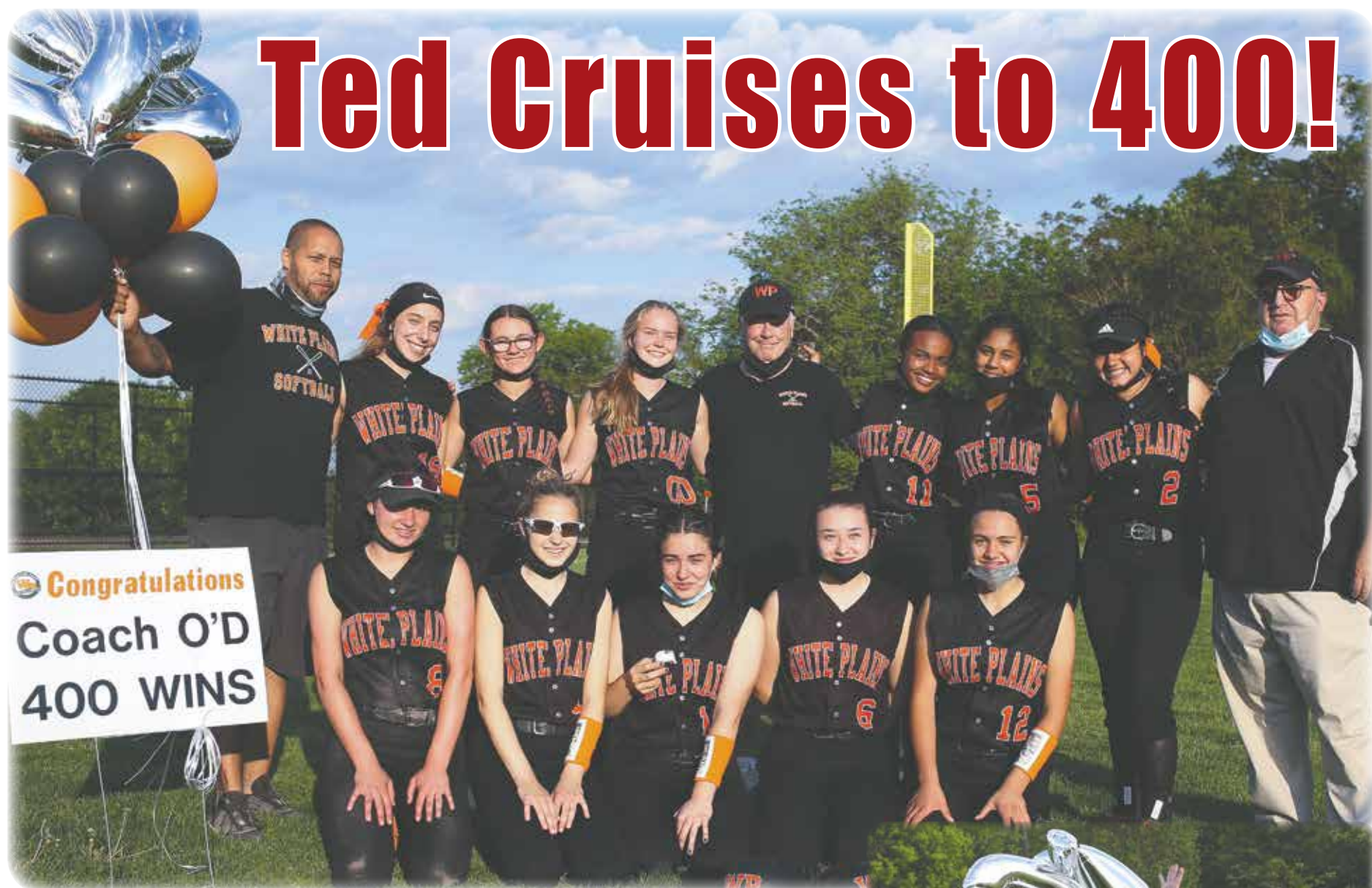


Examiner Sports



Veteran White Plains Softball Coach O'Donnell Notches Milestone Win in Rout of New Ro'



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

White Plains softball Coach Ted O'Donnell recorded his 400th career win in a 20-5 rout of visiting New Rochelle last Tuesday when players and parents honored the legendary coach with balloons and signs to commemorate the milestone victory... see Softball Notebook

Many Locals Among Legit Challengers on Diamond



Carmel players react to a pair of runs scored in Friday's 11-2 romp of visiting John Jay CR.

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

Saddle up, gang! The 2021 baseball campaign is headed toward the final turn before the stretch run, and a slew of Examiner-area teams are poised to make a run for the roses.

Class AA White Plains, Fox Lane and Carmel are all having huge seasons and will be strong contenders for the sectional title, provided they can challenge mighty Mamaroneck and knock the Dutchess County powers -- RCK, John Jay EF and Arlington -- off the perch of power they off-command, not to mention Rockland County heavyweights Suffern and Clarkstown

South. The talent in Class AA is vast this season, so whoever hoists the hardware will have earned it, seeing how the top 10 or better are all viable contenders.

Likewise, Class A is wide open and there for the take, and who's to say it won't be Yorktown pulling down its second sectional title since 1995 as the Huskers (11-1) continue to cruise under first-year boss C.J. Riefenhauser, the former big leaguer. The sleeper among us is Hen Hud, which knocked off Arlington to run its win streak to eight games before falling, 3-2, to John Jay CR Thursday. Likewise, Panas is mysteriously flying under the radar but has won more than 90% of its games against Class A opponents and has enough talent to seriously challenge.

In Class B, Briarcliff is hitting .474 as a team and pitching to the tune of a 1.25 ERA, so those numbers suggest the Bears (10-2) are still the team to beat.

In the CHSAA, Kennedy Catholic



Carmel P Tim Albano settled down, went the route and delivers in his 1st varsity win, whiffing five and allowing two runs after shaky start.

is doing serious damage and continues to be one of the strongest baseball programs in the region under Coach Fletcher despite consecutive losses to Iona Prep, which just might be the finest varsity baseball club in the Westchester/Putnam/Rockland/Dutchess region.

Like we said, saddle up!

CLASS AA

To say **CARMEL** is simply raking 1-through-9 would not do justice for the Harley-raking Rams, who are hitting over .350 as a team. In the host Rams' 11-2 win over John Jay CR last Friday when starting P Tim Albano settled down after a shaky first inning to secure his first varsity win by going the distance with five hits allowed and two earned runs to go with five K's. Carmel (10-2) crushed it at the plate, including Jack Sullivan (3-4, 2B, 2R HR, 3 RBI), Matt Demme (3-3, 2B), Brendan Murphy (3-run dinger, 4 RBI), Nick Montagna (3 RBI, 3B) and Jon McIntyre (2 hits).

Sullivan (.500 BA) picked the Rams up Saturday in their 17-2 rout of visiting Brewster, driving home five runs over the first four frames, giving him 23 RBI through 12 games. Carmel's slick-picking junior SS Kevin Dall (3 hits) and Marcos Fernandez each knocked in a pair as the Rams cranked out 15 hits in just five innings. Senior OF/C Anthony Febo continued his torrid tear this week and is at .410 BA for the season.

OSSINING P Dan Galef gave the performance of a lifetime when the Pride held firm to to the coveted Christian Federico Cup

by beating visiting Byram Hills, 10-1, behind Galef's compete-game effort. The RHP fanned 10 over seven frames and did not allow an earned run. Gino Manicchio (2-3 4 RBI, 3-run HR) and Lucas Rodriguez (2-3, 2B, HR) were huge behind him.

Ossining Coach Scott Deleso was impressed with Galef's poise.

"He had an amazing performance," the coach said. "He came out throwing strikes. He got ahead in the count and had hitters guessing all day, which led to his ten strikeout day. He challenged hitters all day and was a bulldog on the mound for us."

MAHOPAC hasn't had the banner season it was hoping for, but the Indians (3-10) are scratching and clawing under Coach Myk Lugbauer. In a 2-1 win over Brewster Thursday, the Indians swept the Bears behind P Mikey Ambro's 5 -1/3 innings, in which he did not allow and earned run before yielding to reliever Brandon Smith, who picked up his first win in relief when sophomore Joey Koch hit the game-winning sac fly in sixth. Craig Brandstetter had an RBI single and a key sac bunt to set up a run.

WHITE PLAINS won three more games to move to 9-2 and is a serious contender in a loaded Class AA field.

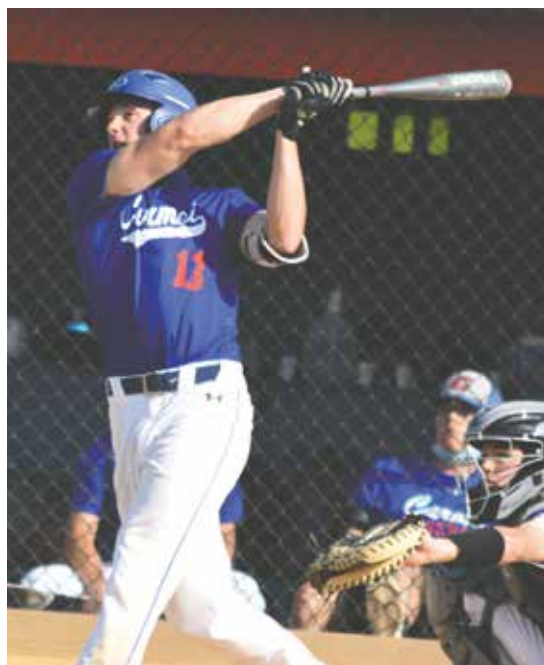
The Tigers started off with a 6-2 win over Suffern last Tuesday. Derek Diaz (6 innings, 2 earned runs) got the win while Mark Kent recorded the save. Nick Vendola (2 hits, 2 RBI), John Myers (2 hits, RBI, double, 2 runs) and Teddy Hauser (2 hits, RBI) led the offense.

White Plains then defeated Sleepy Hollow 15-7 with Declan Bruton (3 for 5, 4 RBI, 3 runs, home run, double), Diaz (2 hits, 4 RBI), Hauser (3 for 3, 3 runs), Chris McGuire (2 for 4, RBI, triple) and Jake Dorchak (2 hits, 2 RBI) sparking them at the plate.

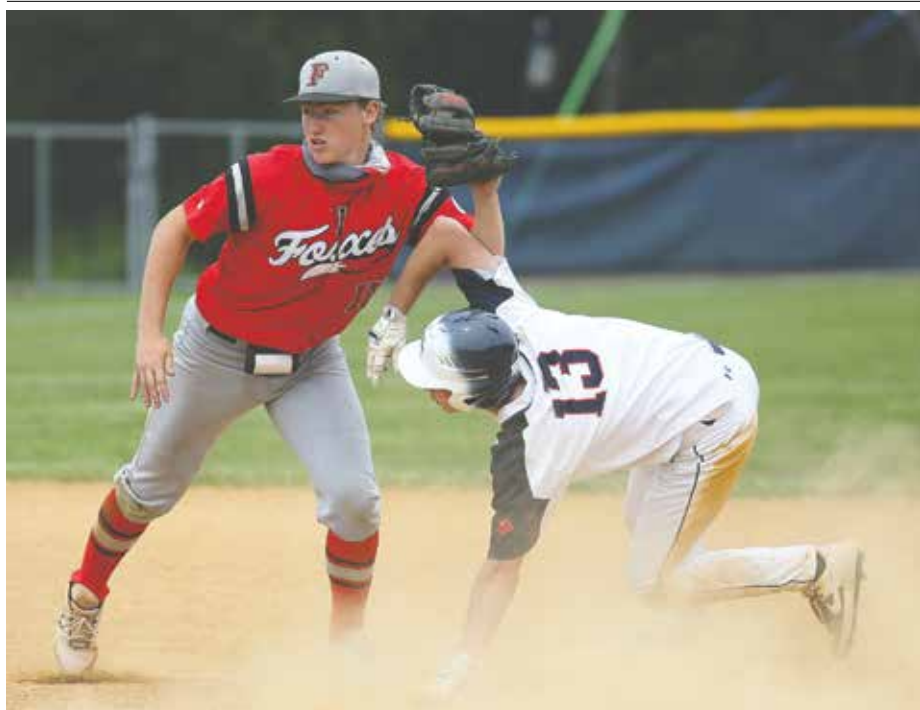
The Tigers recorded their fifth straight win with a 15-1 rout of Scarsdale at Purchase College on Saturday. Kent twirled a gem, tossing six innings of three-hit ball while striking out 11. Myers (3 for 3, 4 runs), Mason Lang (2 hits, 2 RBI) and Diaz (2 RBI) were the leaders offensively.



Carmel C-OF Anthony Febo is toying with a .400 batting average and continued to mash with 18 RBI overall after win over John Jay CR Friday.



UConn-bound Carmel slugger Jack Sullivan added to his team-high 23 RBI in rout of John Jay CR Friday.



Fox Lane's Michael Lombardi shows the umpire the ball but Byram's Dom Miano is called safe at second.

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CLASS A

YORKTOWN is legit and we've known this while following their summer travel exploits the last few years in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League, which has translated into one heck of a start this spring for first-year Coach Riefenhauser's Huskers. Reifenhauser returned to his Mahopac roots Saturday, where his retired No.7 is fastened upon the scoreboard, and won his first game back at Mahopac as a head coach for Yorktown. Down 7-3 to Mahopac, the Huskers rallied twice and secured a 14-8 win.

The first rally saw Yorktown go for five runs in the pivotal fourth to take an 8-7 lead when Tyler Pugliese (3-5, 3 runs, 4 RBI) doubled home a run and Kyle Zaslaw dropped a go-ahead RBI to left. Swaroop Pujari started the rally with a double and scored.

Scratching and clawing as previously stated, Mahopac tied it in the sixth when Nick Angeloni stroked a hard shot to right field to plate Joey Koch, but the Indians ran themselves out of further damage with a caught stealing.

The Huskers (17 hits combined) then went to town in extra innings, plating six runs when Pujari (4-5, 2 runs), who mashed all game, doubled to lead off the eighth. Nick Jacoby (3-4, 2 runs, 1 RBI) had his prints all over this game and followed with an RBI double for a 9-8 lead, what proved to be the game-winning knock. Jon Munoz (3-5, 3 runs, 1 RBI) singled and Brett Warden walked to load the bases. Pugliese, Jon Sica and Zaslaw (2-4, 3 RBI) all followed with RBI at-bats for a 12-8 lead, game over, with reliever Scott Weitman (5 K's) allowing just one run in six innings.

"We have a great group of guys that all step up when needed," Coach Rief said. "No one on this team is selfish and they are just playing the game hard for each other."

Yorktown is getting contributions up and down the lineup, including Thursday's 10-0 win over host Somers, in which Stephen

Haglund went 4-4, with four RBI to support winning P Kevin Weitman, who worked six shutout innings of three-hit ball with nine K's. Huskers SS Warden added two RBI and two runs while Zaslaw doubled home a run and scored twice. Yorktown rallied for a win in the opener of the home-and-home set with Somers, defeating the Tuskers, 8-6, after trailing 5-1 in the third. Warden (3-4, 3 doubles), Pugliese (2R HR), Zaslaw (solo HR) were up to support winning P Scott Weitman, who worked four frames in relief (0 ER, 4K).

None of what's happening at Yorktown this spring is lost on the team.

"It has been incredible to be a part of this team," Zaslaw said. "It all started when all of the boys put in work this winter in the gym and during preseason practices, we bought in early. When Coach CJ came in on the first day, we knew he meant business and it showed. We all see he is all in and we join him. He knows a lot of guys in the area, and they always ask him how the team is, and we are out there trying to back him up. We are off to a good start, but we know there is still a lot of work left and we aren't satisfied. This team is special, and it's a dream to be part of this my senior year."

Somers recovered from the Yorktown series in Saturday's 8-4 win over Lourdes when P Jack Guardino worked six frames, allowing two earned runs with five K's. Senior slugger Jack Kaiser cracked a three-run yard bomb to lead a nine-hit parade.

HEN HUD's eight-game win streak came to an end but before it did the Sailors notched one of their more impressive wins in recent memory, a 3-2 walk-off over visiting Arlington last Wednesday. Sailor senior Nick Hiltley made it a long trip back to Lagrangeville for the Admirals when he cashed in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh. Starter Noah Lipton pitched 6 2/3 innings and Josh Shea got the final out in the top of the seventh to earn the win.

"The Arlington win was special, I'll be honest," Hen Hud skipper Van Vourliotis said. "I never like to make one win more

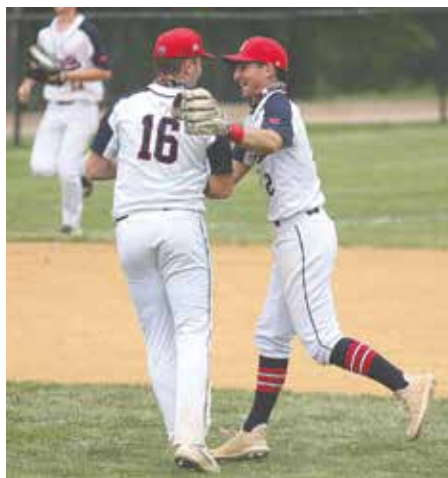
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Fox Lane left fielder Logan Matson (2 for 3 with a double and 3 RBI in win over Suffern) settles under a fly ball in loss to Byram.



Yorktown coach C.J. Riefenhauser, Kyle Zaslaw and the Huskers are rolling down the stretch of the regular season.



Byram Hills' Bobby Chicoine and Brady Karp are pumped up after getting out of a jam in league win over Fox Lane.

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important than another, but it gives us a chance to look back and say we know we can compete with anyone. Arlington is a program we admire from afar, one of the best in the state, no doubt. It was the best regular season win our program has achieved over the last decade.

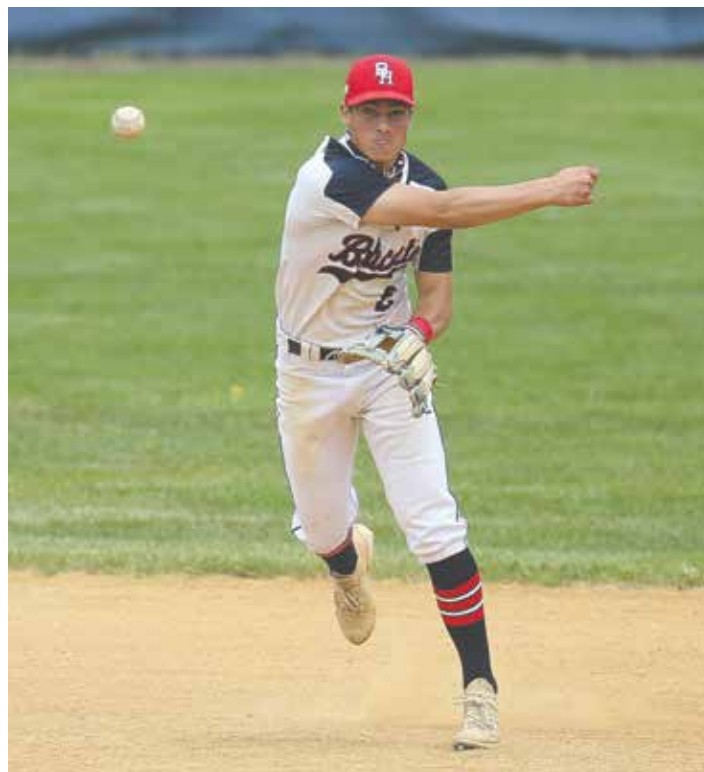
"We have a huge week ahead against some of the best teams in Class A in Panas twice, and Rye, so we need to bring it," he added.

The Sailors were on the other end of a sour ride home from Cross River after a walk-off the next night when John Jay picked the Sailors off in the eighth.

WALTER PANAS has had some impressive wins of late, including Wednesday's 8-2 defeat of Byram Hills and Friday's 2-1 win over reigning Class A champion **LAKELAND**.

Against the visiting Hornets, Panas sophomore P Jackson DiLorenzo was dealing dirty cards and giving Lakeland a glimpse of the future. The gas-chucking righty, who heats up regularly in the high-80s and dabbles in the low-90s, didn't allow a run until the sixth, whiffed 12 and scattered three hits.

"My game plan for tonight was to just compete and trust my ability," said DiLorenzo, who went 1 for 3 with an RBI double while C Danny Witters was 2 for 2 at



Byram shortstop Brady Karp fires to first base in 7-0 win over Fox Lane.

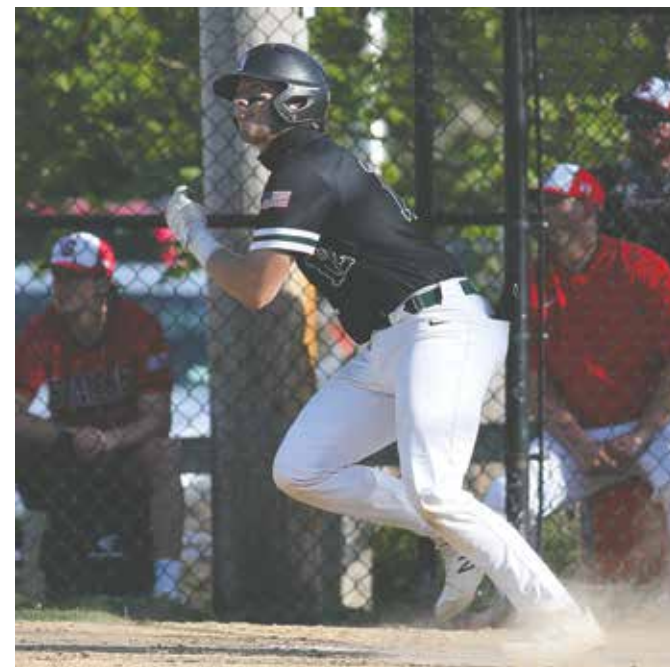
the plate. "I felt really comfortable out there tonight because I knew I had my boys behind me. I had a great feeling with my fastball and ran it up to 90 six times, as well as being able to throw my slider for strikes."

Panas sophomore IF Sammy Stafura had a good look at the hand DiLorenzo was dealing.

"He looked great," Stafura said, "just kept pounding the zone and hitting his spots. Lots of swing and misses. Seemed like they couldn't catch up to his 90-mph fastball. It's extremely enjoyable watching him pitch, and playing the field behind him. We're extremely excited for the future of Panas baseball."

The future might be closer than most think if the Panthers put their best foot forward down the stretch.

Meanwhile, reigning Class A champion Lakeland saw Ray White deliver a super effort on the mound, firing six innings and fanning nine in a losing effort. He was also



Yorktown's Tyler Pugliese had a monster week for surging 11-1 Huskers.

2 for 3 at the dish with an RBI and two steals.

Against Byram Hills, Panas starter Gavin Carlucci (4-1/3 IP, 7 K's, 3 H, 2 R) fired his second solid outing in a row. Sophomore slugger Stafura went 2 for 3 with a triple while St. John's-bound masher Aidan Cohall was 2 for 3 with two doubles and an RBI. Alex Jankowski two hits and a ribbie.

BYRAM HILLS rebounded from a three game losing streak with a 7-0 shutout of Class AA **FOX LANE** behind Bobby Chicoine on Saturday. Chicoine, a junior, went 5.2 innings for the win and added a grand slam in the sixth inning which shut the door on any hope of a Foxes comeback.

Chicoine did have five walks but he got help from the Bobcats' defense and came through with some key strikeouts to get out of jams. He struck out eight and let up just three hits.

"I had to rely on my fastball to get me back

into the count," Chicoine said. "My defense really had my back and I can trust those guys with anything. My catcher was letting me do my thing and I was working ahead."

Michael Ascanio tossed the final 1.1 innings to close the game out for Byram. Facing first and third in the sixth inning, Ascanio induced a fly ball out to escape the jam.

"Mike is one of my best friends and he's the man," Chicoine said. "I feel for him. He hadn't been able to play on varsity. He hurt his elbow sophomore year and then of course COVID (cancelled last season), so it's great to see him back on the mound and doing his thing."

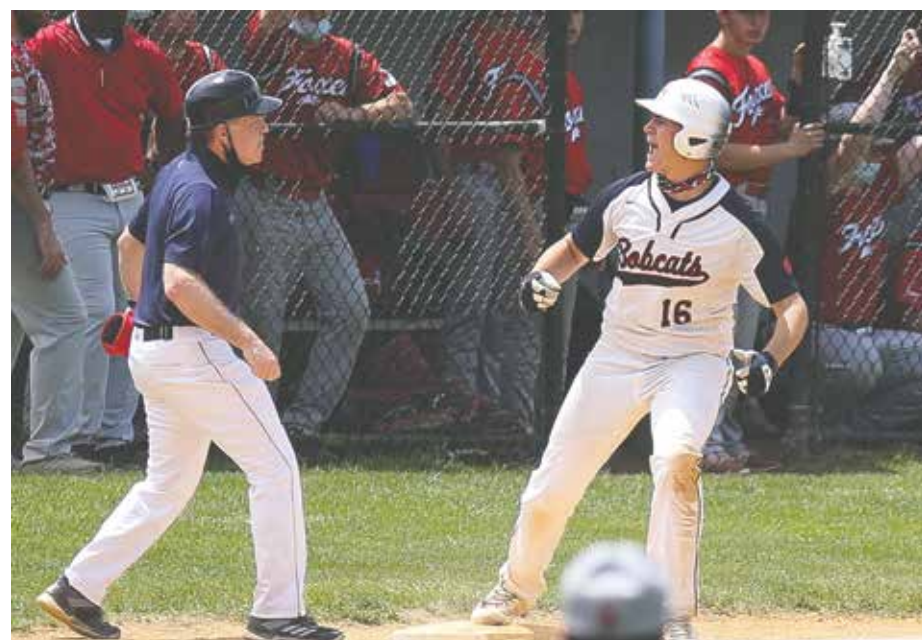
Jordan Baskind's RBI double put the Bobcats up 3-0 in the sixth and later Chicoine blasted his grand slam to left field to break the game open.

"That was a great feeling," Chicoine said of the big blast. "I had that feeling that the fastball was coming after he walked the two batters. I had to jump on it quick and not let

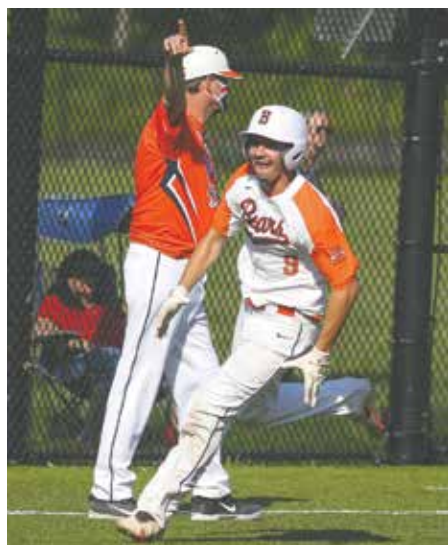
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Yorktown's Brett Warden fires to first as Somers' Matt Kapica slides into second in Huskers' 10-0 win on Thursday.



Byram's Bobby Chicoine looks toward the crowd after socking a grand slam in the sixth inning of the Bobcats' win over the Foxes.



Briarcliff coach John Schrader sends Jackson Mauro home on his way to a run in the Bears' 7-4 league win over Westlake on Friday.

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myself start to guess what kind of pitch was coming."

Brady Karp and Jared Cohen each scored on a Fox Lane error to give Byram a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

Tommy Soleiman pitched admirably for the Foxes in defeat, tossing 5.1 innings while striking out seven and allowing two earned runs.

The Bobcats and Foxes were scheduled to face off in another league showdown yesterday at Fox Lane.

Chicoine tossed a three-hitter in a 7-1 win over Eastchester on Monday. He struck out 10 and also went 2 for 4 with a homer and four RBI. Karp was 3 for 5 with a home run, double, two RBI and scored three runs.

The Bobcats (7-6) then endured a three game losing skid with losses to Panas (8-2), Rye (5-2) and Ossining (10-1), before rebounding against the Foxes.

"We struggled this week. I think without our coach here (Scott Saunders) with us, it meant a little more (to get the win over

Fox Lane)," Chicoine said. "I know league started so it was already a big game but playing for him, we had to come out and do our thing. I think this is really going to take us to the next step. We're definitely coming together as a team and we're going to make a push."

Fox Lane started the week with an 8-2 win over Suffern. Logan Matson led the way at the plate, going 2 for 3 with three RBI. Michael Lombardi pitched the first three innings but was removed for precautionary reasons. Soleiman picked up the win in relief while Alex Casarella got the final five outs for the save. Panos Sinis (2 hits, 2 runs, RBI) and Chris Giaimo (2 hits, 2 RBI) also chipped in offensively.

The Foxes topped Clarkstown South 9-5 on Thursday with Michael Byrns (5 innings, 6 Ks) picking up the win. Aidan Hicks notched the save. Lombardi was 2 for 4 with three RBI. Matson and Nicky Cutaia added two RBI each. Fox Lane (7-4) lost to Mamaroneck 9-5 the next day.

CLASS B

PLEASANTVILLE and **VALHALLA** split a league series last week. Panthers senior Thomas Browne pitched a complete game three-hit shutout in a 4-0 win in eight innings over host Valhalla last Wednesday. Browne struck out 12 and had two walks.

"Tommy Browne is just a warrior on the mound," Panthers coach Dan Iorio said. "He's someone we rely on who is a true ace and he has the ability to shut any team down. He's consistent every time he goes to the mound with his fastball and off-speed. You know that when he takes the mound you have a really good chance of winning that day."

Aidan Finnegan's RBI double gave the Panthers the lead in the eighth while Joseph Reich went 2 for 3.

The Vikings rebounded with a 7-0 shutout win over the host Panthers on Friday behind six innings of three-hit ball from Marc Weeks. He struck out eight. Christian Rossi came on to close the game out.



Westlake's Nino Mastracchio shows the umpire the ball after tagging Briarcliff's Chris Beard.

"We just asked them to play with intensity and play hard-nosed baseball," Valhalla coach Josh Wolfson said. "We had the bases loaded with no outs in the seventh inning in a 0-0 game on Wednesday and we didn't get it done and they beat us. Today, we knew we had a good pitcher on the mound and if we hit a little bit, we knew we'd be OK. Marc was throwing strikes today and he has good velocity. When he gets ahead and he can mix in his secondary pitches he's very effective."

The Vikings scored five runs in the first three innings to pounce on the Panthers. Jason Rodriguez had two hits, two stolen bases and a run scored. Rossi added an RBI single and roped a double.

"We went after strikes," Wolfson said. "We preached that if you get a first pitch

strike, go get it. Put the ball in play and in high school baseball good things happen."

Pleasantville bounced back with a 10-7 win over Putnam Valley on Saturday. Matt Satriale went 2 for 3 with a triple and two RBI. In a 14-8 win over Hastings last Tuesday, Anthony Palma had a monster game with five hits and five RBI. Will Lent added three hits and two RBI. Finnegan and Charlie Dispenza had an RBI each.

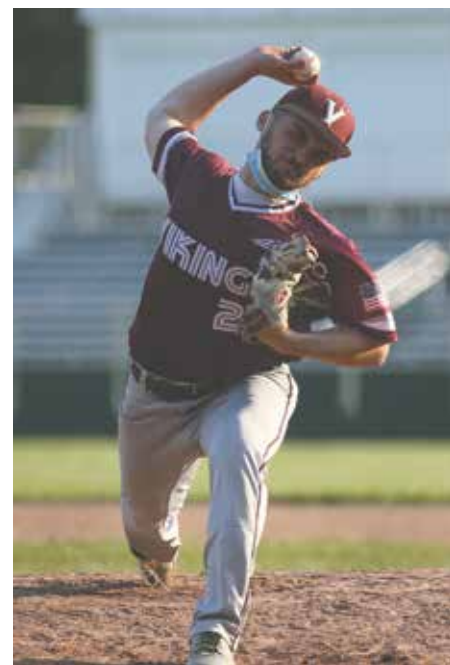
The 7-6 Panthers were shutout by **BRIARCLIFF**, 8-0, last Monday. Pleasantville has split all three of its league match-ups so Iorio is seeking more consistency from his young squad.

"With a young team that tends to be a common outcome," Iorio said of splitting

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Pleasantville's Charlie Dispenza hustles to third in 7-0 loss to visiting Valhalla.



Valhalla's Marc Weeks tossed six shutout innings of three-hit ball and struck out eight in 7-0 league win over Pleasantville on Friday.



Briarcliff catcher Marc Milano makes the throw to first in Bears' 7-4 win over Westlake.



Briarcliff 1B Zack Diamond makes the scoop at first while Westlake's Marco Petrillo slides in.

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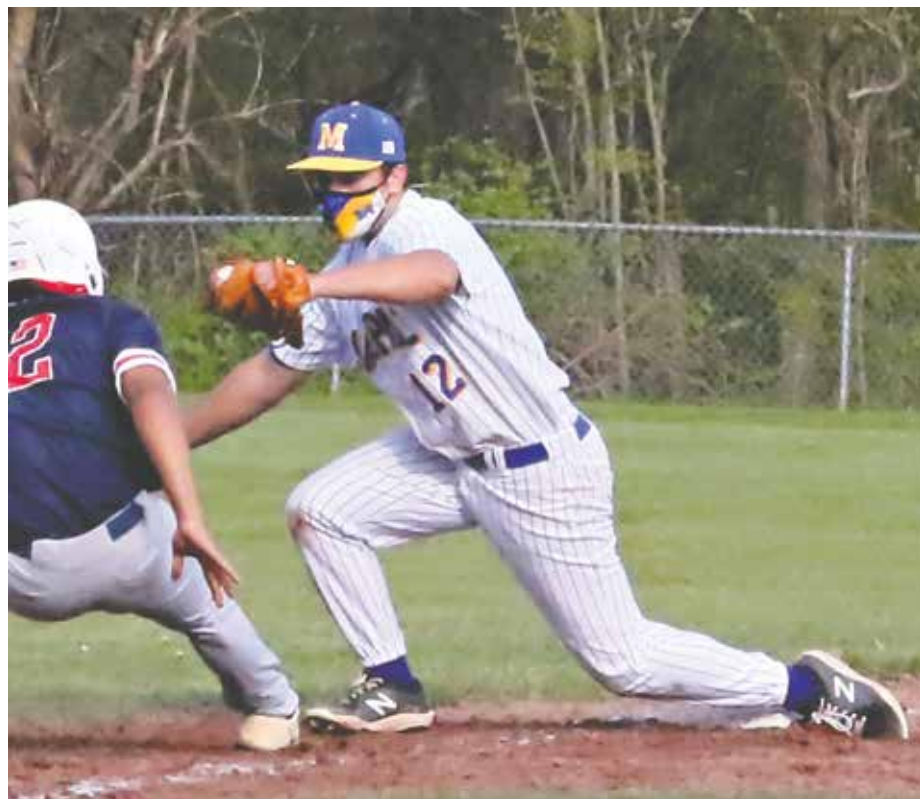
their league games. "We've experienced that before in the past. It's just a matter of getting the mindset and with these young guys, letting them know that each day they have to handle each game by itself. We've struggled keeping that consistency and we've tried to explain to them every day that consistency is what's going to allow us to be one of the better teams in our league. Right now we haven't found that consistency. Once we do, we feel like we'll have a good chance at being one of the top teams in Class B."

Valhalla bested Pawling 9-1 on Saturday to move to 7-6. Michael Dawson (6.1, 7 Ks, no earned runs) led the Vikings on the mound while Kori Prosperino (2 for 4, 5 RBI) sparked them at the plate. The Vikings suffered a 6-3 league loss to Blind Brook to open the week.

"I think our starting pitching is phenomenal and if we hit a little bit, I think we'll be a tough team to beat down the stretch," Wolfson said.

Briarcliff picked up two league victories over **WESTLAKE** and won three out of four last week to improve to 10-2. In a 6-4 win over the host Wildcats on Wednesday, Jayden Amador had two RBI while Chris Beard went 3 for 4 with an RBI and two runs scored. Tom Poggi was 3 for 4 with two runs scored. Jack Manganello went the distance and struck out 10 for the win. Marc DeNunzio had two RBI for the Wildcats while Nick Mulvey added two hits and an RBI.

Two days later, Briarcliff defeated visiting Westlake 7-4 behind Poggi, who pitched five scoreless innings and had 10 Ks while allowing just one hit. He also had two RBI and two runs scored. Beard added two RBI



Mahopac senior IF Nick Angelino had two hits and two RBI in 14-8 loss to Yorktown.

and Max Haberman had an RBI and scored twice.

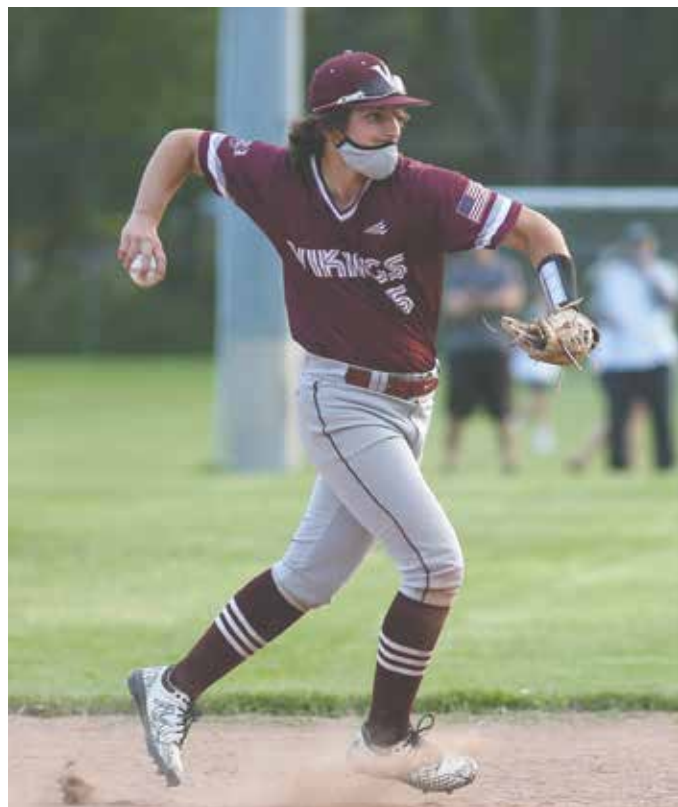
In the Bears' shutout win over rival Pleasantville, Poggi was the star, going 4 for 5 with three RBI. He also tossed a complete game four-hitter while striking out 15 Panthers.

In a 12-8 loss to Bronxville on Saturday, Briarcliff received two RBI apiece from Marc Milano, Giulian Greco and Beard.

Mulvey had five RBI in Westlake's lone win of the week, an 8-5 victory over Pawling on Thursday. Westlake started the week with an 8-6 league loss to Rye Neck. The

Wildcats fell to Croton-Harmon 12-7 on Saturday to drop to 6-6 overall.

PUTNAM VALLEY had itself a week it would rather forget, dropping three games (two to North Salem and Pleasantville) while awaiting the final result of an 11-11 extra-inning suspended game with Pawling. Tiger IF Joey Maloney (2-3, 3 RBI, 2R, 3BB) was having a day against Pawling but will have to wait until the completion on May 26th to pad those numbers. Matt Jacobson (3-4, 2R, RBI) and Antonio Truglio (2-4, 2B, 2R, 2RBI) both had big days in a 10-7 loss to Pleasantville.



Valhalla shortstop Jake Sekinski fires to first for the out in 7-0 win over host Panthers.



Briarcliff's Giulian Greco sends it to right field in the Bears' win over the visiting Wildcats.



Panas sophomore P Jackson DiLorenzo drove home run and whiffed 12 in recent 2-1 win over Lakeland.

Mahopac's Becker Earns Con Ed Awards, Fires No-Hitter

By Tony Pinciario

MAHOPAC senior Shannon Becker was up to her usual dominance in the circle last week, throwing four shutouts, including her fourth no-hitter of the season.

While everyone on the softball circuit is well aware of Becker's brilliance on the diamond, Becker is more proud of her recent accomplishment -- being selected the Con-Ed Scholar-Athlete of the week (of 5/17).

Becker, who will attend Notre Dame in the fall and also play softball, put the award in perspective.

"As everyone always says, we are student-athletes," Becker said. "The student part comes first. School and academics are very important to me. A lot of people overlook the academics with all the accolades, so being named the Con-Ed athlete of the week is very important to me. It's nice to be recognized for how hard I work in school, as well as on the field."

Mahopac was in two tight games as the Indians used a Michelle Dellamura RBI single to walk off against North Rockland, 1-0. Following 7-0 and 15-0 wins over Brewster, Becker and **YORKTOWN's** Maya Servedio engaged in a windmilling duel. Mahopac generated two runs in the first inning and Becker no-hit an excellent Cornhuskers' lineup for a 2-0 win.

In the victory over Brewster, Becker struck out 17, including her 900th career K. She also cranked a two-run homer. Mia

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Another monster week for Notre Dame-bound Mahopac senior Shannon Becker, who won Con Ed student athlete award, notched 900th K of her career and fired no-hitter.



White Plains' Ava Galligani tries to turn two in rout of visiting Huguenots.



White Plains eighth-grader Serena Gillen delivers in a 20-5 win over New Rochelle last week.

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Lanter also smacked a two-run homer. Ava Lichtenberger added two doubles and Gabby Marino, Gianna Lafaro and Dellamura each drove in runs.

Mahopac scored its runs in the first inning, against Yorktown, on an RBI double from Ashley Usewicz and run-scoring single from Lauren Zecca.

Following its three wins, Mahopac improved to 12-0 on the season and is currently ranked No. 1 in Class AA in New York, according to the New York State Sportswriters Association Poll.

“Our team this year is definitely special,” Becker said. “I think each of us know our role on the team and execute what needs to be done to help us win. Everyone does their job and when we put it together, everything falls into place.

“We have gelled together very nicely and work together as a team so I think that helps with success.”

LAKELAND continued its excellent season with three wins in four games -- Yorktown (3-0), Fox Lane (11-0) and Walter Panas (3-0). The legend of Stella Bale continues to grow after she threw a no-hitter against Panas, her third of the season. She also no-hit John Jay-Cross River and Horace Greeley. The Hornets are now 10-2 this season.

The loss was a 1-0 verdict, in eight innings, to Arlington. In the loss, Bale rang up 19 strikeouts, giving her 212 in 101 innings this season.

Bale struck out 16 Panas hitters. She also had a hit and scored a run. Hannah Matusiak and Shannon Scotto had RBI. Ryleigh Melendez had two hits.

Ava Knopf led the offense against Fox



White Plains' Kiersten Hardy sprints to first base against New Rochelle.

Lane with two hits and three RBI. Bale collected three hits, scored three runs and drove in two. Scotto and Melendez each had two RBI, Matusiak chipped in three hits and freshman Emily Yazzetti had two hits and scored twice.

Bale and Scotto each had two hits and a RBI against Yorktown and Leah Cohen collected two hits and scored a run.

Following its loss to Lakeland to open the week, **YORKTOWN** bounced back to beat **SOMERS** before running into Shannon Becker and Mahopac in a 2-0 loss.

Maya Servedio pitched an excellent game against Mahopac, allowing the runs in the first inning. She finished with 12 strikeouts and reached base on an error. Servedio has rung up 101 strikeouts in 49 innings.

“Losing to Lakeland and Mahopac were okay losses in my eyes,” Yorktown coach Samantha Fernandez said. “My girls battled at the plate against two really good pitchers. And Maya threw very well against Mahopac.

“Maya and Lainie (Ornstein) have been doing a phenomenal job setting up batters and calling the games. I’m excited for Mahopac, again, Monday. Always love a good, competitive game. We are more than excited for our last five games -- Mahopac, Carmel, twice, and Brewster, twice.”

Yorktown, now 10-3 this season, hammered 18 hits against Somers, led by Kelly Jennings, who went 4 for 5 with two RBI and two runs scored. Alyssa Buck had a trio of threes -- three hits, three RBI and three runs scored. Servedio added two hits and drove in four runs. She also compiled eight strikeouts in three innings.



Sam Longo and Yorktown were all smiles during a 16-2 win over Somers.

HEN HUD honored its seniors to open play last week and the honorees fueled a 16-1 win over Horace Greeley. Shannon

Burke wielded the aluminum with four hits in five at-bats, including a home run, and she scored four runs. Kami Johannsen singled, drove in two runs and scored twice and Jess Bleakley singled and had a run scored. Alana Espinoza struck out nine in five innings.

The Sailors opened the week with a 7-1 victory over Carmel. After Senior Day, Hen Hud followed it up with an 8-5 win over John Jay-Cross River as Sydney Muranaka and Lex Schaffer each had three hits, scored two runs and drove in a run. Johannsen had a hit and two RBI.

Hen Hud (9-3 this season) then hosted the inaugural Hen Hud Blue/White Softball

Championship with Rye Neck, Fox Lane and Putnam Valley comprising the field.

The Johannsen sisters powered Hen Hud to 15-0 first-round win over Putnam Valley. Kami collected three hits and four RBI and Paige had two hits and three RBI.

Burke and Muranaka each plated three runs as the Sailors won the title with a 12-4 victory over perennial Section 1 Class B power, Rye Neck.

Taeghan Dapson drove in two runs and scored three runs. Espinoza was selected the tournament's most valuable player.

“We had a good week and I thought we played our best game in the championship against Rye Neck,” Hen Hud coach Will Mauro said. “We put the ball in play all night against a good pitcher. We fought for that win.

“We have a doubleheader against Ossining
continued on next page



Yorktown's Maya Servedio winds up in win over Somers.



Yorktown slugger Olivia Salveggi does what she does best and connects in 16-2 blowout of Somers.



Yorktown's Lainie Ornstein hustles to third base in league victory at Somers.

Sports

Softball Notebook



Yorktown's Kelly Jennings sends it to the outfield in Huskers' 16-2 rout of Somers last Thursday.

continued from previous page

and then against Panas. The following Monday and Tuesday against Lakeland. We're starting to play well hopefully in time for sectionals."

A young **PUTNAM VALLEY** team lost its three games, but the Tigers are continuing to improve.

The Tigers played in the Hen Hud Blue/White Tournament, but lost to Hen Hud in the first round and Fox Lane in the consolation game.

Freshman Oliva Dobra doubled, against Fox Lane, for her first varsity hit, and also registered her initial two varsity RBI. Fellow freshman Faith Marrero also collected her first varsity hit. Abigail Lowder had two hits, scored a run and drove in a run.

Putnam Valley dropped an 8-7 verdict to Croton, which had beaten the Tigers by double-digits in their first meeting. Taylor Peduto singled, drove in two runs and walked three times. Kathleen Gallelo, Ava Derella, Lowder and Marrero also had RBI for Putnam Valley.

PEEKSKILL lost its two games -- Woodlands overcame Peekskill in a slugfest -- 32-30 -- and Ossining no-hit the Red Devils. Jealina Searight led Peekskill's offense against Woodlands with four hits, four runs scored and four RBI. Kaia Patterson chipped in two hits, three RBI and three runs scored. Bryonna Brothers and Evelyn Zumbo-Coello each scored five runs.

Veteran **WHITE PLAINS'** varsity softball coach Ted O'Donnell was closing in on a milestone, but he did not talk about it to his team.

Once the players learned that O'Donnell was nearing 400 varsity wins with White Plains, the Tigers' drive and determination increased to get it for him as quickly as possible.

"Once hearing that coach's 400th was just one win away, our team was so psyched to help him achieve this goal," said junior Alexa Galligani. "We became even more focused and serious. It became 100 percent effort 100 percent of the time. It was critical that we gave back to him for all the sacrifices he has made for us. Such an accomplishment is not an easy task and he deserved every last bit of that win."

O'Donnell, in his 25th year, reached the 400

mark with a 20-5 victory over New Rochelle. He joins Section 1 softball coaching legends with 400 or more wins -- Joan Spedafino (Rye Neck), Tom 'Skip' Walsh (Eastchester) and Tony Toronto (North Rockland/Nanuet). Walsh and Toronto are retired.

Galligani spearheaded the offense, ripping two home runs, including a grand slam, among her four hits. She also doubled and drove in six runs. Natasha Mendez delivered a two-run homer among her four RBI. Zoey Kovach added three hits and two RBI and Sasha Persaud and Ryleigh Falvey had three RBI apiece.

The always understated O'Donnell gave his players and coaches, throughout his career, the credit.

"The 400 wins over the past 25 seasons in a White Plains High School softball program is an accomplishment that so many have contributed to," O'Donnell said. "First and foremost, I have had the privilege every season to coach talented, dedicated and selfless student-athletes who understand the meaning of team."

"I also share this milestone with the three other members of my coaching staff. Skip Stevens, who has been with me for 20 years, Chris Rowan, who has been with me for 10 years and long-time JV coach, Patty Gilmartin. This couldn't have been achieved without them."

Galligani knows something about what makes an excellent coach. Her father, Marcel, is the White Plains varsity baseball coach.

"It's truly been an honor to play for a man like Coach O'Donnell," Alexa Galligani said. "His ability to effectively communicate and teach the game is such a respectable trait of his. He's always positive and sets defined goals for us that reinforce his key message, which is that anything is possible with hard work and dedication."

"Not only does he teach the game, he makes it fun and that makes it much more enjoyable on a daily basis. These are some abilities that most coaches don't have and that makes coach stand out from the rest as such a great coach to play for."

O'Donnell added his win No. 401 with a 9-4 triumph over Ursuline.

Alexa Galligani went 4 for 4, including a home run, two doubles and three RBI. Younger sister Ava Galligani added two hits and two RBI. Falvey, Mendez and Kovach had two hits apiece and Darla Palombo had a run-scoring double. Eighth-grader Serena Gillen struck out 12 and allowed five hits for the 8-2 Tigers.

FOX LANE broke out in a huge way to snap a two-game losing streak. The Foxes erupted in a 20-5 win over Putnam Valley in the Hen Hud Blue/White Softball Championship consolation game. Fox Lane, now 4-5 on the season, won despite missing four starters and two captains.

Jordynn Killion struck out 13 and she had three hits, including a home run and a double. Victoria Bodine doubled, tripled and had five RBI and Katie Christiano doubled and homered.

"Victoria Bodine is only a freshman, but she came up and did very well for us," Fox Lane coach Anthony Rodrigues said.

VALHALLA won its game -- 17-1 over Westlake -- as Kathryn Wolfthal had three hits and Ava De Natale and Emma Levine added two hits apiece.



Throw is late to Somers IF Aimee Maoriello as Yorktown's Olivia Fasce slides in safely.



Somers' Emily Bernhard makes the catch at first to get Yorktown's Adrianna Albano.



Members of the Hen Hud softball team pose with championship hardware after beating Putnam Valley and Rye Neck for title.

ROB DIANTONIO / ERIN LOCASCIO (EDL PHOTOGRAPHY) PHOTOS

Class B Stacked with Contenders, Briarcliff Clear Class C Favorites

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

After defeating Mamaroneck for the first time in school history last week, Briarcliff went out and did the same thing to Yorktown this past week, knocking off the 40-time Section 1 champion, 9-6, for the first time ever. So, what more does Class C Briarcliff -- a team that knocked off Mamaroneck and Yorktown by a combined eight goals -- need to do to be declared No.1 overall in Section 1 this season? The mid-season loss to Rye is the only blemish on Coach Al Meola's Bears, but Rye also defeated Yorktown, but lost to Mamaroneck and Lakeland/Panas, so, among the upper crust, there's a good amount of parity across the section, regardless of classification.

The hope is that someone can step up in Class A to challenge reigning champion Mamaroneck to make for an interesting post-season, but that wish is fleeting as we get the sense nobody in Class A can stop the Tigers from winning their sixth Section 1 title since 2012, unless North Rockland can man up and find its way to the Red Raiders' first title appearance ever and then shock the world.

Class B is another story altogether as three serious challengers seemingly emerge as legit postseason contenders, including Class B mainstay Yorktown, which is two years dry of a title, Rye (the reigning Class C champ) and Lakeland/Panas (which has appeared in four of the last five Class A title games, winning three times). That's discounting two-time reigning champion John Jay CR and Mahopac, who aren't quite on the same tier as the top three in mid-May (that, of course could change). Essentially, the Class B postseason will feature five teams that have won 27 sectional titles since 2005: Yorktown 11, John Jay 6, Rye 5, L/P 4, Mahopac 1 (though the Indians did win



Ben Weinhoff of Byram Hills protects the ball near midfield from Fox Lane's Matthew Magidson during the Bobcats' 10-6 win.

four between 2000-4). It's hard to imagine a more tradition-rich field where home field advantage will certainly be a determining factor.

Class C is Briarcliff and everybody else, and Class D is beginning to look a lot like Bronxville, unless Pleasantville can summon the powers that provided four sectional titles and one state nugget since 2015.

CLASS B

Previously undefeated **YORKTOWN** fell on hard times last week, falling against some of the toughest competition in the state, falling 9-6 against Briarcliff, 9-8 in OT at Rye and then taking a 16-4 chin-shot in Saturday's loss to No.1 nationally-ranked Long Island powerhouse St. Anthony's. The Huskers

(6-3) rarely possessed against St. Anthony's, putting a ton of pressure on G Adam Norris (15 saves), who was up against one of the nation's finest players in Mike Leo (6G, 3A).

Consecutive losses have rarely dampened Yorktown's title hopes because of the schedule they traditionally play, so Coach Sean Carney is banking on the two-straight losses as a learning experience.

"St. Anthony's were on a different level,"



Briarcliff long pole Aidan Murnane clears zone in Bears' 14-3 win over Panthers in annual Saw Mill Slugfest last Tuesday.

Yorktown coach Sean Carney said. "We rested some guys today. We're assessing who we are and how to beat our Class B opponents. We are very young. This is a good way to learn to battle, and we expect nothing less than a section title."

Against Briarcliff, Harry Griff (2G). Will
continued on next page



Briarcliff long pole Luca Meola gets a good press on Pleasantville's Brennan McDermott in Bears' 14-3 win over Panthers in annual Saw Mill Slugfest last Tuesday.



Briarcliff's Elliot Jones takes a run at Pleasantville's Matt Tucilio in Bears' 14-3 win over Panthers in annual Saw Mill Slugfest last Tuesday.



Briarcliff's Jack Ricciardi and Pleasantville's Jack Collins clash in Bears' 14-3 win over Panthers in annual Saw Mill Slugfest last Tuesday.

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Embury (1G, 1A) and Dylan Beck (1G,1A) each scored two points.

In the loss to Rye, Griff (3G, 1A), Beck (2G, 1A) and Brendan Regan (2G) did the bulk of the scoring, but a bad pass and a freak ending was all it took for Rye to re-establish itself as the team to beat. Owen Kovacs scored the game's two final goals to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

The Huskers began the week in fancy fashion, taking out **MAHOPAC**, 13-4. Embury's five points (2G, 3A) paced the Huskers, who had an 8-2 lead at the half. Beck scored twice and set up another while Spencer Norris scored twice and Jack Duncan added one goal and one assist. Mahopac's Danny Koch, Matthew

Puckhaber, Jake Degnan and John Kearney each had a goal.

Mahopac bounced back with a strong fourth quarter in a 14-4 win over host **CARMEL** Friday. Carmel senior captain Ryan McDonald scored three goals to let the Rams hang around for three quarters, but the youthful Indians pulled away behind a career effort from sophomore Ryan Geoghegan, who notched four goals and one assist. Freshman Danny Koch, who looks like a keeper, added three goals and two assists and junior Mike Harney had four points (2G, 2A) while slick sophomore Jake Degnan had two goals and an assist. Bullish Chris Evans went 18 for 22 at the X for Mahopac and G Brett Crecco made seven saves.

LAKELAND/PANAS had a bit of a head-



Sweet-stroking Mahopac sophomore Jake Degnan takes run at cage in visiting Indians' 14-4 win over rival Carmel Friday.

scratching week. The Rebels went 3-1 with a tough 11-10 loss to Fox Lane, which was the head-scratching portion of the week. The Foxes have had a solid campaign but if the Rebels plan on challenging the likes of Yorktown and Rye in Class B, they need

to knock off Class A teams like Fox Lane. The Rebels (8-3) recovered with dominating wins over Lourdes and Ossining and Pleasantville.

Lakeland/Panas finished the week with 34

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Byram Hills sophomore middle Gavin Javorsky lines up a shot in the Bobcats' road win over Fox Lane on Friday afternoon.



Carmel captain Ryan McDonald scored three times for the Rams in 14-4 loss to Mahopac.



Mahopac freshman Danny Koch (3G, 2A) cranks goal in Indians' 14-4 win over Carmel Thursday

continued from previous page

goals in two games, including a 17-4 rout of **OSSINING** when Nick Graap scored eight points (3G, 5A). Reed Thompson tickled twine five times and set up another while Liam Burke and Tyler Nocito each went for a hat trick. Caden Hallinan had a goal and two assists for the Pride, while teammate Ian Denzer scored twice.

Lakeland/Panas put its best foot forward in a 17-6 win over Pleasantville Saturday when Thompson and Graap each put a five-spot on the Panthers. Burke added four goals and an assist while Conor Hufnagel set up three goals and scored another.

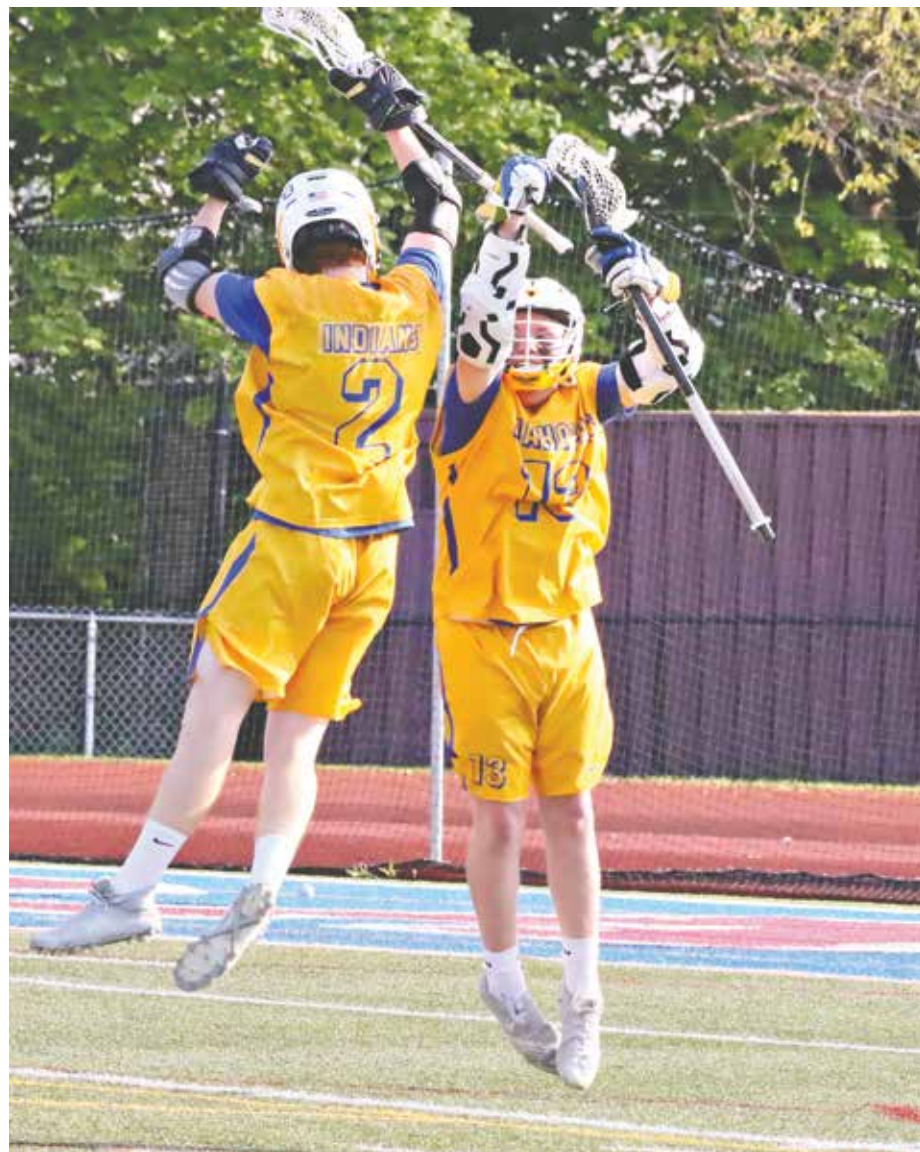
BREWSTER is finally making some noise, winning three in a row after a 17-4 defeat of Lourdes. Joe Anfuso set a career-high with six goals and connected with

feeder Clay Harrison (6A) often.

CLASS C/D

BRIARCLIFF staked its claim as Section 1's top team with an eye-opening 9-6 win over host Yorktown last Friday. It was the Bears' first win over the Huskers in program history. The overwhelming Class C favorite Bears jumped out to a 4-1 lead and had the answer each time Yorktown went on a run.

"It meant a lot to us as a group," Bears coach Al Meola said. "I'm not sure our guys even understand the magnitude of going to Charlie Murphy Field and winning against 40-time sectional champs. What's more impressive is the countless texts and phone calls and emails from Yorktown alumni, who



Mahopac's Aidan McDonough (2) is quick to get Ryan Geoghegan (4G 1A), who had career day in 14-4 win over Carmel Friday.

took their time to reach out and congratulate us. That is first class!"

Brandon Rispoli paced Briarcliff with three goals and an assist. Matt Waterhouse added three goals and Jack Ricciardi tallied a goal and three assists. Evan Van Camp made nine saves in net.

Briarcliff began the week by cruising past rival **PLEASANTVILLE**, 14-3, in the annual Saw Mill Slugfest last Tuesday. Elliot Jones (4G, 3A), Rispoli (3G, 1A), Ricciardi (2G, 2A), Nico Santucci (2G), Lucas Proctor (4A), Kyle Proctor (1G, 2A), Aidan Murnane (1G) and Van Camp (10 saves) led the way.

The Bears traveled to **WESTLAKE** the next day and posted another blowout in the form of a 17-3 pounding. Jones dished out five assists and had a goal. Ricciardi tallied two goals and three assists and Lucas Proctor had a hat trick. Rispoli, Josh Newman and Murnane each had two goals. Alex Kishenbaum (1G, 3A) and Santucci (1G, 2A) also contributed. Anthony DelDuca netted two goals for the Wildcats.

The 7-1 Bears have rattled off five-straight wins since a loss to Rye a few weeks ago.

BYRAM HILLS (7-2) might be Briarcliff's top competition in Class C and the Bobcats continue to impress each week. A shorthanded Byram squad pulled off a 10-6 road win over Class A's **FOX LANE** last Friday.

"This win over a really talented Fox Lane team shows the passion and bonds that we

have in our program," Byram senior Hayden Fruhling said. "Before the game we spoke about playing for the brother next to you for 48 minutes and we did just that."

The Bobcats, who jumped out to a 7-4 halftime lead, were paced by Fruhling's four goals. Gavin Javorsky (2G) and Matt Quintiere (1G, 2A) also chipped in. Sean Siegel had a goal and scooped up eight ground balls.

"The key offensively was to play smart and value possessions," Fruhling said. "Knowing that we had Benny (Rakower) in net and two underclassmen on defense starting in their first varsity game, we wanted to have the ball on the offensive end as much as possible. We played selfless and moved the ball, which allowed us to get open opportunities after drawing a slide. (Ben) Weinhoff (14 of 19 face-offs) made our lives a lot easier with yet another dominant performance at the face-off X."

Rakower, a junior, moved from midfield to make his first ever start in net and made 11 crucial saves.

"Benny was amazing in between the pipes," Fruhling said. "Obviously, Benny's older brother (Griffen) was a star during his time at Byram and was possibly the best goalie to ever come through the program, so he helped Benny out when we found out we may need him to step in. It was amazing to see how confident and poised Benny was in

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Daniel Leader of Fox Lane dodges his way around Gavin Javorsky of Byram Hills in the first quarter of Friday afternoon's game.



Drew Zimmerman of Byram Hills tries to dodge his way past Thomas Olsen of Fox Lane in the fourth quarter of the Bobcats' 10-6 road win.

continued from previous page

net and he made some eye-opening saves."

Behind five goals and four assists from Fruhling, Byram cruised past **HORACE GREELEY**, 13-4, last Wednesday. Jake Teitelbaum (3G, 1A), Rakower (1G, 4A), Zach Pero (1G, 2A), Javorsky (1G, 1A), Weinhoff (1G, 5 GBs), Quintiere (1G, 1A), Siegel (1G, 3 GBs) and Jack Quinn (9 saves) helped stuff the stat sheet.

The Bobcats started their three-win week by defeating Harrison 12-5 on Monday behind Rakower (3G, 2A), Fruhling (2G, 1A), Teitelbaum (1G, 1A), Javorsky (2G), Michael Oronzio (2G), Siegel (1G, 6 GBs) and Quinn (10 saves).

WESTLAKE rebounded from the loss to Briarcliff with a 15-10 victory over Clarkstown North on Thursday. Andrew Llamas (4G, 2A), Connor Cronin (4G,

1A), Tyler Howard (2G, 3A) and Anthony DelDuca (3G, 2A) paced the Wildcats.

The Wildcats improved to 4-4 with a 12-8 win over Nyack on Saturday. Matt Sardo and DelDuca each netted three goals while Llamas tallied with a goal and three assists.

PLEASANTVILLE fell to Class D favorite Bronxville 12-6 last Thursday. Ryan Challice (2G, 1A), Nick Bates (2G) and Brennan McDermott (2A) contributed for the Panthers.

The Panthers (7-5) dropped their fifth-straight game in a 17-6 loss to Lakeland/Panas on Saturday. Challice and McDermott had three goals apiece.

PUTNAM VALLEY should be eyeballing nothing less than a Final 4 appearance after the surging Tigers -- winners of six-straight games -- notched a 9-8 overtime win over visiting **HEN HUD** Saturday. PV



Hayden Fruhling of Byram Hills is about to score his fourth and final goal in Friday's 10-6 victory over host Fox Lane.

junior A Ryan Denike set up senior M Ethan Mounier, who bagged his sixth goal of the game at 3:10 of OT. Denike, silky smooth around the net, finished with four assists while G Roger Raimo returned to make 16 saves. Hen Hud scored three goals in the fourth quarter to tie the game with 2:50 left. Rocco Capicotti notched a hat trick for the Sailors, who got two goals from Tom Popolizio and Dean Hiltzley. The 8-4 Tigers got contributions from a handful of others, including Jack Murphy (1G, 1A), Garrett Leitman (1G), and Hayden Gumbrecht (1G).

"This was a big win for us against a very good team," PV Coach Tim Weir said. "We are playing decent lax now. Class C has really good teams, but we are taking it ground ball to ground ball, possession to possession, quarter to quarter and game to game. Our guys are working very hard knowing that they are lucky enough to have a season."

Capicotti (6G, 1A) and Hiltzley (4G, 1A) were all over visiting Croton on senior night

when the Sailors honored the memory of former Sailor David Palmisano (1993) with a 17-3 win.

CLASS A

FOX LANE (7-3) earned a huge 11-10 win over visiting Lakeland/Panas last Tuesday. Jack Cicchelli (3G, 3A) picked up a loose ball near midfield, jetted for the net and finished for the game-winning goal with a minute left. With the Rebels on the EMO, the Foxes were able to get one last defensive stand for the victory.

"There were outstanding efforts all over the field," Fox Lane Coach Craig Henley said. "The goal scorers certainly make a difference but the guys hustling for ground balls and diving in front of shots are equally as responsible for our success. I'm glad they felt prepared to make those end of game plays and could take the field with some confidence to go finish it out. We've spoken since the offseason about what confidence does for us on game days. These kids are excited to play every game and I hope they can keep the momentum going."

Everett Banks and Jake Wollman each tallied two goals and two assists for the Foxes. Dan Leader added two goals.

"We have the utmost respect and admiration for the Lakeland/Panas coaches and players, so coming out on top of a close game against them certainly seems to validate the hard work these players have been putting in," Henley said. "It seems they have recently started to grasp how lucky they are to have the opportunity to play this season and are doing their best to make the most of it."

WHITE PLAINS faced some stiff competition and started the week out with a 9-0 shutout loss to North Rockland. The Tigers then fell to Class A favorite Mamaroneck 11-2 but closed out the week with a 7-5 bounce-back win over Clarkstown North on Saturday. Ryan Ortiz sparked the attack with a game-high five goals. Nick Armogida dished out three assists while Colin Walsh and Kenny Soriano added a goal each for the Tigers, who improved to 8-4.



Putnam Valley players gather to celebrate overtime triumph of Hen Hud Saturday.



Talented Yorktown sophomore Alex Scialdone (L) had 5G in rout of L-P and teammates Sophia Spallone (12) and Kaitlin Regan celebrate her goal.



Briarcliff's Ava Swidler makes her move as Westlake's Alexa Hudd tries to stay with her in Bears' 15-11 win.

FOCUS ON GIRLS LAX

**Briarcliff Nips Westlake, Mahopac Deals L/P
Crushing Loss, Yorktown Cruises over L/P**



Westlake's Francesca DeMartino wins a draw from Briarcliff's Grace Wickey in Wildcats' 15-11 loss to Bears.



Putnam Valley's Cat O'Sullivan (7G, 1A) had career day in 16-3 win over Beacon.



Briarcliff's Maeve Donoghue collects a loose ball as Westlake's Aileen Walsh converges.



Westlake's Gianna Eglauf heads up the field in 15-11 loss to Briarcliff last Friday.



Mahopac junior captain Ava Jennings went for eight goals to seal deal in 13-11 come-from-behind win over L-P Thursday.



Briarcliff's Grace Wickey looks to pass while Westlake's Scarlett Feighan and Eliana Barnett bring pressure in the Bears' 15-11 victory.



Gifted sophomores -- Yorktown's Alex Scialdone and Hen Hud's Katherine Couch -- square off in recent Sailor win.

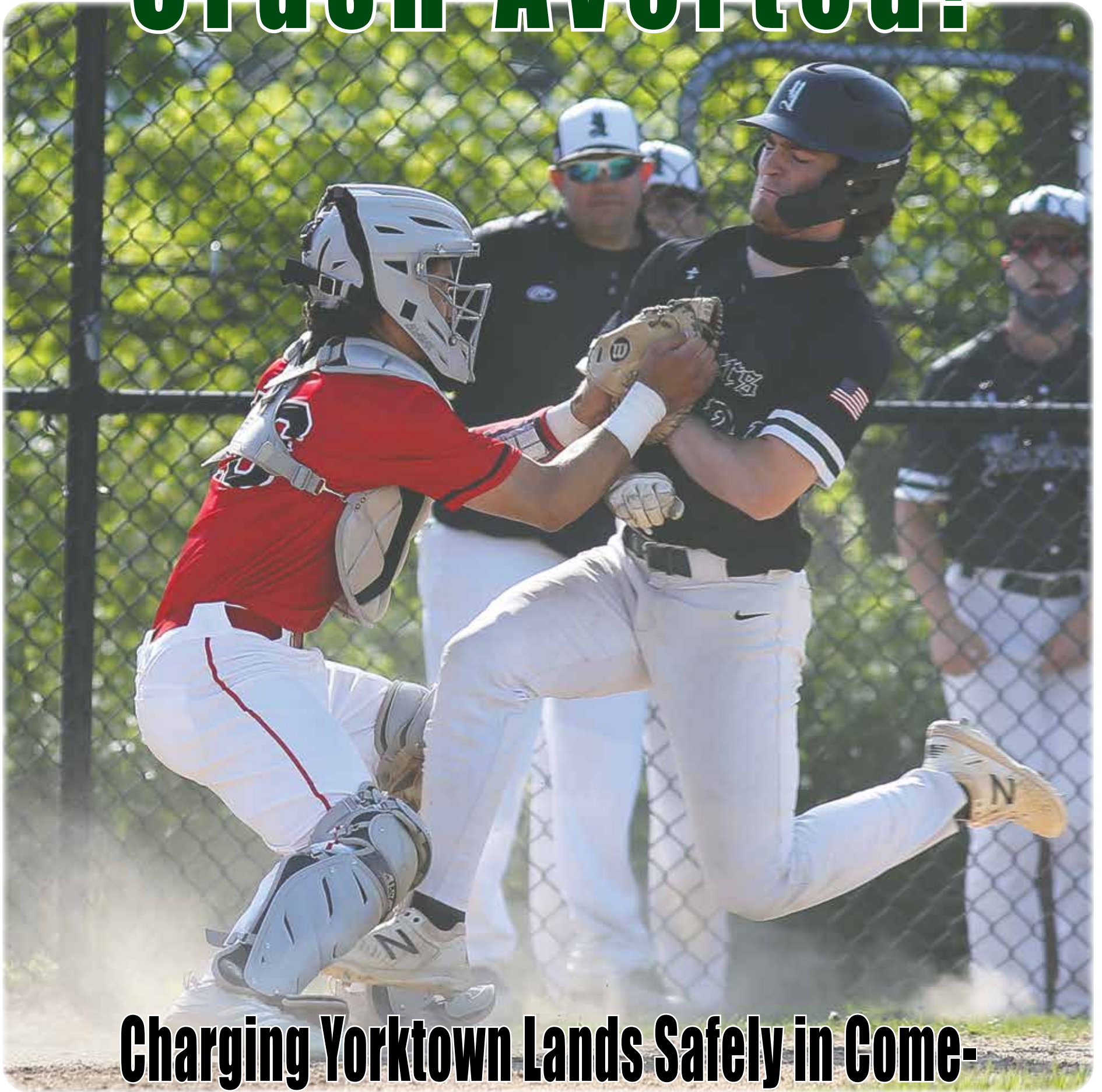


Westlake's Kaitlin Schliman slices through Briarcliff's Paola Galiano and Cassie Lawler in Wildcats' 15-11 loss to Bears.



With 2G in 13-11 win over L-P, Mahopac junior captain Avery Przymyski now has 25 G for the 6-5 Indians.

Crash Averted!



Charging Yorktown Lands Safely in Come-From-Behind Wins over Somers, Mahopac

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO

Yorktown's Stephen Haglund was out at the plate when Somers catcher Evan Carway applied the tag last Thursday, but the barreling Huskers managed a 10-0 victory after coming from behind in Tuesday's 8-6 win over the Tuskers. Yorktown continued to avoid a crash in Saturday's 14-8 extra-inning win over host Mahopac, rallying from a 7-3 deficit to post their 11th win in 12 tries... see Baseball Notebook