



# Examiner Sports

## One-Two Punches!



### Lakeland Field Hockey, Somers Soccer Hope to Land Knockout Blows

RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Lakeland will look to hard-hitting seniors Mia Smith and Jaden Ray in the hopes of producing the Hornets' 12th-straight sectional championship (including last year's COVID-condensed regional title) while Somers will pin its boys' soccer sectional title hopes -- what would be its third since 2016 -- on seniors Daniel D'Ippolito (13) and Bennett Leitner (18)... see Field Hockey/Boys' Soccer Previews



## Sports



## 2021 BOYS SOCCER Preview

## Somers, Byram, Yorktown Expect to Challenge on Class A Pitch

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

The usual suspects are all lined up for a run at the Section 1 Class A boys' soccer title this fall, including Somers, Byram Hills and Yorktown, which welcomes energized first-year Coach Zoran Milojevic to the fold. Along the way, the top bananas can expect a serious challenge from down-county foes like upstart Eastchester and a Rye program that has come a long way in recent seasons. Horace Greeley, Lakeland and Panas will also provide a staunch challenge, making the Class A title path a very difficult one to maneuver, especially given the fact that there are 30 challengers overall, including four Rockland County powers Clarkstown North, Tappan Zee, Pearl River and Nyack. Like some in the local media, many coaches we spoke with agreed that Somers is the team to beat, but the road to Lakeland -- home of the sectional finals on Oct. 30 -- is daunting and unpredictable, especially for those that put the cart before the horse.

Class AA schools from the Examiner area are also expected to challenge down-county favorite Mamaroneck, including 2020 large school regional finalist Carmel and down-county regional finalists White Plains, and lord knows they ooze soccer at Ossining, the 2019 Class AA champs.

There is plenty of energy and star power on the horizon, including but not limited to Somers' Daniel D'Ippolito and Bennett Leitner; Yorktown's George Popovic, Peter Tinaj, Mason Murphy and Jack Prybylsky; Byram Hills' Ross Eagle and Nico Bisgaier; Greeley's Bennett Shropshire, Alex Mancini



Somers junior Liam Healy has a promising future with Tuskers.

and Pablo Perez; White Plains' Jair Cano; Carmel's Dwyant Suazo and Tayte Wong; Lakeland's Jaramillo brothers (Derek and Bryan), Panas' Kyle Arraiano and many more.

Here's a look at what we compiled with the help of thoroughgoing coaches who complied and are hoping for a return to normal on the pitch after the COVID-plagued 2020 season was anything but.



Somers senior F Daniel D'Ippolito is set to pounce on Section 1 defenders this fall.

## CLASS A

The leagues have been drastically realigned in some cases, including top-heavy leagues like Conference II-B, which features Byram, Rye and Eastchester, and League II-C, which includes Somers, Yorktown, Mahopac, Brewster, Horace Greeley and John Jay CR. Winning either of those leagues should prepare the victor for a high seed and a deep run in the postseason. Lakeland and Panas should duke it out in I-D, along with Hen Hud.

## SOMERS

**2020 Record:** 8-3, lost 1-0 in quarters to eventual champ JJCR in large-school regionals

**League:** II-C

**Coach:** Brian Lanzetta



Byram Hills senior F Ross Eagle is among the most prolific scorers in Section 1 this season.



Yorktown senior M George Popovic is among best two-way players in Section 1 this fall.

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. F Bennett Leitner (29 G, 18A career); Sr. F Daniel D'Ippolito (16G, 26A career); Jr. G Anthony Tucci; M Mike Micceri, F Jacques Verard, D Aedan Hopper, M Noah Saks, M Jake Riina

**Key Newcomers:** Jr. Liam Healy

**Top Scoring Threats:** D'Ippolito, Leitner

**Lockdown Defenders:** Hopper

**Goals:** After winning two of the last four sectional titles (discounting 2020's non-sectional season), including a 2016 NYS crown, the Tuskers are in it to win it all. Recent Section 1 history suggests Somers is the team to beat and the explosive scoring prowess between D'Ippolito and Leitner will be hard to stop, much less match on a game-by-game basis. Since taking over in 2016, Lanzetta has the program at an all-time, five-year high and his troops -- from the technically-skilled to the high-motered -- are revving, despite falling in upset fashion to John Jay CR in last year's regional semis. Pre-season hype aside, Somers would consider anything less than a sectional title disappointing.

**Coach's Comments:** We want to raise our level of play every day and demand more individually and as a team. If we come ready to work each day, we will be a very tough team to beat come sectionals.

**Week 1 Action:** Leitner bagged a hat trick and Daniel D'Ippolito added a goal and a career-high five assists in a 9-0 season-opening win over North Salem. Somers added an 8-0 shutout of RCK behind three more Leitner tallies and a goal and four assists from the Dipper. 17 goals in two wins is pretty sick.

## BYRAM HILLS

**2020 Record:** 9-0-1, defeated Walter Panas for Class B regional

**League:** II-B

**Coach:** Matty Allen (23rd year), assistant Coach Steve Skonieczny

**Top Returners:** Sr. LM Ross Eagle; Sr. CF Nico Bisgaier; Sr. CB Bennett Rakower; Jr. CM Jesse Goldstein; Jr. CM Lorenzo Amoroso; Sr. CM Evan Boekel

**Key Newcomers:** So. D Connor Boekel; So. M Zach Pero; So. D Austin Dorfman

**Top Scoring Threats:** Eagle and Bisgaier (combined for 20 goals in 10 games last year)

**Lockdown Defenders:** Luke Abbruzzese, Rakower (surrendered just three goals last year)

**Goals:** Win the last game they play, which has oftentimes been the sectional finals. Byram Hills has snagged seven sectional titles (including last year's pandemic-induced Class B regional) under Allen's leadership, plus four NYS regional crowns, which have led to four state Final 4 appearances (the last in 2014), which produced a pair of state final appearances and one state title in 2007. Goals are always high here.

**Coach's Quote:** We lost two incredible women in our community, Christy Saltstein and Susan Pollack, who were both integral

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# Sports



Lakeland junior Bryan Jaramillo has shown great promise in years past.

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to our program and our history. Our goal is to always play with their spirit and honor them. Secondly, we would like to get better everyday, enjoy the experience and be playing our best soccer in late October. At Byram, our goal is to try and win the last game we play in.

**Week 1 Action:** In the Bobcats' 6-2 win over Panas. Rakower put two between the pipes. Eagle, Bisgaier and Evan Boekel each added one goal and one assist. Luke Berliner also scored and Amorosino dished two assists.

## YORKTOWN

**2020 Record:** 10-1-1, lost in semifinal West./Put. regionals against JJCR on penalties

**League:** Conference II-C

**Coach:** Zoran Milojevic

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. F/MF George Popovic (11G, 9A); Sr. D/MF Mason Murphy, Sr. D/MF Jack Prybylsky



Greeley's Bennett Shropshire hopes to provide two-way spark to Quakers this fall.

**Key Newcomers/Adds:** So. F/MF Nicholas Varela

**Top Scoring Threat:** Sr. F: Peter Tinaj

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Jr. Sean Horlacher

**Goals:** To play with "gusto", score a lot of goals and have a winning season.

**Coach's Quote:** I will quote my coaching mentor Marcelo Bielsa: "Attacking soccer is the simplest way to victory and success. I am working on excelling the program to the next level and have a more steady flow of players continuing to play at the college level. We are looking to play attractive, high scoring soccer.

**Week 1 Action:** Tinaj tallied twice off assists from Popovic and Prybylski in the Huskers' season-opening 2-1 win over visiting Eastchester. A very good sign for the Huskers.

## PEEKSKILL

**2020 Record:** 7-6, lost to Byram Hills in regional semifinals

**League:** II- D

**Coach:** JP Iasillo

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. D Kevin Mendez; Sr. D Erick Guinansaca; Sr. F Alex Sapatanga; Sr. F Johnny Morocho; Sr. D Kevin Sari; Sr. D David Palomeque; Jr. Chris Loja, Sr. F Bryan Vidal

**Key Newcomers/Adds:** Jr. M Ernesto Zambrano; Fr. D. Daniel Parez Sierra; Jr. M Dewin Chocho; Jr. M Joe Uzhca; Jr. D Gio Pesantez; So. Zion Arevalo; Fr. M Chris Churchi; Fr. F Chris Chalco; Jr. M Jonnathan Mendieta; Jr. F Manuel Lopez

**Top Scoring Threat:** Sapatanga, Morocho

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Mendez, Guinansaca, Sari

**Goals:** To maintain 60% possession of the ball; attempt seven shots on goal per half; win the majority of 50/50 balls in the match. Knocking off Lakeland in the playoffs last year was the highlight of the decade for the Red Devils. Building on that win is essential for the future of the franchise.

**Coach's Quote:** One team, one heart!

**Week 1 Action:** Sapatanga scored two goals, including the game-winner in a 4-3 season-opening victory over Sleepy Hollow. He scored his goals despite being a man down, and then two-men down due to red cards against the Red Devs.

## LAKELAND

**2020 Record:** 6-6-1 lost to Peekskill opening round small school regional

**League:** Conference II-D (Panas, Hen Hud, Lourdes, Peekskill)

**Coach:** Tim Hourahan entering (17th season, 189-92-19)

**Top Returners:** Jr. wing Bryan Jaramillo (leading goal scorer as a freshman); Jr. CM Derek Jaramillo (most points as sophomore); Jr. CM Mike Rodriguez; So. CB Connor Daly (started every game as a CM as a freshman); Sr. F David Pinkowsky; Sr. CB Bobby Hernandez; Sr. G Chris Ciraco

**Key Newcomers/Adds:** So. wing Anthony Abbondanza; So. F David Rodriguez; Fr. G Oban Rader



DERRICK QUILES PHOTO @DQPHOTOGRAPHIC

Yorktown's Peter Tinaj (9) should electrify 'The Crop' this fall with his scoring exploits.

**Top Scoring Threats:** Hourahan believes he has four guys that can get goals on any day in a consistent way.

**Lockdown Defender:** Daly, Hernandez

**Goals:** Win a league championship, dominate home games and be playing for a sectional title at the end of the year. Getting Radar ready for a promising future between the pipes is certainly a side goal. Lakeland hasn't been the Lakeland we know since 2016 when it put the only blemishes on then-state champion Somers' record.

**Coach's Quote:** Discipline and respect are the two most important words brought up in practice every day. The program has had a bunch of .500 seasons in a row since 2016 when we lost to Pearl River in semifinals Our junior, sophomore and freshman class is loaded and we have a few 8th graders who can ball as well. I also got an academy kid back who we hope lights it up. These juniors have been with the varsity

since freshman year so have gone through the trials. My senior class has been doing a great job of setting the tone this summer and this preseason and are really hard working kids who love to play soccer, which makes for a great mix. Are we ready to go knock on the doors of Yorktown and Somers? Let's see, but we are ready to go and hope to be looking at another great run back to the 2004-2016 days where we felt we had a chance to make the finals every year. We'll see how it goes in this new league.

**Week 1 Action:** Bryan Jaramillo notched five points (2G, 3A) in a 7-0 win over Brewster. Mike Rodriguez added a hat trick and Derek Jaramillo dished a pair of assists. Ciraco and Rader combined for the shutout. Lakeland also got spanked by Nyack, 6-1, which is unacceptable.

## HORACE GREELEY

**2020 Record:** 9-5, lost to Carmel in regional semis

**League:** II-C

**Coach:** Camp Shropshire

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. D Alex Mancini; Sr. M Pablo Perez; Sr. M Bennett Shropshire

**Key Newcomers/Adds:** Sr. G Matthew Hutchings (returning from a year off)

**Top Scoring Threat:** Dominic Larizza, Shropshire

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Mancini

**Goals:** Sectional title, according to Coach Camp.

**Coach's Quote:** "In the abundance of water, the fool is thirsty." - Bob Marley; "Actions matter, words don't." - Coach Camp.

**Week 1 Action:** Spencer Katz and Shropshire each bagged a goal in a 2-1 win over Fox Lane. Fraioli got the Foxes' lone tally.

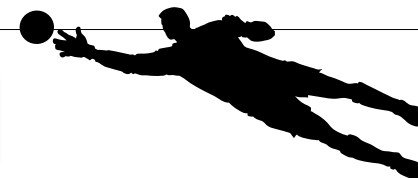


Greeley senior captain Alexander Mancini (L) and senior Bennett Shropshire are poised for big doings in 2021.

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# Sports



## 2021 BOYS SOCCER Preview



Carmel Coach Vasiliy Shevelchinsky (C) with studs Tayte Wong (10) and Dwyant Suazo (11) hope to build upon 2020, one of Carmel's best years in history.



Fox Lane's Trevor Fraioli, who scored Foxes' lone goal in 2-1 loss to host Greeley Saturday, hopes to turn tide in Foxes' favor in 2021.



Fox Lane's Saul Sagastume hopes to anchor back line for Foxes this fall.

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### MAHOPAC

**2020 Record:** 2-9-1, lost to Yorktown in 1st round of regionals

**League:** Conference II-C

**Coach:** Chris Mulholland

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. M Sean Vaughan (missed most of last season due to injury), Jr. M Colin Waring (1G, 2 A)

**Key Newcomers:** So. M Manny Perez, Jr. F Luke Healy

**Top Scoring Threat:** Vaughan

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Sr. D. Liam Kounios

**Goals:** Improve upon the record from last year.

**Quote:** The boys have come in really motivated and have bought into what I have asked them to do. They know this season is going to be very difficult, and from everything they have shown me, it looks like they are ready to step up.

**Week 1 Action:** The Indians put up an admirable showing in a scoreless tie against a solid Scarsdale program.

### HEN HUD

**Coach:** Chris Cassidy

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. M Tyler Robinson; Sr. D David Hernandez; Sr. D John O'Connor; Sr. F Charley Corrado; Jr. M Aidan Irwin; Sr. M Alex Peske; Sr. D Wilson Minchala

**Lockdown Defender:** Hernandez

**Goals:** Improve upon last year.

**Coach's Quote:** We never shy away from tough competition. We get the most out of our kids.

### BREWSTER

**League:** Conference II-C

**Coach:** Jerry Frieri

**Top Returning Players:** Jr. M Matteo

Gulla; Sr. CB Marco Gulla; Sr. M Darwin Ventura; Sr. G Louis Likens

**Key Newcomers:** Sr. Striker Alvaro Vides; 8th grade M Dante Gulla

**Top Scoring Threat:** Vides

**Best Lockdown Defender:** So. CB Carter Dineen

**Goals:** To continue on improving from year to year.

**Coach's Quote:** We are working hard on combining a very solid group of talented young newcomers with our six returning starters.

### CLASS AA

#### WHITE PLAINS

**2020 Record:** 7-1-3, lost Mamaroneck in large school regional final

**League:** I-D (Ossining, Port Chester, Fox Lane, Scarsdale B)

**Coach:** Mike Lambert

**Top Returning Players:** Jr. M Jair Cano (5G, 3A, 2GW); Jr. F Diego Martinez (1G, 3A); Sr. F/M Gael Balardi

**Key Newcomers/Adds:** D Fernando Rosas (was on team last year but had very little playing time with loaded defenders but came in strong this fall)

**Top Scoring Threat:** Cano, Brenlyn Ordonez

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Alejandro Vega

**Goals:** Repeat as league champions. The Tigers live and die for soccer, so maintaining that attitude will determine whether or not they can overcome the loss of a strong senior class. Cano will come into his own and Balardi is strong on the ball, but it will be dependent upon the rest of this mostly untested unit to get up to speed quickly.

**Coach's Quote:** We graduated 10 out of 11 starters so this season we will need to gel and find our identity quickly. We're very excited about having a young squad. We're

ready to battle it out with the rest of Section 1 well into the playoffs.

**Week 1 Action:** White Plains knocked off Harrison, 1-0, in double OT when Rhaymani Alexander finished a through ball from Martinez.

### CARMEL

**2020 Record:** 10-1, lost in 2OT regional final to John Jay CR

**League:** Conference I-A (Rams return as league champs vs. Arlington, John Jay EF, RCK)

**Coach:** Vasiliy Shevelchinsky

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. Dwyant Suazo; Sr. Tayte Wong

**Key Adds/Newcomers:** Kyle Klammer

**Goals:** Lost 12 seniors and six starters, so the goal is to reset and be able compete in every game while continuing to foster the notion that Carmel can be a 'soccer school' in addition to being a 'football school'. 2020 was one of the best in school history, so building upon that is essential. Suazo and Wong are a dynamic duo to set those wheels in motion, but the supporting cast will determine whether or not the Rams were a one-year wonder or a program on the rise.

**Coach's Quote:** This team will be focused and mentally tough.

**Week 1 Action:** In Carmel's 2-1 season-opening win over Suffern. Klammer got a feed from Neel Walla to snap a 1-1 tie. David Maldonado also scored for the Rams.

### FOX LANE

**2020 Record:** 0-10-2

**League:** Conference I-D

**Coach:** Mike Tomassi

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. D. Jefferson Revolorio Miranda, Sr. D Saul Sagastume, Sr. M Trevor Fraioli, Sr. M Paul Serrano, Sr. D Luis Diaz Giron

**Key Newcomers/Adds:** Fr. F Kenneth Mejia Lopez, Jr. M Dennis Argueta, Jr. M William Boyland

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Miranda

**Top Scoring Threat:** Lopez, Fraioli

**Goals:** This season we are looking to build a solid foundation for future success. We have several returning players, mixed with some young upcoming talent that should make us competitive. We are looking to improve each and every day.

**Coach's Quote:** We hope to create a competitive environment that leads to building a solid program in section one. We have a lot of young talent that will have to adjust to Varsity competition. We have great leaders on the team that will help guide our younger players in learning the Varsity game.

### CLASS B

League III-A is loaded with Examiner-area teams, including Briarcliff, Pleasantville, Westlake and Valhalla, who will contend with

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White Plains M Jair Cano is a skilled two-way performer for 2021 Tigers.



# Sports



White Plains' Gael Baraldi will be relied upon heavily in 2021 for steady two-way play.

*continued from previous page*

Blind Brook and Rye Neck for supremacy. Putnam Valley has its hands full in III-D while rebuilding and challenging the likes of North Salem, Croton and Haldane for league bragging rights.

## BRIARCLIFF

**2020 Record:** 4-4-2 last year, lost to finalist Walter Panas in small school regional

**League:** League III-A

**Coach:** Brandon Beck

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. M Tyler Cho (2G, 5 A); Sr. F Nico Santucci (6G, 1A); Sr. D Kevin Callaghan; Jr. M Ethan Klar

**Key Newcomers/Adds:** So. D Miles Prosperino; Sr. G Guilian Greco

**Top Scoring Threat:** Wait and see.

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Sr. CB Sam Fash

**Goals:** To stay safe and healthy. Recognize our potential is limitless as a unit. Respect all. Fear none. Get better every single day and play our best soccer in the playoffs.

**Coach's Quote:** Our team is excited to have fans back in the stands. Last year, we had a younger team and the majority



Westlake junior Roberto Molina and Briarcliff junior Alex Josey battle for control in Wildcats' Mt. Pleasant Cup win Saturday.

of the team is back this year. The future is bright and there is strong talent on both the varsity and JV. We are looking forward to a competitive season full of a lot of fun memories together.

**Week 1 Action:** In the opening round of the Mount Pleasant Cup, Briarcliff beat host Valhalla, 2-0, on goals by Jack Manganello (assist from Fash 7:17 into game) and Cho (PK 8:08 remaining). Greco made eight 8 for the clean sheet.

## WESTLAKE

**2020 Record:** 5-6, lost to Bronxville in quarters

**League:** III-A

**Coach:** Joe Callagy

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. F Gianluca Ruggiero (6G, 3A); Sr. G Francesco Michilli

**Key Newcomers:** Jr. M Roberto Molina, So. D Dylan Pray

**Top Scoring Threat:** Ruggiero

**Lockdown Defender:** Kristian Shkreli

**Week 1 Action:** At Valhalla, Westlake defeated Briarcliff, 4-2, to win the coveted Mt. Pleasant Cup. Briarcliff goals by Santucci and Cho were offset by two goals from Wildcat Isaiah Ortiz and a goal and assist from Ruggiero, the tournament MVP. Martin Sunjic added another score for Westlake, who knocked off Pleasantville, 2-1, in the opening round when Ruggiero and Alex Guaman each found the back of the net.

## VALHALLA

**2020 Record:** 5-5, beat Tuckahoe 4-0, lost to Pleasantville 1-0 OT in quarters

**League:** Conference III, League-D

**Coach:** Sandro Prosperino (16th season)

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. F Thomas Casale (4G, 1A); Sr. F Frank Crupi (injured all season); Jr. D David Bernardini; Jr. D Eddie LoPresti; Jr. M Vincent Reyes; Jr. D Owen Rubio-Heeney; Jr. M Oliver Tecuapetla



Westlake's Gianluca Ruggiero and Luca Mulhare pose with coveted Mount Pleasant Cup after knocking off Briarcliff, 3-2, Saturday.

**Key Newcomers/Adds:** Sr. K Lucas Zonetti; Jr. M Dimitri Tonelli; So. M Matthew Del Gatto; So. M Luka Pandzic; So. D Lucas Signes

**Top Scoring Threat:** Casale, Crupi

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Heeney

**Goals:** To have a season of significance on and off the field.

**Coach's Quote:** Unfortunately, life has shown us that we're not guaranteed tomorrow, and that today is the most important day of your life. I know these young men will proudly represent their school and community while wearing their Viking maroon.

## PUTNAM VALLEY

**2020 Record:** 2-11, lost to Haldane in small school regional 1st round

**League:** Conference III-D (includes Croton, Putnam Valley, North Salem and Pawling)

**Coach:** Tim Weir

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. F Christian Moreno; Sr. D Sebastian Muniz; So. D Esuar Ordenez; So. D Charles Garcia; Sr. M Josh Leal; Sr. M Roberto Chimbo; So. D



Briarcliff senior Tyler Cho will have an impactful effect on Section 1 pitches this fall.

Evan Mounier; So. G Miguel Diaz

**Key Newcomers:** Fr. D Andy Ruchi; Jr. F Joe Montanero; Fr. M Chris Raimondi; Fr. F Sergio Martinez

**Top Scoring Threat:** Moreno, Leal

**Top Lockdown Defender:** Muniz, Garcia

**Goals:** To improve each day and be ready at the end of the season to make a run at a league and sectional title.

**Coach's Quote:** This is an extremely young and inexperienced team. We only have three seniors and it will be important for these guys to lead the younger players. The players have been working very hard and will be a much better team in October than we are now.

## CLASS C

## HALDANE

**2020 Record:** lost second round to North Salem in small school region playoffs last year

**League:** Conference III League D (includes Croton, Putnam Valley, North Salem and Pawling)

**Coach:** Ahmed Dwidar (8th year, year 2 of 2nd stint at Haldane)

**Top Returning Players:** Sr. D Patrick DiNardo . Jr. William Sniffen

**Key Newcomers/Adds:** Fr. Brandt Robbins

**Top Scoring Threat:** Jr. Ryan Eng-Wong

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Sr. Stephen Robinson

**Goals:** Play hard every game and have fun out there while challenging for league and sectional titles. The league title often flows through North Salem, but the Blue Devils have been a persistent thorn in the side of their foes. Dwidar is back for a second stint and he knows the ins and outs of the game. Dwidar coached the team for six years, from 2010 to 2015, winning two sectional titles and a league championship.

**Coach's Quote:** We are a young team learning every day the game and trying to bring the section title back home.

*Examiner-area coaches are encouraged to send game-by-game results, stats and comments to raygallaghersports@gmail.com.*



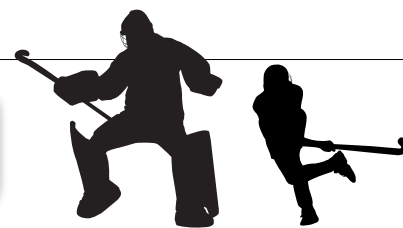
Westlake and Briarcliff players battle for control of ball in Wildcats' title triumph in Mt. Pleasant Cup finals.



## Sports



## 2021 FIELD HOCKEY Preview



## Lakeland Hopes to Own Class B; Carmel Looks to Build on 2020

By Tony Pinciario

Even though the pandemic delayed the 2020 fall high school sports and cancelled the state championship in each fall sport, one thing remained constant --Lakeland field hockey supremacy.

Lakeland went 13-1 for 2021 New York State Public High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame inductee Sharon Sarsen and were the Westchester/Putnam Small School Champion. The Hornets also were league champions.

This was no surprise considering Lakeland's dominance of Section 1 and the New York State Field Hockey Championships since 2009. Beginning in 2009, Lakeland won an unprecedented nine consecutive state (Class B) titles. Garden City upset Lakeland, 1-0, in the 2018 state Class B final, but the Hornets returned to beat Garden City in the 2019 state-title game.

Sarsen is in her 40th year as Lakeland coach and owns a state-record 659 wins.

Lakeland, which opened its season with wins over Yorktown (7-0) and Somers (4-1) will be led by the senior nucleus of Mia Smith (midfield), Jaden Ray (defense) and Meaghan Casey (defense). The Hornets also return junior Celeste Pagliaroli (goalie).

The four returnees received all-league honors. Ray and Pagliaroli were all-section honorable mention selections while Smith was an all-section and all-state recipient.

Sarsen came out of preseason impressed by her team's work ethic and commitment to improvement. Lakeland will have some young players on varsity, which will lead to a learning curve as the Hornets will go into the Section 1 Class B championships as the favorite.

In 2003, Sarsen promoted four freshmen to varsity -- Melissa Gonzalez, Kara Connolly, Amy Voelkel and Rebecca DiSisto. Under the leadership and guidance of senior co-captains Andi Coiro and Danielle Fiore, the freshmen four emerged as important players in helping Lakeland win the state Class A title.



All-Section Carmel junior Laila Rosenquest will put the pep in Rams' attack in 2021.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Lakeland senior M Mia Smith will oftentimes be best player on Section 1 fields this season.

"We are excited to play Lakeland field hockey again," Sarsen said. "I am hoping we are fortunate to have a full season that is close to regular."

Smith had a hat trick and two assists in Lakeland's season-opening win over Yorktown. Emily Yazzetti added two goals, Ray added a goal and an assist and Alyssa Petrilli had a goal.

Yorktown goalie Maeve Ryan finished with 24 saves.

Smith followed up her hat trick in Lakeland's 4-1 win over Somers.

Lauren McCartin scored for Somers, assisted by Julianna Sirchia, and Kamryn Seeger made 14 saves.

Somers opened its season with a 4-0 victory over Panas as Sirchia had a hat trick.

Brianna Coolican had a goal. Teagan Ryan collected two assists and McCartin had an assist. Seeger did not make a save.

Panas goalie Kate Astrab registered 20 saves.

Mahopac began 2021 with a 6-0 victory over Putnam Valley as Grace Witt had a goal and two assists.

Kristina Rush, Riley Massett, Katrina Levitz, Emma Rooney and Toni DiCioccio also scored for Mahopac and Hannah Harney also collected two assists.

Mahopac goalie Maddie Orsini made one save and Putnam Valley keeper Kylie Recuppio had nine saves.

Here is a team-by-team look for those Examiner-area programs that cooperated.

## CARMEL RAMS

**Coach:** Aislinn Breslin (ninth year)

**2020 record:** 5-3-1 (runner-up in the Westchester/Putnam Large School Division, losing 2-0 to Horace Greeley in the final.)

**Top returning players:** Laila Rosenquest, Jr., F (All-Elite and All-Section); Kasey Lewia, Sr., D (All League, All Elite Honorable Mention); Nikki McGough, Sr., F (All League); Claire Bumgarner, Sr., M, Gracie Sonnergren, Sr., F; McKenzie Hayes, Jr., G; Ashley McGough, So., F/M

**Key Newcomers:** Karoline Costa, Sr., D; Brynn Connolly, Jr., D; Rachael Dandreano, Jr., D; Olivia Trupia, Jr., D; Kelsey Blair, So., D/M; Aubrey Dall, So., F/M

**Coach's comments:** The girls have been working incredibly hard to get prepared for the season. Several of them dedicated time in the offseason to make sure they can do everything they need to to make this a successful year. Our biggest strength is our speed. We have several girls who are great at using their speed to their advantage. After a very successful season last year, my team is looking to repeat that success. We did lose several key players last year to graduation, but the new girls on the team are more than ready to fill those roles. The girls are very relieved to not have to wear masks while playing any more. They are also thrilled to be able to be more connected and have all of their friends back in school. We are far from normal but the girls are happy we are getting closer.

## HEN HUD SAILORS

**Coach:** Melissa Locatelli (fifth year)

**2020 record:** 6-6-1 (lost to Lakeland in the league semifinals)

**Top returning players:** Taeghan Dapson (All-Section HM); Rowan Dapson; Sydney Muranaka; Gianna (Gigi) Deak; Logan Gougelmann; Paige Johannsen; Taylor DeResh; Ally McManus; Emily Hunt

**Key newcomers:** Caitlin Pignataro; Ella Sylvester; Ashley Azzaro, Eva Facciolo, Jillian Hentze, Erin Johns, Sarah McAllister; Lauren Zern

**Coach's comments:** Taeghan, Rowan, Sydney and Gigi know each other very well on the field and are a tough group to contend with. All four girls pour their heart and soul out on the field and are looking to win league



Lakeland senior D Meaghan Casey will bolster Hornets' back line in 2021.

champs for their final run this year. We have changed leagues and our eye is on the prize. Our goalie, Emily Hunt, is very eager to show everyone what she's capable of. We have a mix of seasoned players and brand-new girls. All have drive and eagerness to win. They are eyeing that league win to bring home the first field hockey banner to hang in our gym. We can't wait to get back to playing and returning to somewhat normal. We made it through last season without issue and hope to do the same this year.

## HORACE GREELEY QUAKERS

**Coach:** Sukhwinder Sandhu (13th year)

**2020 record:** 12-1 (Northern Westchester/Putnam Large School Champion and League Champion).

**Top returning players:** All of our varsity

*continued on next page*



Somers junior M-D Angelina Pennella hopes to stabilize back end and score points for 2021 Tuskers.



# Sports

*continued from previous page*  
team graduated last year.

**Key newcomers:** They are all key newcomers.

**Coach's comments:** We lost a lot of varsity players last year. We hope to work on our new, young varsity players and have a good season. I'm glad we are returning to normal this year. Hopefully, it stays normal.

**Notes:** In 2019, Sandhu guided the Quakers to the Section 1 Class A title and they went on to play for the state title.

## MAHOPAC INDIANS

**Coach:** Dona DiMaggio

**Top returning player and key newcomers:** Giuliana Barthold, Jr., D; Marie Camastro, Sr., M; Gaby Cazzari, Sr., D; Toni DiCioccio, Jr., F; Shay Fennessy, Jr., D; Megan Gallagher, Sr., M/D; Hannah Harney, Jr., D/M; Ava Jennings, Sr., F/M; Katrina Levitz, Jr., F; Riley Massett, Jr., F; Nat Ocello, Sr. D; Maya O'Keefe, Jr., M/D; Madison Orsini, Jr., G; Avery Przymylski, Sr., D/M; Nola Roberts, Jr., D/M; Emma Rooney, Jr.; Kristina Rush, Jr., F; Grace Witt, Jr., M/D, All-Section Sr. M Gabby Gonzalez

**Notes:** This is the 20th anniversary for Coach DiMaggio and her Mahopac 2001 New York State Class A championship team which had a strong senior class, highlighted by state-final-four MVP Colleen McClay.



Mahopac senior Gabby Gonzalez will pose a two-way threat for all Indian foes in 2021.



Putnam Valley senior Nat Mazza provides rebuilding Tigers with two-way athleticism this fall.

## PANAS PANTHERS

**Coach:** Leah DiSisto (first year)

**2020 Record:** 4-7-1

**Top returning players:** Kate Astrab, So., G; Ali Moyer, Jr., D; Makenzie Schmidt, Jr., M

**Coach's comments:** We are looking forward to a season of improvement. We graduated a large group of seniors last year and have many holes to fill. The girls bring great energy and are working together to better themselves every practice and game. We are happy to be on the field and playing together in a normal season setting. We are looking forward to growing this program post COVID and hopefully rebuilding a JV team at Walter Panas.

**Notes:** Leah DiSisto was the Panas varsity assistant last year. She will be assisted this year by former Lakeland teammate Cassie (O'Mara) Lian. DiSisto and Lian were members of Lakeland's 2006 New York State Class A championship team. Lian was a captain on Lakeland's 2007 state-finalist team.

## PLEASANTVILLE PANTHERS

**Coach:** Kristen Coffey (14th year)

**2020 record:** 4-7

**Top returning players:** Caitlin Rubsamen, Sr., M (All-Section HM); Ryan Sullivan, Sr., F; Isabelle Baxter, Sr., F; Maeve McCourtney, Sr., F

**Key newcomers:** Natalie O'Malley, Jr., F

**Coach's comments:** These players work very hard and love coming together each day. They have a strong bond with one another. It is a pleasure coaching them and I look forward to watching them progress and succeed. It is amazing to get to see each player's smiling face! Last season was difficult and uncertain and this year feels like things are slowly returning back to normal!

**Notes:** Coffey graduated from and played for Pleasantville legendary coach Rosemary Sotherden. Pleasantville was a 2002 State Class C finalist and won the 2008 Section 1 Class C title.

## PUTNAM VALLEY TIGERS

**Coach:** Tracy Parchen (eighth season)

**Top returnees:** Alexandra Jacobs, Sr.; Shayla Lussier, Sr.; Julia Cunningham, Sr.; Sara Lussier, Sr.; Ava Harman, So.

**Coach's comments:** Sara is back this season. She was injured on the first day of the season last year and missed her entire junior season. So I am hoping for some good things with from her on the forward line this season. I think defensively we are pretty strong. We struggled last year with goal scoring, but hoping for better things this season."

**Notes:** Parchen coached Putnam Valley to the 2005 Section 1 and New York State Class B titles. During Putnam Valley's '05 sectional and state-championship run, the Tigers and goalie Kim Kastuk did not allow a goal. Putnam Valley, led by center midfielder Ashley Morgan, won the 2008 Section 1 Class B title beating rivals Rye and Lakeland in the semifinals and final, respectively.

## VALHALLA VIKINGS

**Coach:** Kim Briscoe (first year)

**Top returning players:** Ava Denatle, F/M

**Coach's comments:** We have good field chemistry and we also do a good job at being supportive to each other on and off the field. We are a younger team after graduating a lot of our players. It will be interesting to see which players step up throughout the season. I am excited to see my team get better with every practice and game. We are taking it one day at a time and seeing the progress

we need to see to have a great season. I am excited to see fall sports coming back for a full season this year. It's wonderful that we are able to play the sports we love to play while doing so safely.

**Notes:** Briscoe was Valhalla's Junior Varsity coach the past two seasons. ... DeNatle was a player-of-the-week recipient last year.

## WHITE PLAINS TIGERS

**Coach:** Amanda Grant (fifth year)

**2020 record:** 5-3 (lost to Mamaroneck in the Westchester/Putnam Large School County Tournament.)

**Top returning players:** Sophia Emmert, Jr., (All-Section HM last year); Joely O'Rourke, D; Ryleigh Falvey, D

**Coach's comments:** Last year was big for us because we beat Scarsdale, the first time we played them. It was the first time we have ever beaten Scarsdale. Our strength

is we really work together as a team, and utilize all the players on the field.

## YORKTOWN CORNHUSKERS

**Coach:** Courtney Hyndman (second year)

**2020 record:** 2-6-2

**Top returning players:** Maya Servedio, Sr., M; Abbie Ellison, Sr., F; Kaitlin Regan, Jr., M (All League Honorable Mention); Gianna Altamari, Jr., M; Adrianna Albano, Jr., M; Sophia Reilly, Jr., D

**Key newcomers:** Katie Taormina, So., M; Maeve Ryan, Jr., G; Georgia Christensen, Jr., M

**Coach's comments:** These girls trust each other completely. They have really gelled together and learned each other's strengths and have shown that they can play to them. Losing seven seniors was extremely tough, but we definitely have the right girls taking that leadership role and ensuring we have team unity. In addition

to the team chemistry, we have seen an increase in athleticism of the girls. They have worked hard in the offseason and during preseason so we are excited to see how they compare to other teams. Both myself and Coach Esteves are really looking forward to this season. The girls are working extremely hard and have been showing a ton of improvement thus far that we know game play will only increase their ability. We have a different league and are playing some different teams than we have in the past, but we are hopeful for a successful season.

**Notes:** Hyndman replaced former Yorktown coach Bernadette Gannon, who retired after the 2019 season. Assistant coach Jessica Esteves was a stand-out defender during her Pleasantville career.



Brewster's Eva Cucinell returns to bolster Bears' midfield in 2021.

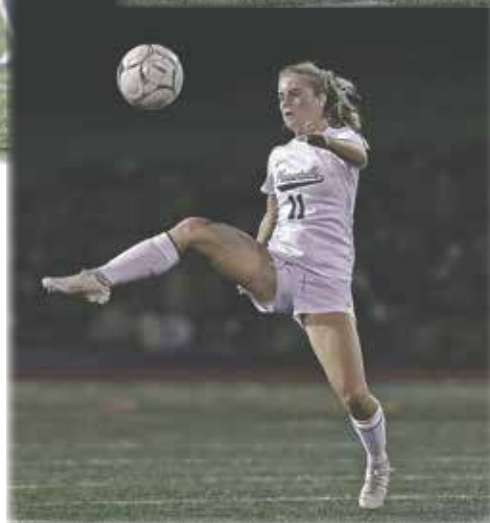


# 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Mt. Pleasant Soccer Cup



**2021 Field Hockey/  
Boys' Soccer  
Preview Edition**

**Westlake Boys,  
Briarcliff Girls  
Crowned Cup Champs**



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

The 36th annual Mt. Pleasant Soccer Cup concluded on Saturday evening at Valhalla High School with the Westlake boys emerging with a 4-2 title win over Briarcliff, then the Briarcliff girls edging archival Pleasantville 1-0 in their championship game. The action included, clockwise from top left, the Bears' Gabriella Chioccola dribbling the ball up the right sideline; Briarcliff senior Sam Fash pursuing the ball late in the second half; Westlake's Gianluca Ruggiero racing in to score the game-sealing goal for the Wildcats; Pleasantville sophomore midfielder Molly Baxter booting the ball away; Westlake's Roberto Molina and Briarcliff's Jack Manganello battling for possession; and Briarcliff's Sora Marable putting pressure on the Panther defense in the first half.