Lakeland Field Hockey, Somers Soccer Hope to Land Knockout Blows

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.
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 Milojivic 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 finalists 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 Pryhylsky; Byram Hills’ Ross Eagle and Nico Bisgaier; Greeley’s Bennett Shropshire, Alex Mancini and Pablo Perez; White Plains’ Jair Cano; Carmel’s Dwyant Suazo and Tayte Wong; Lakeland’s Jaramillo brothers (Derek and Bryan), Panas’ Kyle Arrainano 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.

**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**

*Coach:* II-B 2020 Record: 9-0-1, defeated Walter Panas for Class B regional League: II-C
*Coach:* Brian Lanzetta

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**BYRAM HILLS**

*Coach:* III-B 2020 Record: 9-0-1, defeated Walter Panas for Class B regional League: II-B
*Coach:* Matty Allen (23rd year), assistant Coach Steve Skoneczny

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**YORKTOWN**

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

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

Top Scoring Threats: Eagle and Bisgaier (combined for 30 goals in 11 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...continued on next page
Yorktown's Peter Tinaj (9) should electrify 'The Crop' this fall with his scoring exploits.

**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/Add: So. wing Anthony Abbondanza; So. F David Rodriguez; Fr. G Ohan Rader

**TINAJ TALLIED TWICE**

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

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

**YOORKTOWN**

2020 Record: 10-1-1, lost in semifinal West Put. regionals against JCR on penalties
League: Conference II-C
Coach: Zoran Mijojevic
Top Returning Players: Sr. F/MF George Popovic (11G, 9A); Sr. D/MF Mason Murphy; Sr. D/MF Jack Prybylski

**HERE COMES THE SUN**

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.

**PEEKSKILL**

2020 Record: 7-6, lost to Byram Hills in regional semifinals
League: II-D
Coach: JP Isaillo
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
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.

**GROWING PAINS**

Lakeland also got spanked by Nyack, 6-1, with a hat trick and Derek Jaramillo dished a pair of assists. Circio 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/Add: 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 Nicholas Varela scored to down Mamaroneck in a 5-1 win over Fox Lane. Fraioli got the Foxes’ lone tally.

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

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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.
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.
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/Additions: 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, Brennyn 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.
Quote: This team will be focused on combining a very solid group of talented young newcomers with our six returning starters.

Fox Lane’s Trevor Fraidoli, 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.

Key Newcomers/Additions: Fr. F Kenneth Mejia Lopez, Jr. M Dennis Argueta, Jr. M William Boyland
Best Lockdown Defender: Miranda
Top Scoring Threat: Lopez, Fraidoli
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.
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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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 for the clean sheet.

**WESTLAKE**

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

**League:** Conference III-D

**Coach:** Tim Weir

**Top Returning Players:** F Justin Fash; Sr. M Roberto Chimbo;  So. D Charles Garcia;  Sr. G Miguel Diaz;  Fr. M Chris Raimondi; Fr. F Joe Montanero; Fr. F Sergio Martinez

**Top Scoring Threat:** Casale, Crupi

**Best Lockdown Defender:** Muniz, Garcia

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

**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

**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.

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

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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 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

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

**Coach’s Quote:** 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 for the clean sheet.

**WESTLAKE**

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

**League:** Conference 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

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

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**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

**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.

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

By Tony Pinciaro

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 (goalie).

The four returnees received all-league honors. Ray and Pagliaroli were all-section honorable mention selections while Smith was all-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 -- Melissa Gonzalez, Kara Connolly, Amy Voelkel and Rebecca DiSanto. 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.

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 Hanney also collected two assists.

Mahopac goalie Maddie Orcini 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: Aislan 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 Dandrea, 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: Teaghan Dapson (All-Section HM); Rowan Dapson; Sydney Muranaka; Gianna (Gigi) Deak; Logan Gougelmann; Paige Johannsen; Taylor DeResh; Ally McManus; Emily Hunt

Key newcomers: Caitlin Fignaturo; Ella Sylvester; Ashley Azzaro, Eva Paccio, Jilian Hentze, Erin Johns, Sarah McAllister, Lauren Zern

Coach’s comments: Teaghan, 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 into the game, 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.

HORACE GREELEY QUAKERS

Coach: Sakhdwinder Sandhu (13th year)
2020 record: 12-1 (Northern Westchester/ Putnam Large School Champion and League Champion).

Top returning players: All of our varsity 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.

Key Newcomers: Laila Rosenquest will put the pep in Rams’ attack in 2021.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

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HORACE GREELEY QUAKERS

Coach: Sakhdwinder Sandhu (13th year)
2020 record: 12-1 (Northern Westchester/ Putnam Large School Champion and League Champion).

Top returning players: All of our varsity

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Somers senior M D Angelina Pennella hopes to stabilize back end and score points for 2021 Tuskers.
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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: Donna DiMaggio

Top returning player and key newcomers: Giuliana Barthold, Jr., D; Marie Cannestro, Sr., M; Gaby Cazari, Sr., D; Toni DiCioccio, Jr., F; Shay Fennelly, 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 Przemyslawski, 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.

PANAS PANTHERS

Coach: Leah DiSisto (first year)

2020 Record: 4-7-1

Top returning players: Kate Astrab, So., G; Ali Moyer, Jr., D; Makienzie 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 Rohmanen, Sr., M (All-Section HM); Ryan Sullivan, Sr., F; Isabelle Baxter, Sr., F; Mavee McCartney, 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.

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.

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 Altinari, Jr., M; Adrianna Albano, Jr., M; Sophia Reilly, Jr., D

Key newcomers: Katie Taormina, So., M; Mavee 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.

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

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

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.

Notes: Hyndman replaced 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.

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

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.
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 archrival 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.