

Examiner Sports

Oliver Twists!

Undefeated Fox Lane Eyeing League A Title



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO

Fox Lane senior F Oliver Shevick glides in for a shot in last Tuesday's 53-37 win over visiting Byram Hills, which had a tough time containing Shevick, who finished with 11 points, three assists, six rebounds and four steals while the front-running Foxes (7-0, 4-0) remained undefeated and first in League A action.

Briaccliff, Fox Lane Look Good as League Title Chases Fire Up

Mahopac, Yorktown Split; Haldane Shredding Foes; Lakeland Nips Panas; Hen Hud Strong

By Ray Gallagher
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It was beginning to look like the league title chases were shaping up as a one-horse race in Conference I-II Leagues A, B and C, until **YORKTOWN** stepped up bigtime in Saturday's 48-46 LEAGUE B win over **MAHOPAC**, which was in firm control before the loss, having handed Yorktown a 51-29 thrashing in the opener of the home-and-home set on Thursday. Mahopac had been setting the tone in League B, but the Indians (5-1, 4-1) opened the door for the Huskers (4-2, 3-1) for a fight to the finish. Meanwhile, **CARMEL**, **SOMERS** and **BREWSTER** are falling short of seriously challenging, but could play a legit spoiler role should they relish the chance as Mahopac and Yorktown are done duking it out.

"I am happy for the boys that they have put themselves in a position to compete for the league title," Mahopac Coach Tom McMahon said. "That was a goal of ours and has been a focus of ours since the start of the season, but this league is too tough to look past anyone, so we're not even thinking about the regional tournament."

The regional tournament breakdowns, which will be released this week by the Section 1 Executive Committee, will run from March 10-14.

Give Yorktown a ton of credit for getting off the carpet after Thursday's 29-point debacle, in which Mahopac threw the kitchen sink at Husker junior C Eddie Brucaj, who the Indians held to seven points. The big fella' responded in kind in the finale with a



Fox Lane's Charles Shevick drives on Byram's Brady Karp in Foxes' win over Bobcats.

game-high 17 points and eight rebounds to pace the vengeful Huskers. Yorktown's Jared Faivre (13 points), Tony Granitto (4 points, 8 rebounds) and Jack Prybylski (7 points) were impactful. Granitto contests every shot and goes for every rebound. Give me five grunts like him.

Mahopac was paced by Miles Buckley (14 points), Ryan Reilly and John Cosentino, who each had nine. Yorktown made the adjustments it needed to make, according to McMahon.

"They made plays and shots and we didn't," he admitted. "Mark (Pavella) is such an excellent coach. He really had a great

game plan."

In the win over Yorktown, the Indians were led by senior G Vin Bastone (13 points), Michael Callahan (12) and Patrick McMahon (11).

Carmel had what first-year Coach Brandon Johanson hopes to be a statement win in the Rams' 69-61 win over struggling Brewster.

"It was a solid all-around team effort for us," Johanson said. We had four players in double figures and knocked down 11 threes in the contest. We're heading in the right direction after four solid performances this week."

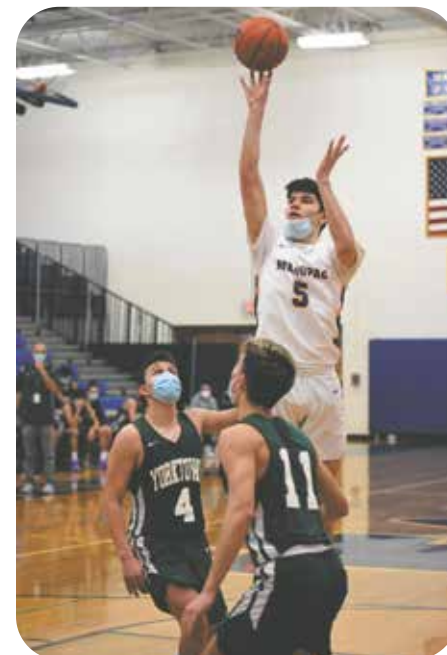
Carmel junior swingman Trevor Cayea (12 points, 3 3's, 6 rebounds, 6 assists) had the best game of his career. Kevin Dall (14 points, 7 rebounds), Andrew Fiore (12 points, 3 3's, 3 rebounds), Nick DiLeo (11 points, 7 rebounds) all went for double digits. Brewster's Steve Switzer and Griffin each scored a dozen in the loss while Kobey Hart added 11.

Somers won its second in a row behind a 60-55 win over Lakeland. Tusker sophomore Matt Fitzsimons paced Somers with 23 points while junior Bennett Leitner added 20, so the future may be bright. David Mula led Lakeland with a career-high 25 points and Aidan Welcome added 15.

Somers also took an 81-56 win over Carmel when Leitner and Fitzsimons led the scoring with 25 and 24, respectively.

LEAGUE A

FOX LANE is running off with the League A crown with very little resistance coming from defending Section 1 Class AA



Mahopac's Myles Buckley gets clean look at hoop in Indians' 51-29 win over visiting Yorktown Thursday.

champion **HORACE GREELEY, BYRAM HILLS** or John Jay CR. The Foxes (7-0, 4-0) are clearly the team to beat, unopposed to this point.

"We are off to a nice start," Fox Lane boss Mike Tomassi said. "The boys have been playing hard and playing team-first basketball. We are very balanced offensively and it has really helped us this season. We need to continue to improve every day, in

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Mahopac junior F Colum Ranaghan skies for two against defense of Yorktown's Sam Pincus in Indians' 51-29 win over Huskers Thursday.



Mahopac junior F Ryan Reilly has inside track on Yorktown junior C Eddie Brucaj in Indians' 51-29 win over Huskers.



Mahopac G John Cosentino splits a pair of Yorktown defenders, Jack Prybylski (23) and Sam Pincus, in Indians' 51-29 win over visiting Huskers.

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order to put ourselves in position to win a regional championship."

FOX LANE is the the only other unbeaten team besides Briarcliff and Haldane in The Examiner region, boasting a 7-0 record of its own with three victories last week.

The Foxes posted a 53-37 league win over visiting **BYRAM HILLS** on senior night last Tuesday. Byram led 12-10 after one quarter but Fox Lane gained control of the contest in the second, racing ahead to a 28-17 halftime lead behind potent perimeter shooting and strong post play from James DiBiasi.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game," Tomassi said. "They came out fired up and we took a couple minutes to match their intensity. It was our senior night and I think once we got into a flow on the offensive end, we began to hit some shots."

Oliver Shevick (11 points, 6 rebounds, 4 steals), DiBiasi (11 points, 11 rebounds), Aidan Hicks (13 points, 5 assists), Charlie Shevick (10 points, 4 assists) and Aidan Giannelli (8 points, 7 rebounds) paced the Foxes.

"Byram is always well coached and they are a great program," Tomassi said. "We settled down and started moving the ball and it really opened things up for us. Our defense was sound once again."

Fox Lane then picked up two league victories over John Jay-Cross River. In a 61-48 home win on Thursday, Oliver Shevick (15 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists), Giannelli (13 points), Charlie Shevick (12 points) and Hicks (10 points) stuffed the stat sheet.

The Foxes made quick work of the Wolves in the rematch, handily defeating them by a 63-35 margin on Saturday. Charlie Shevick paced the attack with 18 points and four assists. Oliver Shevick (12 points, 4 assists, 7 rebounds), Giannelli (11 points, 5 rebounds) and DiBiasi (7 points, 7 rebounds) also chipped in.

Byram Hills (3-2) bounced back from the loss to the Foxes with a pair of league wins over **HORACE GREELEY**. Matteo Sinon's 20 points along with Bobby Chicoine's 12 points and 22 rebounds sparked the Bobcats to a 61-46 road win over the Quakers on Thursday. Brady Karp notched 11 points for Byram while Connor Melis netted a team-



Yorktown sophomore G Antoine Coles takes a run at Mahopac junior G Michael Callahan in Huskers' 51-29 loss to host Indians Thursday.



Mahopac senior G Vin Bastone is met by two Bears, Jason Borsari and Kobey Hart, in Indians' win over visiting Brewster Tuesday.

high 12 points for Greeley.

The league rivals met again two days later on Byram's senior night with the Bobcats securing a 50-40 victory behind 16 points from Sinon and 14 from Karp. Melis led the Quakers again with 17 points while Owen Parsons chipped in with nine points.

Greeley (0-5) dropped a tight 52-50 contest with John Jay-Cross River on Tuesday and fell in another nail-biter, 37-35, to North Rockland the next day. Dylan Anderson sparked the Quakers with 17 points against North Rockland.

LEAGUE C

Once-beaten **HEN HUD** is off to one of the strongest starts in program history and can lock down the League C title by taking one of its last two league games against **WALTER PANAS** (2x). **OSSINING**, which suffered a 65-58 setback to the front-running Sailors Thursday (in what was the Pride's first game of the season due to quarantine), and had another loss to **PEEKSKILL** Friday, has played just three league games and could battle fatigue with the expected backlog of games this week. Panas was in the thick of the race, but Saturday's loss to Lakeland really hurt their chances. In the end, the Sailors control their own destiny behind junior G Nick Hiltsey, who has emerged into one of the finest guards in the section north of White Plains. Only **LAKELAND** and Peekskill have been eliminated from League C title contention, which could be decided by early next week (if Hen Hud knocks off Panas Monday).

Coach Jordan Hirsch's Sailors picked a bad time for their first loss of the season, a 68-65 setback to Ossining. Nobody

expected the Sailors to waltz through this league undefeated, and Ossining eighth-grader Kristian Banwareesingh -- a dude to keep eyes on -- made sure of that when he dropped a career-high 23 on the Sailors. The upstart swingman is making long term bones and setting a new bar at Ossining, should he stick and stay.

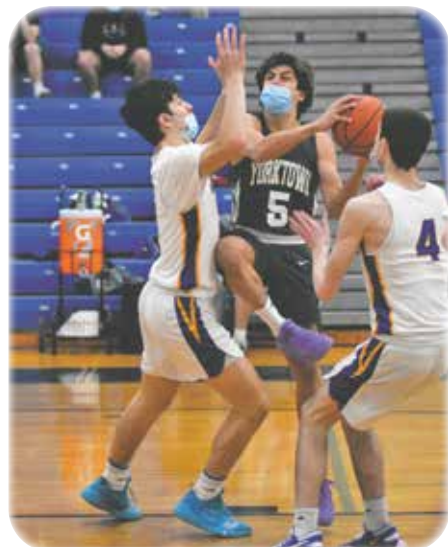
"Kristian has been unreal," Ossining Coach Mike Casey said. "Our first goal is a league title but we can't lose another game."

Khy'leil Hawkins (20 points, 3 boards, 4 assists) and Chris Acosta (7 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists) were there for the Pride, who avenged an earlier loss to the Sailors, who saw Nick Hiltsey go for 24 points, Rocco Capicotti drop 18 and Dean Hiltsey add 12. Nick Hiltsey was almost

unguardable in the Sailors' win over the Pride, when he went for 32 points and dominated all facets. He also went for 28 in a 54-47 win over Lakeland.

Don't sleep on Ossining. The Pride are behind the eight ball after a quarantine, but Banwareesingh has dropped 17, 21 and 23 in his first three games and drained 6-of-7 from downtown against Hen Hud. Plus, junior point guard Jaeden Carr returns to the lineup Tuesday against Peekskill, which is a shot in the arm for a team seeking a leader, so sleep on the Pride at your own peril as regionals creep up.

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Yorktown junior G Dave Dippolito tries to split defense of Mahopac's Myles Buckley (L) and Colum Ranaghan in Huskers' 51-29 loss to host Indians.



Lakeland senior Rob Nardelli drives lane on Panas senior Rob Simmonds in Hornets' Giglio Games win over visiting Panthers Saturday.



Lakeland senior Aidan Welcome gets into key against Panas senior Rob Simmonds in Hornets' Giglio Games win over visiting Panthers Saturday.

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Panas (4-3 overall, 2-2 league) was awfully careless with the ball in its 55-50 loss to host Lakeland in Saturday's Giglio Games. Poor shot selection, and inferior entry-passing by Panas allowed Lakeland its first win of the season behind senior Rob Nardelli's team-high 16 points, seven rebounds and two steals. Lakeland F Aidan Welcome (11 points, 7 rebounds, 5 steals), G Mark Cummins (8 points) and good-looking sophomore Logan Shiland (6 points, 9 rebounds) were solid contributors.

After a really strong start, the Panthers have shown some inconsistency of late, but they did get a solid effort from sophomore G Alex Tavaréz, who dazzled behind a game-high 25 points, six boards, five assists and



Somers' Ben Germaine grabs a rebound in front of Lakeland's Reed Thompson in Tuskers' 60-55 win over visiting Hornets.



Somers' T.J. Olifiers looks to pass while Lakeland's Aidan Welcome defends in Tuskers' 60-55 win over visiting Hornets.

three steals. Panas senior F Caleb Evans went for 19 points and seven rebounds.

LEAGUE D

WHITE PLAINS (3-1) played just one game last week with two of their contests cancelled. The Tigers cruised to a 73-41 win over visiting Spring Valley on Tuesday.

The Tigers jumped out to a 29-14 halftime lead and had four players in double figures in scoring. Mekhi Woodbury (19 points), Joe Carrier (17 points), Menzy Cardin (16 points) and Tymir Greene (13 points) paced the attack. White Plains was unconscious from beyond the arc, connecting on nine 3-pointers.

CONFERENCE III

CENTRAL LEAGUE

The Central League is where the action should/could remain fierce based on its history of closes contests and upsets, but **BRIARCLIFF** is the favorites to hold off **PLEASANTVILLE**, **WESTLAKE**, **VALHALLA**, Rye Neck and Blind Brook, though the Wildcats are breathing down the Bears' necks. Briarcliff is 6-0 in league with one league game left with Westlake. Westlake is 4-1 in the league. If the Wildcats beat Rye Neck Tuesday and upset Briarcliff on Wednesday they both could end up 6-1 and share the league banner, what would be the Wildcats' first league title divvy since 1991.

BRIARCLIFF continued to roll last week, winning four games to improve its unbeaten record to 7-0.

"Our motto this year is, 'Today's not cancelled,'" Briarcliff coach Nick Friedman said. "One of the silver linings of the pandemic is it reminds us how much we have to be grateful for. In turn, it makes us more willing to never take a possession off. We are grateful for every minute and the guys have certainly taken to heart not wasting what little time we get in a short season."

Jayden Larregue paced the Bears with 13 points and the team used a dominant defensive effort to pull out a 43-24 league win over host Blind Brook last Tuesday. Briarcliff has been using its length, athleticism, defensive intensity and scoring prowess to send opponents into submission.

Briarcliff then had back-to-back league games with **VALHALLA**, who knocked the Bears out of the playoffs in the quarterfinals last season on their way to becoming a section finalist in Class B.

In the first meeting, Briarcliff built a 20-point halftime lead and cruised to a 73-48 victory over the visiting Vikings last Wednesday. Larregue (19 points), Elliot Jones (17 points) and Aidan Murnane (13 points) spearheaded the Bears' offense.

"The reason we were able to build a lead in the second quarter was we strung together some stops and stuck better to our defensive principles," Friedman said. "When we do that, we can miss a couple of shots in a row, which is going to happen, and still put up a great quarter. That was the difference between quarters one and two."

Rashean Melvin and Mahari Davis tallied 12 points each for Valhalla. Briarcliff's second meeting with Valhalla wasn't nearly as easy. Briarcliff held a 41-22 lead in the



Fox Lane's Aidan Hicks takes a short jumper in win over Byram Hills.

third quarter but the Vikings stormed back, holding the Bears to just four points the rest of the way. The visiting Bears, however, were able to hold on in the 45-43 win on Friday.

Larregue led Briarcliff with a game-high 15 points. Luke McCann and Jones notched eight points apiece. Davis (11 points) and Melvin (9 points) sparked the Vikings.

The Bears concluded their busy week with a 64-56 victory over visiting North Salem on Saturday. Seniors Brett Lachtman (17 points), Jacob Zedzik (13 points) and Murnane (11 points) led the way.

Valhalla (3-2) started the week with a 66-39 win over Rye Neck behind 14 points from Joe O'Neil and 12 points and 12 rebounds from Melvin. Devan Cooper added 11 points.

The Vikings recorded a 51-37 senior day win over **PLEASANTVILLE** on Saturday. Justin Cronk led the Panthers with nine points.



Byram's Tyson Repa fires a corner three while Foxes' Aidan Giannelli rushes to contest in Bobcats' loss to Foxes.



Byram's Matt Weiler soars in for a shot while Fox Lane's James DiBiasi defends in Bobcats' loss to streaking Foxes.

Daniel Picart finished on a layup with 1.1 seconds to go to propel Pleasantville to a 42-40 win over Rye Neck last Wednesday. It was Pleasantville's first win of the season. Picart paced the Panthers with 13 points while Cronk added 12 points.

Dom Matica (14 points), Nick Bates (12 points) and Cronk (11 points) sparked Pleasantville in a 56-35 win over Pawling the next day.

Pleasantville (3-4) won its third straight game on Friday, defeating Rye Neck 49-43 behind 14 points from Cronk and 13 from Picart. Matica added 11 points. The Panthers began their week with a 57-38 loss to **WESTLAKE** on Tuesday. Justin Silva and Evan O'Brien led the Wildcats with 11 points each while Carter Falkenberg netted 10 points. Picart had 11 points for Pleasantville with Massimo Stinziani notching nine points.

Behind 21 points apiece from Falkenberg and O'Brien, Westlake (5-1) defeated league opponent Blind Brook 58-47 on Wednesday.

The Wildcats matched up with Blind Brook again two nights later, cruising to a 56-33 senior night win. Silva tallied 18 points with Falkenberg adding 12 points.

"The key behind our success so far is our defensive chemistry and energy," said Falkenberg, a senior guard. "We have a lot of seniors that have been playing together for a while and we flow together very well, especially defensively. We have barely had any practice so I think our pre-existing chemistry was really important."

Wildcats coach Chad Charney echoed Falkenberg's sentiments.

"The overall key to the strong start has to be veteran leadership and having many returners that know the system," Charney said. "Our expectations and goals are the same every year, which is to win a league and sectional title. It looks like the regional format will be the goal for this year."

Westlake capped off an impressive week with a 53-44 win over Palisade Prep on Saturday. Falkenberg led the way with 22 points and 12 boards. Jack Neglia and Hamad Azhar added nine points each.

"To put it simply, our goal is to keep winning," Falkenberg said. "We don't want

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Briarcliff's Brett Lachtman takes a three from the wing over Valhalla's James McAndrew in Bears' win over visiting Vikings.

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to settle for anything less than that."

NORTH LEAGUE

It's not much different Conference III North League where **HALDANE** has already locked up a league title. The undefeated Blue Devils (9-0, 5-0) have yet to be seriously challenged in a league game

by **PUTNAM VALLEY, CROTON**, North Salem or Pawling, much less lose a game. Coach Joe Virgadamo's Blue Devils have shredded the competition, including Saturday's 69-38 rout of Pawling. Matteo Cervone (career-high 24 points), Daniel Santos (15) and Soren Holmbo (9) paced the Blue Devs. In Haldane's 68-47 win over Croton, Cervone (16), Holmbo (13), Ryan Irwin (12) and Santos (7) led a blanch attack. Haldane is doing all of this without junior Robert Viggiano, who will open some eyes in 2022. Haldane will get a legit test this week from reigning Class C champion Hamilton, which will tell us all we need to know about the Blue Devils actually challenging for the regional title in two weeks. Coach Al Morales saw his PV club post its first two wins of the season last week, including an 81-37 romp of Woodlands behind 22 points apiece from junior G Cole Durocher and senior G Ethan Mournier. Junior G Doug "Knock 'em Down" Brown added a career-high 11 for Putnam Valley. Durocher followed that effort up with a career-high 31 points in a 56-52 win over **CROTON**. PV also suffered a 70-59 loss to Dobbs Ferry behind a team-high 13 from Aurthur Holzman and 12 from Brown.

CHSAA

STEPINAC opened up its season with a 56-47 win over rival Iona Prep on the road on Friday night. It was the first game in a best of seven series between the teams. Boogie Fland (13 points), Joel Baez (11 points, 5 rebounds), Sam Gibbs (9 points, 11 rebounds, 3 steals) and Malcolm Chimezie (7 points, 6 rebounds) led the Crusaders to the win.



Briarcliff's Jayden Larregue puts up a floater over Valhalla's Rashsean Melvin in one of two Bears' wins over Vikings last week.



Valhalla's Mahari Davis grabs a board over Briarcliff's Ben Siegel in Vikings' loss to host Bears.



Briarcliff's Aidan Murnane attacks the basket as Valhalla's James McAndrew defends in Bears' 73-48 win over the visiting Vikings.



Valhalla's Rahsean Melvin looks to drive while Briarcliff's Luke McCann hopes to slow him down in Viking loss to host Bears.

Class AA Mahopac, Class B Pleasantville Grooving, Improving

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays
& Rob DiAntonio @RJD_Photos

Class AA **MAHOPAC** is looking like the team to beat when it comes to a Conference I-II League B title, which Coach Chuck Scozzafava's undefeated Indians have essentially sewn up, and the the next chip on their plate might be the Putnam/Northern Westchester Large School regional title in the days ahead.

The Indians have made short work of their competition thus far, and **BREWSTER** serves as the primary obstacle standing between Mahopac and the league title after the undefeated Indians continued their onslaught last week. The Indians and Bears will have at it this week with the league title on the line.

In Conference III, **PLEASANTVILLE** went toe-to-toe with two of the finest programs in Section 1 last week and came out on top of former nine-time defending Class AA champion **OSSINING** and reigning Class B champion **PUTNAM VALLEY**, emerging as a legit small school regional title contender.

Let's get into it as we await the regional tournament breakdowns, which will be released this week by the Section 1 Executive Committee, and will run from March 10-14.

CONFERENCE I-II

LEAGUE B

In Mahopac's 58-49 win over visiting Yorktown Saturday, Indian wing Julie DeBrocky, a quiet assassin, had 17 points for the unbeaten Indians (6-0), who won for the sixth consecutive time. Indian senior Caitlyn O'Boyle added a double-double, going for 14 points and 12 rebounds while ball-hawking senior Mia Klammer finished with 13 points and eight steals. Mahopac sophomore G Lauren Beberman added 10 points and six assists. Olivia Lucas and Melissa Severino scored 14 points apiece for the Huskers,



Lakeland G Tyler Hormazabal was a two-way force in Hornets' 41-36 win over Panthers Saturday at Giglio Games.



Lakeland's Nichole Ljuljic (L) and Sarah Pinkowski put the hammer down on Panas F Kelsey Cregan in Hornets' 41-36 win over Panthers Saturday at Giglio Games.

who played much better than they did in a previous 67-25 demolishing at the hands of Mahopac, mostly on account of Severino's 14 points, six rebounds, four assists and two steals.

"I couldn't be happier with our effort today, just 42 hours after losing to Mahopac by 42 points, we lost by nine to them," Yorktown Coach Brian Mundy said. "We never say die in this group."

Mahopac junior Julie DeBrocky led the way with 17 points and sophomore Lauren Beberman dished six assists.

It was all Mahopac in the first go-round with Yorktown. DeBrocky (15 points), O'Boyle (another double-double 12 points, 10 rebounds) and Kristina Rush (11 points) led the Indians.

BREWSTER is the one team possibly



Expect bright futures for Panas 8th-grader Cadence Nicholas (L) and Lakeland 8th-grader Sarah Devane, who squared off in Panthers' 41-36 loss to Hornets.



Lakeland players and coaches pose with ceremonial gold ball after beating rival Panas 41-36 in annual Giglio Games Saturday.

standing between Mahopac and the League B title after the Bears continue to mash. Brewster went 2-1 last week improving its record to 4-2 on the season. Last Tuesday, though, Mahopac sent a message in 60-38 win, blowing the Bears out in the second half.

"We played a really physical game against a loaded Mahopac team," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "We were only down five at half and we were right where we needed to be. But Mahopac had a big run to start the third and they never looked back."

Brewster was led by Grace Galgano (14 points, 11 rebounds, 5 blocks) and Alexis Mark (14 points, 7 rebounds).

Galgano has been a one-girl-wrecking-crew of late, averaging 16 points, 13 boards and three blocks over the last three games, including a pair of wins over CARMEL, 50-23 and 63-40.

"We did a great job of turning them over and took a 34-9 lead at half," Castaldo said.

Mark led Brewster with 10 points and eight rebounds while Galgano added five points and 20 rebounds (only the 2nd Bear to do that since Frannie Merkel, 2016). For the week, Galgano averaged 16 points, 13 boards and four blocks.

In the 2nd game against Carmel it was a much different story.

"Carmel came out and definitely played a better first half," Castaldo said. "They were making shots, broke our press and had more energy."

Luckily, Brewster still took a five-point lead at half (30-25), mainly because senior F Grace Galgano was having her way (20 first-half points).

"Grace was unguardable in the first half," Castaldo said. "She scored inside, she was hitting 3s and getting to the line."

Brewster's Alexis Mark had a great second half, scoring 12 of her 16 points while cashing in on the boards (10 rebounds).

"Lex was playing really tough defense down low," Castaldo said. "Lex has been so steady for us all year and I was really proud of the second half she had."

Galgano led Brewster with 28 points, 13 rebounds and three blocks. Morgan Johnson scored 20 for the Rams, who had a 17-15 lead after the first quarter.

LEAGUE A

FOX LANE had a busy week that started off with a 59-30 rout of host Eastchester on Tuesday.

"When we scheduled Eastchester, we really didn't know what to expect," Fox Lane coach Kris Matts admitted. "When we got there, we saw what we were afraid of: another height advantage. Keeping opposing teams off the offensive glass and stopping our shot from being swatted has been a tough task for my diminutive squad. In the first half, it seemed like it would be another tough day at the office for the bottom of our zone, as bigger Eastchester forwards missed, got their own rebound and missed again before putting the ball in the hole. Unlike previous games, however, we were on fire offensively."

Natalie Pence led the Foxes with 15 points, 11 rebounds, three steals and three blocks. Quoya Schnell had 14 points, seven rebounds and two steals. Holly Ades tallied 11 points, six rebounds, four assists and sunk a buzzer beater from half court.

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Lakeland's Amanda Cole (11) and Panas' Kelsey Cregan battle for rebound in Hornets' 41-36 win over Panthers Saturday at Giglio Games.

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"Natalie came out of the game hot but Eastchester adjusted by going to a box-and-one," Matts said. "Unfortunately for them, that left Quoya, Holly and Susannah (Kimsal) open. In the second half, Eastchester switched to a man-to-man, which made it difficult to contain Natalie, who managed to get the whole team in on the act as well, making the extra pass and setting hard screens for easy buckets."

Kimsal (8 points, 3 steals), Cara Drapala (5 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals), Nicole Picinich (4 points, 5 rebounds, "amazing tenacity and defense") and Ibbly Moccia (2 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals, "tough as nails") all contributed.

"If we keep improving on each facet of the game that has been giving us trouble, we should see better and better results despite limited practice time," Matts said. "With the girls working as hard as they are, I'm confident that improvement will continue."

Pence poured in a game-high 28 points in a 61-46 league win over host John Jay-Cross River on Wednesday. She added 12 rebounds, six steals, six assists and three blocks.

"She was determined to win," Matts said of Pence. "When John Jay tried to pressure her outside shot, she drove to the basket. When they backed off, she drilled shots from everywhere on the court. And when they doubled her, she found her teammates for open looks. It was a phenomenal performance."

Ades (11 points, 3 steals), Moccia (8 points, 9 rebounds), Picinich (7 points, 10 rebounds, 3 steals) and Schnell (4 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals) chipped in for the Foxes in a whistle-heavy game where 35 total fouls were called with 20 fouls called on Fox Lane.

"Having only seven players at your disposal, you need to adjust the way you play," Matts said. "The girls need timeouts for rest, regular subs and a defense that can help them stay out of foul trouble. So far, that has worked out pretty well. Against John Jay, it was a disaster. We were in foul trouble halfway through the first quarter, which is remarkable considering we stay back in a half court zone...This was a very tough situation and the girls needed to rally together. They did that and more, and I couldn't be prouder of them."

On their senior day, the host Foxes won their third straight game by topping the John Jay Wolves again, 61-52. Pence, a senior, filled up the stat sheet, tallying 18 points, 13 rebounds, seven blocks and six assists. Drapala (13 points) and Schnell (7 points, 8 rebounds) also helped propel them to Saturday's win.

Fox Lane fell to host Lakeland 60-52 on Sunday to drop to 4-3 overall.

HORACE GREELEY lost to John Jay-Cross River 63-56 last Tuesday. Bella Schulman (18 points, 6 rebounds) and Emma Rose (12 points, 5 rebounds) paced the Quakers.

The Quakers (2-2) dropped their second straight game in a 39-32 setback to host Bronxville on Friday. Julia Herzner (12 points) and Ava Gusba (8 points) led the team.

LEAGUE C

LAKELAND survived a 41-36 win over
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Panas G Kristen Cinquina looks to gain step on Lakeland's Tyler Hormazabal in Panthers' 41-36 loss to Hornets.



Mahopac junior G Melanie DeMeo has been a spark plug for the undefeated Indians.



Ossining senior G Tyler Dendy notched an impressive triple-double (38 points, 12 rebounds, 10 steals) in Pride's 92-54 win over Hen Hud Thursday.



Ossining senior G Kacie Scarduzio has done a little bit of everything for the Pride.

RAY GALLAGHER/ROB DIANTONIO/JEN SCARDUZZIO/JACK CATLIN/JAMES CAMPBELL JR. PHOTOS

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visiting **WALTER PANAS** Saturday behind senior F Amanda Cole's double-double (14 points, 10 rebounds) to win the coveted Giglio Gold Ball. Lakeland G Tyler Hormazabal and F Hannah Devane added 11 points apiece. Panas F Kelsey Cregan finished with 13 tough points in the paint. Lakeland got by despite some inconsistencies on the glass.

"Rebounding has been a huge focus for us every game," Hornet Coach Miranda Mangan said. "Luckily, we were able to get by against a good Panas team. Of course, the win was huge for the girls. It's always nice to get a win against Panas, but it's even more exciting when it's the Giglio Games. It's been a few years since we've won and is definitely the highlight of the season so far. We had a slow start but the girls are really playing together now."

"We shot poorly and Lakeland played great defense," Panas boss Matt Evangelista said.

Hormazabal helped the Hornets in what became a joyous weekend, getting 16 points in a 60-52 win over Fox Lane Sunday. Hannah Devane posted a double-double (13 points, 10 rebounds) while Nichole Ljubic added 13 points and six rebounds. Cole added 10 points.

Panas recovered nicely in Sunday's 48-43 win over host **SOMERS** when Kristen Cinquina chipped in 10 points and Cregan added nine. Somers sophomore Ava Giudice posted career-highs in points (19) and boards (9).

OSSINING rebounded from a surprising loss to Pleasantville with an 85-47 win over **HEN HUD** when senior G Tyler Dendy dropped 36 points and yanked 10 rebounds for the Pride. Ede Walker added a career-high 28 points for the Pride. Ossining Coach Dan Ricci liked what he saw from point



Westlake's Julie Lyden looks to score inside in last Wednesday's win over visiting Blind Brook.

guard Tamia Dimmie (10 assists, five steals). Colleen Ryan led the defending Section 1 Class A champion Sailors with 11 points.

In Ossining's 86-41 win over Sleepy Hollow, Dendy had 38 points, 12 rebounds and five steals.

CONFERENCE I

SOUTHEAST



White Plains' Sequoia Layne takes a tough shot in the second half of Tigers' win vs. Harrison.

WHITE PLAINS (1-2) began its season by surrendering a big lead to Scarsdale and being routed by last year's Section 1 Class AA champion Ursuline, but the Tigers bounced back with an impressive 47-33 win over visiting Harrison on Friday. The Tigers turned up the intensity in the fourth quarter, closing the game on a 15-0 run.



White Plains' Aliya McIver attacks the rack in Friday's home win over Harrison.

White Plains trailed Harrison 33-32 midway through the fourth quarter when senior Katie McAteer (6 points) finished a three-point play to give them a 35-33 lead.

"That's what I'm trying to get from Katie, that senior leadership," White Plains coach Benji Carter said. "She kind of bought into what we need from her, which is get that ball and put it up. I'm trying to get her to shoot the ball 20 times a game. I told her that's what's going to help us out and it's going to open up our offense if you can do that more."

An Anneliese Reggio putback was followed by a Sequoia Layne (6 points) foul-

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Tiger India Newman looks to split a pair of Harrison defenders in White Plains' first win of the season on Friday.



Westlake's Allasandra Castellone pulls up for a jumper over multiple Blind Brook defenders in Wildcats' win.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

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line jumper to stretch the lead to 39-33. Aliya McIver found a cutting Ineivi Plata to stretch the lead to eight points. McAteer knocked down a dagger of a three from the right wing to put the Tigers up 44-33 with 1:35 to play. Plata paced the Tigers with 14 points while McIver added 11 points. The Tigers gave up a big early lead and fell to Scarsdale 42-41 in their season opener last Tuesday. McIver (18 points) and Plata (15 points) led White Plains.

White Plains was routed by Ursuline and McDonald's All-American Sonia Citron, 79-29, the next day. Citron scored 32 points including surpassing 2,000 for her career.

"Scarsdale, I felt we should have really beat them," Carter said. "We were beating them pretty bad. You can't underestimate any team. These teams are coached well and they're scrappy. And then a team like Ursuline who is sending kids to Division 1 schools, it's a different story. But those are the type of kids we practice for."

McIver (9 points), Plata (7 points) and Layne (6 points) led the Tigers against Ursuline.

"After graduating those seniors that really opened up the floor for us, it's different now," Carter said. "I'm starting three ninth-graders and a sophomore at times. We're pretty young. We have to learn to get better, learn to play with each other and learn each others' skill set. We don't have a natural scorer but we have to turn certain girls into scorers. Right now, Aliya and Ineivi are holding us down point wise and defensively,

so we have to count on them to help make everybody else better."

CONFERENCE III

CENTRAL LEAGUE

It was a week that the **PLEASANTVILLE** Panthers will remember for years to come. The Panthers secured two program-altering one-point wins over powerhouses Ossining and Putnam Valley. Lila Donohue's 3-pointer with 41 seconds left put the Panthers ahead and they held off host Ossining in a 58-57 win last Tuesday.

Pleasantville's Mary Grace O'Neill scored 10 of her team-high 14 points in the fourth quarter. Donohue added 12 points while Tina Matica and Jenna McCallister chipped in with 10 points each.

"Our girls don't quit," Panthers coach Dillon Clark said. "I think what this victory is, is a tangible moment that success comes as a product of a process. I said to the girls before we got off the bus that we won by the smallest margin possible and to understand the process that's needed to take place to achieve that one point."

Tyler Dendy paced the Pride with 23 points, 16 rebounds and five steals.

The Panthers erased a 14-point first quarter deficit and fought from behind to pull out another monumental one-point win, topping last year's Section 1 Class B champion Putnam Valley 48-47 last Wednesday.

Clark said that the Panthers used their tenacious press to turn the game around and that the girls "woke up."

"I think it shows the grit of this group to play two talented, well coached



Pleasantville's Lila Donohue hit a big late three in the Panthers' comeback win over Ossining.

teams back-to-back and find ways to win in the fourth quarter," said Clark, whose team trailed 29-19 at the half.

McAllister and O'Neill registered 14 points each for Pleasantville. Donohue netted 13 points.

"The balanced scoring is what makes us difficult to defend," Clark said. "We have five players on the court who are all threats to score."

Eva DeChent (13 points) and Arianna Stockinger (11 points) led the Tigers.

Pleasantville picked up two more wins to run its winning streak to five games and overall record to 6-1. The Panthers routed Rye Neck 59-14 on Friday behind 14 points from Matica and 11 each from McAllister and Ruby Donohue.

Julia O'Reilly (13 points, 5 assists), McAllister (8 points, 11 rebounds), O'Neill (9 points, 8 rebounds), Matica (9 points) and Lila Donohue (8 points) led the Panthers to a 55-47 win over Dobbs Ferry on Saturday.

WESTLAKE (2-1) rallied from a second half deficit, outscoring Blind Brook 22-6 in the fourth quarter to grind out a 50-36 win on senior day last Wednesday. The Wildcats honored their lone senior Nicole Karaqi (14 points, 8 rebounds) with the victory.

Allie Castellone scored a game-high 16 points with 11 of her points coming in the fourth quarter. Julie Lyden added a double-double with 11 points and 11 boards.

BRIARCLIFF (4-1) cruised past Blind Brook 62-21 behind 17 points and six rebounds from Dylan Zednik. Cat Carrafiello added 13 points and six assists.

A day later the Bears crushed host **VALHALLA** 46-10. Jordan Smith (14 points) and Carrafiello (10 points) led the way.

Valhalla (2-3) earned its first win a day earlier, defeating Yonkers Montessori 46-39 in their senior game. Paige Williams (13 points), Sophie Sproul (12 points) and Tvisha Sivaramakrishnan (10 points) led the Vikings.

The Vikings enjoyed a measure of revenge after falling to Rye Neck a week earlier, turning the tables in a 49-43 victory on Saturday.

Jordan Williams and Alicia Eggleston led the offense with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

NORTH LEAGUE

PUTNAM VALLEY has not looked especially crisp out of the gate, and the second half against Pleasantville was proof positive. However, the Tigers (2-1) responded with a 62-31 win over **HALDANE** behind 26 points from Dechent and 14 from Amanda Orlando.

"Haldane played a stronger second quarter," Blue Devil Coach Jessica Perrone said. "Putnam Valley played strong, suffocating defense, as is tradition."

Maddie Chiera (12 points, 6 rebounds) and Amanda Johanson (5 points, 2 rebounds) led the Blue Devils. PV also knocked off North Salem, 59-21, behind DeChent's with 15 points and 12 from Orlando.



Westlake senior Nicole Karaqi takes a three from the wing in the Wildcats' senior night win over Blind Brook.



Pleasantville sniper Tina Matica has been a big part of the Panthers' current run, including wins over juggernauts Ossining and Putnam Valley.

Mahopac Saves its Season, Ties, Beats BYSNS; Greeley Stuns Jay



White Plains assistant captain Dan Cardozo recently tallied his his career 100th point and has 15 goals, 5 assists in 4 games.



Carmel senior captain Brendan Murphy has been on fire in Rams' two-game win streak over Mahopac and BYSNS.

by Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays
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HORACE GREELEY (2-2-1) earned a monumental victory over John Jay-Cross River with a 5-4 win on Sunday evening at Brewster Ice Arena.

"It's definitely a big confidence boost," Greeley coach Dan Perito said. "We haven't beaten them in seven years. That coupled with the fact that they've knocked us out of the playoffs each of the last four years, it was a big win for the program."

With the game tied at 3-3 after three periods, Ben Cohen (2 goals, 1 assist) gave the Quakers a 4-3 lead with 12:54 to go. Freshman Jared Rothman extended the lead

to two, scoring what proved to be the game winner with 9:44 left. John Jay was able to come within a goal but couldn't find the equalizer.

"It was a total team effort," Perito said. "They stayed committed to the game plan and didn't let one bad play or mistake affect the next shift."

Ilan Laurence had a goal and an assist for Greeley. Senior captain Dylan Mutkoski and Gabe Adams had two assists apiece. Arye Wolberg made 38 big saves.

On Friday night, Greeley and John Jay battled to a 3-3 tie. Adams led the Quakers with two goals while Rothman had one goal

and one assist. Ben Madden stopped 41 shots in net.

WHITE PLAINS senior captain John Myers broke the program's points record of 193 in a 4-4 tie with New Rochelle on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

"It definitely means a lot to me and is something I've been working hard for once I saw it was possible," said Myers, who has also surpassed 100 career goals and set the Tigers' assist record. "I never would have thought coming into varsity hockey that

I'd reach these milestones and without the help of my teammates both past and present, it wouldn't have been possible. It feels good to be a part of White Plains high school history along with my teammates and friends and it'll be fun to look back upon some day."

Daniel Cardozo had a hat trick and an assist for the Tigers. Myers netted one goal while Teddy Hauser dished out two assists.

Behind five goals and three assists from Cardozo, White Plains (1-2-1) earned its first win of the season with a 10-7 victory

over New Rochelle on Thursday. Cardozo, an assistant captain, has tallied 15 goals and five assists through four games including his 100th career point.

Hauser had a goal and four assists. Myers and Alex Farben-Griggs notched a goal and an assist each. White Plains started out the week with a tough 6-5 defeat at the hands of **STEPINAC** on Feb. 22. Cardozo led the Tigers with four goals while Christopher Stackhouse sparked Stepinac with four goals of his own.

Stepinac currently sits at 3-3 after a 5-3 win over St. Mary's on Friday and a 6-4 loss to Iona Prep on Sunday. Stackhouse, A.J. Falciglia, Andrew Girolamo and John Heaney scored a goal each against St. Mary's. Falciglia scored twice in the loss to Iona.

CARMEL had recovered nicely from its 9-3 season-opening loss to John Jay CR. The six-goal loss could have been a major setback, but the Rams, who trailed 4-3 after two periods, know that game was anything but a blowout. Carmel responded in kind with two-straight wins, including an 11-7 win over rival **MAHOPAC** last Wednesday at the Brewster Ice Arena.

"The team is playing well," Carmel Coach Michael Chiacchia said. "It was a short preseason, with no scrimmages and less practices coupled with a lot of young players, and it definitely showed in that third period collapse against John Jay where the score went from 4-3 to 9-3. Time on the ice and experience will definitely help us as the season progresses."

Carmel senior F Brendan Murphy scored five goals for the winners and junior F Luke Golisano scored once (to tie the game at 1) and set up six Ram goals. Ryan Caraher

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White Plains senior captain John Myers is setting new standards in each game he scores a point and has all-time school record of 197 points and counting.



Carmel's Christian Buckner, Jack Casey and the Rams have had plenty to celebrate of late.



Carmel's Luke Golisano (L) and Graham Ludwig celebrate a Rams' goal during recent hot streak.



Carmel had plenty to celebrate last week, including 11-7 win over rival Mahopac last Wednesday at BIA.



Brewster G Matt Gergley has been stellar between pipes for BYSNS.

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scored five times for the Indians.

The Rams, however, lost all that momentum in Sunday's 11-1 loss to Rye.

Down three goals with less than five minutes to play, Mahopac rose from the dead to salvage a critical 4-4 tie with BYSNS Herd Friday at the Brewster Ice Arena.

BYSNS's Ryan Cindrich scored with 8:11 to go to give the Herd a 4-1 lead, and teammate Thomas Eberhardt had a hat trick, but Mahopac countered with three season-saving goals by Jordan Donatone (to make it 4-2 with 4:25 to play). While still on the same power play for a major BYSNS penalty, Mahopac Ryan Caraher scored with 3:29 to play, his second of the game. Mahopac junior Matt Luczkowski scored the equalizer with a little over a minute left in regulation. The OT session proved fruitless for both, but the Indians were stoked to come away with a tie.

"It definitely felt good," Luczkowski

said. "We were behind the whole game and couldn't get much going offensively the, but we got one in the third and everything started to click. After that it seemed like we were in control of the game and kept scoring and eventually tied it. We played a great third period and overtime and started a man down in OT for the first two minutes, so it was great to come away with a tie."

Senior G Matt Gergley had 42 saves for the BYSNS while Mahopac G Mike Horan stopped 39 shots.

Mahopac continued its about-face from also-ran to contender in Sunday's 5-3 in over BYSNS. Again, Caraher was the catalyst,

lighting the lamp on four occasions to support G Horan (35 saves).

"Ryan has been killing it and he's a great team leader," Mahopac Coach Tim Donaghy said of his captain, Caraher, who has 16 goals in the first four games.

BYRAM HILLS (2-1) and **FOX LANE** (1-3) faced off three times over a four-day span. Fox Lane won the first game, 6-4, on Thursday, but the Bobcats bounced back by winning the second showdown, 2-1, on

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

Saturday. Daniel Fontana tallied the game winner with Owen Fleischer netting the Bobcats' other goal.

Byram had five different senior scorers in a 5-3 win over the Foxes Sunday night. Fontana, Lucca Trotta, Lucca Conigliaro, Joe Cipriano and Austin Carlin each scored a goal. Fleischer dished out two assists.

MOUNT PLEASANT (0-2) endured a pair of losses to ETBE (11-1, 12-3) to open their season last weekend.

Gymnastics Notebook

Mahopac, Lakeland/Panas/Put Valley Crowned Champs



Members of the Mahopac gymnastics team pose with their divisional championship plaque, including (row 1 kneeling) Juliette LeBlanc, Nicole Giannetta, Rachel Romero, Lesly Cely, Kaylie Ann Hammond and Jamison Castrataro; (row 2 standing) Coach Vin Collins, Lia Graap, Alessia Gristina, Sofia Alvarez, Jade Paciullo, Kaitlyn Palange, Cecylia Haberling, Jadyn Suni and Lexi Castrataro

"I am so proud of this team; the way they competed, fought hard and never gave up and with the class and style they did it was truly amazing," Mahopac Coach Vinny Collins said. "What a great night for our team, especially our seniors; this was truly the ultimate team effort. Everyone contributed tonight. We really picked it up on balance beam and floor exercise especially since we were down by almost two points after the first two events.

"We placed three in the top five on balance beam and four in the top five on floor exercise; our best floor routines of the season," Collins added. "Jamison was on fire tonight; perhaps the best competition of her career; first place on vault, floor exercise and all around and tied for first on uneven bars. She rose to the challenge and led the team by her example".



Members of the Lakeland/Panas/PV gymnastics squad pose with their regional championship plaque, including Jade Gorman, Hayley Madden, Olivia Marricco (1st on bars, tied for 1st on beam), Emily Quinn, All-Around champion Caitlin Pellegrino (1st on vault and floor, tied for 1st on beam and 3rd on bars), Samantha Flores, Alexis Kelly, Sara O'Callaghan, Izzy Albano and Keira Gallagher.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TWITTER

Vin Some, Lose Some!

Mahopac, Yorktown Split Pair of League B Battles



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Mahopac senior Vin Bastone (10) and the Indians had the upper hand in Thursday's 51-29 League B win over visiting Yorktown, but the Cornhuskers (5-1 overall, 3-1 in league), including high-flying Tony Granitto and Sam Pincus (L) fought back valiantly Saturday in host Yorktown's critical 48-46 victory over the Indians (5-2, 4-1) to earn the split and stay alive in the League B title chase... see Boys' Hoops Notebook