Byram Hills junior G Beth Corelli, who averages 18 PPG this season, scored 12 points, grabbed eight rebounds and snagged three steals Saturday in the host Bobcats’ stunning 43-27 demolition of defending Section 1 Class B champion Putnam Valley, which was fresh off a 59-58 win over previously undefeated Hastings Friday. Byram, which ran its unbeaten streak to six games, is now among the strongest challengers to contend for the Southern Westchester Group 2 Regional Championship this week while PV’s Arianna Stockinger (game-high 25 points), Nat Mazza (11) and the Tigers hope to quickly regroup and challenge for the Putnam/Northern Westchester Small School crown... see Girls’ Hoops Notebook
Mahopac, Put Valley, Byram Hills Cop League Titles

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

And when we blinked, the regular season was over. Just like that, the playoffs were upon us in this five-week COVID-19 abbreviated season. The Section 1 regional tournament seeds were set to come out today (Tuesday), and while the culminating events are not what we’re used to — the Westchester County Center Final 4 hoopla and all — most coaches and players are simply thankful to have had an opportunity to shine, however brief it was.

Nobody likes to wake up early on Saturdays, and that became increasingly apparent for a pair of Putnam County girls’ basketball teams with high postseason aspirations. Coming off its biggest win of the season in Friday’s 59-58 win over Hastings, reigning Section 1 Class B champion Putnam Valley put up a clunker in a 43-27 loss to Class A host Byram Hills. Previously undefeated Class AA Mahopac followed suit in a 44-30 setback at Arlington, so, lucky for both, they’ve got a week to get the bearings straight before next Saturday’s regional championships; should they each survive the opening-round rigors on Wednesday and Thursday.

PUTNAM / NORTH.WESTCHESTER (Large School Group)

As of press time Monday, it seemed highly unlikely that anyone would overtake MAHOPAC, the overwhelming favorite, for the No.1 seed in the Putnam/Northern Westchester Large School Regional Tournament, though OSSINING, which suffered a recent 63-59 setback at the hands of the Indians, would dispute that on many levels and is considered a legit challenger.

BREWSER, YORKTOWN and FOX

game when they went to full court pressure late in the second quarter. Sophomore G Kristina Rush (11 points) hit back-to-back 3s and sophomore G Lauren Beberman (10 points) made a steal and layup to cap an 8-0 run. Mahopac senior F Caitlyn O’Boyle (11 points, 13 boards, 3 blocks) was tough in the paint and averages over 12 RPG. Klammer did typical Klammer things, including five assists and five steals. DeMeco (5 assist, 4 steals) also contributed to the Conference I-II League B-title-clinching win.

“Outside of that, I am so proud of how the girls battled them the last two days, especially on the boards. No quit and a lot of fight. Lauren (McCartin) is a special athlete. I haven’t coached many in my past 20-plus years that could match her in that category. She’s comparable to Livy (Rosenzweig) in that regard. This year has been great for her because she’s getting the game experience. I’m excited to coach her for a full season next year and see the leap her game will take.”

Any time a coach from Section 1 compares ANY player to Rosenzweig, that is high praise.

In Yorktown’s 50-24 win over Carmel, Husker junior G Melissa Severino (19 points) continued a torrid stretch as the Huskers won back-to-back against the Rams. Olivia Lucas added nine points for Yorktown while Morgan Johnson led Carmel with 11 points and Madelyn McMath added eight. In Yorktown’s 57-17 win over Carmel, Severino was on fire from distance, going for a career-high 29 points off five 3’s. Lucas added seven points for the Huskers, who led 28-4 at one point. McMath (7 points) led the Rams.

Ossining senior G Tyler Dendy is averaging nearly 30 PPG and 10 RPG for the Pride (6-5), which have lost three in a row but could hold on for the League C title with a win over Panas last night. A loss would create a tie for league bragging rights with the Panthers. Katie Mark is averaging 15 PPG for the Pride.

Brewster junior F Grace Galgano (16.8 PPG, 15 RPG, 4 BPG) and the Bears, winner of four in a row, are flying under the radar but having a solid season nonetheless. Coach Mike Castaldo’s Bears (6-2) put Lakeland away, 54-41, behind Galgano’s monster double-double (15 points, 20 caroms, 3 blocks). "Grace has been playing on another level," the coach said. "She is getting double- and triple-teamed but because she can shoot threes and go coast to coast. She is a difficult player to defend. I’m really proud of how she is handling all the defensive attention."

Brewster junior Alexis Mark (8.5 RPG) added a game-high 18 points and eight rebounds. Sophomore Madison Dakin played a tremendous game from start to finish, doing all the little things.

"I was so proud of how she stepped up," Castaldo said. "She held Lakeland’s best player, Tyler Hormazabal, to seven, got a ton of offensive rebounds and steals."

"The first meeting at Brewster (against Lakeland) was a very close back and forth game for 32 minutes," Castaldo said. "Playing Lakeland is always a battle, they are well coached and tough kids. We were able to make a few more plays late in the game and converted on free throws to seal the win."

Galgano led the way with 24 points, 17 rebounds and six blocks. Carly DeLanoy added 10 points and Sophia Alzugaray was key in the first half with several 3s and great defense.

The second game at Lakeland was a tad sloppy in the first half.

"We couldn't shoot and weren’t converting on easy opportunities," Castaldo said.

continued on next page
Fox Lane’s Natalie Pence leads a break while the Quakers’ Ramsey Edson trails in Foxes’ 55-19 win over visiting Quakers.

Matts said that Lauren Antolino, Maddie Broghammer and Cara Drapala provided “amazing hustle and were diving all over the floor.” Iby Moccia, Ella Bahari and Jordan Daglio brought energy off the bench. They played scrappy defense, corralled rebounds and swiped steals.

The Foxes traveled to Blind Brook and earned a 47-40 victory on Friday behind Pence’s 16 points, 14 rebounds, three steals and two blocks. Picinich also had a big game with 13 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. She also clinched the win with a putback. Drapala added six points and three steals while Schnell had five points and eight boards.

Matts earned his 100th career win and Fox Lane closed out the season with a 52-28 rout of North Salem on Saturday. Pence (17 points, 10 rebounds) and Drapala (10 points) led the Foxes.

Fox Lane (7-3) closed out the regular season with games against Pelham and Walter Panas before the playoffs begin on Wednesday.

**PUTNAM / NORTH. WESTCHESTER (Small School Group)**

This could be a raging four-day battle for all the marbles with a slew of regional title contenders in the grouping, including **LAKELAND, WALTER PANAS, PUTNAM VALLEY and BRIARCLIFF.**

**PEEKSKILL, CROTON, HALDANE, HEN HUD and North Salem round out the nine-team field.**

Here comes PANAS (9-1). You know how we know? Friday’s 75-58 win over Ossining gave it away, as did six-straight wins. Panas senior G Kristen Cinquina, who scored the 1,000th point of her career in a prior win over North Salem, had 19 points against the Pride. Panther F Kelsey Cregan’s double-double was impressive (18 points, 17 rebounds) and senior G Cailean Nolan added 15 points and eight rebounds for the suring Panthers, winners of six-straight after Saturday’s 47-29 win over YORKTOWN.

Against the Huskers (5-5), Cinquina (15.6 PPG) sat out with an ankle issue that should be cleared up before playoffs, so Coach Matt Evangelista pulled a couple of eighth-graders from his bag of tricks. Cadence Nicholas (remember that name) scored a game-high 14 points and grabbed eight boards to pace the Panthers and classmate Sophia Tavares (remember her, too) went for six points.

“I told the girls I have never been more proud of any team I’ve ever coached,” Panas boss Matt Evangelista said. “Not because we won but because of their confidence and attitude throughout this this season.”

**Speaking of eighth-graders, PEEKSKILL’s** Bethani Overby is averaging nearly 17 PPG and 13.2 RPG while HEN HUD eighth-grader Kaillt Raguso is averaging 13 PPG and 9.4 RPG #BrightFutures.

Yorktown’s Severino had been on fire leading up to the Panas loss, scoring 85 points in three previous games, including a career-high 37 in a 67-46 win over reigning Section I Class A champion Hen Hud. She is having an All-Section-type season when you throw in her hustle, defense and rebounding (8 RPG).

**PUTNAM VALLEY** got sophomore G Eva DeChent (17 PPG, 8 RPG, 7 APG) on track when she went for a season-high 33 in the win over previously undefeated Hastings, which was held to a season low in the 59-58 Tiger win. Senior G Arianna Stockinger added 13 points and followed up with 25 against Byram, which PV Coach Kristi Dini called “a letdown.”

Stockinger, who averages over 16 PPG and 9 RPG, dropped 23 on Dobbs Ferry in a 44-38 win over the Eagles. Her defense on Eagles standout Julia Schwabe was better than stellar. Amanda Orlando added 12 points for the Tigers (7-2), who had won six straight before the Byram loss and took sole ownership of the Conference III North League title in Sunday’s 62-35 win over CROTON, which the Tigers needed badly as they headed into the playoffs. PV was led by Stockinger’s 24 points. DeChent (17) and Orlando (12) were prime factors. Croton was led by Anna Eng (17 points).

continued on next page
**LAKELAND** bounced back from its loss to Brewster in Saturday’s 71-50 win over visiting John Jay CR behind Hannah Devane’s game-high 16 points. Hornet G Tyler Hormazabal (13 PPG) did her typical thing (1e Blue Devils and Maddy Morter added 14, Maddie Chiara (18 points, 4 steals) and Ruby Posey (6 points) led Haldane.

Croton’s Eng scored 19 points, one below her season average in a 59-42 win over Valhalla Sofia Tuman (16 points) and Lucia Thoreson (14) were solid secondary options. Paige Williams scored 16 points to pace the Vikings.

5 points, 10 steals). Nichole Ljujic (12 points) and Sarah Devane (9 points) chipped in for the Hornets (5-6).

Defending Section 1 Class A champion Hen Hud picked up its first win of the season at Haldane, 64-36 when G Grace Moretti dropped 17 points on the Blue Devils. Raguso added 10 and G Kira Varada had nine. Haldane was led by Maddie Chiara (18 points, 4 steals) and Ruby Posey (6 points).

**BRIARCLIFF** (4-1) went on a quarantine pause after a win over Valhalla back on Feb. 24. The Bears returned to action yesterday against Hendrick Hudson and concluded their regular season at Westlake today.

**SOUTHERN WEST. (Group 3)**

**PLEASANTVILLE** survived a scare from host **CROATON-HARMON**, edging the Tigers 51-49 last Tuesday. Lila Donohue (16 points), Mary Grace O’Neill (14 points) and Jenna McAllister (12 points) paced the Panthers while Anna Eng led Croton with a game-high 23 points.

Two days later, the Panthers went on the road and battled powerhouse Rye in a 51-47 defeat. McAllister (14 points) and O’Neill (12 points) led Pleasantville.

The Panthers’ second contest with Croton was nothing like the first meeting as Pleasantville cruised to an easy 59-30 win. Tina Matica and McAllister sparked the team with 15 and 14 points, respectively. Julia O’Reilly added 12 points. Eng led all scorers with 21 points. Pleasantville (8-2) ended its regular season against Blind Brook on Monday.

**WESTLAKE** (4-1) returned from a pause on Friday, defeating host Rye Neck 54-23 behind 13 points from Nicole Karagi and 10 points from ToniAnn Mastracchio. The Wildcats jumped out to an 18-4 lead after one quarter and never looked back.

The next day, the Wildcats won their fourth straight game with a 56-37 rout of **VALHALLA**. Sami Oswald went for a career-high 20 points on the strength of four 3-pointers. Mastracchio added 11 points and four assists while Julie Lyden tallied 10 points. The Vikings were paced by Tishta Sivamakrishnan’s nine points.

Westlake traveled to Bronxville on Monday before wrapping up the regular season the next day when they host Briarcliff, who they defeated 59-45 back on Feb. 21.

Valhalla topped Yonkers Montessori Academy 46-36 on Tuesday behind Sivamakrishnan’s (14 points), Paige Williams (11 points) and Megan Lynch (10 points). Williams had 16 points in a 59-32 loss to Croton the next day.

**SOUTHERN WEST. (Group 2)**

After being on pause for eight days, **BYRAM HILLS** returned to action with a bang, sweeping John Jay Cross-River and defeating both New Rochelle and last year’s Section 1 Class B champion **PUTNAM VALLEY**.

In a defensive slugfest, Byram defeated visiting Putnam Valley 43-27 on Saturday morning. Byram Hills was sparked by junior guard Beth Corelli, who tallied 12 points, eight rebounds and three steals. Freshman Grace Corelli (9 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals) and senior Olivia Picca (7 points, 12 rebounds, 2 steals) were also key contributors.

Byram Hills built a 26-14 halftime lead and was up 34-23 after three quarters.

“Once we knocked down a few shots, our team’s confidence really grew,” Bobcats coach Tara Ryan said. “Senior Gabby Ripka knocked down two threes, which gave us a nice lead in the first quarter. We were pushing the ball when we could but really working on screening when Putnam Valley was playing man defense. In the second half, PV did a nice job of switching to zone and we had to find a way to score other than outside shots. Beth and Picca did a great job rebounding along with Olivia Barry.”

The Bobcats held star Putnam Valley guard Eva DeChent to just one point.

“We had a plan of face guarding her and Grace did a fantastic job,” Ryan said. “We were able to get her in foul trouble which changed how she has to play. She is a fantastic player. I am happy our team played great help defense on her. We were able to defend and rebound and great things happened for us. Kids hit shots when we needed them and we came out on top today.”

Arianna Stockinger led Putnam Valley with a game-high 25 points. It was a tough shooting day for the Tigers, who went just 7 for 18 from the foul line.

Byram cruised past league opponent John Jay 69-36 on March 1 with Beth Corelli (21 points), Grace Corelli (17 points) and Picca (10 points) leading the way. Two days later they topped the Wolves again, this time in a tighter 59-51 contest where they led just 31-30 at halftime. Beth Corelli (18 points), Grace Corelli (12 points), Picca (9 points) and Olivia Barry (7 points) did the damage offensively for the Bobcats, who secured a league title.

The unbeaten Bobcats (6-0) concluded the regular season on Monday against **WHITE PLAINS** before entering the regional playoffs.

**SOUTHERN WEST. (Group 1)**

**WHITE PLAINS** lost to New Rochelle (52-43) and Ursuline (81-33, Aliya McVey 12 points) to start the week but rebounded with three victories.

The Tigers earned a measure of revenge against the visiting Huguenots in a 50-48
Sports

league win on Wednesday. Freshman point guard Ineivi Plata scored the game-winning basket on a feed from sophomore Anneliese Reggio with 14.9 seconds to go and the Tigers were able to get a crucial stop on New Rochelle’s final possession.

White Plains built an 18 point lead in the second half that New Rochelle erased but the Tigers were able to claw back for the win. “Based on our inconsistency to close teams out, our youth kicked in and we started making senseless turnovers,” Tigers coach Benji Carter said. “That’s how we lost to Scarsdale and New Rochelle to start the season. New Rochelle took advantage of our miscues offensively and chipped away until they took the lead in the fourth quarter. I called a few timeouts to discuss how important paying attention to details and working hard for 32 minutes matter. I didn’t want to micromanage at the end. I wanted them to figure it out and they did. Although I felt we were the better team, it showed my team that hard work and mental toughness can overcome talent when talent doesn’t work hard on each possession.”

Plata netted a game-high 17 points and grabbed six boards. Sequoia Layne added 10 points while McIver had a strong all-around effort with six points, five rebounds, seven assists, seven steals and two blocks. “Beforehand we discussed who their top scorers were and the assignments to make adjustments from the first loss,” Carter said of the bounce back win. “We had to maintain a body in front of them at all times. [New Rochelle] plays hard and if left open we knew their guards were good shooters and their forwards were scrappy.”

Behind 17 points from McIver, the Tigers topped Pelham 51-45 on Thursday. Layne and Plata added nine points apiece.

White Plains celebrated senior day with a 52-38 win over Mount Vernon on Friday. Layne (14 points, 10 rebounds) and McIver (12 points, 9 assists) paced the attack. “It was a nice victory for the four seniors: Danielle Falcone, Adriana Moreno, Katie McAteer and Daisy Klink,” Carter said.

White Plains (4-4) wrapped up the regular season at Byram Hills on Monday. “We are progressing nicely despite the early losses,” Carter said. “They are understanding how to handle pressure, maintain mental toughness and play together as a team despite us being a young team.”
Quartet Among Expected Challengers for Upcoming Regional Playoffs; Don’t Sleep on Lakeland

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

Let the playoff speculation begin. With the release of its regional postseason breakdown last Monday, Section 1 has plotted a course for regional culminating events for boys’ and girls’ hoops, so that means coaches and players can begin scouting one another in earnest because they know who’s in their respective brackets. There won’t be much time for interpersonal scouting, though, as the playoffs were set to tip-off Wednesday afternoon (with playoff seeds released today).

Teams won’t have long to gather intel on one another because the seeding meeting is scheduled for today (Tues., 3/9) with quarterfinals to follow tomorrow (Wed., 3/10), semifinals (Thurs., 3/11) and the finals set to wrap up at the highest remaining seed on Sat., 3/13. Coaches will rely on scouting reports and game film for teams they had not been prepared for, though most anticipated the regional groupings the Section 1 Executive Committee had released.

We broke up this week’s notebook accordingly, taking a look at the second season, which gives every team a new lease on life in a year that’s been anything but normal.

“It’s a crazy season,” Yorktown Coach Mark Pavella said after his Huskers were shocked, 64-56, by previously winless Brewster opting out). "Our goals are always to win a championship and this year will be no different," Tomassi said. "We know it won’t be easy and we’re battling some injuries right now. We will need to continue to get better. It’s basketball and on any given day someone can be beat. We need to keep working and put ourselves in a position to be successful.”

Greeley (10-1) nearly pulled off an upset win over WHITE PLAINS last Tuesday, but gave up a late lead in a 57-53 defeat. Connor Melis (18 points), Owen Parsons (16 points) and Dylan Anderson (13 points) paced the Quakers.

The defending Section 1 Class AA champion Quakers lost to North Rockland 47-35 on Friday. Anderson had 18 points in a 40-37 loss to John Jay-Cross River on Saturday.

MAHOPAC pounced on visiting Arlington, 55-37, Saturday and finished the regular season at Peekskill yesterday and enters the regionals this week with the first round on Wednesday.

The Foxes’ hopes for an unbeaten season were dashed after a 56-48 loss to Lakeland on Sunday. Oliver Shevick (11 points, 4 assists, 6 rebounds) and DiBiasi (15 points, 10 rebounds) both fouled out in a physical contest. Charlie Shevick added eight points.

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Teams that have not scouted OSSINING yet will soon notice the difference between Coach Mike Casey’s Pride before and after junior G Jaeden Carr’s return. The silky smooth Pride leader returned to a noticeably-boosted Ossining lineup last Tuesday when he debuted in a 72-67 win over PEKSKILL. Carr dropped a game-high 26 points and snagged eight rebounds and three steals for the Pride (3-4), who have been exhaustingly inconsistent but remain a dangerous out.

“He’s a game changer,” Casey exclaimed. “He’s our leader on and off the court. He’s been up on varsity since eighth grade. The three games that he missed, it was like having another coach on the sidelines. We know what he brings to the team and we are grateful he is back.”

Ossining eighth-grader Kris Banwareesingh (14 points, 3 rebounds) and senior point guard Khy’lell Hawkins (13 points, 8 dimes and 3 steals) each settled in nicely behind Carr. Eight Pride players were in on the scoring in all. Peekskill countered and made it close with a 21-point fourth quarter behind Jayson Tinsley (16 points), Ezekiel Jones (15) and Travis Brown (11). Peekskill senior F Brennan Heaven (5 points) was in foul trouble and finished well below his scoring average.

Ossining (3-4) showed a ton of promise before falling in a big way at LAKELAND Thursday, 85-64. The Pride were careless before falling in a big way at LAKELAND Thursday, 85-64. The Pride were careless. The Pride needed extra time and two sets of heroics to beat Somers, 52-51, in OT last Wednesday. Indian G John Cosentino (17 points) hit a running 3-pointer to beat the buzzer to end regulation, and G Miles Buckley (13 points) nailed a conventional and-one three with three seconds left in OT. Like many of the sluggishests in League B, it wasn’t pretty but it kept the Indians in the hunt for the league title, which they claimed when Yorktown lost to Brewster Sunday.

“Sometimes teams just need to find a way to win,” McMahon admitted. “Our guys showed strong character to prevail, and I felt bad for Coach DiCintio and their kids because they outplayed us tonight.”

YORKTOWN has also won its fair share of low-scoring battles, but managed to put up 60 in an eight-point win over CARMEl on Wednesday. Somehow, though, the Huskers went off to BREWSTER on Sunday and suffered a critical 64-56 League B loss, giving Mahopac sole possession of the league bragging rights.

As he has done all season, Husker junior C Eddie Brucaj (12 points, 10 rebounds) wore down the Rams. He beat that effect for the Huskers, who saw good-looking sophomore G Antoine Coles score a game-high 15 points. Huskers Tony Granitto and Jared Faivre each scored 11 points. Andrew Fiore (12 points), Nick DiLeo (10), Trevor Cayea had (9) and Kevin Dall (8) paced the Rams. DiLeo was coming off a 25-point, eight-rebound effort in the 55-53 loss to Yorktown the day before when Brucaj (16 points, 20 boards) and Granitto (9 points, 14 rebounds) dominated.

Prior to the Brewster loss, the Huskers (8-3) had finished up a strong week in a 50-48 win over Hen Hud when Faivre scored 13 points and Brucaj added eight points and 15 rebounds. Husker Tony Granitto (10 points, 10 rebounds) posted a double-double and was key in containing Hen Hud sniper Nick Hitley, who scored 20 points, four below his average. Rocco Capicotti added 13 points for the Sailors.

Carmel has come on strong of late but may lack the necessary scoring punch to advance to the second round. The Rams defeated John Jay EF, 73-67, when Nick DiLeo continued a torrid stretch of play with 19 points and five rebounds. Andrew Fiore had 19 points and eight rebounds while Kevin Dall (8 points), Trevor Cayea (9 points) and Randy Aboagency (7 points, 13 rebounds) made solid contributions for the junior-heavy Rams (12 of 13).

Wins have been tough to come by at Brewerster this winter but that didn’t stop Coach Tom Nelligans Bears (1-6) from play #Spoiler in Sunday’s win over Yorktown.

Shane McLaughlin and Connor Griffin scored 15 apiece and Kobe Hart added 14 points for the Bears.

PUTNAM / NORTH, WESTCHESTER (Small School Group)

Had to feel bad for HALDANE, which was off and running with a 9-0 start, only to be hit with a 10-day quarantine. However, Coach Joe Virgadamo’s Blue Devils will be somewhat rusty but ready for today’s regionals. The Class B Blue Devils were playing hard for Coach V and deserved a shot at reigning Class C champion Hamilton, which they needed to prepare for some of the tougher teams they will see in the playoffs; like Class A LAKELAND, PANAS, and HEN HUD, plus a Class B BRIARCLIFF club that many are touting as the favorites after winning the Conference III Central League title.

BRIARCLIFF went unbeaten in its league to secure a league title, clinching the crown with a 49-43 win over host WESTLAKE last Wednesday. It’s the Bears’ first league title in three years. Westlake will compete in the Southern Westchester (Group 3) bracket of regionals.

“We had a call the day that they decided there wasn’t going to be a state tournament and we said we’re still going to compete for championships,” Briarcliff coach Nick Friedman said. “We talked about that all

Ossining F Griffin Dahl snags rebound in Pride’s 85-64 loss to Lakeland Thursday.

Ossining 8th-grader Kristian Banwareesingh goes up for two on Lakeland’s Logan Shiland in Pride’s 85-64 loss to host Hornets.

Lakeland’s Andrew Mendel goes up for two against Ossining’s Isaiah Ahlers in host Hornets’ 85-64 win over Pride Thursday.

Ray Gallagher / Rob DiAntonio / Josue Acevedo Photos

Ossining freshman F Isaiah Ahlers goes up strong in Pride’s 85-64 loss to host Hornets Thursday.
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Boys Hoops Notebook

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Briarcliff’s Brett Lachtman soars past Westlake’s Carter Falkenberg and Evan O’Brien in Bears’ league title clinching win last week.

Briarcliff’s Aidan Murnane attacks the basket in Bears’ league-title clinching win over Westlake.

Briarcliff’s Jayden Larregue goes up for a reverse layup over Westlake’s Carter Falkenberg in Bears’ league-title clinching win over Wildcats.

Justin Silva, who scored a game-high 17 points, did all he could to get the Wildcats back in it in the fourth quarter. Hamad Azhar nailed a three and Silva connected on a feed from senior point guard Aidan Murnane to respond. Elliot Jones then made two free throws and hit a baseline jumper to stretch the Bears’ lead to 42-34 with just over two minutes to go.

Silva knocked down a three with just over a minute left then nailed another three from the left wing to make it a two-point game with 27 seconds left. McCann answered with a layup on the other end to stretch the lead back to four. Westlake’s Evan O’Brien missed a deep three and Jones corralled the rebound. He was fouled and made two free throws to seal the win.

Jones led the Bears with 12 points. McCann and Murnane added nine points apiece while Jayden Larregue and Lachtman had eight each. Friedman added that senior Spencer Safian stepped up off the bench when Murnane was in foul trouble in the first half.

Westlake star guard Carter Falkenberg was held to just three points by a swarming Bears defense. Falkenberg was scoreless in the second half. O’Brien finished with 10 points but only had two points in the second half.

“In the first half, they were kind of getting what they wanted, getting to their spots and getting some good shots,” Friedman said of Westlake. “In the second half, our guys were able to make it tough on them. Those are two really good players. I’m not going to miss seeing Carter. He’s been a thorn in our side for a long time. I’ve got a lot of respect for him.”

Charney commended a towering Briarcliff center Luke McCann and O’Brien for his defensive intensity.

“Those guys have been averaging close to 20 points each,” Charney said of Falkenberg and O’Brien. “Against other teams we can get the ball to the rim but against them, they’ve got two 6-6 kids and another kid that’s 6-7 coming off the bench. It’s a tough match-up. But they’re the best defensive team in Class B. We had a shot but they’re a really good team.

“This one is going to be tough to get over because we haven’t won [a league title] since ’91. I know our guys were really looking forward to that and hoping to beat them today. We’ve just got to refocus.”

The Bears endured their first loss on Friday night, falling to host Fox Lane 48-34. Briarcliff (9-1) bounced back with a 55-50 win over host Bronxville on Saturday after a rocky start that saw the Hornets open up at 0-5. Veteran swingman Rob Nardelli

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dropped 26 on the Foxes and hit 11 of 12 free throws during a pivotal 15-point fourth quarter that saw the Hornets outscore the Foxes 24-16. This, just a day after Nardelli dropped a career-high 27 on Somers in a 63-60 Hornet win.

“We’re just playing with a lot of confidence now,” the veteran coach said, “especially today with two starters out against Fox Lane. It was nice to see our younger guys step up. Defense, rebounding and free throw shooting was very good today. Senior Rob Nardelli has just refused to have us lose.”

Lakeland sophomore Logan Shiland hit three 3’s for nine points. In Lakeland’s 51-49 win over PEEKSKILL, Mark Cummins scored 13 points for the Hornets, who had four scorers in double digits. Brennan Heaven scored 14 points and Jayson Tinsley added 11 for the Red Devils.

PANAS (7-4, 4-3) just keeps on coming, too, evidenced by its 49-37 win over visiting Pleasantville Sunday, preceded by its 66-54 win over Ossining Saturday and a 48-44 win over Hen Hud. Imagine how much fun it would be if Panas and Lakeland were on opposite sides of the brackets and ran the table to Saturday?

In Panas’ win over Pleasantville, F Caleb Evans (14 points) and Oliver Smith (15) led the Panthers, who took a 19-10 first-quarter lead and never looked back. The Panthers were in a better offensive mindset in their 66-54 win over Ossining when sophomore G Alex Tavarez scored 21 points and Evans added 20. Smith, who is oncoming of late, added 10. Carr had 17 points, five rebounds and four assists for the Pride. Banwareesingh (17 points) and Hawkins (16 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists) enabled the Pride to hang around.

In Panas’ 48-44 win over HEN HUD, Evans and Tavarez scored 15 points apiece. Nick Hiltsley scored 19 points for the Sailors (7-4, 6-2) while Capicotti added nine.

Westlake’s Jack Neglia soars in for the shot while Briarcliff’s Luke McCann goes for the sweat in Wildcats’ loss to Bears.

SOUTHERN WEST. (Group 2)

Westlake (9-2) played its fifth game in six days and earned a 70-58 win over VALHALLA on Saturday behind 21 points from Falkenberg. Teammates Silva (15 points) and O’Brien (13 points) chipped in for the Wildcats, who concluded the regular season against Bronxville yesterday.

“We’re looking forward to the playoffs,” Charney said. “Hopefully everyone can stay healthy. All these teams are dropping out and they’re quarantined. We’re just trying to go day by day and stay with it.”

Mahari Davis netted a game-high 21 points for Valhalla. Joe O’Neill added 13 points while Rashean Melvin had 10.

PLEASANTVILLE picked up an impressive 67-66 league win over visiting Valhalla last Wednesday. The Panthers had four players in double figures in scoring, led by Daniel Picart’s 15 points. Tommy McPhee (14 points), Dominic Matica (12 points) and Justin Cronk (10 points) also helped Pleasantville secure the big win.

“Coming into this season we had a very inexperienced team with no returning starters from last season’s team,” Panthers coach Bob Jordon said. “With every game those minutes on the floor are adding up, so the kids are getting more and more confident. We’ve shown that if we put a complete game together we can compete with the top teams. Jordon said that they had plenty of open looks in the first meeting with Valhalla, a 51-37 loss on Feb. 27. He told his squad that they had to keep shooting and they “worked very hard in practice on Tuesday shooting those shots.”

“On Wednesday, those shots fell,” Jordon said.

Melvin sparked the Vikings with a game-high 27 points. Davis added 11 points while Michael Giuliano netted 10.

“We knew that Rasheen Melvin was going... continued on next page
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to get his points," Jordan said. "We just
couldn’t let someone else beat us. Limit the
others’ points and we had a chance to be in
the game."

Nick Bates had 14 points while Cronk
added 10 in a 42-36 loss to Blind Brook on
Thursday. Picart (20 points) and Cronk (18
points) led the Panthers to a bounce back win
with a 68-22 rout of Woodlands on Saturday.
Pleasantville (5-6) fell to host Walter Panas
49-37 on Sunday.

Melvin scored a game-high 18 points
lead Valhalla to a 50-32 win over Blind
Brook last Tuesday. The Vikings finished the
regular season at 4-4.

Matteo Simon’s 26 points sparked BYRAM
HILLS in a 56-42 league win over visiting
John Jay-CR on March 1. The Bobcats went
on the road and fell to the Wolves 59-48 two
nights later. Brady Karp tallied a game-high
19 points and Simon had 17 points in a 66-
61 win over Pelham on Saturday. Teammate
Tyon Repa added 10 points. The Bobcats (5-
3) finished up the regular season when they
traveled to Rye yesterday.

SOUTHERN WEST. (Large School Group 1)

It was an extremely busy week for
WHITE PLAINS, who started it off with a
massive 72-51 league win over visiting New
Rochelle on March 1.

The Tigers, who arguably compete
in the toughest public school league in
all of New York State and have the most
merciless regional grouping in Section 1,
received a game-high 27 points from Tymir
Greene. Mekhi Woodbury added 19 points.
Teammates Joe Carrier (11 points) and
Menzy Cardin (8 points) chipped in.

"It’s crazy, we had five games this week in
six days," said White Plains coach Spencer
Mayfield, who joked that the Tigers can use
some much-needed rest. "The body is not
meant to do that after a year off. I want them
to learn the mental toughness and take that
away. When we’re in an adverse situation
we’ve got to respond the right way."

White Plains led New Rochelle 32-31 at
halftime but outscored the Huguenots 40-20
in the second half to run away with the win.
The next day the Tigers had to come from
behind to pull out a 57-53 win over host

WHITE PLAINS led New Rochelle
32-31 at halftime but outscored the Huguenots
40-20 in the second half to run away with the
win. The next day the Tigers had to come from
behind to pull out a 57-53 win over host

White Plains F Joe Carrier makes his move in
Tigers’ win over visiting Eastchester Saturday.

Greeley Greene (15 points), Carrier (13
points), Woodbury (11 points) and Cardin
(10 points) led the way for the Tigers, who
receive balanced scoring on most nights.

"That matters," Mayfield said when
asked how critical balanced scoring is to the
Tigers’ success. "We need guys to come off
the bench and give us a few points. We have
to get a balanced attack. If one or two guys
are doing all the scoring then we don’t fare
so well."

New Rochelle turned the tables in the
rematch, cruising past White Plains 77-52
on Wednesday. Carrier (12 points), Greene
(11 points) and Woodbury (10 points) paced
the Tigers.

White Plains lost to host Mount Vernon
90-63 in a league game on Friday. Woodbury
netted a team-high 15 points while Cardin

Yorktown junior F Eddie Brucaj was a menace
in the paint, scoring eight points and grabbing
15 boards in Huskers’ 50-48 win over Hen Hud

and Greene both had 11 points.
The battle-weary Tigers ended the week
with a 71-59 win over visiting Eastchester
on Saturday. Greene and Cardin tallied 21
points apiece while Woodbury added 11
points.

"We know Eastchester can shoot the
three very well and we closed out on them
a little bit better," Mayfield said of the key
to pulling out the win down the stretch. "We
were able to stem the tide a little bit. And we
matched their threes."

White Plains’ Mekhi Woodbury leads a fast break
in Tigers’ win over Eastchester.

White Plains was on fire from the start
and took a 39-30 lead into halftime. They
made 12 3-pointers in the game with Greene
sinking five of them.

"In the first half I liked the way they
moved the ball," Mayfield said. "We had
about 10 assists in the first half which was
pretty good. Our goal is to try to always get
20. But we moved the ball a lot better."

White Plains (6-3) finished its regular
season when it hosted Mount Vernon
yesterday and then will compete in the first
round of the regional playoffs on Wednesday.

"I just want them to try to have some fun
with it and grow from it," Mayfield said of the
mindset heading into the postseason. "Give
my seniors a last experience at playoffs and
my underclassmen an opportunity to prepare
for the future."
The COVID-19 abbreviated regular season is over. An eight-team post season is upon the Examiner-area teams who comprise the Putnam-Northern Westchester regional playoff grouping, including Mahopac, BYSNS, Cortlandt, Mount Pleasant, Fox Lane, 2020 D-II runner-up John Jay CR and Horace Greeley, the prescribed favorite, based upon a 5-4 win over John Jay and a 3-3 tie with the Wolves.

White Plains will try to make some hay in the Southern Westchester grouping that features Rye and undefeated perennial powerhouse Mamaroneck, the clear favorites.

**Horace Greeley Ices Mahopac, 7-4, Snags League Title**

The next night, Greeley defeated MAHOPAC 7-4 to celebrate their senior night. Greeley built a 3-0 lead before Mahopac responded, cutting the deficit to 4-3. But the Quakers were able to close the game out with three unanswered goals.

Adams sparked the Greeley attack with a hat trick, Mutkoski (1 assist), Ben Cohen and Jacob Rothman also scored. Jared Rothman and Johnny Spar each dished out two assists. Arye Wolberg made 17 saves.

Ryan Caraher and Matt Luczkowski each had a goal and an assist for Mahopac. Nick Stillner netted the Indians’ other goal. Mike Horan made 32 saves in net.

Greeley honored its five seniors before the game: Mutkoski, Wolberg, Joe Lamb, Molly Babowal and Max Orlich.

The Quakers (3-3-1) closed out the regular season today with a game against the BYSNS. The regional playoffs begin tomorrow with the finals slated for Saturday.

Behind five goals and two assists from Daniel Cardozo, WHITE PLAINS cruised past MOUNT PLEASANT 11-4 on March 1.

John Myers had two goals and two assists. Harley Formica scored his first varsity goal and added two assists while Teddy Hauser dashed out two assists. Alex Farber-Griggs, Jack Chetti and Jason Katz netted a goal each. Sean Keenan made 27 saves.

Tom Schutt scored twice for Mount Pleasant with Javier Wurster and Nathan Xie adding a goal each. Johann Sarfatty made 17 saves.

The White Plains Tigers then dropped a pair of games to Rye Town/Harrison by scores of 7-5 and 8-6. In the first meeting, Cardozo netted a hat trick. Myers added a goal and two assists, including the 100th assist of his career. Keenan made 30 saves. Cardozo (2 goals, 2 assists) and Myers (1 goal, 3 assists) paced White Plains in the second contest.

White Plains (2-4-1) faced off with ETBE on Monday and takes on Mount Pleasant tonight before heading into the regional playoffs.

FOX LANE fell to Mahopac 12-7 last Wednesday, Dan Leader had a trick for the Foxes while Aaron Easton notched two goals. Charlie Della Penna added a goal and two assists.

Nick Biagini sparked the Indians with four goals. Caraher and Luczkowski each had hat tricks. Horan made 37 saves for Mahopac while Fox Lane goalie Nick Pierce made 37 stops.

Two late goals, including Ryan Caraher’s 22nd of the season, gave MAHOPAC a 4-3 come-from-behind win over BYRAM HILLS Thursday at the Brewster Ice Arena. Jonathan Martiniano (2A) set up the game-winner for the Indians and G Chris ‘Big Hands’ Horan stopped 21 shots. Caraher earned the hat trick on his final goal and set up another for Matt Luczkowski, who dropped a four-pack the night before in a 13-7 victory over FOX LANE. Caraher (3G 4A) had seven points in that game. Nick Biagini (3G, 1A) and Chris Stillner (1G, 2A) and had multi-point efforts for the Indians (4-2-1).

“We’re missing one of our top defenders, Rich Gospinowski, the last two games, so the kids have stepped up,” Mahopac Coach Tim Donaghy said. “The entire group is really starting to coming together.”

Greeley’s Gabe Adams had a hat trick against Mahopac and two goals against Mamaroneck as the surging Quakers picked up a win and a tie over the weekend.

**By Ray Gallagher**

**Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays**

**& Rob DiAntonio @RJD_Photos**

**Ice Hockey Notebook**

Mahopac G Chris ’Big Hands’ Horan will need to get red hot if the Indians are going to challenge for regional title.
Lakeland senior F Aidan Welcome goes for two of his game-high 21 points in the host Hornets’ 85-64 stomping of Ossining (and Dominique Bautista #3) last Thursday, when the surging Hornets won their fourth-straight game and ignited hope for a run at the Putnam-Northern Westchester Small School regional playoffs this week, which was further fueled after Sunday’s 56-48 win over previously undefeated Fox Lane... see Boys’ Hoops Notebook