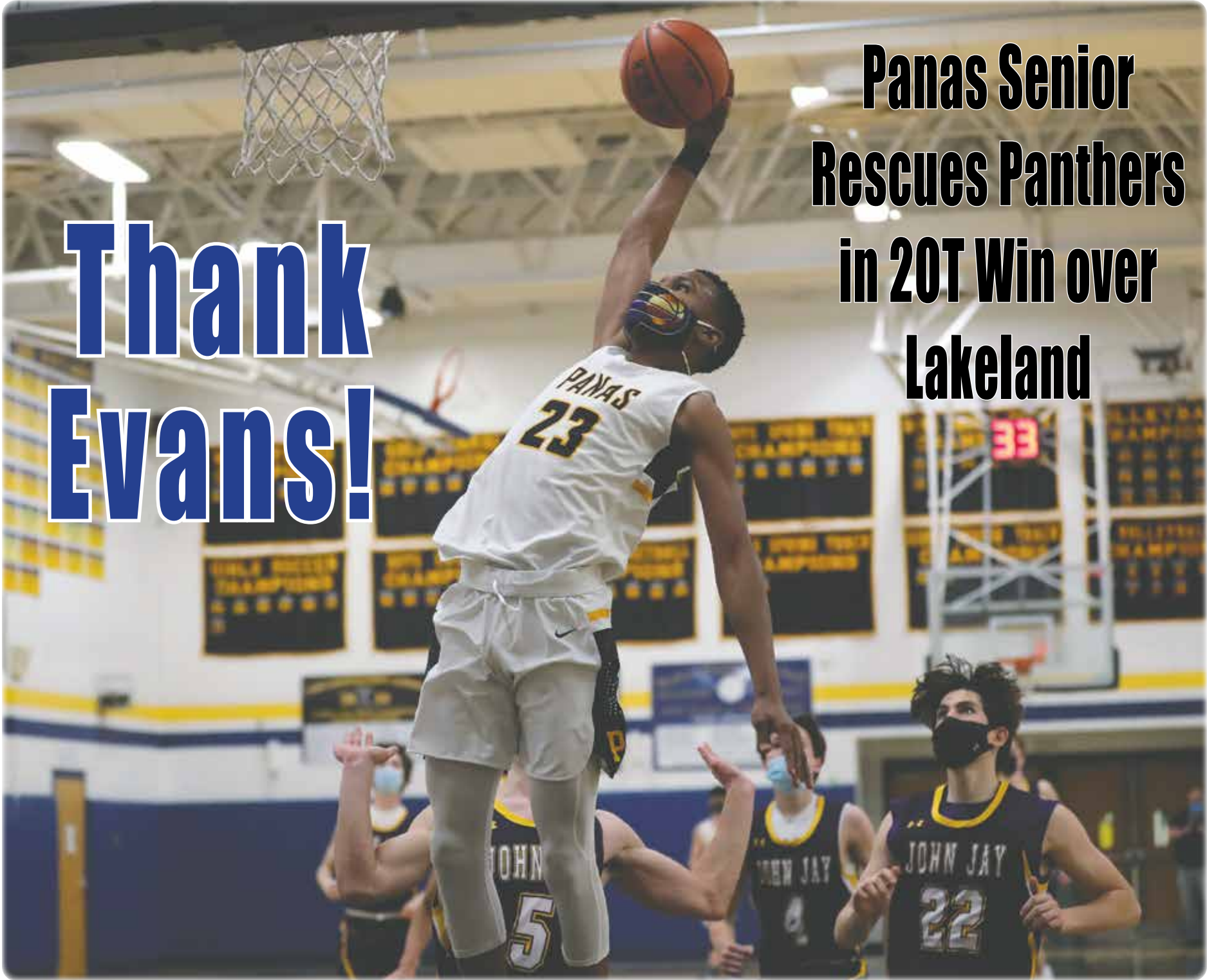


Examiner Sports



**Thank
Evans!**

**Panas Senior
Rescues Panthers
in 2OT Win over
Lakeland**

BOB CASTNER PHOTO

Walter Panas senior F Caleb Evans, shown here flushing one down in the host Panthers’ 62-48 win over John Jay CR last Wednesday, was also rising and surprising in the Panthers’ 70-68 double overtime triumph of visiting Lakeland last Friday night when Evans scored a game-high 27 points and Panas improved to 3-0. Panas failed to sustain that momentum Sunday when the worn-out Panthers suffered a 44-40 loss to host Yorktown... see Boys’ Hoops Notebook

Rivalries Galore: Locals Get Down, Dirty on Hardwood

Panas Nips Lakeland, Mahopac Sweeps Carmel, B'Cliff Clips P'Ville; Haldane Handles PV

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays
& Rob DiAntonio @RJD_Photos

Thankfully, the schedule makers wasted no time. It was virtually rivalry week as we embarked upon the local Section 1 hoops season as many bordering foes had at it in Week 1 of the 2021 campaign.

League titles, in fact any titles, will take on significant meaning in Section 1's abbreviated, five-week season, which will culminate in regional playoff divisions set to be approved by Section 1's Executive Committee some time in the near future.

Early action has been fast-paced and furious, littered with upsets, come-from-behind wins, fatigue and overtime thrillers, including an epic double overtime rivalry war between sister schools Walter Panas and Lakeland, which the Panthers essentially stole, 70-68, but then turned around and lost to Yorktown in Sunday's knock-down, drag-out affair. Here's how some of the action shook out.

CONFERENCE I-II LEAGUE C

WALTER PANAS has shown that it can and will challenge for the league title and anything else that comes its way after the win over **LAKELAND**, which hung tough behind a career-high 25 points from senior G Rob Nardelli, who hit five shots from behind

the arc. Panas would hit three key hoops, though, to force overtime, double OT and the win. At the end of regulation, senior F Caleb Evans hit the biggest of his 25 points; and the end of the first OT Cam Nicholas hit the biggest shot of his career, an NBA-range trifecta; before silky smooth sophomore G Alex Tavarez drained the game-winner with 3.6 seconds left to cap an incredible win.

"We were a little sluggish to start against Lakeland," Panas Coach Mike Auerbach said. "I think the schedule caught up to us some, but more importantly Lakeland was red hot early on. They have a ton of depth from the perimeter, so if you're not sharp mentally and engaged physically on the defensive end, which we weren't, they can really make you pay.

Nardelli did so throughout. Lakeland held a 10-point lead before Panas saw the combination of Evans (17 boards) and Tavarez (21 points, 9 assists) emerge, and when this dynamic duo clicked, it became tough to contain. Nicolas added 12 crucial points, all from distance.

"Our guys really responded in the second half," Auerbach said. "We went to some full court pressure, which we really haven't spent much time working on and it turned the game for us. We look good when we're playing with energy and have a lot of guys who will make the extra effort plays. Caleb Evans was outstanding! His defense has been really good as well. He's very mobile to go along with being 6'3". He's taken on a leadership role for us this year, too,

which was needed after graduating eight seniors. Tavarez makes everything go for us offensively. He's been creating good looks for himself averaging 20 a game through our first three games, but more importantly he's gotten everybody involved in the offense. Our next handful of guys have all been big contributors, too. Rob Simmonds has played excellent defense and provided some timely baskets late vs Lakeland. Oliver Smith and Dillon Chenard have both been reliable on both ends of the court seeing their first varsity action. Cam Nicholas has provided a lot of offense off the bench. He saved us with a deep three at the end of the first overtime vs Lakeland."

Panas roared out of the gate with a pair of convincing wins, including a 57-32 win over Greeley, the reigning Class AA champions. The Class A Panthers backed that up with a stellar defeat of John Jay CR, 62-48. Tavarez is an emerging star; there's no other way to put it, dropping 19 on the Wolves and 21 on the Quakers. Panthers Smith and Nicholas had 14 points each in the win over Jay. Smith, one of several bigs at Panas, added a backboard-shaking flush for good measure.

In the Greeley win, Rob Simmonds and

continued on next page



Panas junior F Oliver Smith flushes one home in Panthers' rout of John Jay CR.



Panas sophomore G Alex Tavarez has had a sensational start to 2021 season for undefeated Panthers.



Kennedy transfer Myles Buckley has been a sweet find for Mahopac, providing a strong backcourt option for 3-0 Indians.

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Boys Hoops Notebook

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Smith each tallied 11 points for Panas. Quaker G Zach Eichenberg paced Greeley with seven points while Connor Melis and Sam Rosenberg added five apiece for Greeley (0-1), which lost all five starters from arguably the best team in school history. Panthers Etan Linton and Smith scored 11 points apiece for the Panthers, who saw Evans add nine points.

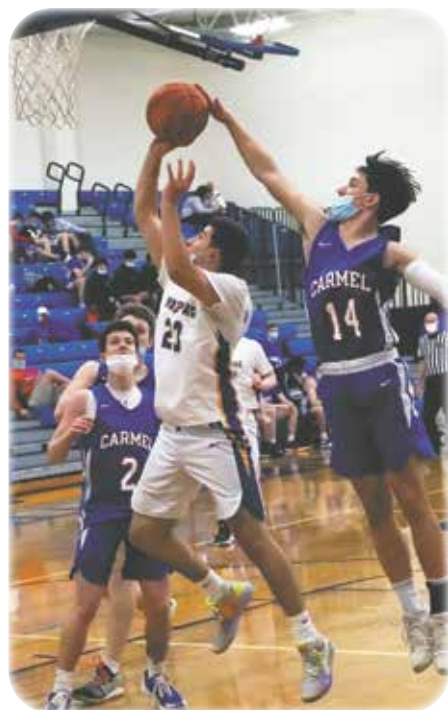
Tavarez finished with a team-high 17 in the 44-40 loss to Yorktown.

HEN HUD pulled off the upset of the day last Tuesday in a 77-72 win over host **PEEKSKILL**, which had total control throughout the first half until Nick Hiltsey commandeered the wheelhouse and went for a career-high 37 points to go with 14 boards and three steals. The senior swingman was the best athlete on the floor.

"Nick was a warrior, especially in the second half," Sailor Coach Jordan Hirsch said. "Never count out the Sailors. Peekskill has a heck of a basketball team. They went on a big run in the first half with some really athletic play on their part and as you know, you're never really leading comfortably when you play them."

"Our guys were so excited to play tonight that I think our emotions got the best of us in the first half," Hirsch added. "We needed to settle in and focus on what we could control within the confines of the game. To our guys credit, they took some halftime adjustments and anchored themselves mentally on what we think is important and chipped away until the game was over. That win was all the kids and I'm really happy for them."

The kids were alright, to quote the Who, including Rocco Capicotti (6 points, 7 rebounds), Jack Kapfer (7 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists), Josh Gillison (10 points, 9 boards) and Dean Hiltsey (15 points, 4 assists). The ceaseless rivalry between the Red Devils and Sailors brought out the best of both programs, which combined to put up decent numbers in the first game of the season,



Mahopac's John Cosentino goes up for two of his game-high 18 points, challenged by Carmel's Kevin Dall in Indians' 57-45 win over Rams Tuesday.



Somers F Henry Gilroy gets easy two in Tuskers' 39-36 loss to Yorktown.

showing little rust offensively.

"It's a wonderful rivalry," said Hirsch, who balled for the Sailors back in the day. "We have so many connections between the two towns. I loved it as a student and now as an alum and a coach. We're looking forward to playing them again tomorrow in what will undoubtedly be another tough and hard fought game."

Indeed it was and Capicotti was at the forefront of Hen Hud's sweep of the Red Devils on Wednesday, going for 19 points, 12 boards and three blocks in a 78-64 Sailor win. Nick Hiltsey scored a game-high 23 to go with 10 caroms.

"Felt great to be back in the Donovan, our home gym," Hirsch said. "The stat sheet was really well rounded, which I'm really proud of, but I'm even more proud of how our guys stuck together in our first tests of the season."

Dean Hiltsey and Jack Kapfer added 14 points apiece for the Sailors.

Peekskill F Brennan Heaven scored 20 points for the Red Devils and went for a team-high 19 in the season-opening loss. Travis Brown added 33 combined points in the two setbacks.

The Sailors (3-0) capped off the week with a 76-58 win over Sleepy Hollow Saturday when four players went for double digits, including Nick Hiltsey (21), Dean Hiltsey (17), Gillison (12) and Kapfer (11).

LEAGUE B

MAHOPAC swept **CARMEL** in the home-and-home set and has emerged as the early favorites to take the League B title due to its depth and athleticism. The Indians could run the table in this league if they play to their potential and work a very high seed for regionals, unless **YORKTOWN** has something to say about it, which they might if they play like they did in Sunday's 44-40 win over visiting Panas.

"Agreed, Mahopac is athletic, strong, good size and they've been playing together in the off-season so they're on the same page,"

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Somers' Bennett Leitner attacks the basket while Yorktown's Jack Prybylski defends in Tuskers' loss to Huskers.



Mahopac's Michael Callahan pulls up for two in Indians' 57-45 win over visiting Carmel Tuesday.



Carmel's Andrew Fiore fires short J against defense from Mahopac's Vin Bastone in Rams' 57-45 loss to Indians Tuesday.

ROB DIANTONIO/BOB CASTNER/GIL MCMAHON PHOTOS

Sports

Boys Hoops Notebook



Briarcliff's Elliot Jones rises up for two in win over rival Pleasantville last Wednesday.

continued from previous page

Somers Coach Chris DiCintio said of the Indians.

In Mahopac's 55-31 triumph Indian senior G John Cosentino continued a torrid start, backing up a career-high 18-point effort with another 16 points. Junior G Patrick McMahon added a career-high 13 for Mahopac (3-0), who saw eight players score.

Cosentino scored 18 points Mahopac's 57-45 season-opening win over visiting Carmel and Vin Bastone chipped in with 10 points, but the biggest win of the week came in Saturday's 69-64 win over John Jay EF, which roared out to a 20-point lead before the Indians gathered their wits in the 11 a.m. start. "Yeah, that was two different games in one," Mahopac Coach Tom McMahon admitted. "We weren't tough for the first 12 minutes and then finally got our stuff together."

Kennedy transfer Miles Buckley had his coming out party for the Indians, scoring 19. Junior G Michael Callahan added a career-high 12 and junior F Ryan "Tree" Reilly went for 11. Bastone and McMahon added nine apiece. The Indians have only hit on 11 3's this season, so that is a source of concern.

Carmel nearly got its first win of the season in a 50-46 loss to **SOMERS**, in which the Rams trailed 20-3 at one point. Behind Andrew Dileo's 20 points and eight rebounds, and Kevin Dall's nine points, the Rams battled back but buckled down the stretch and fell to 0-3. Somers also posted a 55-31 win over **BREWSTER** when Henry Gilroy hit for a career-high 20 points to lead the Tuskers. Matt Fitzsimons added 13 for

Somers (2-1), who saw Robbie Repp drop 10 and Bennet Leitner go for 11 as nine Tuskers scored in the win over Carmel.

"Playing three games in four days has already reared its ugly head," DiCintio said. "The team is 22 for 52 at the free throw line in those three games. It's a real plus that our team is buying in on the fast break and we are limiting our perimeter jump shooting as the rust has yet to be shed, but winning games will not be easy unless we fix our shooting from the stripe. The kids are playing tough, physical defense with full court pressure. It's what has saved us up to this point. We have given up 31, 39 and 46 points so far. The whole season is a question mark, but I am thrilled for the kids as they seem to be enjoying themselves. I'll never take coaching a game for granted again."

YORKTOWN chalked up its second win of the season in a 52-21 win over Lakeland on Senior Night Saturday, doing so behind a breakout game from junior C Eddie Brucaj, who scored the game-winning hoop and glistened on 24 points and 15 rebounds, both game-highs. Sophomore Antoine Coles (9 points) and Tony Granitto (10 rebounds) were prime contributors for the Huskers, who also worked a 39-36 win over **SOMERS** behind 14 points and 13 boards from Brucaj. Jared Faivre scored 15 points for the Huskers and Granitto added four points and a game-high 14 rebounds for the Huskers, who gritted out the win over Panas behind Brucaj, who finished with 19 points and 11 boards, including four points in OT and a crucial block. The Huskers were clutch at the stripe down the stretch, getting



Briarcliff's Jayden Larregue glides in for two in Bears' 58-38 season-opening win over host Pleasantville last Wednesday.

four in a row from senior yeoman Granitto (6 points, 10 caroms) and freshman G Justin Price, who looks like the real deal. He and Coles (10 points) are a developing backcourt tandem, something to watch.

"We were dead tired today," Auerbach admitted. "We couldn't find a secondary scorer."

LEAGUE A

FOX LANE stormed out to a 4-0 start this season with impressive wins over White Plains, Harrison, Yorktown and Byram Hills.

"Defensive energy and intensity have been a critical part of our early success," Fox Lane coach Mike Tomassi said. "We also have a group that is motivated to be the best teammates they can be. Team success is better than individual success."

The Foxes tipped off their season with a 52-36 rout of host Harrison on Tuesday behind 16 points and seven boards from James DiBiasi. Oliver Shevick (13 points, 6 rebounds), Aidan Giannelli (10 points, 5 assists, 5 rebounds) and Charlie Shevick (10 points) also contributed for Fox Lane.

Fox Lane moved to 2-0 the next day with a 44-29 victory over Yorktown. Oliver Shevick tallied 14 points and seven rebounds while Giannelli added 10 points and four assists. Tony Granitto sparked the Huskers with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

The Foxes traveled to annual contender **BYRAM HILLS** on Friday and cruised to a 54-35 victory. Oliver Shevick (12 points, 7 rebounds), Giannelli (8 points, 4 assists, 5 rebounds), Charlie Shevick (12 points, 5 rebounds), DiBiasi (11 points, 6 rebounds) and Aidan Hicks (9 points, 7 assists) led a very balanced effort for Fox Lane.

"On offense we have 5-6 guys that can score 10 plus points a night," Tomassi said. "We share the ball and play for each other. It's hard to scout and limit us when we share the ball. Each game a new guy can step up. We need to continue to share the ball and play together."

Charlie Shevick scored a team-high 17 points as Fox Lane capped off their impressive opening week with a 52-48 win over host **WHITE PLAINS** on Saturday.

continued on next page



Briarcliff's Brett Lachtman finishes inside as Pleasantville's Nick Bates defends in Bears' win over Panthers.



Pleasantville G Justin Cronk soars to the rim over Briarcliff's Luke McCann and Jacob Zednik in Panthers' loss to Bears.

Sports

Boys Hoops Notebook



Briarcliff's Aidan Murnane hits a deep three at buzzer over Pleasantville's Aidan Picart in Bears' 58-38 win over host Panthers last Wednesday.

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DiBiasi added 11 points and 11 rebounds while Giannelli and Oliver Shevick chipped in eight points each.

"They are very good, they have a couple of high-level players," Tomassi said of White Plains. "I thought we defended well, holding them to 48 points is a credit to our defense. Executing was another key part. When we were organized and trusted the system we got good shots. We didn't fold. It was a grind from start to finish and I am proud of our guys."

Mekhi Woodbury (20 points) and Tymir Greene (16 points) paced the Tigers (1-2), who opened the season by splitting a pair of games with Mamaroneck.

Menzy Carden had 12 points and Joe Carrier added 10 in White Plains' 60-54 season-opening loss to Mamaroneck. White Plains bounced back two days later with a 61-51 road win.

"Our help defense was better and our pace on offense had a better flow," White Plains coach Spencer Mayfield said of what changed for the Tigers from their first meeting with Mamaroneck.

Carden (15 points), Greene (14 points) and Shane Washington (10 points) paced White Plains in the win.

HORACE GREELEY, which graduated all five starters from last year's Class AA section championship team, fell to host Walter Panas 57-32 in their opener last Tuesday. Zach Eisenberg had seven points for the Quakers (0-1).

Greeley had its game with John Jay-Cross River postponed on Friday due to snow. The Quakers' contest against Clarkstown South on Saturday was cancelled after a Clarkstown player suffered a serious injury two minutes in and had to be taken to a hospital.

CONFERENCE III

SOUTH LEAGUE

BRIARCLIFF is off to a 3-0 start with wins over rival **PLEASANTVILLE**, Blind Brook and **WESTLAKE**, a Class B section semifinalist last season. It was a balanced

scoring effort for the Bears in a 56-38 rout of the host Panthers last Wednesday behind 15 points from big man Luke McCann and 11 apiece from Aidan Murnane and Elliot Jones. Brett Lachman added nine points.

"We have a lot of guys who can score it," Briarcliff coach Nick Friedman said. "The key is to make sure we take the right kinds of shots within our offense. It was nice to see the balance but we did have long stretches where we weren't taking the kinds of shots we want. This is something we will work on."

Justin Cronk sparked Pleasantville (0-2) with a game-high 18 points. Daniel Picart tallied 12 points.

Murnane (14 points) and Jayden Larregue (13 points) sparked the Bears to a 56-34 win over Blind Brook on Saturday.

"Our half court man-to-man defense has to be the core of who we are," Friedman said. "If we can get stops and take teams out of what they're trying to run, it covers up a lot of the mistakes on offense and doesn't allow another team to go on a big run."

Briarcliff capped off a strong week when the Bears clawed to a 52-44 win over visiting Westlake on Sunday afternoon. Westlake led 36-31 after three quarters but Briarcliff outscored them 21-8 in the final quarter.

A Lachman corner three tied the game at 40-40 midway through the fourth and was followed by a Larregue putback to give the Bears a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

"It was our defense," Friedman said when asked how Briarcliff was able to come back for the win. "When we pressure and play the way we are capable defensively, we relax on offense and everything flows. That will always be the key for us."

Larregue and McCann led the Bears with 17 and 16 points, respectively. Jones added 11 points. Evan O'Brien (15 points) and Carter Falkenberg (14 points) sparked the Wildcats with Hamad Azhar adding 10.

Westlake (1-1) cruised past Pleasantville, 53-30, on Saturday behind 15 points from O'Brien. Falkenberg (10 points) and Azhar (9 points) chipped in for the Wildcats.

Byram (1-1) opened the season by erasing a 16-point second-half deficit to pull off a 67-65 win over Eastchester last Wednesday. Bobby Chicoine scored the winning basket on a feed from Matteo Sinon, who scored a team-high 21 points.

"We hit some big shots led by Matteo Sinon, but I think the X-factor was Matt Weiller's defense," Byram Hills coach Ted Repa said. "Eastchester's No. 1 (Ryan Hunter) had 23 points entering the fourth quarter but was held scoreless in the fourth once we put Weiller on him."

Ben Dreilinger had 13 points, nine rebounds and four assists for the Bobcats. Justin Gordon (10 points), Chicoine (9 points, 9 rebounds) and teammate Brady Karp (9 points) contributed to the win.

VALHALLA defeated Rye Neck 57-38 in its season opener on Saturday. Basiaka Butcher (13 points), Joe O'Neil (9 points), James McAndrew (8 points) and Rahsean Melvin (8 points) paced the Vikings (1-0).

NORTH LEAGUE

HALDANE Coach Joe Virgadamo could not have asked for a better start to 2021. A balanced and determined Blue Devil unit has roared out of the gate to shred Beacon



Pleasantville's Dominic Matica heads for the hoop while Briarcliff's Ben Siegel defends.

(70-55), Millbrook (75-62), North Salem (63-42) and rival **PUTNAM VALLEY** (76-54) in convincing fashion. Haldane senior G Daniel Santos is a matchup nightmare for opposing defenders. Quick and strong off the bounce, Santos has shredded nets, scoring 14 against the Valley, 22 against North Salem, 25 against Millbrook and 20 in the season-opener against Beacon.

"Daniel is a tough tough kid," said Virgadamo, a tough player in his own right back in the day. "His ability to knock down shots, take a defender off the dribble, post a defender and finish in contact is special. He has great vision and controls the game. He is a true floor general and really drives our team. The kid is special. Someone is going to get a steal next year."

Against Putnam Valley, the Blue Devils had four scorers go for double figures, including Matteo Cervone (22 points), Santos (14 points), Ryan Irwin (10 points) and Darrin

Santos (10 points). The Tigers were led by junior G Cole Durocher (matched career-high 24 points), an icy shooter from distance, who kept PV in striking distance.

Against North Salem, Holmbo aided the attack with 18 points for the Blue Devils, who took over behind a 24-2 second-quarter run. Against Millbrook, Cervone (18 points), Holmbo (13 points) and Irwin (11 points) all hit for double digits.

Against Beacon, the Blue Devils held on to the Tunnel Trophy when Holmby went for 19 points and Cervone added 16 as complements to Daniel Santos.

"The kids are cherishing every moment," Coach V added. "They are leaving it out there everyday and the hustle and effort have been amazing. This is a special team and group. The chemistry is one of a kind and it's impressive how well we are playing in just two weeks. We just want to value everyday and get better everyday."



Haldane has come out of the gate as strong as anybody, ripping off a 4-0 start.

Mahopac Impressive in 3-0 Start; Westlake Stuns Briarcliff

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays
& Ron DiAntonio @RJD_Photos

There are certain girls' hoops teams in the Examiner region who will have to settle for regional titles in a year when, if not for COVID-19, they should be eying nothing less than challenging for a Section 1 title. Class AA Mahopac and Class B's Briarcliff and Putnam Valley would undoubtedly be within the mix of sectional title contenders in a normal season, but each will be forced to set their sights on the regional playoff events that will be approved by the Section 1 Executive Committee some time this week.

Should the executive committee settle on culminating events similar to what we saw last fall, we could see a Briarcliff vs. Putnam Valley scenario in the Putnam/Northern Westchester small school regional, which would be a mouth-watering matchup for all the marbles. And don't be shocked when Westlake makes a run down South, having upset Briarcliff Sunday.

CONFERENCE I-II

LEAGUE B

MAHOPAC has been shot out of a cannon to open the season at 3-0, sweeping rival **CARMEL** (0-2) and knocking off John Jay EF.

Against John Jay, the Indians had four players go for double figures in their 83-54 win over John Jay EF Saturday, including Julie DeBrocky and Lauren Beberman (14 points each), Kristina Rush (12) and Caitlin O'Boyle added a double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

In Mahopac's 70-29 win over Carmel, senior G Mia Klammer dropped a game-high 16 points. Two up-and-coming guards, Lauren Beberman (13 points), a sophomore, and junior Julie DeBrocky (12 points) also went for double digits. Rookie Morgan Johnson, a player to watch, led the Rams



Carmel F Madelyn McMath puts a block on Mahopac's Mia Klammer in Rams' 70-29 loss to visiting Indians Tuesday.

with 12 points while Shannon Cuccia gave it up in the paint and drew three offensive fouls.

Mahopac followed that up with a 62-19 win over Carmel on senior night when Klammer went for a game-high 12 points and added three steals. DeBrocky and Amanda Beberman each scored nine points in a balanced team effort. Carmel was led by Madelyn McMath's eight points.

SOMERS posted what some considered a surprise win when the youthful Tuskers knocked off a veteran **BREWSTER** club, 47-45. Somers sophomore Ava Giudice dropped a career-high 16 points as the

Tuskers narrowly survived a 10-point fourth-quarter advantage.

Tuskers Lauren McCartin and Alexa Warycha, who will need to take on big roles this season, finished with 11 and 10 points, respectively. The Bears missed a last-ditch attempt to win and were led by Carly DeLanoy's 15 points.

The day prior, Brewster worked a 54-47 win over Somers. The Bears were led by Grace Galgano 17 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks. Alexis Mark and Madison Dakin added 11 points each for the Bears while Amy Lasher scored 21 to pace Somers.

Brewster did everything well Sunday. By halftime, Brewster was on pace for nearly 80 points in its 67-32 win over John Jay CR, taking a 39-11 lead into the break. The Bears worked the ball effectively behind senior F Galgano, who scored 24 points, snagged 11 rebounds and served four blocks. Alexis Mark (20 points, 10 rebounds) added a second double-double for the Bears, who improved to 2-1 on the season.

"Overall, I am very pleased with the start we have had," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "We have a big week coming up with Mahopac and Carmel, so hopefully we can continue to play well."

LEAGUE C

It has become evident early on that this is **OSSINING's** league to win with the ultra-quick emergence of senior swing Tyler Dendy, who scored 30 points, grabbed six rebounds and four steals in the Pride's 79-46 season-opening win over host **LAKELAND**. The Pride had a slew of other contributors, including Katie Marx (19 points, 5 boards), a double-double from Karen Perriott (10 points, 10 rebounds, 4 blocks), Kacie Scarduzio (8 points, 4 assists), Malin



Mahopac C Caitlin O'Boyle drives lane against Carmel F Madelyn McMath in Indians' 70-29 win over host Rams Tuesday.

Turnquist (4 points), another double-double from Tamia Dimmie (3 points, 11 assists, 10 rebounds) and Ede Walker (7 rebounds).

Lakeland was led by Tyler Hormazabal (14 points), Hannah Devane (13 points) and Amanda Cole (10 points). In Wednesday's finale of the home-and-home set, Lakeland hung tough for a half behind Devane's 16 points and Harmazabal's 11, but the balanced Pride ran away in the third quarter for a 79-41 decision. Marx led the way (21 points, 2 rebounds) while Dendy, despite foul trouble, played a well-rounded game (15 points, 8 reb, 5 asst., 6 blocks, 3 steals). Turnquist (10 points), a double-double from Walker (10 points, 12 rebounds, 4 assists) and Scarduzio (6 point, 3 assists, 2 steals) were all big contributors.

In Ossining's 85-68 win over Ardsley later in the week, Dendy scored 31 points (to go with 12 boards), and her triple at the end of

continued on next page



Carmel's Madelyn McMath and Mahopac's Melanie DeMeo engage for rebound in Rams' 70-29 loss to visiting Indians Tuesday.



Mahopac's Mia Klammer charges through Carmel's Shannon Cuccia in Indians' 70-29 win last Tuesday.



Somers' Ava Giudice tries to get around Yorktown's Artesa Gashi in Tuskers' win over Huskers.



Mahopac sophomore G Lauren Beberman goes baseline in win over Carmel.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page

the third gave the Pride a 65-56 lead and all the momentum heading into the fourth.

"I wish I had her for four years," Ossining Coach Dan Ricci said of Dendy. "She is very, very good. She can create her own shot and she creates for others."

Walker was a major force, adding 13 points, a career-high 21 rebounds and seven assists.

Reigning Class A champion **HEN HUD** discovered that scoring will be a whole lot tougher in the post Caitlin Weimar era and lost its season opener to runnerup Harrison, 46-32. Eighth-grader Kaitlyn Raguso had a fine debut, notching a double-double of 12 points and 14 rebounds in the Sailor loss. Hen Hud senior Kira Varada chipped in with 10 points and six steals.

LEAGUE A

BYRAM HILLS (2-0) began its season with a bang with wins over Pelham and **FOX LANE**. The Bobcats bested visiting Pelham 49-37 in their season opener. Beth Corelli (13 points), Grace Corelli (8 points), Olivia Picca (8 points) and Olivia Barry (7 points) helped fill up the stat sheet.

Byram cruised past the host Foxes, 55-37, on Friday afternoon. The high-octane Bobcats built a 34-12 halftime lead behind aggressive pressure defense, transition baskets and deadly perimeter shooting.

"We are focused on pushing the ball on fast breaks," Byram Hills coach Tara Ryan said. "We have speed with playing four guards on the floor and want to take advantage when we get a steal or rebound."

Bobcat Beth Corelli led the way with 19 pounds, five rebounds, four assists and four steals. Picca (11 points, 8 rebounds), Grace Corelli (8 points, 3 steals, 3 assists), and Kylie Blackmar (5 points, 4 rebounds) also contributed to the win.

"Every quarter we are getting stronger as a team and learning to play with each other," Ryan said. "We have 10 girls that can contribute and will be ready to contribute when they are called on. The Corelli sisters are defensive threats and have a special chemistry on offense that you cannot teach. Beth has the experience from playing on varsity for four years. She can shoot and drive from anywhere on the court. Her younger sister, Grace, is ready to step out



Somers and Amy Lasher bounced back from a season opening loss to Brewster by winning three straight.



Byram Hills' Beth Corelli goes up for two over Fox Lane's Cara Drapala in the Bobcats' 55-37 win.

and make herself known this year. We have a three-point threat from our senior Gabby Ripka. Olivia Picca is a rebound machine that can post up or hit a three. Junior Olivia Barry holds down the fort with her strong post play. We have five newcomers that are very talented and continue to fight for playing time on the court. I am excited to see how well we can jell in our short but exciting season."

Fox Lane (1-2) dropped a tough opener to powerhouse Rye (72-31) last Tuesday but bounced back with a thrilling 59-57 win over Yorktown the following day. Natalie Pence lit up the scoreboard with 23 points on the strength of six 3-pointers to spark the Foxes to victory. She also had 10 rebounds, seven assists and four blocks.

"For as long as I've been coaching, back-to-back games were to be avoided at all costs," Fox Lane coach Kris Matts said. "One of the realities of our abbreviated season is that these games are a necessity this year just to get the season in. Still, back-to-back games to start the season with no scrimmages and little practice time is tough, especially when you've been blown out the day before. Luckily for me, the girls just took it in stride and came out absolutely on fire."

Nicole Picinich tallied nine points, seven rebounds, five assists and three steals for the Foxes. Susannah Kimsal (8 points, 6 rebounds), Holly Ades (6 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists) and Quoya Schnell (6 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals) chipped in for the Foxes.

HORACE GREELEY got off to a hot start with a 45-34 win over host Peekskill last Wednesday.

"It's always good to grab a win," Greeley coach Sarah Benischek said. "We have a long way to go which the girls know. We are young this year with a couple of freshmen, a couple of sophomores and three juniors who will get the majority of the minutes. It's exciting to learn



Byram Hills and Olivia Barry were on the fast break all game in a win over Fox Lane and Susannah Kimsal.

and grow together for our future."

Freshman Bella Schulman paced the Quakers with 16 points in her varsity debut. Kaylin Genda added 12 points and nine rebounds. Julia Herzner had four points and seven steals.

"I expect big things from Bella and I hold her to a very high standard," Benischek said. "Her name will be written in ink a lot over the next four years. But it will be a group effort every night. We have kids on this team that won't have fancy stat lines that are putting in a ton of dirty work. As long as they stay together and stay hungry it should be fun the next few years."

Behind 19 points from Emma Rose, the Quakers moved to 2-0 with a 39-38 win over Edgemont on Saturday. Rose connected on five threes while adding nine rebounds and two blocks. Ava Gusba (11



Briarcliff's Jordan Smith looks to score inside while Pleasantville's Ruby Donohue defends in Bears' 62-52 win over visiting Panthers.



Byram Hills' Olivia Picca looks for open teammate as Fox Lane's Quoya Schnell trails in Bobcats' win over host Foxes.

points, 5 rebounds), Schulman (5 points, 8 rebounds) and Genda (9 rebounds) were key contributors in the win.

CONFERENCE III

SOUTH LEAGUE

BRIARCLIFF began its campaign with a 62-52 win over rival **PLEASANTVILLE** last Wednesday. The sophomore trio of Cat Carrafiello (game-high 22 points), Caroline Barbalato (12 points) and Dylan Zednik (10) combined for 44 points. Jordan Smith, the Bears' towering center, added 16 points.

"All three of the sophomores stepped up," said Briarcliff Coach Don Hamlin, whose Bears avenged a late-season loss to Pleasantville last season. "Really, at times, it felt like they had three girls on Jordan. I told them you guys can drive anytime you want. They're really loading up on Jordan, so it should open up for you and it did."

"I think they're going to be a big part of what we're going to do this year," Smith added regarding the sophomore trio.

Briarcliff was clinging to a two-point lead at halftime but erupted in the third quarter, outscoring the Panthers 20-7 to take a 48-33 lead into the final eight minutes.

continued on next page



Briarcliff's Cat Carrafiello, who dropped a game-high 22 points, leads a break while Pleasantville's Jenna McAllister gives chase.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page

"I think it had to do with our transition defense and I take responsibility for that," Pleasantville Coach Dillon Clark said of the third quarter woes. "We had a sequence there where they made two layups and we missed two layups and that's eight points right there."

Jenna McAllister paced Pleasantville with 14 points. Lila Donohue and Mary Grace O'Neill added 10 points apiece.

"It's a disappointing outcome because we're the senior-laden team," Clark said. "But we'll go back to the drawing board and be ready to go. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to play them again."

The Bears held Tina Matica, one of the Panthers' top scorers, to just two points.

"We watched Matica yesterday and I thought she was the best player on the floor against Valhalla," Hamlin said. "We wanted to limit her touches and we did a pretty good job of doing that."

The Bears and Panthers are overjoyed to be playing a season that got a last second green light, starting over two months later than usual.

"I couldn't be more excited that we're getting to play," Hamlin said. "I felt early on in September we were talking and I thought we were going to play. Then October went by and November went by and I'm like, 'Oh, my God.' And we lost December and I was thinking maybe not. We were actually doing virtual workouts but nothing with a basketball obviously. We were just trying to stay in some kind of shape. Then Gov. (Andrew) Cuomo gave us his blessing and let us play."

"I told them before the game that we're blessed to be able to play. But whenever you do something you should do the best you can. If they try the best they can and appreciate the fact that they get to play, then that's our goal. Just try to have some fun and no matter what you do you want to be your best."

Carrafiello continued her scoring surge with a game-high 27 points in a 69-44 Blind Brook on Saturday. Smith (7 rebounds) and Barbalato added 14 points a piece.

"We know we lost a lot of our starters from last year," Smith said. "I think a big



Briarcliff's Caroline Barbalato attacks the rim while Pleasantville's Abby McAllister defends in the Bears' 62-52 win.



Pleasantville's Julia O'Reilly tries to steal the ball from the Briarcliff's Dylan Zednik in Panthers 62-52 loss to host Bears.

thing for us is to play for each other. Most of us have been playing together since I was in the sixth grade. We're just lucky to have a season this year so we want to make it count."

WESTLAKE pulled off a stunning 59-45 win over host Briarcliff (2-1) on Sunday morning behind 22 points from Nicole Karaqi, who consistently attacked the basket and finished at the rim.

"It was a very big win for our team today," Westlake coach Sean Mayer said. "We have a tough start to the season with the first three games against Pleasantville and Briarcliff. Coming off our loss yesterday there were some things we discussed that we needed to do better. We need to make shots in all four quarters and we did that vs. Briarcliff. We played with some intense defense today that helped us keep a lead. I was very proud of the way the girls started the game and the way they kept it up."

The Wildcats held a 28-22 lead at halftime and extended the lead to 45-32 behind a strong third quarter.

"At halftime, we discussed that it was a

great first half but we needed to keep up the momentum in the second half," Mayer said.

Julie Lyden and Allie Castellone notched 10 points apiece for the Wildcats, who had eight of nine players score. Carrafiello led the Bears with 12 points.

Pleasantville (2-1) cruised past visiting Westlake 65-49 on Saturday behind 15 points each from Matica and O'Neill. Castellone paced the Wildcats (1-1) with 16 points and Karaqi added 15.

The Panthers opened the season with a 59-32 rout of visiting **VALHALLA** on Tuesday. Matica (13 points) and O'Neill (10 points) sparked Pleasantville. Tvisha Sivaramakrishnan led the Vikings with eight points.

"We're going to try to win every game that we play," Clark said. "Not from a bragging standpoint, but we have girls that've been on the team for four or five years. We've been sort of building toward this season as a program. Our schedule is tough and we wouldn't want it any other way."

Valhalla dropped to 0-2 with a 47-30 loss to Rye Neck on Saturday.

NORTH LEAGUE

Class C **HALDANE** took down Class A **PEEKSKILL**, 48-33, overcoming a 10-point deficit to do so. Marisa Scanga hit her first of two three pointers to swing the momentum

back in Haldane's favor, and Molly Siegel added a clutch and-one play to help reverse course. Blue Devils Maddie Chiera (20 points, 7 rebounds, 6 steals, 2 assists), Ruby Poses (8 points) and Amanda Johanson (6 rebounds) had major impacts while Bethani Overby scored a team-high 17 points for the Red Devs.

Haldane did not respond as well in a 37-30 loss to North Salem despite solid efforts from Chiera (10 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals), Johanson (8 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals), Poses (7 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals) and Mairead O'Hara (4 blocks, 2 steals).



Pleasantville's Mary Grace O'Neill gets off a tough shot over Briarcliff's Jordan Smith in Panthers' 62-52 loss to host Bears.



Yorktown senior F Ashley Zeola gets an easy two in Huskers' 54-32 win over visiting Lakeland on Senior Night last Saturday.



Yorktown G Olivia Lucas beats a triple team to get off a runner in Huskers' 54-32 win over visiting Lakeland Saturday.



Lakeland G Tyler Hormazabal has supplied the Hornets a bright spot despite losing 52-38 to host Yorktown Saturday.

BYSNS Herd Grazes in Win over White Plains; 'Pac Erupts on Fox Lane

By Rob DiAntonio

The **BYSNS** started off the ice-hockey season with an 8-7 statement win over visiting **WHITE PLAINS** on their senior night on Sunday at Brewster Ice Arena.

Jonathan Graham netted the go-ahead goal for the Herd with 2:37 left in the game to put the **BYSNS** up 7-6 with the assist coming from Timmy Froessel and Connor Brooks. Froessel provided a necessary insurance goal just 40 seconds later on a power play.

The Tigers got a late goal from John Myers with 23 ticks on the clock but it was too little, too late.

Froessel and Graham had two goals each for the **BYSNS** (1-0). Matt Gergley stood on his head in net, recording 40 saves for the Herd.

Daniel Cardozo, a one-man breakaway, paced White Plains (0-1) with three goals. Myers (2A) and Jack Chetti tallied two goals apiece while Myers established the all-time school record for assists.

HORACE GREELEY and **CORTLANDT** faced off twice last weekend with the Quakers earning a 5-4 win in the first meeting on Saturday.



Carmel 's Luke Galisano and Brendan Murphy celly a Ram goal in 9-3 loss to John Jay CR Sunday at BIA.

Jacob Rothman paced Greeley with two goals while Joe Jimenez sparked Cortlandt with two tallies. Jack Tuite had a goal and two assists for the Rebels.

Quaker goalie Ben Madden made 27 saves while his counterpart Aaron Hathaway of Cortlandt stopped 26 shots.

Cortlandt (1-1) returned the favor with a 4-3 win over Greeley (1-2) the following evening.

After Greeley received goals from Ilan Laurence and Ben Cohen to tie the contest up at 3-3, Jimenez scored the game-winning goal for Cortlandt with 3:41 to play.

Andrew Dzubak sparked the Rebels with three goals. Nick Mele made 43 saves for Cortlandt while Greeley's Arye Wolberg stopped 29 shots.

The Quakers opened the season with a 10-4 road loss to perennial power Suffern. Cohen scored three goals while



Carmel F Luke Galisano pushes up ice in Sunday's 9-3 loss to John Jay CR.



Mahopac's Ryan Caraher, who tallied five goals and three assists in 14-4 rout of Fox Lane, skates past the Foxes' Sheldon Rothfleisch.



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

White Plains' John Myers set school record for career assists in 8-7 loss to **BYSNS** Sunday.

Rothman had a goal and two assists. Dylan Mutkoski and Gabe Adams notched two assists apiece. Madden made 30 saves.

MAHOPAC erupted for 10 third-period goals to cruise past **FOX LANE** 14-4 on Sunday night. It was the Indians' senior night and the season opener for both teams.

For Mahopac, senior captain Ryan Caraher was en fuego, tallying five goals and three assists. Senior captain Nick Biagini (4 goals, 2 assists) and junior captain Matt Luczkowski (3 goals, 2 assists) also had big

nights. Jonny Martirano added two goals and two assists. Goalie Mike Horan made 31 saves.

Charlie Della Penna (2 goals) and Dan Leader (1 goal, 2 assists) led the Foxes. Nick Pierce made 30 saves in net.

CARMEL dropped its opener 9-3 to John Jay-Cross River on Sunday night. Brendan Murphy notched a goal and an assist while Luke Golisano dished out two assists. Nico Positano recorded 26 saves.



Brien Suchanek of the **BYSNS** looks to make his move while White Plains' Trent Munch looks to slow him down in Herd's 8-7 win over Tigers Sunday.

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Mike Newman

Recreation Supervisor

48 Marble Ave Pleasantville, NY 10570

914-769-7950

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Mahopac G Julia Paolicelli takes it to the rack against strong defense from Carmel's Morgan Johnson (12) and Maeve McGlynn in visiting Indians' 70-29 win over the Rams last Tuesday, which Mahopac followed up with a 62-19 Senior Night win Thursday (inset photo) over the visiting Rams before taking an 83-54 victory over John Jay East Fishkill Saturday to improve to 3-0... see Girls' Hoops Notebook