Byram Hills senior RB Matt Weiler (5) slips a tackle from Westlake’s Hamad Azhar on a punt return in the visiting Bobcats’ 26-7 Week 1 victory over the Wildcats Saturday afternoon when Weiler rushed for three TD’s and well over 100 yards... see Grid Notebook
SOMERS 28, MAHOPAC 7

On a gorgeous night for football, one could sense by the fact that the local media – Local Live, LoHud, Halston Media, News12 and yours truly, the Examiner – were out in force last Saturday night at Mahopac High School where three generations of DeMatteos staged their version of a family affair.

Somers Coach Tony DeMatteo not only coached against his son, Mahopac Coach Dominick DeMatteo, but he also plotted a game plan to stop his grandson, Mahopac quarterback Anthony DeMatteo, plus his youngest grandson, DJ, an aspiring coach and budding junior varsity football player in his own right. Tony DeMatteo and his other continued on next page

Mahopac senior RB Vin Bastone sets up stiff arm of Somers DB TJ Olifiers in Indians’ 28-7 loss to visiting Tuskers Saturday.

Somers senior RB Evan Lasseter picks up block from OL Anthony Miller as Mahopac’s Ryan Reilly defends in Tuskers’ 28-7 win over host Indians.

Somers senior RB Jack Kaiser fends off tackle from Mahopac sophomore DB Joey Koch in Tuskers’ 28-7 win over host Indians Saturday.

Somers Upends Mahopac, 28-7, in Family Affair

Sturdy Byram Hills Topples Westlake; Carmel Rips Fox Lane; Lakeland Bests Greeley
son, Anthony, a highly regarded assistant coach on Tony’s staff, accomplished what he and his Tuskers set out to do, taking a 28-7 league win in both teams’ season opener.

The family vibe was alive before and after the game when embraces were par for the course and both sides expressed hereditary harmony, but it was all Somers between the lines. Tony D was admittedly spooked by the notion of his swarming Tusker defense attacking his grandson in a win, the 355th of his career, he’d rather forget.

“I didn’t like it and haven’t liked the idea of playing against Anthony and coaching against Dominick since Day 1 when I first found out (Mahopac was dropping down to Class A and then playing in our league),” Tony DeMatteo admitted.

But they all knew it was a probability, given the fact that Tony’s chasing the all-time NYS record for coaching victories (Bethpage’s Howie Vogts, 364) and now sits just 10 triumphs shy of becoming the state’s all-time leader.

As is often the case in his legendary career, DeMatteo’s defense set the tone, holding Mahopac scoreless until late in the fourth quarter when Anthony DeMatteo (8 of 17 for 103 yards) found WR Andrew Cohen on a fourth-down, desperation TD strike.

“Now that we have a game under our belt and the nerves from not playing in so long out of the way, we are ready for the next five games.”

Somers will host Brewster next Friday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Mahopac’s next game is TBA after Lourdes was put on COVID-19 pause.

“We’re very excited to play Brewster this week,” Kossow admitted. “I talked to (Franco) Milano (Brewster’s two-way stud lineman), and we think it’s gonna be a good battle.”

BYRAM HILLS 26, WESTLAKE 7

Byram Hills standout senior running back Matt Weiler rushed for three touchdowns in a 26-7 season-opening win over Westlake but the play of the game came from one of Weiler’s teammates.

Daniel Ahern, the Bobcats’ punter, boomed a 60-yard punt which Weiler chased down and stopped at the goal line, pinning Westlake inside the 1-yard line late in the third quarter. After three unsuccessful continued on next page
rushing attempts, Westlake had to punt and Weiler returned it to the Wildcats’ 26-yard line to set up a short field for the Bobcats.

“He played varsity basketball and was on their championship team,” Byram Hills coach Doug Carpenter said of Ahern. “He did a great job managing, showing up to practices and still going to basketball. He didn’t miss a beat and it’s a testament to him.”

“It was definitely a great play and Daniel our punter made a great punt,” Weiler added.

“Coach Carp kind of harps on special teams being important.”

Five plays later, Weiler rumbled into the end zone from two yards out. David Gold’s PAT gave the Bobcats a 19-7 lead with 9:08 left in the fourth quarter.

“As coach said during the week, we haven’t had a game-like scrimmage, so we knew there were going to be a couple hiccups,” Weiler said of overcoming a slow start. “We just continued to talk about getting stronger as the game went on and I think we did that. In the second half, we came out and played our best football of the game.”

Weiler squashed any hopes of a Westlake comeback with an electrifying 68-yard touchdown burst around the left edge to extend the lead to 26-7 with 3:19 to play.

The game was tied 7-7 at halftime but a Westlake penalty followed by an Eli Ratzan sack forced the Wildcats into a punt. Byram marched down the field and Weiler willed his way into the end zone on a 1-yard plunge but the kick was no good as the Bobcats took a 13-7 lead midway through the third quarter.

“We weren’t freaking out at halftime. We just said, ‘Hey, listen, we’ve got to do a couple things better,’” Carpenter said. “And it’s the first game in a season where we’ve had a short preseason, no camps and we’re going to make a lot of mistakes. We’ve just

continued on next page

Byram Hills’ Jack Tillinger cuts back while Westlake’s James Murray goes for the diving tackle in Bobcats’ win over Wildcats Saturday.

continued from previous page

Westlake QB Matt Sardo looks to escape grasp of Byram’s Daniel Ahern in Wildcats’ loss to Bobcats Saturday.

Byram quarterback Hayden Fruhling gains yardage while Westlake’s Thomas Marto tries to bring him down from behind in Bobcats’ win over Wildcats Saturday.

Westlake’s Anthony Arrichiello bounces a run to the outside in Wildcats’ loss to Bobcats Saturday.
got to be able to improve as the game goes on. Our defense did a really nice job settling in.”

Penalties didn’t help Westlake’s cause in the second half.

“I thought field position killed us,” Westlake coach John Castellano said. “We started the second half with a kickoff return to the 42-yard line. So we’ve got half the field taken care of and they called us for a clip. The next kickoff, they called us for another clip and then they punted the ball inside the one. So three possessions in the third quarter started inside our 15-yard line. You’re limited to what you can do offensively when you’re starting inside your 15-yard line. But listen, I’m proud of the kids. I told them before the game, ‘The fact that you woke up this morning and had a chance to play high school football, you should thank the good lord for that.’ That was our whole mindset going in. I think you saw the two best teams in the conference today. For three quarters this was a good football game.”

Steven Franco kicked off the scoring for the Bobcats on a 19-yard touchdown run three minutes into the game. Byram senior quarterback Hayden Fruhling had key passes to Weiler and Franco on the drive. Fruhling also picked up some key first downs with his legs throughout the game.

“Westlake I thought did a really good job trying to take away Weiler,” Carpenter said. “Within our reads and our progressions, Hayden did an awesome job taking what was there and making great decisions. He’s a big, physical runner and he worked so hard in the offseason to totally change his body. He’s confident in his ability to run.”

Westlake answered when Joe Piazza plunged into the end zone from a yard out. Josh Gelman’s extra point tied the game up with 3:47 left in the first quarter. The drive was sparked by quarterback Matt Sardo, who hit Carter Falkenberg and Andrew Llamas (interception) on passes, and had a 28-yard run of his own.

Sardo took a big hit from Weiler before the half and looked noticeably affected by it in the second half. The quick, shifty signal caller was unable to find traction in the second half as Byram held the Wildcats scoreless in the final 24 minutes.

“Their quarterback Sardo is really good,” Carpenter said. “We knew that he was going to be a special kid but I also thought that he had a really nice supporting cast too.”

After 16 months without football, the Bobcats and Wildcats were grateful to be able to take the field again.

“It means so much,” Carpenter said. “At one point, we were just asking if we could get a practice. To be out here is amazing. Quite honestly, it’s a testament to Dominick DeMatteo from Mahopac and the rest of the Section 1 football coaches. Dominick is a mentor to me and like an older brother. I love him. I thank him and I know our kids and our community do too because he’s really kind of the one that rallied the troops.”

“After all that time off from football, it was kind of sad,” Weiler added. “We’re just definitely grateful for this opportunity to be out here and play with our best friends and play the sport that we love.”
Byram (1-0) returns to action when it heads to Hendrick Hudson for a 7 p.m. game on Friday night.

“Obviously COVID can throw some curveballs in there but we are going to be able to crown a Class B section champ,” Carpenter said when asked of the Bobcats’ goals. “Westlake’s got a really good team and they’re going to make a push to get out of their league and get to that championship game. We have to turn our attention to Hen Hud. Hen Hud’s really good and they have very talented kids and a coach that’s been to a state championship (John Catano). They’ve got a winning record against us in the last 10 years and we’ve got to be ready to turn it around on a short week.”

Westlake (0-1) will look to get in the win column when it travels to Nanuet for a 1:30 p.m. contest on Saturday. Castellano said the Wildcats didn’t get a group of basketball players to practice until later on in the preseason after a run to a regional title, which put them a bit behind schedule.

“The bottom line is that we didn’t get a lot of offseason work,” Castellano said. “I was proud of the kids with the way they handled themselves today. We’re going to get better each week and if we can play the way we did in the first half today, hopefully we’ll be back here in five weeks.”

CARMEL 51, FOX LANE 14

A tumultuous off-season never factored into Carmel’s 2021 plan. Veteran Rams Coach Todd Cayea returned for year 26 of his historic career to earn the 153rd win of his career, despite an off-season that had Cayea on the outside looking in after he was let go last spring following a fiery exchange with the Rams’ former varsity boys’ basketball coach. Rams assistant grid Coach Jimmy Nguyen was appointed to take over the program last May, despite Cayea being named Section 1 Coach of the Year in 2019 after leading the Rams to an 8-2 season, concluding with a Class AA championship loss to eventual state champion New Rochelle. Support for Cayea funneled in after the change of leadership, which prompted Cayea and his supporters to push for reinstatement.

“I won’t back down,” Cayea said often, citing the words of Tom Petty. The Carmel school board buckled and approved the move in February, doing right by the players, the coach and the program.

“That’s all water under the bridge,” said Cayea, who saw junior QB Kevin Dall assume a seamless roll under center in Friday’s season-opening assault of host Fox Lane. “Being out here where I belong with the kids and these coaches changes everything, makes it right.”

Dall, in his first varsity start, rushed for a pair of scores, part of a six-carry, 46-yard effort on the ground. He also hit on 8 of 11 passes for 56 yards. Carmel saw several players find paydirt, including a 27-yard run by RB Andrew Fiore, another by Josh Massi (seven carries for 32 yards) and Nicholas Rosaforte. Joseph Risley took a pick-6 to the house and kicker Nick Sodano, among the top booters in the nation, booted a 42-yard field goal.

LAKELAND 20, GREELEY 0

Lakeland Coach Mike Meadows saw his vastly improved Hornets score on their first two possessions, taking advantage of short fields and a crisp game plan to make short work of the visiting, undermanned Quakers on opening day last Saturday. Lakeland took a 20-0 lead into the break when WR Mark Cummins deftly hauled in a 30-yard completion on his back to set up the final score of the half by Danny Libretti, who was all over the place on both sides of the ball (14 tackles, 7 carries for 30 yards and 2 TDs). Lakeland QB Tyler Santucci connected on 11 of 18 passes for 178 yards (1 int.), the vast majority going to Cummins (5 catches for 121 yards). Hornet RB Adamo Labriola creased the
Quakers for 111 yards and one TD on 18 carries.

Lakeland’s Mike Mulhern (3 catches for 35 yards and 8 tackles and a sack) was a two-way force.

And Vincent Scaldone added six tackles.

Yorktown hosts Lakeland in a huge league clash next Friday at 7 p.m. The Hornets, who haven’t beaten their crosstown rivals in quite some time, are out to prove something.

“We are insanely excited to go out there and show everyone what we are about,” Cummins said. “We all have a big chip on our shoulder and know we have a lot to prove. Yorktown is a great team, but we have full confidence that we can go over there and handle business.”

BREWSTER 46, BEACON 0

In this, his junior season, 6’4” 230-pound Bears QB Chris Donohue is expected to make a big splash, and the three-year veteran signal caller wasted no time in the Bears’ opening day win over visiting Beacon Saturday.

Donohue ran for a score and fired another as the Bears went up 26-0. He added a second TD strike to Jason Cardone and watched as senior RB Christian Rhodes (7 rushes, 168 yards) found paydirt twice on a pair of electrifying runs of 83 and 48 yards.

Will Martinez (14 carries for 109 and 2 TDs) added another element to the run game, and the Brewster defense was stout, indeed, behind All-Section DE Franco Milano, a regular wrecking crew en route to Stony Brook. Milano led the Bears with seven tackles, three for a loss with a strip sack, which he recovered.

“The whole defense played tough and the offensive line led by Milano, Chris Triolo, Mike Triolo, Austin Matra and Dom Rienzi opened up huge holes for the running backs,” Bears Coach Ed Mulvihill said. “I was happy with our execution considering the lack of practice time. They have been a great group to work with so far this season. We’re looking forward to practice this week. Somers looked like they were in mid-season form in their game against a strong Mahopac team, so we have our work cut out for us.”

JOHN JAY CR 21, YORKTOWN 0

continued on previous page

Lakeland WR Mark Cummins (L) gets some love from Rob Nardelli after his catch set up momentum-swinging TD in Hornets’ 20-0 win over Quakers Saturday.

Lakeland RB Joe Malaspina picks up block from OL Kevin Hickey as Greeley DB Boden Bounds defends in Hornets’ 20-0 win over Quakers Saturday.

Lakeland RB Adamo Labriola (24) is dragged down by Greeley’s John Marinello (52), Mike Meringolo (22) and Ashton Samkoff (2) in Hornet’s 20-0 win over Quakers.

continued on next page
It’s been a long time since Yorktown was
shutout on a gridiron and just as long since
John Jay has shut a team out. In a rivalry
where’s there’s no love-lost, John Jay’s
pads pounded louder last Saturday night at
Charlie Murphy field and the visiting Wolves
defeated Yorktown for the first time since
2013, having lost the prior four exchanges by
a combined 142-69 count, including a 2019
playoff setback.

John Jay offensive line Coach Joe
Mammoser saw his hogs up front -- Grady
Halaifonua, Matt Ferrer, Daniel Gonzalez,
Nick Pelazza and Will Stein – get the better
push. The Huskers and first-year Coach
Pantelis Ypsilantis were forced to play
without the services of two-way senior
Keith Boyer after a first-quarter injury to
their versatile star.

John Jay hosts Panas Friday.

SLEEPY HOLLOW 40, PANAS 10

Panas freshman RB Travis Carlucci took
an 84-yard kick return to the house on
his first varsity touch, but it wasn’t nearly
continued on next page
four passes on seven attempts for 58 yards. Quarterback Michael LaCapria completed two touchdown runs of his own. Junior Daniel Picart (7 carries, 93 yards) had 18 carries and two scores. Freshman running back Brian Maceyk (17 carries, 133 yards) was led by senior Matt May's 162 yards rushing. The Panthers had close to 400 yards of total offense, 325 of which came on the ground.

"With all the uncertainty about the status of high school football last summer and then into the fall and winter, to finally be on the field competing again was satisfying, especially for our seniors," Panthers coach Tony Becerra said.

"Being back was special, to say the least," Panthers coach Tony Becerra said. "With all the uncertainty about the status of high school football last summer and then into the fall and winter, to finally be on the field competing again was satisfying, especially for our seniors."

The Panthers kicked off their season with a 39-0 blowout win over host Putnam Valley on Friday night. The Panthers, who were ecstatic to be back on the field, jumped out to a 29-0 halftime lead.

"Our defense did a great job getting these guys prepared in such a short amount of time. Our defensive performance can be summed up in two words: preparation and pride," Becerra said. "Our defensive coaches, coach Maceyak, George Lamar and Pete Christie, put a premium on our defensive preparation starting with alignment. When the defense, as a unit, is confident that they're lined up correctly, they can play aggressively. When we went into halftime giving up no points, the team took great pride in trying to end the game that way."

Ryan Miller booted a 25-yard field goal on a fumble recovery. Stinziani also added a safety.

The Panthers will look to move to 2-0 on Saturday .

"After the big win over Putnam Valley, we are encouraged to report stats, comments, etc. to Ray Gallagher (raygallaghersports@gmail.com for North. West./Putnam) or Rob DiAntonio (robertdiantonio@yahoo.com for West. Exam./White Plains) for inclusion in our weekly Grid Notebook."

The Vikings were shut down by visiting Bronxville, 28-0, in Art Troilo Jr.'s coaching debut with the Vikings. Quarterback Michael Dawson was injured on the first play of the second half and did not return. Valhalla trailed 28-0 at halftime.

"Our line coach, Brian Maceyak, did a great job preparing our offensive line," Becerra said. "Our offensive coaches, coach Maceyak, George Lamar and Pete Christie, put a premium on our defensive preparation starting with alignment. When the defense, as a unit, is confident that they're lined up correctly, they can play aggressively. When we went into halftime giving up no points, the team took great pride in trying to end the game that way."
Westlake celebrates on its way to a 25-19, 25-17, 25-19 sweep of Briarcliff on Friday.

Briarcliff's Ruby Navarro passes to a teammate in road loss to Westlake. Somers' Juliana Bockhaus dives for the save.

Somers defeated Brewster twice last week in volleyball (3-0, 3-1).

Somers senior Delaney Killeen bumps the ball in 3-0 win over Brewster last Thursday.

Somers' Juliana Bockhaus dives for the save. Briarcliff's Ruby Navarro passes to a teammate in road loss to Westlake.

Somers' Elizabeth Bateman keeps her eye on the ball against visiting Brewster.

Westlake's Isabella Leite sends it over the net while Briarcliff's Rayne Iaccarino goes for the block.

Westlake's Lauren Nuccio bumps the ball to a teammate in Wildcats' 3-0 win over Briarcliff.

Westlake's Samantha Lubart gets low for a dig.

The Wildcats’ Alyssa Guitierrez goes up for the block after a spike from Briarcliff’s Olivia Walters.

Westlake’s Lauren Nuccio bumps the ball to a teammate in Wildcats’ 3-0 win over Briarcliff.
In a sea of great white sharks on the Yorktown High and Syracuse University lacrosse fields, Rob Kavovit was the killer whale, the guy making the most majestic splash without the hype and hoopla. A two-time All-American attackman at Yorktown (1992-93) and three-time All-American during his SU career (1994-97), 45-year-old Rob Kavovit passed away in his sleep, last Wednesday… sending these renowned lacrosse programs into deep reflection, respecting the ego-less soul that was Rob Kavovit. Looking up to ‘Kavo’ was made so easy by the fact that he never looked down on anyone.

“He was just the perfect teammate,” Syracuse/Yorktown All-American legend Paul Carcaterra, Kavovit’s best friend and teammate, told the world via an emotional ESPN broadcast that had the lax world in tears.

At two of the world’s most prolific lacrosse programs, “Kavo” and “Carc” delivered the goods as distinct opposites, yet best friends: Kavovit the unassuming orca whale and consummate teammate; Carcaterra the fiery shark. The duo went on to win three-straight state high school championships with then-coach Jim Turnbull’s Huskers in 1991, 1992 and 1993, the only three-peat in the history of the seven-time NYS champs.

After Yorktown, Kavovit turned his attention toward a degree in physical therapy and next-level lax, finishing ninth on the Syracuse all-time points list with 246 (125 G, 121 A). Nobody balled-out bigger in big games than Kavovit: He ranks fourth in SU history in career NCAA tourney points (51) and posted four goals and three assists in the team’s 1995 national title triumph over Maryland.

“His lack of wanting self-attention made him the most underrated and unassuming superstar Syracuse has ever had,” Carcaterra said before watering the eyes of anyone within earshot of his passionate, unflappable ESPN broadcast. “He was a beautiful soul.”

That sentiment was echoed throughout the country last week, as friends, coaches, teammates and former greats paid homage.

It was the same thing at Yorktown, where Kavovit played on the same attack line with Carcaterra and legendary golden boy Dave Marr; two of the flashiest cats on the local lax circuit. At Yorktown, during the golden era of Section 1 lax, Kavovit amassed 152 goals and 158 assists (1991-93), placing him third all-time at Yorktown (behind the legendary Nelson brothers, Tom and Tim) and 16th on the all-time Section 1 scoring list (310 points). He won state championships with then-coach Jim Turnbull’s Huskers in 1991, 1992 and 1993, the only three-peat in the history of the seven-time NYS champs.

“Kavo” and “Carc” delivered the goods as distinct opposites, yet best friends: Kavovit the unassuming orca whale and consummate teammate; Carcaterra the fiery shark. The duo went on to win three-straight state high school championships with then-coach Jim Turnbull’s Huskers in 1991, 1992 and 1993, the only three-peat in the history of the seven-time NYS champs.

After Yorktown, Kavovit turned his attention toward a degree in physical therapy and next-level lax, finishing ninth on the Syracuse all-time points list with 246 (125 G, 121 A). Nobody balled-out bigger in big games than Kavovit: He ranks fourth in SU history in career NCAA tourney points (51) and posted four goals and three assists in the team’s 1995 national title triumph over Maryland.

Organically, the ball always found his stick when critical thinking mattered most, and delivery was as certain as the U.S. postal service… rain, sleet or snow… dodge, score or feed… Kavovit got it done when the chips were on the line.

“He was THE catalyst amongst a lot of good guys,” said former SU teammate Ric Beardsley, a three-time All-American at ‘Cuse and two time A-A stud at Lakeland. “He was THE catalyst amongst a lot of good guys,” said former SU teammate Ric Beardsley, a three-time All-American at ‘Cuse and two time A-A stud at Lakeland.

I was fortunate to have witnessed the golden era of Section 1 lacrosse through the web of some of the finest players in the history of the game; Beardsley, Carcaterra, Dom Finn, Roy Colsey, Dave Marr, Rocco and Anthony D’Andraia, Jason Foley, Paul Elfstrom, Brian Kuczma and Rob Kavovit, perhaps the purest of them all.

Kavovit leaves behind his wife, Marion, and two young sons, Landry (10) and Luke (8), and the Yorktown lax family was set to get behind a GoFundMe page established by Anne Pawsat-Dressler www.gofundme.com/f/Our-Village-for-Marion-Kavovit--Boys.

And the USA lax world, a family and community unlike any other, was poised to follow: #RIP15

---

Volleyball Notebook (continued)

Briarcliff’s Natalie Conte keeps her eye on the ball.

Brewster’s Carolyn Case (9) and Kaeley Fox try to block a spike by Somers’ Bridget Pittman.

Brewster Katie Bergstrom passes in the Bears’ loss at Somers.
Lights, Camera, Action... Jackson!

Somers QB Has Hand in 3 TD's, Steals Show in DeMatteo Family Affair

Somers senior QB Jackson Kossow gets a lift from stud Tusker lineman Jake Polito (70) as teammates Evan Lasseter (1) and Danny Curran (L) look on after Kossow (inset against pressure from Mahopac’s Vin Bastone) found paydirt in Somers’ 28-7 win over host Mahopac Saturday night; part of the historic DeMatteo Family Affair... see Grid Notebook