough group of girls and it was great to be in a game that came down to the last few plays. We are looking



Mahopac senior Julie Debrocky eyes up a shot in Indians' win over Tuskers in opening round of Somers tourney Friday.

forward to league play and hoping to keep the momentum going into the new year."

Lakeland will play Pleasantville Tuesday.

BREWSTER easily won its first two games of the week over North Salem (59-26) and then Poughkeepsie (70-35), in the first round of the Brewster Tournament.

However, R.C. Ketcham took advantage of Brewster being without Grace Galgano

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Somers G Amy Lasher goes for two against Mahopac G Piper Klammer in Tuskers' loss to Indians at Somers tourney.



Mahopac G Kristina Rush splits pair of defenders for easy hoop in Indians' win over Tuskers in opening round of Somers tourney Friday.



Somers G Ava Guidice splits Mahopac's Piper Klammer and Jess Sterbens in Tuskers' loss to Indians in Somers tourney opening round action.

Ossining Crowned at Somers Tourney; Haldane on Fire

Panas Sends Message in Rout of Yorktown; Huskers Upend Hornets

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

OSSINING junior F Dominique Bautista went from goat to hero at SOMERS' 25th annual Michael DePaoli Memorial Tournament last Saturday night where his fourth-quarter technical foul with 6:03 remaining allowed the host Tuskers to take a five-point lead (51-46). But the 6'3" Bautista and the Pride continued to scratch and claw their way back into the game before finally taking the lead on a Bautista put-back off a missed free throw with 25 seconds left for the 65-64 tourney-title victory.

Somers (0-2) missed a three in the waning seconds to close the game out, and Ossining (4-1) went home with the hardware after knocking off **CARMEL**, 60-46, in Thursday's opening round behind an MVP performance from Pride senior G Jaeden Carr.

"It was a very exciting win against a very tough Somers team, we're very proud of our guys, who were so resilient," Ossining Coach Mike Casey said after the Pride won their second tourney title this season (Sleepy Hollow).

Somers went down by a point late in the third quarter, but five unanswered points – three off a Matt Fitzsimons bomb and two off a Bennett Leitner steal and deal at the other end – gave Somers a 48-44 lead at the end of three quarters. Coach Chris DiCintio's Tuskers had a rough time with Carr, who is one thick, stout object. The silky smooth shooter foiled Somers' chances by scoring a team-high 23 points. Bautista finished with 13 points and 11 boards. Isaiah



Ossining MVP Jaeden Carr (11) had 26 points and five assists in 60-46 win over Andrew Fiore's Carmel Rams in opening round of Somers tourney Thursday.



Carmel F Randy Aboagye powers to hoop in Rams' 60-46 loss to Justin Santos' Ossining Pride.

Ahlers (8 points) had a big Euro-step finish to follow the Bautista technical, and All-Tourney choice A.J. Caparelli (10 points, five rebounds, 4 assists) spotted the Pride a 62-61 lead with 50 seconds left. Brady Leitner followed with a three for a 64-62 Somers lead with 39.6 left, before Carr hit one of two at the line. He missed the second but Bautista wasn't boxed out well by the Tuskers and he cleaned up for the win.

"It's very frustrating," Coach DiCintio admitted. "We had our bigs in there and they had to grab that rebound if they wanted to win. We're still very inexperienced in these

spots, but once we get our feet wet we'll be tough to beat."

Fitzsimons finished with a game-high 25 points for the Tuskers while Bennett Leitner (16) and Christian McGrane (12) also had double figures.

Carr had 26 points and five assists in the opening-round win over Carmel, which looked better than the final score would indicate, given the fact the Rams (0-1) have had very little practice time together due to their NYS football title run.

LAKELAND defeated Somers, 53-48, earlier in the week when Fitzsimons had 18

points and Bennett Leitner had 14 in a losing cause. Lakeland's Chris Whyte-Luciano, a speedy Iona Prep transfer who coach Steve Fallo kept under wraps previously, is now a cat out of the bag. He was a terror for the Hornets (5-2), going for 22 points, eight boards and three steals. The point guard has had a terrific start to the season. Andrew Mendel (10 points, 7 rebs), Anthony Jennings (9 points, 4 boards) and Logan Shiland (5 points, 9 caroms) allowed the Hornets to bang and score in the paint.

PANAS did a little soul-searching prior

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Ossining F Vinny Bernardo goes up for easy hoop in Pride's 60-46 win over Carmel in Thursday's opening round of Somers tourney.



Ossining poses with hardware after pulling off 65-64 come-from-behind win for Somers tourney title.

Sports

continued from previous page

to its 79-46 thrashing of **YORKTOWN**, and the results were just what Coach Mike Auerbach was hoping for. Junior sniper Alex Tavares led the Panthers (4-2) with 25 points on a night when five Panthers dropped double figures, including Cameron Nichols (13), Oliver Smith (13), 6'8" senior C Maleek McNeil (10) and 6'9" junior C Dillon Chenard (10).

"After the recent win against Yorktown, the team's energy and chemistry is higher than ever," Tavares said. "This will definitely carry into our upcoming game against Yonkers and throughout the rest of the season. A key factor to our scoring is the team's ball movement and unselfishness on the court."

Yorktown G Antoine Coles had 12 points and five rebounds while Justin Price and Eddie Brucaj each added seven points for Yorktown (4-2), which handed Lakeland a 54-48 loss last week before closing out this week with a 53-44 win over Hen Hud. Yorktown's Justin Price dropped a career-high 17 on the Sailors while Brucaj (13 points) and Jack Prybylski (10) each reached double digits.

Gino Wamack led the Sailors with 12 points. **HEN HUD** (3-3) evened its record after a 45-38 win over Sleepy Hollow where Rocco Cappicotti (11 points) and Dean Hiltzley (10) both went for double digits.

After a rocky 1-3 start, **MAHOPAC** hoped to have righted the ship after a crucial 42-57 win over visiting Rye. Colum Ranaghan had 13 points and Ryan Reilly added 12 for the Indians (2-3), who come out of the break with key league tilts against Brewster, Somers and Yorktown.

After a 3-0 start, **BREWSTER** has fallen on hard times, including three-straight losses to Lakeland, Clarkstown North and Pleasantville. The Bears will try to get back on track with a rematch against Lakeland (Tues.) and a visit to Carmel (Thurs.) before



Carmel G Dylan Shields gets an easy hoop in Rams' 60-46 loss to Ossining in opening round of Somers tourney.

the holidays.

CLASS B/C

Hard to ignore the start out of Cold Spring where Class C **HALDANE** High is off to a raucous 4-1 start, including last Thursday's 57-53 statement win over Class B **BRIARCLIFF**. Coach Joe Virgadamo's Blue Devils have emerged as the early favorites to win their first sectional title since 2016 when Haldane reached the NYSPHSAA finals.

The Blue Devils have shown great balance early on, including the win over Briarcliff (2-3) where Soren Holmbo (15 points), Matteo Cervone (11), Robert Viggiano (10), Tristen Reid (8) and Ryan Irwin (6) all filled the score sheet.

Haldane displayed similar equity in their 69-48 thumping of Hasting where Will Bradley led the way with 13 points. Ben Bozsik (10), Cervone (10), Viggiano (9), Reid (9) and Irwin (7) were in total command behind Bradley.

"We're playing great team basketball," the coach said. "Selflessness is creating great balance. The guys are enjoying playing defense and our intensity is one of a kind."

Haldane will host one-win Peekskill (1-2) today.

Senior F Arthur Holtzman had 18 points and eight rebounds and senior G Cole Durocher had 16 points for **PUTNAM VALLEY** in the Tigers 58-49 loss to undefeated Blind Brook (4-0) before PV skipped the Somers tourney on account of COVID-related issues. The Tigers (0-4) are better than their record would indicate (opponents are a combined 13-7), but they've got to figure out how to close games.

NWE/Putnam area boys' hoops coaches are encouraged to contact Ray Gallagher raygallaghersports@gmail.com for inclusion in our weekly notebook.



Ossining G Sulimun Shyllon gets up to defend shot by Carmel F Nick DiLeo in Pride's 60-46 win over Rams in Thursday's opening round of Somers tourney.

NWE/Putnam Boys Hoops Notebook

Northern West./Putnam Fab Five Hoops Poll

No.1 PANAS – Know your role, excel at it, and sky's the limit for this Panther outfit, which did some job of containing Yorktown's Brucaj in the shocking blowout of the Huskers. Panas invades Lakeland right out of the break on Jan.4 when the Tavares kid continues this two-year heater he's on. Can't say for certain, but I don't see a weakness in his D-I-style game.

No.2 YORKTOWN – Wins over Fox Lane and Lakeland have gotten our attention, as have Brucaj and Coles, two of the finest players in the sticks of Northern West. We see a lot of wins on that schedule if they play to potential.

No.3 LAKELAND – Coach Fallo, the savvy veteran he is, thought we might not notice Iona Prep transfer Chris Whyte-Luciano if he didn't mention him in our previews last week, but that didn't last long, did it? So much for our 32 years together, ya crafty devil.

No.4 OSSINING – Somers tourney win was nice and a three-point loss to undefeated N. Rock shows promise, but we'll know a lot more about Jaeden Carr's Pride when they take on Clarkstown South, Fox Lane, White Plains, Scarsdale and Mamaroneck between now and Jan. 19.

No.5 HALDANE – Coach V's Blue Devils can play with any club in this neck of the woods, regardless of class and should have enough to make off with the League III-D title before sectionals and possibly repping at states. They pass the eye test in every clip we see.

Girls Hoops Notebook

continued from page 3

to beat the Bears, 59-38, in the title game. Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said Galgano tweaked her ankle against Poughkeepsie.

"I am proud of the girls," Castaldo said. "We were a little short-handed and things could have gotten ugly quick. They showed a lot of heart and character and battled a really good Ketcham team. Sophia (Alzugaray) and Madison (Dakin) were awesome! They carried us. If they play like that all year, we'll be a tough out for anyone."

Dakin had 15 points and eight rebounds against Ketcham and Alzugaray added 14 points and four assists. Both were named to the all-tournament team.

Galgano finished with 17 points in the first-round win. Dakin added 12 points and Jordan Niles chipped in 10 points.

Galgano scored a team-high 26 points against NorthSalem, followed by Adrianna Calicchia with 10 points and Bre Washington added eight points.

Brewster is now 5-1 this season.

OSSINING split two games, losing to Panas (62-56) in the first round of the Somers Tournament, before rebounding to fend off Somers, 74-68, as the Pride improved to 4-1.

Senior G Michelle Mercado poured in a season-high 25 points and also had five rebounds and five assists while being named to the All-Tournament team. Ella Schnecker added 16 points, Zoey Jowers finished with 13 points, including eight of nine from the free-throw line, and Karen Perriott had 12 points and a career-best 21 rebounds.

Schnecker led Ossining with 18 points, and also had six rebounds, against Panas, Katie Marx contributed 15 points and 12 rebounds and Mercado added 10 points and five rebounds.

Ossining will host New Rochelle Wednesday and welcome Monsignor McClancy (Queens), Dec. 28.

MAHOPAC sandwiched a win over Somers around two losses – to Harrison

and Panas (in the Somers' Tournament championship game). The Indians dropped a 56-31 verdict to Harrison as Lauren Beberman and Kristina Rush each had nine points.

Against the Tuskers, Mahopac trailed Somers by 11 points at halftime, but outscored the Tuskers, 29-12, in the second half for a 47-41 win as Rush finished with a team-leading 12 points. Melanie DeMeo added 11 points and Beberman finished with 10 points.

In the finals of the tourney, Panas blitzed Mahopac, 20-5, in the first quarter, but the Indians closed to within two points late.

"We closed the gap to two and kept it to within five until we had to foul," Mahopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "The girls played hard and never gave up. Panas went to the line 32 times and made 22. Mahopac went to the line a mere 10 times and made five."

Julia Paolicelli and Beberman were selected to the all-tournament team.

Freshman Kaitlyn Raguso scored a career-high 29 points, leading **HEN HUD** to a 56-51 victory over Yorktown.

Raguso went 10 of 15 from the floor. She also had 13 rebounds and six steals. Fellow freshman Kayla McCarthy added 12 points, seven rebounds and six steals.

YORKTOWN went 0-2 for the week and was without three starters because of injury and illness in one of the games. Melissa Severino had 13 points and Kaitlyn Judge added seven points in a 43-32 loss to Panas.

Judge finished with 15 points and Gevanthor had 11 points in a 56-51 loss to Hen Hud as Yorktown played without three starters. Yorktown, now 2-3 this season, hosts Saunders Tuesday.

NWE/Putnam area girls' hoops coaches are encouraged to contact Ray Gallagher raygallaghersports@gmail.com or Tony Pinciario at tfinch23@optonline.net for inclusion in our weekly notebook.

Sports

Fox Lane Cruises to a Lopsided Victory Over the Bears

By Andy Jacobs

A disastrous second quarter for the Briarcliff boys' basketball team quickly turned what had been a competitive first eight minutes in Saturday's matinee against the visiting Fox Lane Foxes into a complete rout.

Outscoring the Bears 21-4 in the game-altering period, Fox Lane built a 20-point halftime cushion and never looked back, cruising to a 60-39 victory over the cold-shooting hosts, who have now dropped three games in a row. Justin Allen and Charles Shevick scored 14 points apiece, while Matt Toscano and Niko Dent each added seven as the Foxes improved to 4-1 a couple of weeks into the 2021-22 season.

"We really shared the ball well," said Fox coach Mike Tomassi afterwards. "Our focus coming in, the way they play defensively, was to really be unselfish, keep the ball moving. They're aggressive defensively, so we just really wanted that ball to be moving, be unselfish, attack the basket."

The day had begun promisingly enough for Briarcliff with senior forward Luke McCann nailing a 3-pointer just 20 seconds after the opening tipoff. But the Foxes grabbed the lead for good with 2:23 left in the first quarter when Allen made one of his five steals and went coast to coast for a two-handed dunk. Allen's pullup 17-foot jumper with just under a minute to go gave Fox Lane a 12-9 lead heading to the second quarter.

Unfortunately for the Bears, they then went scoreless for the first five and a half minutes of the second quarter. Meanwhile, Fox Lane took command with Allen making another steal that led to his lefty layup, Toscano connecting on a 3-point shot from the right corner, Dent adding a trey from the left corner and Shevick capping the 10-0 run with a mid-range jumper.

The Bears finally ended their long scoring drought when Ben Siegel drove down the lane for a lefty layup, but the Foxes followed



Fox Lane senior guard Justin Allen tries to dribble past Briarcliff's Rai-shan Hall in the second half of Saturday afternoon's game won by the visiting Foxes.

with Shevick draining one of his four 3-pointers and then an old-fashioned 3-point play by Pedro Silva that stretched their lead to 17 points. Another conventional 3-point play, this time from Allen, with 10 seconds left in the quarter gave Fox Lane a 33-13 lead at halftime.

"Most importantly, this is probably our best defensive game overall," said Tomassi, whose team limited Briarcliff to just two baskets in the second quarter. "We let our defense turn into offense. Normally, we're a really good defensive team. That's kind of been our staple."

Briarcliff scored the first basket of the second half, a layup by senior guard Jayden Larregue. But the Bears were then kept scoreless for nearly another four minutes and found themselves trailing 39-15 when Shevick connected on a 3-point shot from



Charlie Shevick of Fox Lane is met with a double team as he drives along the right baseline during the Foxes' 60-39 rout of the Briarcliff Bears on Saturday.

the left corner with 3:26 to go in the third quarter. Another trey, this one from Michael

Lombardi from the right corner with a minute left, sent the Foxes into the final period leading 44-21.

The Foxes opened up their largest lead of the day, 27 points, with just under three minutes to play before freshman Luke Lawler provided a late highlight for the Bears with two buckets and two free throws in an 8-0 run that helped make the final score a little bit more respectable.

"We're pretty well-rounded," said Tomassi. "We've got a bunch of guys that love basketball and want to compete every day. It's just about getting better as a team every day. And that's kind of our mission. We've definitely made strides since our first game at Yorktown, but we're not where we

need to be. We just need to keep getting better, and I'm excited for where we could potentially go. But it's not gonna happen overnight."

Nor is it going to happen overnight for the reeling Bears, whose coach, Nick Friedman, will be looking to hit the reset button as his players now get a lengthy break before their next game.

"We've just got a lot of stuff to figure out," he said. "We don't know who we are. We don't have an identity yet. We're a work in progress. We put in a new offense and we're not committed to it yet. So it's kind of back to the drawing board. If we're running our offense, then we shoot with confidence. If we're not, then we don't and that's what you saw today."



Fox Lane's Matt Toscano is closely guarded by Briarcliff's Elliot Jones as he prepares to pass the ball in the second half of the Foxes' fourth straight victory.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



The Foxes' Chris Redhead shoots the ball from just right of the lane over the Bears' Ben Siegel and Saad Hussain in Saturday's game at Briarcliff.



Briarcliff senior forward Elliot Jones collects a rebound during the Bears' home game vs. Fox Lane.



Ben Siegel of Briarcliff takes the ball to the basket in the second quarter of Saturday afternoon's game against Fox Lane.

Sports

Byram Hills Edges the Quakers in a Friday Night Shootout

By Andy Jacobs

It's anyone's guess how loud it might have been inside the Horace Greeley gymnasium on Friday night if students had been allowed to witness what turned into a high-scoring rivalry battle between the host Quakers and the Byram Hills Bobcats.

In a game that had a little of everything except the high noise level created by several hundred cheering teenagers, the Bobcats earned their fourth win in five games this season, hanging on in the fourth quarter to defeat Greeley 71-68. Tyson Repa scored 21 points, while Bobby Chicoine added 13 to go along with an astounding 25 rebounds as Byram Hills bounced back from its only loss two days earlier.

"Yeah, it was much more quiet than I would've thought," said Bobcats head coach Ted Repa shortly after his team had emerged victorious in an action-packed game in front of a limited, and mostly silent, audience. "The other game, versus Poughkeepsie (at home on Wednesday), was an awesome environment. This was quiet, even though the kids were playing well."

For Greeley, now 2-3 this season, there was plenty of frustration over an outcome that might have been changed with a few different bounces and senior leader Connor Melis still on the floor in the fourth quarter. Sweet-shooting junior guard Justin Potack provided six 3-pointers en route to a game-high 29 points, but Melis had to leave the game in the final minute of the third quarter after being called for his second technical

foul.

"It was a fun game," said Quaker coach Matt Simone. "We're disappointed we came up a little bit short, but I'm proud of our effort. We talk a lot about our effort and matching their physicality. There were lapses in that a little bit, but overall we brought our best effort in terms of toughness and physicality trying to match, if not exceed, theirs."

There were four lead changes in the opening quarter as Potack and Tyson Repa took turns connecting on a trio of 3-pointers each. But after Potack sailed in for a lefty layup that gave Greeley a 21-17 advantage with just under two minutes remaining, the Bobcats proceeded to go on a 13-2 spurt that bridged the first and second quarters and they never trailed again the rest of the evening.

The big Byram run began with successive treys by Repa 30 seconds apart, both from the right elbow. Ben Dreilinger drove for a layup to conclude the scoring in the first quarter, giving the Bobcats a 25-21 edge. Early in the second period, junior forward Sean Siegel, who came off the Bobcat bench to supply 13 points, had back-to-back baskets and a free throw that capped the spurt.

The Quakers moved within 37-35 on a Melis 3-pointer with 1:54 left in the second quarter, but the half ended with the Bobcats getting a deep 3-ball from Repa off the dribble and then a driving layup by Dreilinger.

Greeley, using a 1-2-2 zone press to try to disrupt the Bobcat offense, trimmed its seven-point halftime deficit to 42-39 on baskets by Melis and Potack in the opening minute of the third quarter. But the Bobcats matched their largest lead of the game, eight points, just over two minutes later when Siegel made a steal and scored on a layup.

A pair of 3-point shots by Mikey Gecaj, one from the right elbow and the other from the left corner, helped the Quakers close the gap to 49-48 at the midway point of the quarter, but Byram closed the period with a 7-3 run to take a five-point lead. Even worse for Greeley, Melis, who finished with 12 points, was automatically ejected after he was given his second technical for 'taunting' an instant after connecting on a 3-point shot from the right corner over Chicoine's outstretched hand.

"It's tough, but we've got to be smarter on our end," said Simone about losing one half of his high-scoring backcourt in a game still up for grabs. "You know, warranted or not, there's no excuse for saying anything to refs or players. We've got to do a better job internally of just playing basketball."

"Their best player," said coach Repa. "It was a huge turn of events, very unfortunate. You never want to be talking about the



Sean Siegel of Byram Hills rises in the lane over Greeley's Josh Nadal (left) and Connor Melis during Friday's 71-68 Bobcat victory.

officials after a game. So I feel bad for the kid. I feel bad for everybody who came here to watch the best players compete on the floor."

Two straight buckets by Tyson Repa extended the Byram lead to 60-52 nearly 90 seconds into the fourth quarter, but soon Potack answered with back-to-back 3-pointers that cut the Quakers' deficit to 62-60 with 4:15 left on the clock. Then with Greeley threatening to tie or take the lead, Repa made a key steal, leading to two Siegel free throws that gave the Bobcats a bit more breathing room.

The Quakers misfired on a pair of 3-point shots from the right corner down the stretch and Byram's Danny Bernstein scored on a layup out of a timeout with 30 seconds left to stretch the Bobcat lead to 68-62. Potack



Greeley's Justin Potack, who scored a game-high 29 points, gets set to drive to the basket during the Quakers' narrow home loss to Byram Hills.



The Bobcats' Ben Dreilinger shoots a fallaway jumper in the second half of Friday night's win at Greeley.

scored his final two points of the game from the foul line with half a second to go, but it was too little and late.

"We have to do a better job closing out all quarters," said Repa. "It's something we're aware of and we've got to make the adjustments."

Despite the loss, the Quakers' Simone liked a lot of what he saw from his players as they nearly matched Byram basket for basket.

"We've got a lot of newcomers," he said. "I think we have a lot of potential. We're still putting a lot of stuff together. There's a lot of inconsistencies, unfortunately. But I think once we tighten that up, hopefully we can start stringing a few wins together."



Horace Greeley senior guard Connor Melis dribbles into the lane in the first half of Friday night's game against visiting Byram Hills.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Byram Hills sophomore Tyson Repa takes the ball to the basket in the Bobcats' road win over Greeley.

Race to the Rim



Pace Guard Arianna Stockinger Leads a Fast Break on Saturday as the Setters Run Past Felician and Improve to 9-1 This Season