

Examiner Sports

State- Ranked Huskers Spina Winner!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Top-Seeded Yorktown Eliminates No.16 Fox Lane, 5-0; Improves to 17-0

Yorktown's Anthony Spina (R) and teammate Sean Horlacher (L) celebrate a Spina goal in top-seeded Huskers' 5-0 Class A playoff win over visiting No.16 Fox Lane at Charlie Murphy Field Saturday where the state-ranked (No.2) Huskers advanced to host eighth-seeded Somers, the reigning NYS champion, in Tuesday's quarterfinals... see Boys' Soccer Notebook

Sports

Boys Soccer Notebook

No.6 White Plains Avenges No.11 Carmel, No.1 Yorktown vs. No.8 Somers on Tap

No.4 Lakeland Solves No.13 Mahopac; Class B Briarcliff, Byram, Valhalla Move On

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @
Directrays

To be completely honest, most folks in the know on the Section 1 soccer circuit consider the quality of play and level of skill, debatably, somewhat down in 2022, but the competition is still pretty stiff as we head into this week's quarterfinal round of the sectional playoffs.

"The top teams all rose to the top in the opening round," Byram Hills Coach Matt Allen said. "I think it'll be pretty chalky in the end, though Tappan Zee is sneaky good in Class A."

CLASS AA

WHITE PLAINS barely got off the bus when it faced host **CARMEL** back in Week 1 of the Section 1 soccer season. Coach Vasilii Shevelchinsky Rams cruised to a 4-1 victory that day, humbling Coach Mike Lambert's Tigers along the way. It was a wake-up call White Plains would heed as they have gone 8-1-1 in the last 10.

"We learned a lot from that loss," Lambert admitted after his sixth-seeded Tigers advanced to the Section 1 Class AA quarterfinals after a 2-1 win over the visiting Rams last Saturday. "We knew exactly what they were gonna throw at us today and we were ready."

Yet it was deja vu all over again when rugged Carmel senior Kyle Klammer, who roasted White Plains back in September, scored the game's first goal.

"His goal was crazy," Lambert said. "He took on two defenders and still finished, kids a hell of

a player. Our boys kept their composure and kept pushing forward until we finally broke through. Key movements off the ball opened up some space for our attackers in the second half."

That's when, at 27:53 in, Francesco Giglio won a 50/50 in the middle third, and played it up to Gael Baraldi, who quickly sent Charles Reid on for a one-time shot on goal, a dangerous ball, which was deflected by Carmel keeper Joe Galeano (4 saves) before Tiger Rhaymani Alexander cleaned up the rebound to tie the game.

White Plains had several chances and applied tons of pressure in the second half, but Carmel (6-8-3) caught the Tigers (12-4-1) high in their attack and countered, but a "disgustingly gorgeous left-handed, diving save by goalie Milo Kris", according to Lambert, kept the game deadlocked through regulation.

In overtime, with 12:00 left, Tiger Jorge Ordonez possessed up the middle and split the defenders in an attempt to play Alexander on.

"The Carmel goalie rushed up to clear the ball and misplaced the clearance," Lambert said.

Alexander picked up the loose ball and finished in an open net from 20 yards out to advance the Tigers to Tuesday's quarterfinal round against No.3 North Rockland, ranked No.20 in NYS.

"It was a great win to avenge our worst losses of the season," Lambert said. "Twelve wins and counting, not done yet!"

Fourth-seeded **OSSINING** had its season come to a screeching halt when the Pride (10-4-3) suffered an 8-7 overtime shootout loss to defending champion Mamaroneck.

Mamaroneck was a man short for the second overtime period after a scuffle between the two squads resulted in yellow

cards. It was the Tigers' second such card, resulting in the man-down situation, but the Pride could not capitalize. Ossining had scored just four goals in its last five games, so finding the back of the net was an issue that finally caught up at the wrong time.

CLASS A

Top-seeded **YORKTOWN**, ranked No.2 in NYS, wasted little time in disposing of 16th-seeded **FOX LANE** in a 5-0 opening-round win at Charlie Murphy Field Saturday. Husker Nick Varela scored off a Matt Pozo feed just 1:03 into the game, and the Foxes could do very little to penetrate the Huskers' back line, so it was all but over when David Beitler, off a feed Varela, made it 2-0. Anthony Spina scored off a broken free kick from Adrian Pjetri for a 3-0 lead and Pozo (from Chris Coppola) and Michael Munson (from Beitler) put the Foxes (7-10-1) on ice.

"We're very thrilled with the way we played," Yorktown Coach Zoran Milojevic said. "We used the break to rejuvenate and work on a few kinks. I was very happy with the way we played."

The undefeated Huskers (17-0) will host No.8 **SOMERS**, the reigning NYS champion, Tuesday. Coach Brian Lanzetta's Tuskers (11-6) have won seven of the last eight, including Saturday's 2-0 win over visiting Sleepy Hollow. As it was in the past, it was a D'Ippolito filling the nets for Somers. Junior M Matthew D'Ippolito scored both goals for the Tuskers, doing his best impersonation of his brother, Daniel, the 2021 NYS Gatorade Player of the Year.

Fourth-seeded **LAKELAND** finally figured out a way past No.13 **MAHOPAC**, pulling off the 2-0 opening-round win. After a scoreless first half, the Hornets (13-3-1) solved the Indians' (8-9-1) stingy defense behind two second-half goals off



Fox Lane senior William Boyland and Yorktown senior Christopher Coppola battle for head ball in Foxes' 5-0 Class A playoff loss to host Huskers Saturday.

the boots of Michael Rodriguez (from David Rodriguez) and Bryan Jaramillo (from Derek Jaramillo). The referees actually waved off three other would-be tallies by Lakeland.

"They waved off three of our goals in the second half before we actually scored," Lakeland Coach Tim Hourahan said. "Three goals waved off, unheard of!"

Lakeland G Oban Rader (3 saves) had a much easier time than Mahopac G Alex Ruzzo (14 saves), who kept the vastly-improved Indians afloat.

Lakeland will face No.5 **HORACE GREELEY** Tuesday in what should be a wild quarterfinal match. On paper, the Quakers (13-2-2) look like they had an easy run in a 5-1 win over No.12 Harrison, but, according to Greeley boss Camp Shropshire, "The scores don't represent the intensity of the match."

Harrison started off the scoring 16 minutes in when Braiden Sottile converted a penalty kick. Harrison held on until the 24th minute when Greeley's Justin Xiang evened the score with a dipping strike from

continued on next page



White Plains senior striker Rhaymani Alexander scored both goals in 2-1 playoff win over visiting Carmel Saturday.



Yorktown D Michael Duffy cleared his left side all day against Daniel Sorto (17) and Fox Lane in Huskers' 5-0 Class A playoff win Saturday.



Huskers David Beitler (L) and Nick Varela celebrate a Beitler goal in Yorktown's 5-0 Class A playoff win over Fox Lane.



Yorktown's David Beitler (11) is hunted by Fox Lane's Andy Ramos in Huskers' 5-0 Class A playoff win over visiting Foxes Saturday.

Sports

Boys Soccer Notebook



Lakeland's Connor Daly and Mahopac's Luke Healy get twisted up in Hornets' 2-0 Class A playoff win over visiting Indians Saturday.

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25 yards out. Four minutes later, Bryce Bernbach found the back of the net off a goal-line scramble, putting Greeley up 2-1 off a poached ball.

The second half saw Harrison doing their best to exploit the incredible speed of their forwards but the Greeley defense held on. A little more than an hour into the contest, Greeley's Dominic Larizza converted a Bryce Bernbach throw-in to make it 3-1, and Bonback and Larizza each added insurance goals. Greeley keeper Diego Velasco (6 saves) will need to be at his best against an explosive Lakeland club.

"I agree, they are going to be extremely



Lakeland's David Rodriguez plays head ball in front of Mahopac's Dylan Tyberg in Hornets' 2-0 Class A playoff win over visiting Indians Saturday.



Lakeland senior D Derek Jaramillo (10) clears zone against a strong ride by Mahopac junior F Ian Lanter in Hornets' 2-0 Class A playoff win over Indians Saturday.

talented and well coached," Shropshire said. "There is a great soccer culture in that community. We are having our moments. Harrison was great – frightening to this coach – and

could have scored during the run of play on more than a few occasions. But my keeper, Diego Verlaso, had a tremendous save to hold our lead and give us the momentum for the rest of the match."

Tip your caps to No.15 **WALTER PANAS**, which went across the river and gave No.2 Tappan Zee all the state-ranked (No.5) Dutchmen could handle in a 3-1 Panther loss. Panther Ronak Das scored off a feed from Jacob Malfant and the teams went into the break level at 1-1, but the Dutchies prevailed and advanced to face No.10 Nyack, a 5-1 upset winner over No.7 Eastchester.

Panas finished up at 7-10-2.



Mahopac junior John Kroni (L) and Lakeland senior Yusuf Elzoghby dig for head ball in Indians' 2-0 Class A playoff loss to host Hornets Saturday.



Lakeland senior Mike Rodriguez (1G) gains step on Mahopac senior Michael Rettberg in Hornets' 2-0 Class A playoff win over visiting Indians Saturday.

No.6 **PEEKSKILL** had an impressive 10-4-3 season end in a 2-2 opening-round tie to No.11 Pearl River, which prevailed in overtime, 3-0, on PKs. Jonnathan Mendieta and Randy Tapia scored for the Red Devils off assists from Chris Chalco and Cris Chuchi.

CLASS B

Top-seeded **BRIARCLIFF**, ranked No.1 in NYS, survived a major scare in an opening-round 1-0 win over No.16 Blind Brook. Ethan Klar scored on an assist from Emilio Abud Chalita and Bear keeper Toby Young (2 saves) held the clean sheet as the Bears moved on to today's quarterfinals to face No.8 North Salem, a 2-0 winner over No.9 **PLEASANTVILLE** (8-8).

Briarcliff and Blind Brook traded possession throughout a scoreless first half, but Klar scored the game's only goal early in the second half. Briarcliff's back line staved off a relentless Blind Brook press in front of Young.

"This was way too close for comfort," Briarcliff Assistant Coach Paul Bordonaro admitted. "We knew it was going to be a game like that against a league opponent. Their kids battled, but our kids

battled just as hard."

No.6 **BYRAM HILLS** needed overtime in a 2-1 win to put down a pesky No.11 Edgemont, which failed to contain a slick header from Aidan Heffner in OT.

"A snap header into the top left corner," Coach Allen said of Heff's game-winner. "It was pretty awesome."

Byram Hills (10-5-2) opened the game with a goal from M Jesse Goldstein thirty seconds in. Edgemont came back to tie in the second half.

"Jesse and Aidan are the captains of the team, so it was nice to see them come through," Allen said. "It was our third time defeating Edgemont this season. They were really good."

So is No.3 Irvington (13-1-3), the Bobcats' quarterfinal foe.

No.12 **VALHALLA** posted the tournament's biggest upset when the #BracketBusting Vikings pulled off a 4-1 win at No.5 Dobbs Ferry.

Valhalla took a 2-0 lead into the break when, at 15:30, Luka Pandzic (from Owen Rubio-Heeney) and Anthony Impelluso (from Vincent Reyes), at 36:30, each scored first-half goals. Dobbs cut the margin in half just one minute into the second half, but Matt

continued on next page



Mahopac sophomore Kody Booth splits Lakeland's Anthony Villa (12) and Yusuf Elzoghby in Indians' 2-0 playoff loss to Hornets.

Sports

Boys Soccer Notebook



Pleasantville goalie Adam Panek eyes a save in 2-0 Class B playoff loss to North Salem.



Pleasantville's Will Peacock tries to set something up in Panthers' 2-0 Class B playoff loss to North Salem.

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Del Gatto (from Chris Purchia) scored his first varsity goal to put the Vikings at ease when he scored with just under six minutes left. Oliver Tecuapetla added an unassisted goal in the final minute for the Vikings, who advanced to face No.4 Keio, one of the more technical and disciplined programs in the section. Leo Dragone had four saves for the Vikings (6-8-3).

Valhalla Coach Sandro Prosperino knew his boys had this in them, despite their recent play.

"Entering sectional play on a losing streak was far from ideal," the coach said.

"But I'm so proud of the resiliency the

team has shown battling through all the injuries and illnesses with showing up every day ready to work. We knew going into the Dobbs Ferry game we would have our hands full. They had a tremendous season and are well coached. It was great to see contributions from so many players. Jumping on them early gave us the confidence we needed. We did have a bit of a scare when Dobbs Ferry got to 2-1 within the first minute of the second half. It stayed that way for the next 32 minutes. But the boys stayed the course."



Pleasantville's Nikian Southoff looks to create chance in Panthers' 2-0 Class B playoff loss to host North Salem Saturday.

RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS / TONY HUMBERTO PHOTOS



Byram Hills players sprint off the field in celebration while Edgemont players drop to the turf in despair after the Bobcats' Aiden Heffner scored in overtime for a 2-1 playoff victory.



Byram Hills senior Jesse Goldstein gets set to boot the ball up the left sideline as Edgemont's Leonardo Jung looks on in Saturday's Class B playoff game.



Pleasantville's Oliver Giebelhaus (R) battles for possession in Panthers' 2-0 Class B playoff loss to host North Salem Saturday.



Aiden Heffner of Byram Hills sprints to the ball in the second half of Saturday's home playoff game vs. Edgemont. His overtime goal gave the Bobcats a 2-1 victory.



Byram Hills sophomore Owen Lee gets a step on the Edgemont defense along the left sideline in Saturday afternoon's Class B playoff game won by the host Bobcats.

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Byram Hills senior Aiden Heffner starts to celebrate after scoring the game-winning goal in overtime to defeat Edgemont in the opening round of the Class B playoffs.

Mahopac/Putnam Valley Swim Laps Around Competition



TWITTER PHOTO

Members of the Mahopac/Putnam Valley swim team pose for selfie upon completing an undefeated 8-0 regular season in preparation for the upcoming divisionals

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Sports

Field Hockey Notebook

Yorktown Trims Panas; Lakeland, Somers Win, Meet in Quarters

Greeley, Carmel Among Slew of Locals to Survive, Advance Opening Round

By Tony Pinciario

Kaitlin Regan and her fellow seniors walked off the field for the final time at Yorktown with a major achievement. Yorktown, the fifth seed, defeated No.12 Panas, 2-0, in the opening round of the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championship. It was the first sectional win for Yorktown in nine years, according to Yorktown Coach Courtney Hyndman.

Yorktown, now a program-best, 13-3-1, will play at No.4 John Jay-Cross River, today (Tuesday), in a quarterfinal game. The quarterfinal winners play in the semifinals, Thursday, at the higher seed. The semifinal victors will play for the Class B title, Saturday, noon, at Lakeland.

"This win feels great for the team," Regan said. "We have worked so hard, from the beginning of the season, for this. Coming from my point of view as a senior, it's crazy how much this program has evolved since I was a freshman, so to be able to be a part of that change, and watch us get this victory, it means a lot."

Willa Hanley and Sammy Robustelli supplied the goals and Kaitlin Regan and Brie Gaccino registered assists. Maeve Ryan had another excellent game with three saves.

Regan said the team came in prepared to continue its season.

"Our team really worked hard the entire game and wanted this win so badly," Regan said. "Knowing it could have been our last game, it gave us huge motivation to play with. We communicated well, worked together, and cheered loud for everyone."

John Jay handed Yorktown one of its losses, 4-0, this season. Despite the loss, Yorktown learned from it and knows John

Jay will not be facing the same team it beat.

"We have grown tremendously as a team since that game and we have never wanted to win a game more than now," Regan said. "Every game is different and we will be prepared to give our best effort."

As a result of its excellent regular season (9-3-4 record), **PUTNAM VALLEY** earned the second seed in the Section 1 Class C Field Hockey Championship.

This is Putnam Valley's highest seed since winning the Section 1 Class B title in 2008. That year, Putnam Valley, led by center midfielder Ashley Morgan, defeated Rye in a semifinal and Lakeland in the title game.

Putnam Valley also was the 2005 Section 1 and New York State Class B champion, under the guidance of current Coach Tracy Parchen. In 2005, Putnam Valley and goalie Kim Kastuk did not allow a goal during sectional and state play.

The Tigers hosted No.7 Valhalla in a first-round game, Monday. A victory would send the Tigers into the semifinals against the No.6 Pleasantville-No.3 Hastings winner.

The semifinal winners will play for the championship, Saturday, 2 p.m., at Lakeland. Defending champion North Salem is the top seed.

The only thing that has halted Putnam Valley's mounting momentum was a first-round bye.

"It's been hard not having a game for a week since we love competing, but the bye has given us more time to prepare for the postseason," Ava Harman said.

Putnam Valley faced a Valhalla team that it beat, 3-2, during the regular season. However, the Tigers made the game closer than it should have been.

"We felt that the game didn't show our true abilities," Harman said. "We have to



Yorktown's Gianna Altimari (R) and Panas' Bella Gomez get after it in Huskers' 2-0 Class B playoff win Saturday.

finish and finish early."

A win over Valhalla secures a semifinal game at home, which Putnam Valley would welcome.

"We felt we ended the regular season playing at the top of our game so we are excited to continue to compete," Harman said. "The key to our postseason success will be our consistency in finishing and finishing early. We're not ready for the season to end and neither are our seniors."

LAKELAND earned the top seed in the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championship and the Hornets opened with an 8-0 victory over No.16 Nanuet.

The Hornets (15-1-1) are riding a 13-year Section 1 Class B title streak. They will host No.8 Somers, a 2-1 victor over No.9 Pearl River, in a quarterfinal, today (Tuesday).

The Section 1 Class B semifinals will be held Thursday. A Lakeland victory over Somers will have the Hornets facing the winner of No.5 Yorktown-No.4 John Jay-Cross River in a semifinal, Thursday. The semifinal winners will play for the title,

Saturday, noon, at Lakeland.

Even though Lakeland has a loss (to Mamaroneck) and a 2-2 draw with fourth-seeded John Jay-Cross River, senior and goalie Celeste Pagliaroli noted Lakeland is focusing on Monday's practice.

"We always want to take it one game at a time," said Pagliaroli, who registered her 50th varsity shutout in the first-round win. "Nothing is guaranteed so we do what we need to do, and we will have the outcome we want. We try not to worry about who we may see, but who we will see in the next game we play. We want to go into the next game with what we have to do with another day of practice. So let's set the tone!"

Gabby Santini led Lakeland with a hat trick and one assist. Emily Yazzetti and Alyssa Petrilli. Keira Gallagher and Charlotte Sabert also had goals.

Eighth-grader Riley Waters had a memorable varsity debut, scoring a goal and assisting on a goal.

Third-seeded **HORACE GREELEY**

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Yorktown players celebrate goal by Sammy Robustelli in Huskers' 2-0 Class A playoff win.

MATT TURRI PHOTOS



Yorktown's Adriana Albano (R) defends Panas' Hayley Madden in Huskers' 2-0 Class B playoff win over visiting Panthers Saturday.

Sports

Field Hockey Notebook



Yorktown's Clare Ryan (R) and Panas' Julie Fatato get after 50-50 ball in Huskers' 2-0 Class A playoff win over Panthers Saturday.

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opened the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championships with goals from four players in a 4-0 triumph over No.13 Ursuline.

The Quakers advance to host No.6 Pelham in a quarterfinal, today (Tuesday). The winner will move into the semifinals, Thursday at the higher seed.

Abigail Dolan, Phoebe Warshaw, Aidan Lane and Eve Rutman scored while Alyssa Rose, Nina Byrne and Dolan collected assists. G Meredith Dalrymple did not face a shot.

SOMERS, the ninth seed, raced out to a quick lead and went on to a 2-1 victory over No.9 Pearl River in a Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championship first-round game.

Somers' reward for its win, a quarterfinal-round matchup with 13-time defending Section 1 Class B titlist and top seed, Lakeland, today.

"We have a very talented group of girls," Somers' Coach Amy Magaletti said. "My girls are going to play hard and stay focused. They will leave everything they have on the field, Tuesday."

Emily Esposito and Julia Vecciarelli scored for Somers (8-7-2) and Teagan Ryan had an assist. Kamryn Seeger was excellent in goal with 12 saves.

CARMEL lost a regular season match to John Jay-East Fishkill, but the 10th-seeded Rams had the final say. Carmel defeated No.7 John Jay-East Fishkill, 3-1, in the first

round of the Section 1 Class A Field Hockey Championship.

The Rams played at No.2 Mamaroneck in a quarterfinal, Monday. The winner would advance to the semifinals, Thursday, at the higher seed. The Class A final is Saturday, 10 a.m., at Lakeland.

"The game was very well-played by both teams," Carmel Coach Aislinn Breslin said. "My team was very pumped up and ready to go. They hustled from the first whistle to the last. They are thrilled with the win, especially after losing by one goal to John Jay in both regular-season games."

Addison Rosenquest scored twice and Laila Rosenquest added a goal. Jill Santaroni handled five shots.

Even though No.12 **PANAS** dropped a 2-0 verdict to No. 5 Yorktown in a Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championship first-round game, the Panthers took a tremendous step forward this year.

After winning two games in 2021, Panas went 6-9-1 during the regular season and earned a sectional berth. The Panthers accomplished this under the leadership of Coach Leah DiSisto and assistants, Cassie O'Mara Lian and Marissa DiSisto.

"Our team, especially our seniors, played a great game against Yorktown and truly went out fighting," said DiSisto, the starting goalie on Lakeland's 2006 N.Y. State Class A championship team. "It was such a huge year for growth for us and although our senior class will be missed tremendously, we



Yorktown's Sammy Robustelli is chased by Panas' Bella Gomez in Huskers' 2-0 win over Panthers.

are excited for the opportunity to improve throughout the offseason."

Leah DiSisto and Lian were also starters on the Lakeland 2007 N.Y. State Class A runner-up. Williamsville North upset Lakeland in the final, 2-1.

HEN HUD first-year Coach Alyssa Picariello faced a crossroads before the 2022 season started.

"With the real fear factor of not having a season, the team was able to build up enough interest and create a strong foundation for years to come," said Picariello, a former Hen Hud field hockey player. "We had a new, positive transition in staff and used that to encourage dedication and positive mindset on and off the field. We started the season off with some losses as the team was still working on building skills with new players to the game. Through hard work and commitment, our team became a competitive team in the league. With our season ending with a sectional loss against Harrison, our players still have shown how hard they've worked and grown through their stats this season. We are looking forward to continuing to build our program and competing next season!"

Hen Hud went 8-7-1 during the regular season and was seeded 10th in the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championship. However, No.7 Harrison defeated Hen Hud, 2-1, in the first round.

Junior Rowan Dapson scored Hen Hud's goal and Emily Hunt made five saves.

Eighth-seeded **MAHOPAC** and ninth-seeded Arlington needed double overtime to decide their Section 1 Class A Field Hockey Championship first-round game.

Following a scoreless first 60 minutes, then the first 10 minutes of sudden-victory, 7 v. 7 overtime, Arlington scored in the second overtime for a 1-0 victory.

Arlington played at No.1 Scarsdale in a quarterfinal, Monday.

"We've been struggling to find the net this year, and after dominating 90 percent of the game, we weren't able to stave off an intense Arlington attack," veteran Mahopac coach Dona DiMaggio said. "We finished with a record of 7-7-3. I'm proud of the fight in our team and was truly anticipating a victory. This season was extremely competitive with most of our losses at a 1-0 margin. We are losing 13 seniors to graduation, but I'm extremely proud of this special group of girls."

FOX LANE, the fourth seed, earned a bye in the Section 1 Class A Field Hockey Championship and hosted the No. 5 Suffern-No. 12 North Rockland winner in a quarterfinal, Monday.

PLEASANTVILLE was seeded sixth and played at third-seeded Hastings, Monday, in a Section 1 Class C Field Hockey Championship quarterfinal.

The victor advances to a semifinal to play the winner of No. 7 Valhalla-No. 2 Putnam Valley, Thursday, at the higher seed.



Yorktown's Brie Gaccino crosses field against defense from Panas' Julie Fatato in 2-0 Husker win.



Yorktown's Georgia Christensen tries to get free from Panas' Maddy Duteau in 2-0 Husker win over visiting Panthers.



Yorktown freshman Amanda Linahan plays head ball in Huskers' Class A playoff loss to visiting Hen Hud Friday.



Briarcliff's Sora Marable set up game's only goal in fifth-seeded Bears' 1-0 Class B playoff win over No.12 Bronxville Saturday.



Pleasantville' Jessica Beck had a goal and assist in 5-0 Class B playoff win over Valhalla.



Hen Hud senior Lena Johnsen scored 3G, 1A and passed Kira Varada, setting the single-season goal scoring record (30 goals and counting) in the Sailors' 7-0 outbracket playoff win over Nyack.



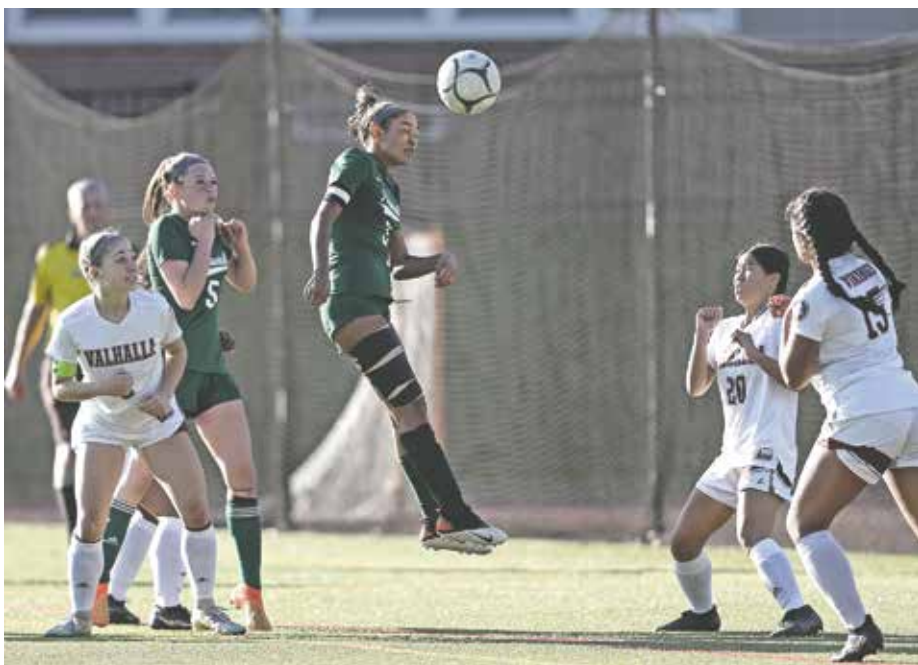
Hen Hud's Lena Johnsen sets pace in Sailors' Class A playoff win over host Yorktown Friday.

focus on **GIRLS SOCCER**

Mahopac Beats Greeley to Advance in Class A; Hen Hud Nips Yorktown; Briarcliff, P'Ville Move on in Class B



Mahopac freshman Camdyn Wilson looks to gain edge on Greeley senior Fiona Brown (20) in Indians' 1-0 Class A playoff win over visiting Quakers.



Pleasantville's Alice Cabral plays head ball in 5-0 Class B playoff win over Valhalla.



Mahopac senior Piper Klammer and Greeley senior Erica Rosendorf get twisted in Indians' 1-0 Class A playoff win over visiting Quakers Friday.



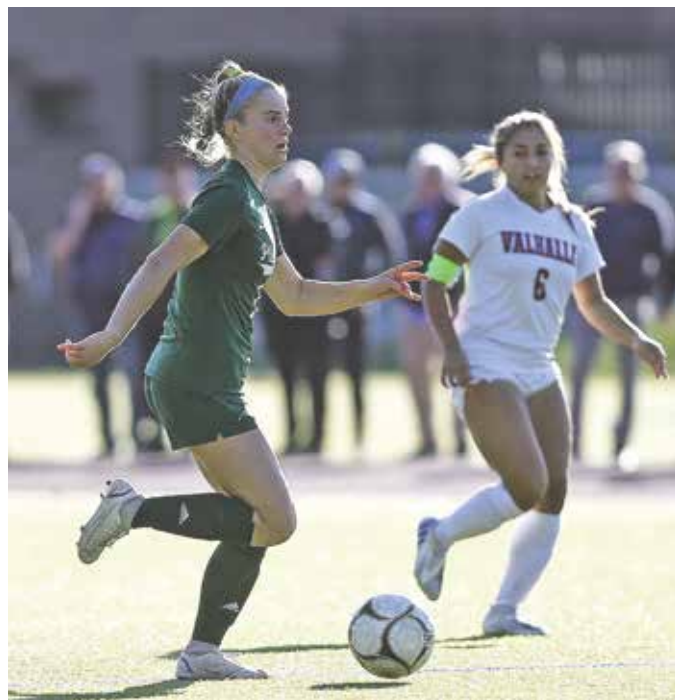
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Sports

Girls Soccer Notebook



Mahopac freshman D Niamh Kelleher clears zone in Indians' 1-0 Class A playoff win over visiting Horace Greeley Friday night.



Pleasantville's Molly Baxter (1G, 2A) makes her move on Valhalla's Katherine Arteaga in Panthers' 5-0 win over visiting Vikings.



Greeley sophomore Emily Hametz and senior Erica Rosendorf pinch Mahopac senior Piper Klammer in Quakers' 1-0 Class A playoff loss to host Indians.



Briarcliff's Gemma Fante looks to evade pressure of Bronxville's Maddy Stupart in 5th-seeded Bears' 1-0 win over No.12 Broncos.



Greeley captain Ramsey Edson (L) controls ball in 1-0 Class A playoff loss to host Mahopac Friday.



Mahopac freshman Camdyn Wilson lets out a howl after scoring game's only goal in Indians' 1-0 Class A playoff win over visiting Greeley Friday night.



Hen Hud captains Fiona Doyle (21) and Kayla Cohen (3) plead for foul call in Sailors' 2-1 Class A playoff win over host Yorktown Friday.



Valhalla's Isabella Mattoni and Pleasantville's Capri DeGrazia give chase to 50-50 ball in Vikings' 5-0 Class B playoff loss to host Panthers Saturday.

Sports

Grid Notebook

State-Ranked Carmel, Somers, P'Ville Secure Top Seeds

Class C Westlake Rumbles

Past Valhalla; Class A

Mahopac, Brewster Win & In

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

The second season has officially begun and the reigning champs in Class AA, A and B have secured the top playoff seeds, including **CARMEL**, **SOMERS** and **PLEASANTVILLE**, respectively.

CLASS A

State-ranked (No.1) **SOMERS** (7-0) secured the No.1 seed in the Class A playoffs when the 2021 NYS runner-up Tuskers completed a third-straight undefeated regular season behind three TD strikes from Matt Fitzsimons (14 of 16 for 269 yards) in a 38-7 rout of visiting Sleepy Hollow Friday.

Fitzsimons added a rushing score. Ravi Dass Jr. (4 catches, 69 yards), Mason Kelly and Mac Sullivan (4 catches, 57 yards) all snated a TD pass, including Kelly's electric 60-yard aerial. Tusker WR Tyler Ostrander added three catches for 77 yards.

Steady-as-can-be Tusker kicker Luke Savino added a 34-yard field goal and went 5 for 5 on extra points while adding the game's initial touchdown from 14 yards out.

No.B4 **BREWSTER** (4-3), a 49-12 winner over Nyack, will visit No.A1 Somers Friday (7 p.m.) in the opening round of the playoffs.

The Bears saw QB Missimo Parrello rush for three TDs and 96 yards on 11 carries to lead the way in the playoff-clinching win. RB Joe Anfusio added two rushing TDs and 127 scrimmage yards. Kevin Fox and Mohammed Barrie also found paydirt for the Bears, who

saw sophomores Ryan Brace (7 tackles, forced fumble) and Nick Smith (5 tackles, INT) lead the defense. AJ Pieragostini and Derek Karlsson each grabbed a sack for the defense.

"Nyack is young due to some injuries but they play hard and are coached well," Bears boss Ed Mulvihille said. "We were happy with our energy and our execution all night. We're playing better ball and defensively we have made progress all season. We get the opportunity to play the #1 ranked Class A team in NYS now. People like to talk about what they "would have" done in a certain situation, but we get the chance to go out there and play. We'll be excited and give them our best."

MAHOPAC senior RB Joey Koch is having the kind of season that could/should garner All-NYS recognition. Koch took 16 carries for 114 yards and two TDs and added a 71-yard TD catch from his brother, Danny, in the Indians' 28-12 playoff-clinching win over host Clarkstown North Friday. The Koch boys were at it on specials, too, Danny delivering a punt to the house.

The speedy Joey Koch, who is a load to bring down, is now on the brink of a 1,000-yard rushing season (988) to go with 14 touchdowns on just 116 carries.

The hogs up front – including OL's William Brann, Michael Coppola, Liam Dodd, Tommy Jacobellis, Anthony Porco and Liam Scanlon – are getting it done, according to Coach Dom DeMatteo.

No.A3 Mahopac (4-3) will visit No.B2

Harrison (7-1) in the opening round of the playoffs.

Harrison, ranked No.16 in NYS, put a 59-0 drubbing on **FOX LANE**, sending the Foxes to 1-7. Rye threw a 35-0 beating on **LAKE LAND**, which fell to 3-5. **YORKTOWN**

suffered a 42-21 loss to Clarkstown South and fell to 4-4, just shy of a playoff berth. Senior RB Justin Meyreles led the Huskers with 89 rushing yards and a score while QB Kaden Gonzalez fired a pair of TD strikes to Andrew Weissman and Justin Price. Ryan Vogel had six solo sticks and three assisted tackles on D for the Huskers.

CLASS AA

CARMEL (7-0), the reigning NYS champs, crushed North Rockland, 28-7, to earn the No.1A seeded and will face No.B4 Scarsdale (4-3). The winner of the No.A3 North Rockland (4-4) at No.B2 John Jay-East Fishkill (6-1) would be up next for the state-ranked (No.4) Rams in the sectional semis.

The Rams rumbled for touchdowns in each quarter against North Rock, three of which came from senior RB Nick Rosaforte, who finished with an additional 122 yards on 12 carries. QB Matt Gay added a rushing score for the Rams. Jeremy Smith led the defense with seven tackles while Matt Risley added six.

CLASS B

State-ranked (No.5) **PLEASANTVILLE** continued to watch in awe at the play of multiskilled junior Daniel Picart, who rushed for three TD's and 159 yards on 23 carries (and 243 yards in total) in the Panthers' 27-12 win over visiting Ardsley. Picart added a fourth TD via a pick-6 on defense. The undefeated Panthers (7-0) earned the No.1 seed in the playoffs and will face No.8 **HEN HUD** (1-7), a 29-28 loser to host **BRIARCLIFF/HAMILTON** (2-6) which earned the No.7 seed and a trip to Byram Hills (7-1) for the opening round of the Section 1 tourney.

continued on next page



Pleasantville junior sensation Daniel Picart breaks free for a big gain in Saturday afternoon's 27-12 win over visiting Ardsley at Parkway Field. He scored all four Panther touchdowns as they finished 7-0.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Chris Kalle of Westlake breaks a tackle as he carries the football in the first half of Friday's 33-14 victory over host Valhalla. The Wildcats' junior running back finished with three touchdowns.



Westlake fullback Christian Occhipinti heads for the end zone as Valhalla players, L-R, Ryan Chillo, Rob Foisset and Neil Paulercio give chase during the Wildcats' 33-14 road win Friday. He wound up with 232 yards on the ground as the Wildcats improved to 5-2 this season.

Sports

Grid Notebook



Valhalla senior Basiaka Butcher carries the football in the first half of Friday night's home loss vs. the Westlake Wildcats.

continued from previous page

Hen Hud gift-wrapped the victory for the Bears (2-5) on their Senior Night. B/H WR Adam Harris stuck a two-point conversion on the hands of Chris Harper for the final margin after scoring a pair of receiving touchdowns in the 22-point come-from-behind win over the Sailors. Trailing 28-7, B/H recovered a pair of onside kicks by Thomas Megrano and scored on the ensuing possessions. QB Ben Raphael finished 10 of 18 for 173 yards and two touchdowns. Desmond Saw created

three turnovers for the Briarcliff/Hamilton defense, including the last key fumble with the Sailors driving at midfield on their final possession. The Sailors, who marched up and down the field (375 rushing yards on 45 carries), could only look on in dismay as B/H celebrated an improbable win.

BYRAM HILLS, ranked No.13 in NYS, continued on its path of dominance in a 21-13 win over host Nanuet, securing the No.2 seed in the playoffs. Of all people, it was 'The Unit' George Gjellaj, who got the Bobcats on the board first with a sack and fumble return to the house. The two-way All-Section lineman had himself a day, getting in on 10 tackles, four solos and two for a loss. Byram WR Sean Siegel hauled in a 13-yard TD pass from QB Jon Accurso for a 14-6 lead, and RB Luke Weiler dashed 46 yards for a 21-6 lead after Weiler nailed his third PAT.

"George Gjellaj continues to be excellent in all phases on and off the field," Byram Coach Simon Berk said. "Early in the game, he broke through the line and took the handoff from the QB and raced into the end zone for a defensive TD."

"Nanuet's defense was tough all afternoon," Berk added, "but receivers Sean Siegel and Tyler Marescot made some big plays with Luke Weiler running tough between the tackles."

The Bobcats played without the services of two-way star Gavin Javorsky, who should be set to return for the playoffs after sitting out under precautionary measures.

Accurso finished with 70 yards passing, hitting on 8 of 16 and one TD. Securing the two seed means the Bobcats get another home game against Briarcliff/Hamilton next Saturday at 1:30 pm. Siegel (3 catches, 17 yards, TD) added an interception on defense and over 100 yards on specials.

WR Tyler Marescot (3 rec, 39 yds, TD, 6 rush yds,



Briarcliff-Hamilton running back Luca Meola tries to elude Hen Hud's Kyle Peske during the Bears' come-from-behind 29-28 victory over the Sailors on Senior Day at Briarcliff Saturday.

blocked PAT) had a big game, and the Byram defense had six sacks.

CLASS C/D

WESTLAKE did some major damage with its vaunted ground game in a 33-14 defeat of **VALHALLA**, all but securing the A-1 top seed. Valhalla will likely get the A-2 seed and be forced to face state-ranked (No.7) Dobbs Ferry in the Class C semis. Westlake junior RB Chris Kalle crushed it, ripping off 124 yards of offense while dashing for three scores. RB Christian Occhipinti ran roughshod as well, going for 232 yards and a TD for the Wildcats (5-2), who cannot be ignored any longer by state pollsters as they could be headed for a head-on sectional-final collision with the flying Eagles of Dobbs Ferry in an effort to rep in

the state tourney. Viking QB Brendan O'Neil threw a pair of touchdowns for state-ranked (No.18) Valhalla.

Class D **HALDANE** won the small school battle for Putnam County supremacy in a 32-21 win over Class C **PUTNAM VALLEY**, which squandered a 21-8 lead by allowing the Blue Devils (5-2) to rip off three unanswered scores in the second half. Tiger Rick Meister scored on both sides of the ball and QB Thomas Cunningham rushed for another, but it was all Haldane from then on. Blue Devil Luca DiLello took a 38-yard fumble return to the house and QB Ryan Van Tassel rushed for the two-point conversion to cut the deficit to 21-16. Van Tassel then rushed for a one-yard score and the second of three two-point conversions and rugged Haldane RB Evan Giachinta followed with his second TD of the game to give the Blue Devils the lead for good.

"We had three costly turnovers in the second half, one interception, one scoop and score fumble, and a second fumble lost," said PV Coach Ryan Elsasser of the 2-5 Tigers. "After coming out of the gate strong to start, we lost our momentum in the second half and started to make some mistakes that Haldane took advantage of. Coach McConville does a great job at Haldane with those kids and they were full of energy in the second half of the game. Unfortunately, we came out flat and were not able to match their level of intensity. The game came down to mental mistakes and we made too many of them while Haldane took advantage of them and put points on the board."

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE

WALTER PANAS put a 33-hurt on Ramapo, and the Panthers (6-2) earned a berth in the semifinals where they will host the winner of Edgemont and Port Chester next week.

HORACE GREELEY won its seventh-straight game, 43-24 over Hastings as the league's defending champion improved to 7-1, and secured a berth in the semifinals to host Spring Valley next week.



Mahopac RB Joey Koch scored three more TDs, giving the senior captain 14 for the year, in Indians' Class A playoff-clinching win over Clarkstown North.



Mahopac freshman Nate Mascoll puts an end to this play in Indians' Class A playoff-clinching win over host Clarkstown North Friday.

Examiner Sports



Gotta Have Faith!

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

No.4 Pleasantville Blanks No.13 Valhalla, 5-0; Panthers vs. No.5 Briarcliff on Deck

Pleasantville's Faith Brown (12) tickled twine twice and added one assist, setting off a bevy of celebrations (inset) in the fourth-seeded Panthers' 5-0 Class B playoff win over visiting No.13 Valhalla Saturday. Molly Baxter had one goal and two assists for the Panthers while Jess Beck added a goal and assist and Sadie Kim tallied her first varsity goal for P'Ville, who will challenge No.5 rival Briarcliff in the quarterfinals after the Bears prevailed 1-0 on a goal by Jill Mauro off an assist by Sora Marable. G Karina Bar had eight saves in the shutout... see Focus on Girls Soccer