

Examiner Sports Stealing Thunder!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Panas Loots Lakeland Behind Freshman Tavaréz

Panas freshman Sophia Tavaréz splits a trio of Lakeland defenders en route to two of her 15 points to go with an astonishing eight steals as the crosstown rival Panthers (11-1) knocked off the previously undefeated Hornets (11-1) 66-48 in a League II-D battle last Friday at 'The Hive'... see Girls Hoops Notebook

McGrane of Truth!



Somers Making Believers After Dreadful Start

Somers senior F Christian McGrane goes up for two of his career-high 16 points in the host Tuskers' 54-44 League II-C win over visiting Yorktown last Friday night when Somers, which began the season at 0-6, won for the seventh time in a row... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

Class A Mahopac Making Gains, Surging Somers on Tap

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

After a couple of early-season losses to some good clubs, **MAHOPAC** was reeling at 1-3 out of the gate. Knowing their own athleticism, toughness and capabilities would eventually add up to wins, Coach Tom McMahon's Indians (7-3) had strung together five wins in a row heading into Saturday's non-league clash with Lourdes. Beating a solid Warriors club, which the Indians did, 76-66 in OT, would solidify the notion that Mahopac can play with most anybody in Class A this winter.

"Yeah, 100% agree: That's the advantage of having a veteran team," McMahon said. "We've played 10 games now and none of them have been more than a six-point game. The kids are playing tough and the leadership and chemistry of this group is really shining through. This league is so competitive. Every game is close, so it's too early to talk about winning the league title, but we have certainly put ourselves in a position to contend. The schedule continues to be challenging, so we are going to have to keep improving if we are going to keep it going in the right direction."

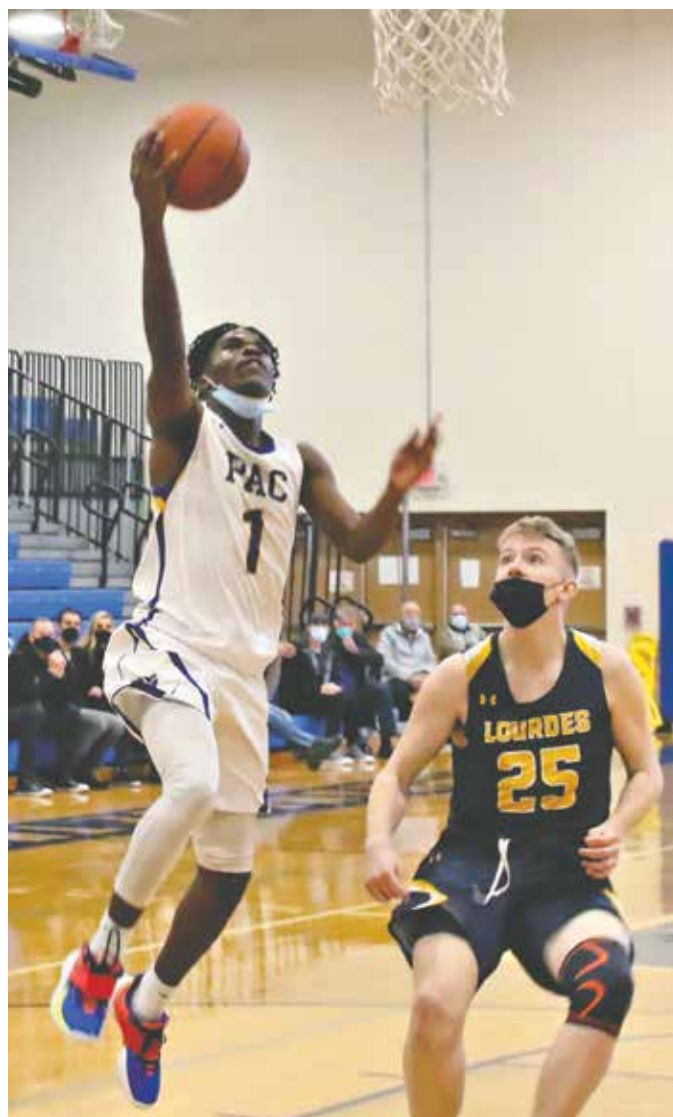
Thanks to senior F Colum Ranaghan, who had a career-high 22 points, the Indians were headed in the right direction in last Wednesday's 64-58 win over a solid, John Jay club. Mahopac senior G Michael Callahan dropped a whopping 18 on the Wolves. Cally then went on to drop a career-high 23 points in the win over Lourdes. Teammates Patrick McMahon (19 points) and Max Gomes (14 points, all in the 4th) were huge down the stretch.

"The boys and I are feeling great after yesterday's win over a tough Lourdes team," Callahan said after the Indians went on a 29-3 second-half run to finish off the Warriors. "After starting off the season 1-3 we all knew we were a much better team than we were showcasing, so we all just kept grinding and the Lourdes matchup was a way to make a statement to Section 1 that Mahopac is a contender, which I believe we accomplished."

"But now that we have established that level of performance we must keep grinding and getting better as a team," Callahan added, "because this team can be very special. Also, I'd like to mention the Mahopac Maniacs have been going absolutely nuts for all of our home games, which makes for one of the best and hardest atmospheres to play in Section 1. The Pac is back, baby!"

When you add it all up, the Indians are in the hunt for more than just the League II-C title where they are currently 4-0 atop the division. There's currently no reason to believe Mahopac, the current No.8 seed, can't make a deep run in the playoffs.

YORKTOWN had lost five of six before heading over to surging **SOMERS**, winners of six in a row, Friday night. After starting out 0-6 and the panic button becoming an issue, Coach Chris DiCintio's Tuskers (7-6) have reeled off seven-straight wins, including Friday's 54-44 victory against the visiting Huskers before a raucous crowd.



Mahopac senior G Max Gomes goes for two of his 14 fourth-quarter points in OT win over Lourdes



Somers senior G Bennett Leitner tries to gain lane on Yorktown sophomore G Justin Price in Tuskers' 54-44 win over visiting Huskers Friday.

The win enabled the Tuskers to improve to 5-1 in League II-C action with a monster Feb.1 tipoff with Mahopac looming ever so large. The Tuskers haven't lost since falling 61-56 at Mahopac on Jan. 6.

Yorktown had no answer for Somers senior F Christian McGrane, who had a career night by dropping 16 points. The Tuskers bigs had their way with an undermanned Yorktown club that had been snake bitten by a combination of things beyond their control (Covid/injuries). Tommy Costello had 16 points to lead the Huskers. Tuskers Bennett Leitner (12 points, 6 assists) and Matt Fitzsimons (9 points, 12 boards, 7 assists) were pivotal to the win. Somers routed **BREWSTER**, 74-54, earlier in the week, sending the Bears to a seventh-straight loss. Junior F Fitzsimons, McGrane and sophomore wing Andrew Violante combined for 48 points.

Yorktown tried to snap the losing skid but came up short in overtime to Greeley, 73-67, when sophomore G Billy Feeks and senior C Eddie Brucaj finished with 14 points each.

HEN HUD could not slow the roll of Poughkeepsie G Jaysean Morgan (game-high 24 points) in the Sailors' 61-52 setback despite getting 18 points from G Dean



Mahopac Coach Tom McMahon and Indians celebrate clutch bucket by Colum Ranaghan (4) in OT win over Lourdes Saturday.

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RAY GALLAGHER / GIL MCMAHON / BILL KENNEDY PHOTOS



Somers junior F Matt Fitzsimons drills shot over Yorktown's Tommy Costello in Tuskers' 54-44 win over visiting Huskers Friday.

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Hiltsley (3 assists) and 17 from fearless sophomore Gino Wamack, who looks like a budding star, who added a career-high 20 points in the Sailors' 53-49 win over Rye on Saturday. Hiltsley added 17.
After starting out 6-2 **WALTER PANAS** has hit a bit of a rough patch, including a 55-52 loss to Lourdes. Panas had three cracks at the tie before the buzzer but could not



Somers sophomore G Brady Leitner sends pass while checked by Yorktown senior G Marco Jovicev in Tuskers' 54-44 win over visiting Huskers Friday.

land the killer blow.
Panas G Alex Tavarez, who had 24 points, continues to lead by example, but there are issues the Panthers (7-4) desperately need to work out before the playoffs.
"We led the whole way until the end," Panas Coach Mike Auerbach said. "Lourdes was very sloppy early. We led by eight after the first quarter and should have been up 14-16 points, but we didn't take full advantage, and it hurt us later."
It killed down the stretch when the Panthers' old bugaboo – free throws – bit them throughout.
"We're up six late and didn't execute at all down the stretch," Auerbach said. "Free throw shooting has been a killer for us. We shot 7-for-16 in the game, along with missing the front end of three one-and-ones in the fourth."
Panas is at 56% from the line for the season, 26-for-57 (45%) in its four losses.
"You just can't beat anybody any good when you shoot like that from the line," the coach said.
The Panthers got back on track in Saturday's thrashing of visiting Yonkers, but there's a real tough stretch of games to follow, including Class AA White Plains, Lakeland, Hen Hud Poughkeepsie and Somers.
Panas tried to right the ship in Friday's 68-25 win over a reeling Yonkers club behind a dozen points from Oliver Smith, who led all 12 Panthers who scored.

CLASS AA

After losing four of its last five,
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**N.West./Putnam
Fab Five Hoops Poll**

(Historical Edition #SectionTitles)

- No.1 MAHOPAC** – Coach McMahon's Class A Indians (7-3) beat a Lourdes club that Panas Coach Mike Auerbach said he thought could challenge for the section title, so what does that say about Mahopac after they defeated the Warriors in OT #PacOnTheHunt for 1st sectional title in school history.
- No.1A HALDANE** – Coach V's Class C state-ranked (No.5) Blue Devils (11-1) have provided nothing but pure ball since Day 1 while seeking their first sectional crown since 2016, when they completed the trifecta (2014–16).
- No.3 SOMERS** – Coach DiCintio's Class A Tuskers (7-6) have turned the corner and remain in the hunt for their first league title since 1989 before they seek the school's first sectional title since 1992 when Derek Hyra and Willy Dietrich did so. Can Leitner and Fitz do likewise?
- No.4 PANAS** – Coach Auerbach's Class A Panthers (7-4) were on course to challenge for their first sectional title since 2014 before they got off track. Can they get back on and win their third since 1997?
- No.5 OSSINING** – Coach Casey's Class AA Pride (7-5) have produced some great players, including NY Knick sophomore Obi Toppin, but they haven't had a dip in the sectional title pool since 1962.
- No.5A CARMEL** – Coach Johansen's surging Class AA Rams (5-3) have four very winnable games (Greeley, Ramapo, JJEF and Yorktown) before a tough stretch against Fox Lane, Clarkstown South and RCK. At that point, we'll know for sure if the Rams are a Final 4 hopeful as they seek the first sectional title in school history.
- HM HEH HUD** – Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (7-5) have never won a sectional title, so we'll settle for a run to the Great 8, which means they'd have to win an opening-round playoff game.
- HM LAKELAND** – Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets (6-4) won the West./Putnam small school regional title last year but have never savored the sweetness of sectional success.
- HM YORKTOWN** – Coach Pavella's Class A Huskers (5-8) have to go all the way back to 1971 to find the school's lone sectional crown.



Somers junior F Dylan Ingraham makes his move on Yorktown junior Rocco Conciatori in Tuskers 54-44 win over Huskers last Friday.



Andrew Fiore's Carmel Rams and Jaeden Carr's Ossining Pride are coming off a solid week of action.

Greeley Ices Cortlandt in OT, 6-5



Cortlandt Rebel Andrew Dzubak makes a move off on Greeley G Ben Madden, who had 46 saves, in Greeley's 6-5 OT win Wednesday at Brewster Ice Arena.



Cortlandt's Colin Cody has his eyes on an opportunity in Rebels' 6-5 OT loss to Greeley and F Ellis Adams Wednesday at BIA.



Cortlandt Rebel F Jack Jimenez torched Greeley for three goals but still suffered surprising 6-5 OT loss last Wednesday at BIA.



Greeley captain Charlie Spar gains zone on Cortlandt's Brendan Morea in Quakers' 6-5 OT win over Rebels.



Greeley captain Ben Cohen splits Cortlandt defenders Colin Cody (88) and Brendan Morea (9) in Quakers' 6-5 OT win over Rebels Wednesday at BIA.



Greeley's Ilan Laurence (10) takes aim at one of three goals he would net in 6-5 OT win over Cortlandt and G Aaron Hathaway last Wednesday at BIA.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Girls' Hoops Notebook

Fresh-Faced Panas Upends Lakeland in Battle of Titans

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

WALTER PANAS basketball Coach Matt Evangelista is having about as much fun this year as he's ever had during a coaching career that spans 16 years, including 206 career wins against 118 losses between his time as coach of the Briarcliff boys (5 years) and Panas girls (11 years). His youthful Panthers (11-1) are running roughshod through Section 1 despite a multitude of talented freshmen and three strong juniors in the starting lineup.

Without a senior making major on-court contributions, that talent was on full display in Friday's 66-48 League II-D victory over crosstown rival **LAKELAND**, which came into the game 11-0.

"I will tell you this: They work so hard in practice, like they have fun, but they really bust it in practice," Evangelista said. "They push each other to really commit on the defensive side of the ball. Kelsey Cregan and Julia Gallinger really control the boards and they're all over that. Sophia Tavarez and Cadence Nicholas are in every passing lane and whether it's Sarah Chiulli or Katie Hoffman, that last position has been really good for us, too. They work hard and tend to outwork the other team. Sophia and Cadence tend to frustrate people. They don't seem to get tired but they do seem to wear people out."

Panas freshman G Cadence Nicholas

continued what has been an amazing two-year varsity run by netting 20 points, eight of which came during a torrid 22-12 third-quarter run to provide a 49-36 lead over the veteran-laden Hornets. Many of those points came off assists from freshman point guard Sofia Tavarez, whose eight steals perplexed the Lakeland offense. She added 15 points, including eight in the fourth quarter. Junior F Kelsey Cregan, the glue that holds this unit together, knocked down eight points, snagged 16 rebounds and solved Lakeland's pressure with savvy and poise. Panas junior G Sarah Chiuli added 11 huge points.

"Going into the game we were all feeling a little nervous, although excited, since it was Lakeland, but coach Matt and coach Thomas prepared us for every game situation," Nicholas said. "Everyone on the team is close, so we all work really well together. Sofia and I are always excited going into games because we never know what to expect."

The freshmen are getting guidance from the upperclassmen, who are leading by example.

"Kelsey Cregan, Julia Gallinger, and Sarah Chiulli are role models to us since they have more experience than we do," Nicholas said. "They all encourage us throughout the game, which keeps us going. We all played hard together and knew we had to get an early lead against Lakeland. We talked at halftime about how we had to start scoring more and playing quicker, which is what we did. Everyone feeds off of each other's good energy and once one person steps up we all do."

Lakeland was led by sniper Ava Lugo, who scored 17 to keep the Hornets hanging around while senior Tyler Harmazabel was limited to 11 points, far below her average.

Around the Section: Don't look now, but **OSSINING** (10-1) is the No.1 seed in Class AA after Katie Marx delivered a massive double-double (20 points, 15 rebounds) while Michelle Mercado added 14 points and five assists and Ella Schneckner came through with six points



Panas freshman G Cadence Nicholas finished with a game-high 20 points in Panthers' 66-48 win over previously undefeated Lakeland Friday

and six rebounds...

BREWSTER senior F Grace Galgano is inching up on a milestone this week as the classy veteran is about to score the 1,000th point of her storied career after recording a triple-double in the Bears' 54-39 win over Nyack Saturday. Double-G went for 24 points, 11 rebounds and 10 blocks as the Bears improved to 11-3. The kid will eventually go down in rarified air with 1,000 points and the impending 1,000 rebounds #WhatACareer...

If the Class A playoffs started today, No.2 Panas, No.3 Lakeland, No.5 Brewster, No.8 Mahopac and No.9 Peekskill would all be among the top 10. Yeah, our girls are



Panas F Kelsey Cregan finished with eight points and 16 rebounds in Panthers' 66-48 win over host Lakeland Friday.

hooping hard in this neck of the woods. Mahopac (8-4), which has won six of the last seven, is a team nobody wants to see in the first round...

Class B **PUTNAM VALLEY** (7-5) will pay Mahopac a visit this Thursday (6 p.m.) in what figures to be an intriguing game. The Valley has the best player on the floor in Rhode Island-bound junior G Eva DeChent, but the Indians have the more well-rounded team, thus the intrigue. Can they run enough interference at DeChent? Might they box-and-one her?



Panas F Julia Gallinger goes up for shot against Lakeland F Sarah Devane in Panthers' 66-48 win over host Hornets Friday.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Panas freshman G Sophia Tavarez gets an easy hoop in win over Lakeland Friday.



Lakeland senior Tyler Harmazabel takes a run at Panas freshman Sophia Tavarez in Hornets' 66-48 loss to visiting Panthers Friday.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Wrestling Notebook

Hall of Famer Coach Moore Mentored Many, Touched All

By Tony Pinciario

Ten-year-old Chris Ball had just moved into his new house in Peekskill when he would meet a man who would have a major impact on Ball and many other future wrestlers and people – Matt Moore.

“My father, who had wrestled for the first Peekskill team under Larry Cook in 1963, took me next door to meet Coach Moore for the first time,” recalled Ball of meeting his future Peekskill wrestling coach. “His words to me were, ‘So, I hear you want to be a wrestler!’”

Ball and his brother would go on to wrestle for Moore and receive life-long inspiration and guidance from the Section 1 Wrestling Hall-of-Famer who passed away, recently, at the age of 74.

Even though Moore was confined to a wheelchair as a paraplegic, in 1991, he was still an active member in the Section 1 coaching world. The Section 1 Wrestling Coaches Association created the Matt Moore Scholarship Award.

Ball recalled how Moore held him and his brother to higher standards because they were neighbors. He may not have understood it then, but it helped shape Ball.

“Peekskill had a history of good lightweights, so I was expected to be tough and I learned quickly,” said Ball, a Social Studies teacher in the Yonkers’ School District. “It was explained to me that I had a role on the team and if I didn’t hold up my end, the team suffered, not just me. It was the first time I realized I was accountable, part of a wrestling family and belonged to bigger things than just myself. Nobody wanted to let coach down.”

Former Lakeland/Panas Section 1 champ and current Putnam Valley P.E. teacher Dan Turner also knew Moore from a young age as their families are friends. Once Turner began his varsity wrestling career, he came across Moore, who was a volunteer Lakeland/Panas wrestling coach. Even with his disability, Moore still had an impact on Turner and his teammates.

“Coach Moore cared. It was that simple,” Turner said. “He cared about the process, not so much the product/outcome. He cared about the individual, the person. As long as you were a good person, you were a champion to Coach Moore. All of his athletes, friends and family knew that.”

“He had a saying: ‘Hard Work Pays Off.’ And as long as you worked your hardest, you were a champion to Coach Moore. He set the best example to anyone that ever crossed his path. I can say with absolute certainty that anyone who ever crossed his path was better because of it.”

Moore was a regular at sectionals, annually. When Moore entered the gymnasium coaches, wrestlers and parents made it a point to go out of their way to greet the well-respected coach.

“The Coach in the chair became motivation and the symbol of perseverance and strength for wrestlers and coaches who needed it or to be reminded that they had more to give,” Ball said. “I don’t think it’s a surprise that his profound influence on his own wrestlers is still resonating to wrestling today from coaches who spent time around Coach Moore. He transcended our sport and made real and human connections with everyone he met.”

Turner will attest to this regarding a connection with Moore.

“Coach Moore and I had a very special relationship that I can’t exactly describe,” Turner said. “I could call him, or look at him, and he had this innate ability to read how I was feeling. He did this for all of his athletes, friends, and family. He was gifted in this regard. He was well known for his inspirational quotes and I think the one that has imprinted on my life more than any other was, ‘If it is to be, it is up to me.’ He was an incredible father, coach, teacher and friend because he loved and believed in the importance of those things. Nobody was better.”

“I will always live my life with that same love, compassion, and determination. A few



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Coach Matt Moore touched the lives of many in the wrestling community.

wrestling seasons was all it took to learn about the importance of caring, love, and determination, because of Coach Moore. The world will be very different without him, but a heckuva lot better because of him!”

His spirit was with all last Saturday when **FOX LANE** went into the seventh annual Westchester County Wrestling Championships primed to win its fifth consecutive title. However, upstart Iona Prep spoiled the Foxes continued monopoly, winning the title by a slim 3.5 points – 167.5 points to 164 points. Iona Prep had four finalists, including Sean Degl (of Somers).

Despite the runner-up finish, Fox Lane

walked away with the most individual champions, five – Luis Diaz-Giron (102 pounds), Justin Gierum (132), Jake Hoffman (152), Nicky Magiera (189) and Mark Berisha (285).

Alex Berisha (172) placed sixth and sophomore Daas McPhee-Djhan bumped up, from 132 pounds, to wrestle in the 138-pound weight class. He provided the Foxes with a couple of wins. It was McPhee-Djhan’s first varsity tournament.

“Luis impressed me because he beat an opponent he had never beaten and that shows his growth and improvement,” said

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Fox Lane’s 102-pounder Luis Diaz-Giron knocked off Nicholas Bolanos of Port Chester in Westchester County tourney Saturday at John Jay CR High School.

ART NELSON PHOTOS



Fox Lane’s 152-pounder Jake Hoffman controls Noah Bernstein of Edgemont en route to victory at Westchester County tourney.

Sports

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senior and captain Jake Hoffman. "Daas, who is a backup 132-pounder went up to 138, won a couple of matches and got the team points.

"This shows that we have good depth in our weight classes. We have that mentality that when we step on the mat we can beat anybody on any day."

Diaz-Giron, seeded second, decisioned top-seeded Nicholas Bolanos of Port Chester, 4-3. Diaz-Giron and Bolanos were in a scramble, but the Fox Lane wrestler secured control for a takedown with 20 seconds in the match.

Hoffman and Mark Berisha each recorded pins and Gierum was determined in a 4-2 decision over Iona Prep's Kevin Koufalis. These two wrestlers could meet again when Fox Lane and Iona Prep wrestle in a dual meet, Tuesday.

Fox Lane, which won another league title, will now prepare for the New York State Division I (Large School) Dual-Meet Wrestling Championships, Saturday, in Syracuse. This is the Foxes fourth consecutive appearance.

"We have an extremely young team, two-thirds of whom have never gone to the dual-meet state championships, but I'm really excited that they will have this experience," said Hoffman, a two-time Section 1 Division I champion and fifth-place finisher in the 2020 state championships. "I'm also excited to have the opportunity to get a few matches against the top guys in the state and country."

LAKELAND/PANAS had its most successful finish in the Westchester County Wrestling Championships as the Rebels finished fourth (108 points).

Coach Dave Bergen said he qualified eight wrestlers with seven placing in the top six, highlighted by finalists Connor McGannon (189 pounds) and Kevin Hickey (285).

"I am extremely proud of my guys, placing seven in the top six in a very competitive tournament," Bergen said. "The guys wrestled hard and smart all day."

Stephen Carroll (145) finished third, Gavin Crilly (189) was fourth, Spencer Maja (126) placed fifth and Alex Russo (118) and Chris Ciraco (172) were sixth.

"Kevin and Connor both had really good days making it through to the finals," Bergen said. "They wrestled well against some tough competition and are looking very good for the postseason. Spencer lost a tough match by a point, but he did fantastic in the wrestlebacks. Each match he wrestled, he looked better than the one before. It's tough to rally after a close loss, but he did a great job getting through."

Justin Fortugno of **BYRAM HILLS/BRIARCLIFF/VALHALLA/WESTLAKE** dominated in winning the 126-pound title with a pin and two wins by technical fall. Teammate and freshman Neil Paulercio took fifth at 118.

"Justin has been dominant all season with only one loss and that continued," Coach Joey Grippi said. "He has really stepped up his wrestling this year and has been a great leader to our younger wrestlers. Neil is only a freshman, but is having a great year. He has so much potential and is extremely tough. He wrestled very well, pinning every opponent besides his loss to the No. 1 seed and eventual champion. Neil has a bright future ahead of him."

HORACE GREELEY had five place finishers and was eighth with 81 points. Vincent Sasso was Greeley's top place finisher, taking third (189 pounds).

PLEASANTVILLE and **OSSINING** were eighth and ninth, respectively, with 79 and 78 points.

Quinn Egan was the 138-pound runner-up among Pleasantville's five top-six finishers. Ossining also had five place finishers, highlighted by 160-finalist Tristan Robinson-July.

HEN HUD had Ismael Andrade (145), Connor Harbolic (215) and Mason Dietz (285) place fourth.

Eighth-grader Ryan Ball, an up-and-



Fox Lane's 285-pounder Marc Berisha defeated Kevin Hickey of Lakeland-Panas in the Westchester County tourney.

coming grappler to keep an eye on, of **SOMERS/NORTH SALEM** finished third at 102 pounds in his first Westchester County Championships showing and teammate Anthony Tucci (145) was sixth.

CROTON, under first-year coach and Croton sectional champion David Occhipinti, had two place finishers – Colin Kooney was fourth at 172 and Mekhi Smithwick finished fifth at 160.

Boys Hoops Notebook conitnued...

continued from page 3

OSSINING notched a monster win over a solid Mamaroneck team, 65-44. It was a group effort for the Pride (6-5) led by Terrell Francis (16 points). Power F Dominique Bautista (15 points, 10 rebounds) went for a double-double while senior G Jaeden Carr added 14 points for Ossining.

"The boys played and competed as hard as we've seen them all year to get one of the biggest wins of the season," Ossining Coach Mike Casey said. "Several players stepped up with Carr picking up his fourth foul two minutes into the third. Francis, Bautista, Newton, Caparelli, Santos and

Ahlers all stepped up."

Ossining wasn't done impressing Section 1 after the upset of Mamaroneck. The Pride (7-5), which have won three of their last four, followed that win up with a 55-50 league I-D win over Fox Lane where Carr went off for 21 points and eight caroms. Bautista added nine points and eight boards as the surging Pride improved to 2-1 in league play.

CARMEL can attest to Mamaroneck's goodness after the Rams fell 58-54 to the Tigers earlier in the week despite another solid double-double from Carmel senior F Nick DiLeo (18 points, 12 rebounds). The

Rams (5-3), which had a four-game winning streak end, bounced back strong in a 65-55 league win over John Jay EF.

DiLeo, a walking double-double these days, went for 17 points and 15 rebounds while senior G Kevin Dall dropped a mighty 16 points for Carmel, which won for the fifth time in the last six and improved to 2-0 in League I-A action.

CLASS B/C

HALDANE put a 95-31 whipping on Pawling behind five double-digit scorers, including senior G Ryan Irwin (game-high 22 points). Ryan Eng-Wong added 17 points while Matteo Cervone (14 points), Soren Holmbo (10), Robert Viggiano (10), Ben Bozsik (7), Tristen Reid (6) and Stefano Hammond (6) were prime-time players as well. The Class C state-ranked (No.5) Blue Devils (11-1) kept the momentum rolling in Saturday's 76-53 win over visiting **CROTON** when Holmbo (20 points), Reid (16), Cervone (15) and Irwin (10) all dropped double digits on the Tigers. It appears as though Coach Virgadamo's Blue Devils will enter the postseason

tournament as the No.1 seed and clear-cut favorites, with a likely matchup with the Tuckahoe/Hamilton survivor for the rights to represent Section 1 in the state tournament. The road runs through Haldane.

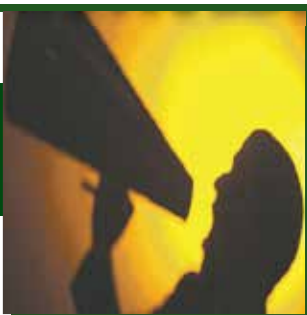
Croton (4-8), the current No.12 seed in Class B, didn't fare much better earlier in the week, falling 46-37 to host **PUTNAM VALLEY**. PV freshman F Nate Shillingford went for 13 points while senior G Cole Durocher added 11 for the Tigers, who are currently holding the No.15 seed and would face No.2 Rye Neck if the playoffs started today, which would be ideal given the fact Rye Neck is 11-2 but hasn't had a quality W all year. Rye Neck's 11 wins have come against foes with a combined 25-79 record #BringIt #BracketBusters!

Orlando Gomez paced Croton with 18 points and Aidan Callahan added 12. Put Valley went on to post its biggest win of the season in a 50-44 triumph of North Salem Friday. The Holtzman boys – senior F Arthur and junior G Sean – joined freshman James Apostolico with 10 points apiece.

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Sports

Tigers' Winning Streak Ends With a Loss at Roy C. Ketcham

By Andy Jacobs

A couple of lengthy scoring droughts, serious foul trouble and a polished senior star on the floor for the opposing team proved to be too much for the White Plains girls' basketball team to overcome last Wednesday evening.

In a showdown of two of the top challengers for a Class AA championship this season, it was the host Roy C. Ketcham Indians who took command in the fourth quarter en route to a 50-38 victory. Cali Chiocchi calmly orchestrated the RCK offense and finished with a game-high 26 points as the Indians improved to 8-2 and put an end to the Tigers' six-game winning streak.

"I knew she was solid," said White Plains head coach Ben Carter about the Pace-bound floor leader for Ketcham. "She's poised and kind of like calm with the basketball. Usually teams get rattled, but she didn't get rattled. When you've got that mindset, and you're that type of leader, you get good things and that's what happened with Ketcham."



White Plains sophomore India Newman takes the ball to the basket in the Tigers' 50-38 road loss to the Ketcham Indians.



The Tigers' Ineivi Plata drives the right baseline past Ketcham's Nia Rencher in last week's game won by the host Indians.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

The Tigers, now 9-4, were led by Aliya Mciver's 15 points, nine rebounds and four steals. But the junior star was whistled for her fourth foul just 20 seconds into the fourth quarter when White Plains was still within two points of Ketcham. She wound up fouling out with 6:58 still on the clock on a call that earned her coach a technical foul.

Chiocchi made both of the free throws, starting a 10-0 RCK burst that turned a 34-33 edge into an 11-point cushion with just 4:45 to go. Back-to-back baskets from India Newman and Sequoia Layne brought the Tigers back within seven points with 2:25 left, but Chiocchi's lefty layup 40 seconds later all but sealed the outcome.

"Some games, you know, we get to play physical, both teams, and then today I just felt foul trouble kind of got to them mentally," said Carter of his team. "My two top players, actually my three top players, were in foul trouble."

White Plains never trailed in the game's opening quarter. Mciver connected on a 3-pointer from the right corner just 14 seconds in and the Tiger lead grew to 5-0 when Anneliese Reggio scored on a layup off a perfect feed from Mciver, who wound up with nine points in the period. A fast-break layup by Capri Demara with 20 seconds left gave the Tigers their largest lead of the night, 15-9, heading to the second quarter.

Unfortunately for the Tigers, their hot start didn't last. They missed all 14 of their shot attempts in the second quarter and were kept off the scoreboard until Ineiva Plata made a pair of free throws with just 49 seconds left in the half. Meanwhile, Ketcham's Chiocchi was outstanding, scoring five baskets in the period and accounting for all 11 of her team's points. At halftime, RCK had a 20-17 advantage.

"We just have to pick it up with regards to how we can play," said Carter, asked about the Tigers' second-quarter woes. "Moving the ball, being in the right spot, attacking the gaps. So I felt like we weren't mentally engaged to do it. And when time went by, Ketcham caught their groove and we couldn't bounce back from it."

The second half began with Chiocchi,



White Plains junior guard Aliya Mciver gets set to pass the ball in the second half of last Wednesday's game at Roy C. Ketcham.

who was joined by four sophomores in the starting lineup, picking up right where she had left off, scoring on a layup just seven seconds into the third quarter. But the Tigers responded with six straight points as Mciver made a 3-pointer, Demara rattled in a 15-foot baseline jumper and Layne made one of two free throws.

White Plains was still hanging onto a five-point lead midway through the quarter after Mciver got a step on Chiocchi and then slipped past two other defenders in the lane for a layup. All the momentum began to change, though, when the Indians' Jenny Nardelli nailed a 3-pointer from the left elbow. It was the start of a 19-3 RCK run that bridged the third and fourth quarters and left the Tigers facing an 11-point deficit with their best player now seated on the bench after fouling out.

"I know we've been playing well and teams they've been prepared to come at us," said Carter. "And I'm trying to get my young team to know that. Like teams are not gonna



Sequoia Layne of White Plains sends up a shot in the fourth quarter of the Tigers' showdown game at RCK.

just come in and lay down. So it's got to be a fight for 32 minutes and taking care of the right things."

The Tigers did manage to start a new winning streak as they closed their week with a 72-38 home rout of Port Chester on Friday, led Plata's 23 points, eight steals and six rebounds. Mciver added 17 points and five assists for White Plains, which doesn't play again until next Monday.

According to Carter, the postgame message to his players was pretty simple after they fell to the Indians. "We've gotta get back on track. You've gotta know that teams are coming after you. You've been doing well, you've got a tough schedule, you've beaten some top teams. And, you know, they're watching you and they've not coming to lay down. So we've gotta be on our 'A' game."



Capri Demara of White Plains sets her sights on the basket as she tries to drive past Ketcham's Caitlin Robertson in last Wednesday's Class AA showdown.



White Plains' Anneliese Reggio applies defensive pressure in the backcourt during the fourth quarter of last Wednesday evening's game at Roy C. Ketcham.

Sports

A Fourth-Quarter Run Carries Pelham Past the Bobcats

By Andy Jacobs

For three and a half quarters on Friday night, it was just about impossible to tell which team had the upper hand at Byram Hills High School. The showdown between the host Bobcats and red-hot Pelham Pelicans was tied eight different times and neither had been able to build a lead larger than five points.

But a 12-3 spurt by the Pelicans in the fourth quarter proved to be decisive as they emerged with a 58-51 victory over a Byram team that had begun the evening with an 8-2 record and seeking to embellish its credentials as one of the top contenders in Class A this season.

"We played hard, but missed two many chippies," said Bobcat head coach Ted Repa after watching his players fail to finish on several layup tries that might've altered the outcome. "And a couple of breakdowns where they got open looks and they were able to capitalize."

The Pelicans, now 13-2 and winners of seven straight games, were led by sharpshooting juniors Luke Ravitz and Charlie Schellhammer, who each finished with 18 points. It was Ravitz who provided eight of the points during Pelham's pivotal fourth-quarter run. His fourth 3-pointer of the game, from well behind the arc with 3:15 remaining, opened up a seven-point cushion and all but doomed the Bobcats.

"You know what, I thought we were very evenly matched," said Repa. "The key to their game was number 3 (Ravitz). He really stepped up for them."

The Bobcats, who were led by Danny Bernstein's 17 points and Tyson Repa's 13, had begun the fourth quarter trailing 42-37. But a rare 4-point play by Bernstein 45 seconds into the period, followed by a steal and coast-to-coast layup from Benny Rakower, gave Byram Hills a one-point lead with 6:24 remaining.

A free throw by Bernstein tied the game for the final time with 4:41 on the clock before Pelham took the lead for good nine seconds later when senior center Garrett Jenkins

made a pair of foul shots. The Pelicans' lead then stretched to 49-44 as Ravitz, a quick-release sniper whose jump shot actually starts near his right hip, connected on a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

After another Bernstein free throw, it was Ravitz again delivering a fateful blow to the Bobcat chances. His final trey of the game, from right in front of his team's bench, gave Pelham a 52-45 advantage.

"I definitely think it's a unique standpoint when you go against somebody who has a different release," said coach Repa, referring to the unconventional form displayed by Ravitz that might've surprised his players. "So I don't know if they were prepared for him to shoot it when he was shooting it."

Byram Hills, trailing 54-46 after a jump shot by the Pelicans' Matteo Johnson with just under two minutes to go, got a big break moments later when Johnson was whistled for his second technical foul of the game. But Bernstein, recently named Con Ed Athlete of the Week, was only able to convert on two of the four free throws the Bobcats were awarded.

When a perfectly executed half-court inbounds pass from Ben Dreilinger with 1:36 left turned into yet another missed Bobcat layup, the chances of a comeback all but disappeared. Just 30 seconds later, the Pelicans' Alessio Johnson made sure of it by connecting on a 17-foot jumper from the right baseline after Pelham had used up



Byram Hills sophomore Tyson Repa drives the left baseline in search of a bucket in the first half of Friday night's game against visiting Pelham.

nearly all of the shot clock.

The Bobcats' largest lead of the contest, four points, had come late in the opening quarter when Bernstein scored on a put-back of his own miss. They took a 12-10 edge into the second quarter, which featured five lead changes and four ties. Consecutive baskets by sophomore Repa late in the half gave Byram its last lead until the fourth quarter.

But the Pelicans' Ravitz drained a pair of 3-pointers 25 seconds apart, one off the dribble and the other on a spot-up shot from the corner, that left Byram trailing 25-22. The final points of a first half without a single free throw by either team came on a Repa pullup jumper in the lane with 47 seconds remaining, cutting the Pelham lead to just one point.

The loss to the Pelicans was just the first part of an extremely challenging weekend for the Bobcats, who also had to travel to Tappan Zee less than 24 hours later to face the undefeated Dutchmen in another daunting test.

"It's gonna be a great experience," said Repa, seeking to get his team as playoff ready as possible. "Hopefully we learn a lot about ourselves and we show some resolve."



The Bobcats' Danny Bernstein shoots the ball from the left baseline during Friday's home game vs. the Pelham Pelicans.



Byram Hills forward Ben Dreilinger gets in the lane for a shot during the first half of Friday night's 58-51 loss to Pelham.



Bobby Chicoine takes the ball to the basket in the first quarter of Byram Hills' home game against the Pelicans.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Benny Rakower scores on a layup after intercepting a pass and dribbling the length of the court in Friday night's Bobcat home game.



Byram Hills senior guard Michael Rocco pushes the ball up the floor, with teammate Bobby Chicoine trailing, in the second half of Friday night's game.



The Foxes' Justin Allen drives to the basket in last Wednesday's 69-33 rout of the Port Chester Rams.



Junior forward Nikolas Dent chases a loose ball in the victory over Port Chester that improved the Foxes' record to 7-4.



Dylan Watson scores inside during last Wednesday's easy win over Port Chester. He finished with 16 points and eight rebounds.

ART NELSON PHOTOS

Foxes Cruise to a Win Against Port Chester



Fox Lane sophomore guard Kevin New shoots the ball from the left corner vs. visiting Port Chester.



Matthew Toscano handles the ball at the top of the key in Fox Lane's home win over Port Chester.

Byram Hills Defeated by Rivertown Legends at Brewster Ice Arena



Byram Hills goalie Marcus Forcino stays ready early in the second period against the visiting Rivertown Legends.



Alexi Cutier, who scored two of the Bobcats' three goals, takes the puck up the left wing in Friday night's game at Brewster Ice Arena.



Ryan Nichols of Byram Hills battles Rivertown's Ethan Pakola for control of the puck in the second period of Friday night's game.



Byram Hills sophomore Erik Cipriano skates past Rivertown's Braedon Gallante during Friday night's game at Brewster Ice Arena.



Byram Hills freshman defenseman Gavin Nichols shoots the puck on goal from the left point in Friday's 12-3 loss to the Rivertown Legends.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

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Pace forward Lauren Schetter tries to score inside as Kelly Laggis of Saint Michael's defends in the second half on Saturday. Schetter finished with a career-high 31 points in the Setters' 69-65 win.



The Setters' Victoria Dieguez dribbles toward the top of the key in the 69-65 home win that improved the team's record to 14-2 overall and 8-1 in the NE10.



Pace University junior Brandon Powell drives past Nic Button of Saint Michael's in the Setters' 87-82 home loss this past weekend that dropped their record to 10-6 this season.



Jordan McCallister of Pace tosses up a runner in the first half of Saturday's home loss to the Saint Michael's College Purple Knights.

focus on

PACE BASKETBALL



The Setters' Austin Gilbertson rises in the lane for a shot in the second half of Saturday afternoon's home game.



Pace forward Dominick Cristiano shoots the ball over the outstretched hand of Saint Michael's College center Patrick Gardner during Saturday's game at Goldstein Fitness Center.



Pace women's basketball coach Carrie Seymour, now in her 30th season at the helm, became just the 21st Division II coach to win 500 games at one school when her Setters defeated visiting Saint Michael's on Saturday afternoon.



Pace freshman guard Matt Constant sets his sights on the basket as he looks to score in the first half of the Setters' home game vs. Saint Michael's.



Pace freshman Arianna Stockinger dribbles across the court in the Setters' win over the Purple Knights.



Pace University guard Katumina Mansaray looks to pass the ball inside in Saturday's game. She finished with 12 points as the Setters defeated Saint Michael's.

SETTER SATURDAY SPLIT



Pace forward Lauren Schetter goes up for two points on her way to a career-high 31, leading the way to a 69-65 home win over Saint Michael's.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Austin Gilbertson fires a first-half jump shot in Pace's 87-82 loss to the Purple Knights at the Goldstein Fitness Center.