

# Examiner Sports

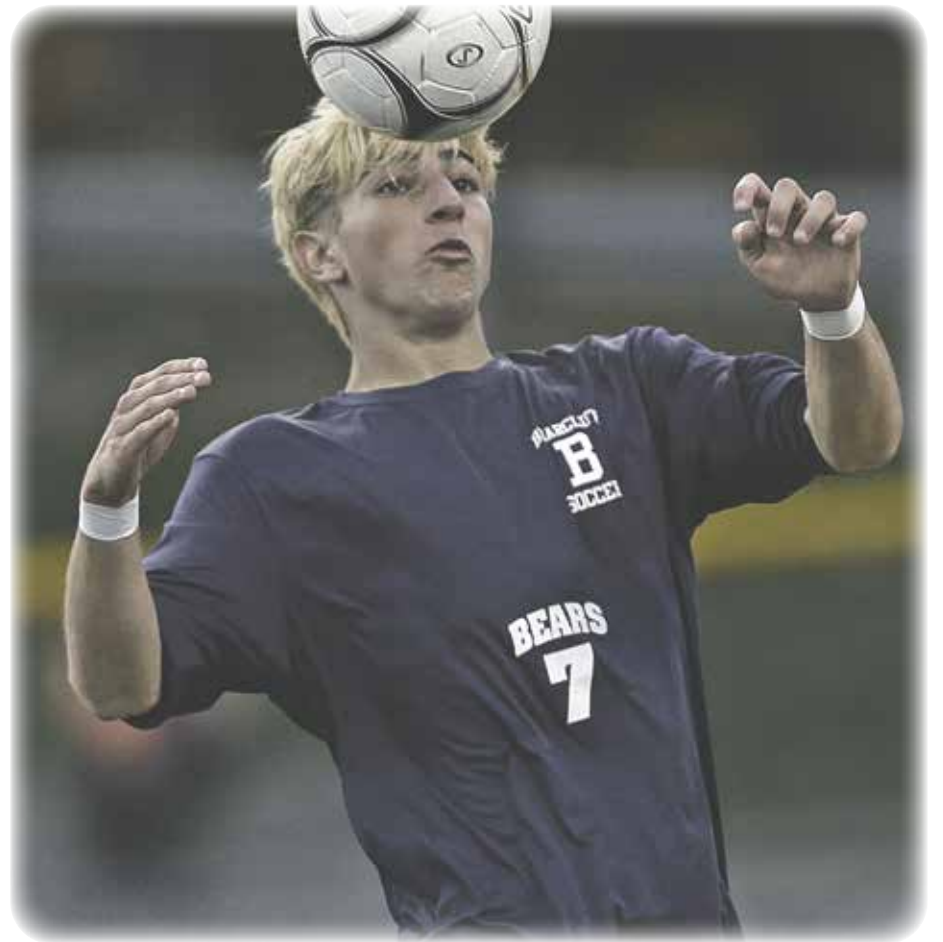
## Lakeland 'Pags' a Punch!



MATT TURRI PHOTO

**Hornets Snag  
14th-Straight  
Section 1 Title,  
16th Since 2003**

Lakeland senior goalie Celeste 'Pags' Pagliaroli -- surrounded by happy Hornets -- hoists the Section 1 Class B title plaque into the air after the top-seeded Hornets defeated No.2 Rye, 2-0, Saturday at Lakeland for their 14th consecutive championship, 16th since 2003... see Field Hockey Notebook



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

## Head Lock!

**Briarcliff's  
Abud-Chalita Knocks  
Home OT Header,  
Bears Secure  
Class B Title**

With a nifty game-winning header in overtime, Briarcliff junior F Emilio Abud-Chalita scored off a gorgeous corner kick assist from Theo Molinoff as the undefeated, state-ranked (No.1) Bears (18-0-1) defeated Bronxville, 1-0, in Sunday night's Section 1 Class B title game at Lakeland High... see Boys' Soccer Notebook



# Sports

## Boys Soccer Notebook

# Yorktown, Briarcliff, Haldane Crowned Section 1 Kings



Huskers were all smiles after posing with third Section 1 title plaque in program history Sunday at Lakeland after 3-0 win over TZ.

**By Ray Gallagher**  
**Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays**

The sprawling campus of Lakeland High played host to the Section 1 soccer championships last Sunday and the action was fast and furious. As always, Lakeland Coach Tim Hourahan, his staff, and A.D. Dan Belfi were the perfect hosts, providing everything and anything soccer fans could demand.

### CLASS A

State-ranked (No.2) **YORKTOWN** took its finest regular season ever into the Section 1 tournament and the undefeated, top-seeded Huskers (20-0) worked a methodical 3-0 win over No.2 Tappan Zee to cop its second Section 1 title since 2017.

Second half goals from Nick Varela – who slapped one off the pipes – Anthony Spina – who beat two dudes off the corner wing– and David Beitler (1A) – a hammer from 35 yards – were the difference.

“All three goals were special,” Yorktown captain Lucas Buono said. “They played us tough, 19-0 versus 19-0 going in, so we knew it would be tough. But the second we got that first goal, the engine just kept running from there. We worked all season for this. Anthony Spina pulls that move out in practice and beats us all the time and he got his chance to bury it and he did. Nick Varela goes to his weak foot off the post for a great shot and Beitler dropped the hammer right into the triangle, amazing!”

“We’re not even close to being done yet,” he added. “Our first goal was to win the



Yorktown keeper J.P. Frucco knows that David Beitler’s goal and three-goal cushion was all Huskers would need to secure Section 1 Class A title win over TZ.

RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Yorktown’s Gabriel Hughes puts pressure on TZ defense in Huskers’ 3-0 Section 1 Class A title win over Dutchmen Sunday at Lakeland.

section, next is regionals and then states.”

The Huskers will get a first-round bye in the state tournament and will host the winner of Section 9/Section 4 Saturday (11:30 am).

In his second season at the helm, Yorktown Coach Zoran Milojevic guided the Huskers to their third sectional title since 1990. He was beaming afterward.

“Every single one of those goals was special,” the coach said. “We had some guys out with injuries and one to a red card but

these guys just keep coming through and through and through. Winning sectionals in Section 1 is kind of like winning the European championship, which is stronger than the World Cup. Just getting out of the section is tough enough, and now we have five days to rest and take it all.”

Yorktown advanced to the finals via a very bumpy road, including a 2-1 quarterfinal win over No.8 **SOMERS**, which had folks talking for days, especially those in Tusker

*continued on next page*



Yorktown players got a real kick out of Anthony Spina’s goal in Huskers’ 3-0 Class A title win over TZ Sunday.



# Sports

## Boys Soccer Notebook



Huskers Matt Pozo and Nick Varela go up for head ball in 3-0 Class A title win Sunday.



Yorktown's Nick Varela reacts to his game-winning goal in Huskers' 3-0 Section 1 Class A title win over TZ Sunday.

*continued from previous page*

nation, who thought they were robbed. The 2021 NYS champion Tuskers had a late goal waved off and played several men down due to four red cards.

Husker Adrian Pjetri hit a free kick 10 minutes into the game, and fiery Matt Pozo (from D Sean Horlacher) spotted the Huskers a 2-0 lead before Tusker Dylan Ingraham trimmed the deficit in half. J.P. Frucco had five saves in a wild game in a wild rivalry.

The unassuming Horlacher gave the Huskers a 1-0 halftime lead in their 2-0 semifinal win over No.5 **HORACE GREELEY**, heading home a Varela corner kick. Spina spotted Yorktown an insurance goal in the waning minutes, hustling after his own missed shot that caught the post off a Chris Coppola assist. Frucco made seven saves and Greeley Coach Shropshire was quite complimentary of the Huskers.

"They were very tough," Coach Camp said. "I wish them the best. They, of course, have a lot of great qualities - size, pace, organization - but their best might be the absence of mistakes. They rarely turn the ball over and, if they do, they are all over us



Yorktown's David Beitler zips pass in Huskers' 3-0 Section 1 Class A title win over TZ Sunday.

in a team effort to get the ball back.

"I thought we had them," he added. "We held it down in the first half despite a wind that greatly aided their attack, and we seemed to have an edge in the second, but we just couldn't find the moment. We got one in, but the referees saw it as a foul and it was disallowed. Soccer is a very painful sport. We were on the good side of it on Tuesday, but not on Thursday."

Greeley (14-3-2) eliminated No.4 **LAKELAND**, 2-1, in the quarters. The Hornets swallowed a tough pill in the end and finished at more-than-respectable 13-4-1.

"We had a great team this year that reestablished a winning tradition and a level of competitiveness in practice in games that made this a great group of young men to work with this season," Coach Hourahan said. "I did and still do truly feel that this team's roster was strong enough to make the finals in class A this year, but we did not get through that game with Greeley: A heartbreaking result that is going to sting for some time. To lose by a goal and have a goal disallowed that was not offside, and to also hit the posts four times was brutal. It's a game of inches at times, but we were certainly right there with the best teams in the class. I am proud of the season we put together going 13-4-1 and claiming another league title, our seventh in the last 14 years."

### CLASS B

State-ranked (No.1) **BRIARCLIFF** needed overtime to prevail in its first title appearance since the Bears won it all in 2018, but did so when Emilio Abud-Chalita headed home a textbook corner kick from Theo Molinoff for the game's golden goal. The Bears will face Section 9 champion

Our Lady of Lourdes Wednesday (5 pm) at Hendrick Hudson High School. Bronxville (17-2-1) was more than formidable and prepared Coach Brandon Beck's Bears (18-0-1) for the rigors of the state tournament.

"It was an incredible win for us," Bears Coach Brandon Beck said. "To make it all the way through the gauntlet of Section 1 Class B Soccer remaining undefeated throughout our campaign was an incredible accomplishment. These boys lost last year in the sectional semifinals to Irvington. Our coaching staff held many of these boys, embraced in tears on that day. We had a strong JV team last season that never lost a game. Many of these players tonight were ball boys in our 2017 and 2018 sectional and state finals. That right there was the reason we won today. They have dreamed about it

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Yorktown Coach Zoran Milojevic let his emotions show after 3-0 Section 1 Class A title win.



# Sports

## Boys Soccer Notebook



Greeley's Dominic Larizza and Yorktown's David Beitler battle at midfield for 50-5 ball in Quakers' 2-0 Class A semifinal loss to host Yorktown Thursday.

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for years and it meant an incredible amount to them.

"Bronxville played the best match against us that we have seen thus far" the coach added. "They were incredible in their game plan and had several chances, but our defense held strong. They made this a very difficult game for us. It was a very emotional game for our entire organization and so amazing to see them pull it off in such memorable fashion. We have been talking about this moment since August 22nd. I am glad the boys had a chance to really cherish it tonight. They earned it, but we are not done yet."

Abud-Chalita also scored a clutch goal in the Bears' 2-1 semifinal win over Keio. Nathaniel Rohde had the other.

"In a game that saw both teams try to maintain their footing in the first half, Briarcliff was able to generate chances, but the Keio defense held on to maintain the first half," Coach Bordonaro said.

Rohde broke the ice, scoring less than four minutes into the second half off an assist from Connor Dornau. Keio responded five



Yorktown's Adrian Pjetri has a leg up and hand down on Greeley's Justin Xiang in Huskers' 2-0 Class A semifinal win over visiting Quakers Thursday.

RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

minutes later with a goal from Yu Shimizu. Abud-Chalita clinched the winning goal off an assist from Sebastian Lai while the defense of the Bears, anchored by Toby Young, kept the Unicorns at bay.

Sixth-seeded **BYRAM HILLS** threw a typical scare into No.2 Bronxville, coming up short in a 1-0 semifinal loss. While rebuilding one of the section's most feared programs, Coach Matt Allen's Bobcats (11-6-2) ousted No.3 Irvington in a 2-1 quarterfinal upset behind goals from

Chris Amenedo (from Greg Shrayer) and Jesse Goldstein. The Bobcats will be back next year with the same goals they always have: To win their last game.

### CLASS C

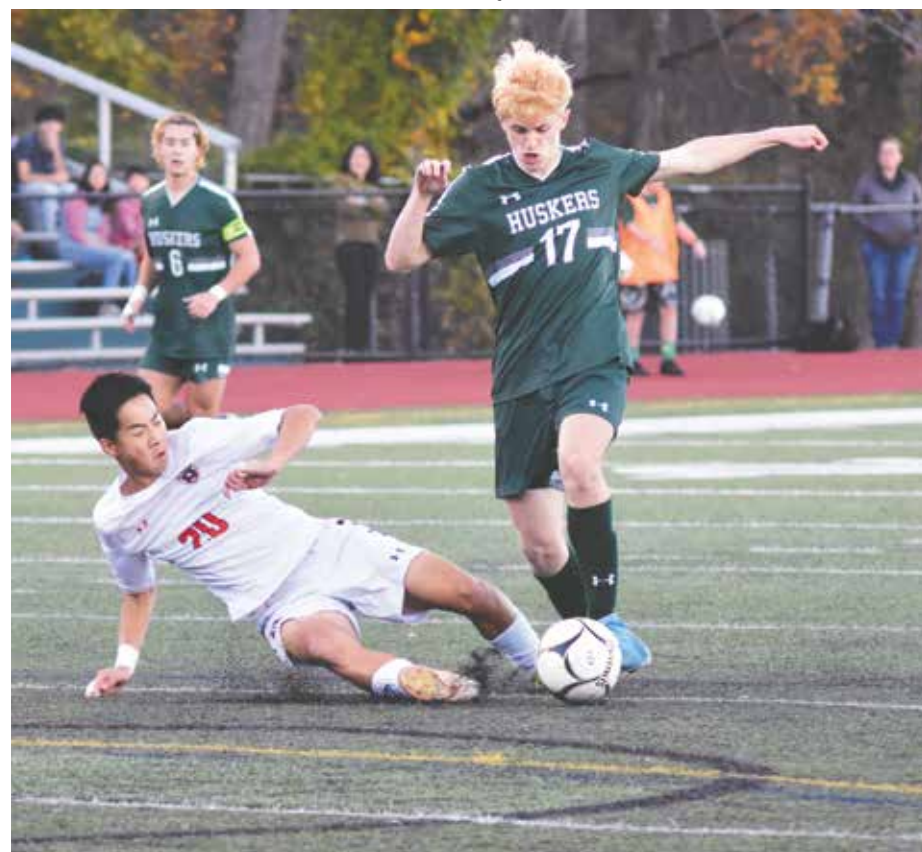
**HALDANE** has had its way with the Class B/C challengers the top-seeded Blue Devils (14-2) faced much of this season, but the bumps in the road will become more frequent as Haldane reps Section 1 – for the first time since 2013 – in the upcoming state tournament after posting a decisive 8-2 Class C title win over Hamilton Saturday morning at Lakeland High.

Blue Devil captain Ryan Eng-Wong walked off with MVP honors after scoring four goals and dominating from start to finish.

Sniper Clem Grossman added a pair of tallies for the state-ranked (No.6) Blue Devils, who face Section 9 champion Rhinbeck Wednesday (7:30 pm) at Hendrick Hudson High in the opening round of the state tournament. PJ Ruggerio and Max Westphal rounded out the Haldane scoring.

"These guys have worked hard all year," Haldane Coach Ahmed Dwidar said. "Last year, we lost to those guys, so give them a lot of respect. They're state champs in

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Greeley's Steven Kang makes tough tackle on Yorktown's Gabriel Hughes in Foxes' 2-0 Class A semifinal loss to host Huskers Thursday.



Members of the Haldane soccer team pose with Section 1 title plaque after 8-2 Class C title win over Hamilton.



Briarcliff goalkeeper Toby Young gets set to pounce on a shot by Bronxville's Tim Murray early in the second half of Sunday night's Class B title game.



Sports

Boys Soccer Notebook



Briarcliff senior midfielder Ethan Klar settles the ball in the first half of the Bears' 1-0 overtime win over Bronxville in the sectional final.

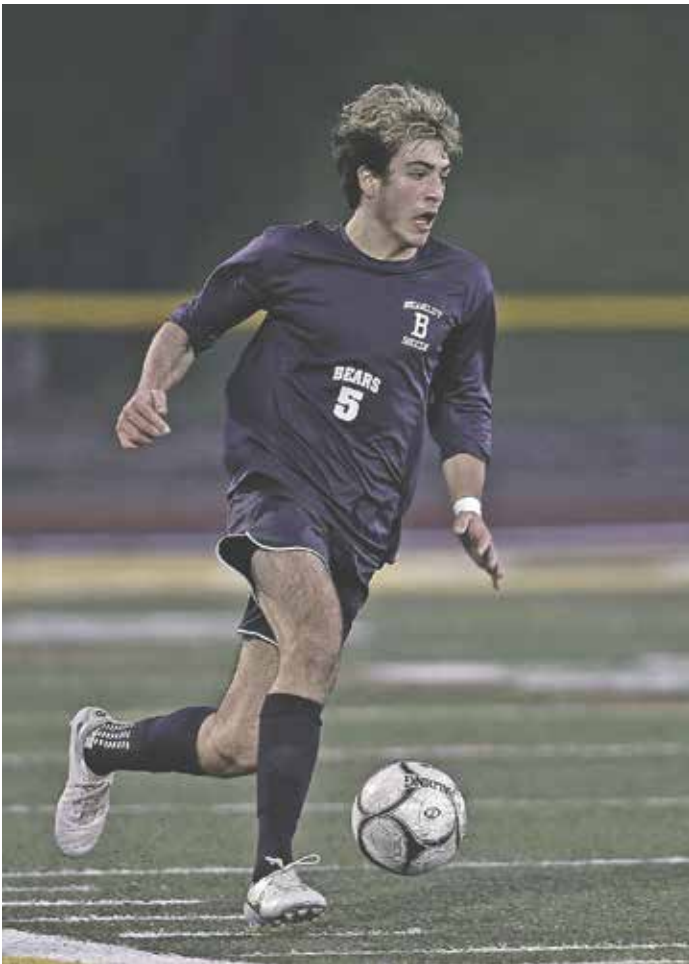
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Class C. Our boys had a bad taste from last year. Clem and Ryan are Batman and Robin scoring machines. The whole team really is a great group of soccer talent, and I'm blessed to have such a great group that are hungry to win. Our defense is one of the best in Section one in my eyes, with a world class keeper in Ronan Kiter and William Sniffen as the general on defense."

CLASS AA

No.7 New Rochelle eliminated No.6 WHITE PLAINS, 2-1, after the Tigers worked a 2-0 quarterfinal win over North Rockland.

Against North Rock, Abraham DeOliveira pressed the Raider midfield and won the ball. Skillful touches on a sloppy surface allowed him to beat the next defender and work his way to the corner where he placed a cross to Rhaymani Alexander for the one-touch, left-



Miles Prosperino of Briarcliff advances the ball up the field during Sunday night's sectional final win vs. Bronxville at Lakeland High School.

footed finish.

With 6:30 left, Tiger captain Jair Cano won a ball in his half and started an advance against several defenders, progressing to midfield. Defender after defender lunged in vein as Cano kept the ball glued to his foot before setting up Alexander for the score.

"It was one of the most impressive individual efforts I've witnessed," Coach Mike Lambert said.

"Jair put a shot on frame, which the goalie could not handle, and Rhaymani Alexander again cleaned up the loose ball for the easy tap in."

Keeper Milo Kris (6 saves) made two spectacular saves in the second half, one at 0-0 and the second at 1-0 to preserve victory for the Tigers (13-5-1).



Briarcliff sophomore Sebastian Rohde races for the ball during Sunday night's championship win against Bronxville.

### Byram Hills Doubles Team Takes State Title

**Jenna Kleynerman**

**Chloe Bernstein**

Just two weeks after capturing the Section One title, the Byram Hills doubles team of senior Chloe Bernstein and sophomore Jenna Kleynerman made a little more history on Saturday by winning the state championship up at Sparrow in Schoenectady. The Byram duo overcame a one-set deficit to prevail 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 over their opponent from Port Washington High School in the championship match.

"We just knew each other's game so well," said Bernstein, shortly after their two-hour final had ended in triumph. "We really complement each other so well. We're such a good team on the court."

Even though they've just been crowned as state champs, there's no resting on their laurels for Bernstein and Kleynerman. On Friday morning, they'll lead their Byram Hills teammates on a quest for a second straight state team title down at the National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to our local athletes on a great Fall Season!

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# Sports

## Field Hockey Notebook

### Lakeland Playing Monopoly, Hornets with 14th-Straight Sectional Title

#### Putnam Valley Falls Short of First Title Since 2008 in 1-0 Loss to Bronxville

By Tony Pinciario

Lakeland continued its monopoly on the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey title. As a result of the top-seeded Hornets beating second-seeded Rye, 2-0, host Lakeland won its 14th consecutive Section 1 Class B championship last Saturday.

This is also Lakeland's 16th sectional crown since 2003. The 2003 and 2006 sectional wins were in Class A, as were the state titles those years.

"Winning a sectional title is always fun," said Lakeland senior G and captain Celeste Pagliaroli. "But doing it against a great team, with a great team, especially because everyone doubted us, and didn't know how far we would make it feel more amazing, especially being my last game on this turf."

Lakeland, now 18-1-1 this season, plays the Section 2 champion, Saturday, at Mahopac High School, at a time to be determined.

The last time Lakeland Coach Sharon Sarsen had a young team was in 2003 with two standout seniors – Andi Coiro and Danielle Fiore – and four freshmen. That team won the Section 1 Class A and New York State Class A titles.

"This season was so very unexpected," Sarsen said. "The amount of growth

individually and as a team was unparalleled. This was the youngest team ever with only two seniors and multiple underclassmen with major roles. We start four sophomores, a freshman and an eighth-grader and they've been pushed to succeed and have responded. I'm very proud of every team, but this championships team was a great surprise."

After a scoreless first half, Emma Numme converted a penalty corner two minutes into the third quarter and in the fourth quarter, Emily Yazzetti doubled Lakeland's lead on Rye. Bella Basulto assisted on both goals.

"Getting that first corner of the half, then the first goal of the game lit us on fire," Pagliaroli said. "I always say to them, be the first and everything will go our way, and it did."

Trusted with a one-goal lead, Lakeland's defense blanketed Rye, short-circuiting the Garnets' high-powered offense.

"Rye has a very talented attack and having that one-goal lead, we knew we needed to

take away two key players and somehow still manage to get another goal just for wiggle room and we did that as well," said Pagliaroli, who made five saves.

Lakeland reached the Class B final for the 15th consecutive year with victories over No.16 Nanuet (8-0) and No.8 Somers (9-0), the first two rounds. Lakeland faced No.4 John Jay-Cross River in a semifinal. The teams played to a 2-2 draw during the regular season. Lakeland would prevail, 3-1, behind one goal and one assist apiece from Gabby Santini and Numme.

"The first time we tied it was the beginning of the season so we were just getting used to each other," said Pagliaroli of the draw with John Jay. "I don't think we needed to make any adjustments. We just got better as a team."



Lakeland players and coaches pose with 14th-straight Section 1 title plaque after beating visiting Rye 2-0 Saturday.

A strong finish to the 2021 season propelled **PUTNAM VALLEY** into 2022 riding momentum. The Tigers established themselves as one of the top teams in Class C and a bonafide sectional contender.

Putnam Valley went 9-3-4 for the regular season and were seeded second in the Section 1 Class C Championship. The Tigers opened with a 5-0 win over Valhalla and then shut out No.3 Hastings, 3-0, in a semifinal. This gave Putnam Valley its first berth in a sectional final since the Tigers, led by Ashley Morgan, won the 2008 Section 1 Class B title over Lakeland.

Bronxville, seeded fourth, scored in the second half and then held off Putnam Valley for a 1-0 victory.

"In big games, it comes down to the team that makes less mistakes and Bronxville capitalized on that," said captain and junior Ava Harman.

Now that Putnam Valley played for a sectional title, Harman and her returning teammates in 2023 want another final appearance.

"Competing this year gave us the experience and the drive," Harman said.

"This season proved that the work we put in during the offseason paid off. We are here to play and will continue to be."

In the Tigers' semifinal win, Ava Buerkle, Gaby Alvarez and Harman each had one goal and one assist.

Kylie Recuppio made 10 saves to register her second consecutive sectional shutout.

Izzy Cerrato paced the Tigers with two goals against Valhalla. Harman added one goal and three assists and Alvarez and Buerkle had a goal apiece.

**HORACE GREELEY** had another excellent regular season with a 12-1-2 record, which earned the Quakers the third seed in the Section 1 Class B Championship.

The Quakers blanked No.14 Ursuline and No.6 Pelham, in the first two rounds. Second-seeded Rye brought Greeley's season to a close with a 2-0 victory in a semifinal.

Greeley finished with a 14-2-2 record, overall.

"I'm really proud of my squad this year," Greeley Coach Suhk Singh said. "We have a very young team. We improved greatly over the course of the season. We are only losing

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Lakeland players -- Gabby and Gigi Santini, Celeste Pagliaroli and Brianna Heyde (3) -- bask in glow of their 14th-straight Section 1 title Saturday.

MATT TURRI PHOTOS



Lakeland keeper Celeste Pagliaroli is mobbed by teammates Bella Basulto and Anna Lemma after Hornets won 14th-straight Section 1 title, 2-0, over Rye Saturday.



# Sports

## Field Hockey Notebook



Lakeland players bum-rush and dog-pile G Celeste Pagliaroli after Section 1 Class B title win Saturday.

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two seniors this year.”

Abigail Dolan had a hat trick and Lilah Tainsky added a goal against Pelham. Nina Byrne and Dolan collected assists.

**YORKTOWN** had its finest regular season in recent memory as the Cornhuskers went 11-2-1.

This gave Yorktown the fifth seed in the Section 1 Class B Championship.

After the Cornhuskers opened with a 2-0 victory over No. 12 Panas, they were defeated, 8-1, by No. 4 John Jay-Cross River.

Yorktown completed one of the finest seasons in program history with a 12-3-1 record, overall.

“This was our best season thus far,” said Yorktown Coach Courtney Hyndman, who was named coach of the year in Class B. “Coach Jess (Esteves) and I couldn’t be more proud of the team and leadership this season. We definitely had our ups and downs but, as a whole, the girls really came together and had a successful season. We will miss our seniors dearly but are excited to continue to build the program here at Yorktown.

Ellie Glicksman scored against John Jay, assisted by Gianni Altimari. Maeve Ryan was excellent in goal with 21 saves.

**WHITE PLAINS** was seeded sixth in the Section 1 Class A Championship and opened with a 5-1 win over No.11 Ossining.

The Tigers faced No.3 Clarkstown South

in a quarterfinal and the Vikings prevailed, 4-3.

“Our game against Clarkstown South was so close,” White Plains Coach Kasey Rubenstein said. “We were down at the half 1-0. Later, we went down 3-0 before we scored two goals within 90 seconds of each other to make it 3-2. It was a lot of back and forth after that. It was a hard-fought game both ways.”

Brianna Hanratty, Alivia Alexander and Courtney Austin scored against Clarkstown South. Sophia Emmert and Alexander had assists.

Chloe Ryan led the offense against Ossining with two goals and Sophia Emmert added one goal and two assists.

Stella Gould and Hanratty each had one goal and one assist and Alexander added an assist.

**SOMERS** was in the unenviable position of drawing the eighth seed in the Section 1 Class B Championship.

The Tuskers beat No.9 Pearl River, 2-1, in the first round on goals by Emily Esposito and Julia Vecciarelli. This victory sent Somers into the quarterfinal round where it lost to top-seeded and 13-time defending Section 1 Class B champ Lakeland.

The Tuskers finished with an 8-8-2 record, overall.

“Our team worked well together and had a great bond this season,” Somers Coach



Lakeland players celebrate a goal in their 2-0 Section 1 Class B title triumph of Rye Saturday.

Amy Magaletti said. “They pushed each other and wanted to improve every day. Our seniors are going to be greatly missed. We are looking forward to a great session next year.”

**PLEASANTVILLE** won its league title and was seeded sixth in the Section 1 Class C Championships. Third-seeded Hastings ended Pleasantville’s season with a 2-1

victory in the quarterfinal round.

Mackenzie Ennis scored for Pleasantville and Natalie O’Malley assisted. Chloe Egan made 11 saves as the Panthers finished with a 7-7-3 record.

**FOX LANE** was seeded fourth in the Section 1 Class A Championship, but the Foxes were upset by Suffern, 1-0, in overtime of a quarterfinal game.



Putnam Valley’s Adrienne Jenness controls in Tigers’ 1-0 Section 1 Class C final loss to Bronxville.



Putnam Valley junior Ava Harman sets up a rush in Tigers’ 1-0 Section 1 Class C title loss to Bronxville Saturday at Lakeland.



Put Valley’s Isabella Cerrato sets up a corner in Tigers’ 1-0 sectional title loss to Bronxville.



# Sports

# Grid Notebook

## State-Ranked Carmel, Somers, P'Ville, Byram all Advance to Semis

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

Unless you consider No.A2-seed Arlington's 40-29 Class AA win over B3 New Rochelle an upset of some sort, the only real monkey wrench of the opening round of the Section 1 grid playoffs was tossed by No.A4-seed John Jay in its stunning 55-28 Class A upset of No.B1 Clarkstown South, ranked No.20 in NYS.

The rest of the opening rounds were pretty chalky, including the three Examiner-area clubs ranked atop of their respective classifications: state-ranked (No.4) Class AA Carmel, state-ranked (No.1) Class A Somers and state-ranked (No.5) Class B Pleasantville.

### CLASS AA

Defending NYS champion **CARMEL** (8-0) was all business in its 38-0 rout of visiting No.B-4 Scarsdale, building a 38-0 lead by halftime in winning its 24th straight game. Showing great balance behind the three-headed rushing attack of seniors Nick Rosaforte (12 carries, 122 yards, 3 TDs) and Thomas Keating (8 carries, 44 yards), plus super soph Tristen Werlau (10 carries, 42 yards), the Rams advanced to host No.A3 seed North Rockland Friday (7 p.m.). Ram QB Matt Gay added a one-yard TD sneak and hit on 6 of 12 passes for 65 yards. Jeremy Smith led the defense with seven tackles. Matt Disley added six.

The focus turns to North Rockland with the Rams hitting on all cylinders.

"One game at a time," the ALI-NYS RB/DB Rosaforte said. "We just played with good energy throughout the game and we executed very well! Our O-line was getting after it."

Props to the hogs up front, including Owen Boland, Jaden Robles, Liam Forester, Anthony Briante and Mike Andricosky.



Carmel RB Tristen Werlau breaks off big gain in host Rams' 38-0 Class AA playoff rout of Scarsdale Friday.

### CLASS A

**SOMERS** (8-0), the 2021 NYS runner-up, cruised to a 38-6 win over visiting Brewster Friday night behind a vintage effort from senior QB Matt Fitzsimons (13 of 17 for 206 yards), who spun three TD passes, including a pair to Tyler Ostrander and another to RB Ravi Davis.

The back-breaker was the 35-yard catch by Ostrander (5 grabs, 85 yards) just before the half, a perfectly orchestrated, back-tapped Hail Mary from Fitzsimons to Mac Sullivan (at the two-yard-line), which he coyly tapped to Ostrander in the end zone along the home sideline #ThingofBeauty.

"Yeah, it was sick," Fitzsimons admitted. "We practice that play every week and it worked perfectly. We are clicking all over the field on both sides of the ball. My O-line has been doing everything right and they all try their best for me. Everyone on this team is a brother to me and we all play for one another."

Fitzsimons also rushed for a 31-yard score in the third quarter before the Tuskers eased up on the Bears, who could not deny Somers its 24th straight

Section 1 victory. Tusker RB/K Luke Savino (8 rushes, 61 yards) also scored a 10-yard touchdown and booted a 40-yard field goal #KidsAWeapon.

Luke Kennedy led the Somers defense with six tackles, and he'll need more of the same against a stout B-2 seeded Harrison club in Friday's (6:30 pm) semifinals.

"They are the most complete team in Class A, and could be in for another nice run," Brewster Coach Ed Mulvihille said. "Somers was firing on all cylinders. They have an aggressive, fast, physical defense that can knock you off schedule easily. Offensively, you're behind the eight ball, and it can be tough to get some footing. Offensively, they have many weapons. Take one away and they go to another. They do all three phases well and that's why they are the defending State runner up."

When **MAHOPAC** RB Joey Koch rushed for a 97-yard TD and a 19-14 lead late in the fourth quarter, the banged-up, A-3 seeded Indians (4-4) were in position to bust up their side of the Class A bracket, but a resilient B-2 Harrison club rallied for a 20-19 quarterfinal win



Somers WR Tyler Ostrander is all smiles after scoring TD in Tuskers' 38-6 Class A playoff rout of Brewster Friday.

when Marco Citro rushed for the winning score in the waning seconds. Mahopac QB Danny Koch added 81 yards on the ground and a score on 13 carries.

"Yeah, we had some guys out and of course we wished they could play, but from Day 1 we bought in as a team and believe in the motto "next man up", Koch said. "The guys that played last night, every one of them, left it out on the field. It hurts we came up short, but I know in my heart everyone gave 100% of everything they could give and that's all you can ask from your guys!"

"The 97-yard run was amazing," he added. "Our guys made some key blocks and once I got free, I wasn't letting anyone catch me. There was time left and we knew we had to dig deep. Our guys busted their humps and gave it their all, unfortunately we came up short, congrats to Harrison on a hard fought game."

Koch finished with 290 yards and two touchdowns on 21 carries, putting his season-long totals at an eye-popping 1,278 yards and 16 rushing scores on 137 carries. He'll add 217 receiving yards and three more TD grabs for 19 scores in all.

"Joey Koch has really shown the type of player he was last night and all season,"

*continued on next page*



Carmel senior RB Nick Rosaforte snaps off a patented TD jaunt in Ram's 38-0 Class AA playoff win over Scarsdale Friday.



Carmel DB Chris Nerys (4) picks off pass in Rams' Class AA playoff rout of visiting Scarsdale Friday.



Somers QB Matt Fitzsimons picks up block from OL Jake Polito to set up completion in host Tuskers' 38-6 Class A playoff win over Brewster Friday.



# Sports

# Grid Notebook



Brewster junior OL Derek Karlsson (57) tries to slow down rush of Navy-bound Somers senior DL Jake Polito in Bears' 38-6 playoff loss to Tuskers.

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said Mahopac senior OL/DL Anthony Porco (team-high 10 tackles). "Hopefully, he gets the respect he deserves, by not only the league but the section. We played our hearts out from start to finish. We had guys injured going into this game and everyone stepped up and played a role no matter what."

Owen Ryan, as he has done all year, was exceptional on defense, with eight tackles.

Citro (84 yards and two touchdowns) led the state-ranked (No.14) Huskies (8-1) to their seventh straight win, but Somers is a tall order.

## CLASS B

**PLEASANTVILLE** (8-0), the NYS Class B runner-up, saw old reliable do his thing. All-NYS junior RB/WR Daniel Picart hauled in a pair of TD strikes from his brother, QB Aidan Picart, who fired three TD passes in all. Daniel Picart also rushed for a score against the overmatched, eighth-seeded Sailors (1-7). Panther WR Emmet McDermott snared a 75-yard TD pass, and RB Erik Coleman rushed for a P'Ville score en route to a 31-0 halftime edge.

Aidan found Daniel for a 72-yard TD catch to open the scoring. Shane Horigan



Mahopac RB Joey Koch breaks off one of two TD jaunts in Indians' 20-19 Class A playoff loss to host Harrison.



Mahopac junior QB Danny Koch evades a tackler in Indians' 20-19 Class A playoff loss to host Harrison Friday.

recovered a fumble by the Sailors at Hendrick Hudson's 28-yard line and Daniel Picart followed with a 10-yard TD trot.

"We've been trying to work on being on the same page, not just me and my brother but with everyone and now it's starting to click at the right time," Daniel Picart said. "With everyone stepping up as the postseason continues, with the defense locking down almost everything, and our line dominating week in and week out, I think I can say we're ready to take on any team in the way of our goal we set our eyes on when we started August 22nd."

Panther Brian McPhee intercepted a Hendrick Hudson pass at the 43-yard line and the Picarts connected from 37 yards out for a 25-0 lead, game over!

Pleasantville advanced to host the Ardsley/Pearl River in Friday's Class B semifinal (6 pm).

**BYRAM HILLS** (8-1), ranked No.12 in NYS and seeded second, continued on its path toward a potential championship collision with Pleasantville after the Bobcats defeated No.7 **BRIARCLIFF/HAMILTON**, 28-8, Saturday afternoon.

Luke Weiler (22 carries, 146 yards, touchdown) had himself a career-type day, and Dario



With blockers closing in on would-be tacklers, Carmel RB Thomas Keating breaks off long trot in host Rams' Class AA playoff rout of Scarsdale Friday

Amicucci (75 yards, rushing touchdown) was quite the complementary feature in Coach Simon Berk's attack. QB Jon Accurso also ran for a score and fired a TD strike for the Bobcats, who will host No.3 Nanuet in the Class B semifinals Saturday. Briarcliff dipped to 2-6.

"Luke Weiler was a force on offense and defense," Bobcat Coach Simon Berk said. "As our lead back, Weiler showed a combination of patience, speed and power to break through the Briarcliff defense. Our offensive line play from George Gjellaj, Jack Quinn, Greg Postian, Justin Barad, Ben Lesh, Scott Miller and Rick Rosenthal was exceptional. Defensively, linebackers Quinn, Rosenthal, Miller and Sean Siegel and safeties Weiler and Colin McManus were stout throughout the afternoon."

The game's major turning point came on a goal line stand on 4-and-1 with Siegel

and Lesh driving the B/H back. On the ensuing drive, Accurso, Weiler and Amicucci combined for 99 yards on the ground to increase the lead to 21-8 in the third.

"Javorsky's injury has forced Weiler into a huge role and Weiler has responded by getting stronger each week," Berk said. He does it all (2-point conversion, INT, kicker, punter)."

Byram will host No.3 Nanuet in Saturday's semis.

## INDEPENDENT LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

**WALTER PANAS** advanced to the finals after a 49-6 thrashing of visiting Edgemont, who failed miserably to contain Pather RB Paul Ronga, who found paydirt a career-high four times. Panas QB Travis Carlucci added to the ground assault with two touchdowns on the ground. Panas will host Spring Valley Friday (6 pm) in the finals after the Valley eliminated **HORACE GREELEY** (7-2) by a 48-28 count.

In non-playoff action:

**YORKTOWN** RB Justin Meyreles had carried 24 times for 78 yards and a touchdown and made nine tackles on defense in a 21-14 win over Clarkstown North. Andrew Weissman added 86 yards and a touchdown for the Huskers (5-4). Jack Ferone (13 tackles) had a day on defense.

*continued on next page*



Pleasantville WR Daniel Picart throws a stiff arm at Hen Hud's Connor Harbolic in host Panthers' Class B playoff win over Sailors Friday.



Byram Hills RB Luke Weiler bulls his way for plus yards in Class B playoff win Saturday.



# Sports

## Grid Notebook



Pleasantville QB Aidan Picart fires pass in Class B playoff win over visiting Hen Hud Friday.

*continued from previous page*

**LAKELAND** had its way with Sleepy Hollow in a 21-7 when Stephen Carroll rushed for 83 yards and two tuddy's while Vincent Scaglione (7 carries, 125 yards, three catches, 57 yards and a TD) was equally effective for the Hornets (3-5). Rob Nugent led a stout Hornet defensive unit with 12 tackles. Eastchester defeated

Fox Lane 35-14.

Class D **HALDANE** rolled to a 25-8 win over **CROTON-HARMON** (2-5) in preparation for the Class D final against rival Tuckahoe. Things got rolling quickly for the Blue Devils (5-2) when QB Ryan Van Tassel fired a 50-yard strike to Thomas Tucker for a 7-0 lead (PAT good). Van Tassel (12 for 20, 179 yards) also



Byram Hills RB Luke Weiler was all smiles during his monster day in Class B playoff win Saturday.

tossed a 15-yard TD to Michael Murray while RB Evan Giachinta was a workhorse on the ground, going for 127 yards and two TDs on 16 totes.

Class C Westlake (6-2) secured the No.1 seed after a 33-14 win over Albertus Magnus and will face No.2B Blind Brook in the semis. A2 seed Valhalla (6-2) rolled to a 36-12 win over host Putnam Valley and will visit B1 seed Dobbs Ferry in the other semi.



Hen Hud RB Izzy Andrade takes a run at Pleasantville DL Cooper Kittsley in Sailables' Class B playoff loss to host Panthers.



Byram RB Tyler Marescot tries to avoid tackle of Brainercliff-Hamilton's Chris Fertucci in Bobcats' Class B playoff win.



Brainercliff-Hamilton RB Adam Harris throw stiff arm at Byram's Richard Rosenthal in Class B playoff action Saturday.



Byram QB Jon Accurso carries in Bobcats' 28-7 Class B playoff win over Brainercliff-Hamilton Saturday.



# Sports

# Girls Soccer Notebook

## Somers Ousted in Sectional Semis; Mahopac, Hen Hud Fall in Quarters

By Tony Pinciario

**SOMERS** served notice this year that it will be a prominent sectional contender for many years.

The Tuskers went 15-1 during the regular season, earned the second seed in the Section 1 Class A Girls' Soccer Championship, won twice and was a win away from the title game.

However, Clarkstown North converted a penalty kick and that was the difference in a 1-0 semi-final loss.

Somers concluded with a 17-2 record, one of the finest seasons in program history. "Overall, it was an amazing season, finishing 17-2 and going further than we went last year," Somers' coach Kelci Hegg said. "We have an extremely young team and are looking forward to building on our success this year. We will only get better and stronger next year. We will take the experiences both good and bad from this year and use it as our foundation for next year."

Somers had beaten Clarkstown North, 2-1, during the regular season. The Tuskers scored twice in the second half of that game, after trailing 1-0 at halftime.

Clarkstown North made an adjustment for the semifinal that threw off Somers.

"It was a tremendously physical game and much different from the time we played them in the regular season," Hegg said. "They pushed the pace and crowded the midfield in the first half making it difficult for us to get going."

"We unfortunately gave up a PK and that ended up costing us the game. We had some great chances in the second half, but were just not able to convert. Sophomore keeper Julia Schmidberger was stellar between the pipes coming up with several crucial saves in the homestretch to keep it a one-goal game."

Somers opened sectionals with a 4-1 victory over Eastchester as Julia Arbelaez scored twice. Hegg cited the play of Anne Maguire for controlling the tempo of play and pushing into the attack.

Somers defeated Mahopac, 2-0, in a quarterfinal. Hegg said one of the keys to this win was the play of senior and captain Tori Olsen. She was assigned to neutralize Mahopac's top player – Piper Klammer.

"Tori's performance in that game was one of the best I've seen in her three years," Hegg said.

**HEN HUD** introduced itself as a rising program after the Sailors had their best season 2014.

Coach Bill Pagel's team finished with a 12-5-2 record, including a pair of Section 1 Class A victories – 7-0 over Hen Hud and 2-1, in overtime, over Yorktown. The No. 9 seed lost in a quarterfinal to top-seeded Albertus Magnus, 4-0.

"Overall, this was a historically great year for the Sailors," Pagel said. "The 12-5-2 record was the fourth best winning percentage in school history. Lena Johnsen broke the single-season scoring-record with 49 points, 31 goals and 18 assists, and she also set the career-scoring record with an incredible 89 points, 58 goals and 31 assists, in her three-year varsity career. And, Liv

Johnsen had the second best scoring season in school history racking up 45 points, 24 goals and 21 assists.

"The team also had one of its best defensive years, recording 10 shutouts and allowing only 17 goals in 19 games, plus opponents averaged only four shots on goal per game."

The Johnsen sisters combined for six goals and five assists against Nyack. Liv Johnsen had both Hen Hud goals against Yorktown.

While the Johnsen sisters had a major impact on Hen Hud's season, Pagel credited his senior class for its influence.

"One of the strengths of this year's team was the excellent leadership and talent the seniors brought to the table, with most of them playing in their third varsity season this year," Pagel said. "Although the senior captains, Katherine Couch, Kayla Cohen, Morgan Parks, Fiona Doyle and Lena Johnsen formally led the way, it was the remaining seniors that helped put us over the top with their key contributions throughout the season. Lexi Schaffer, Maddie McKinley, Sophia Jackson, Rebekah Anderson and Karli Martin all played vital roles at numerous points throughout the season. The strength of this senior group really helped set the tone and the mind set for this season. They had a big influence on how the underclassmen approached practice and the games. With this year's performance they have clearly left their mark on the program and they have set a standard for future Hen Hud teams to chase."

Next year's team will certainly miss this group's presence, but with a strong group of underclassmen returning we are optimistic about our future.

**MAHOPAC** went 10-6 during the regular season, earning the No. 7 seed in the Section 1 Class A Championship.

After the Indians opened with a 1-0 win over No. 10 Horace Greeley, Mahopac dropped to a 2-0 verdict to No. 2 Somers in a quarterfinal game.

Freshman Cam Wilson had the goal, assisted by Juliana Mangione, against Greeley. Jess Sterbens was outstanding in goal, making 18 saves.

"That was a hard-fought win for us," Mahopac coach Casey Carroll said. "I'm proud of the effort the girls put in to come out on top with a 'W.' I think Juliana played really well in the center of the field and Cam Wilson came up big, once again. The biggest shout-out goes to Jess Sterbens, who played a stellar game in net for us."

Carroll was impressed with her team despite the final result to Somers.

"We were not only competitive throughout the entire game, but generated a lot of offensive opportunities that we, unfortunately, didn't capitalize on," Carroll said. "But, the potential to have the outcome of this game possibly go in the other direction with the the dangerous opportunities we were creating drove my girls to keep fighting until the very end."

"My defensive line played a great game keeping a high-scoring Somers' team to a minimum and gave us a fighting chance."

**HORACE GREELEY** had an excellent

regular season, going undefeated to win its league title.

The Quakers, seeded 10th, won their out-bracket game over No. 23 Peekskill, but ran into a tough seventh-seeded Mahopac team. The result was a 2-0 loss as the Quakers finished with a 13-5 record, overall.

"The Greeley girls soccer team had a great season, going undefeated in our league (league champions this year)," Greeley coach Angela Russo said. "We had an excellent team of talented, hard-working players with a strong connection that was such a pleasure to watch. I am so proud of the way they played all season, and especially in the sectional playoff, where they never gave up, pushing forward and taking shots until the last second."

Despite the 1-0 loss, in which Mahopac goalie Jess Sterbens made 22 saves, Russo was quite pleased with her team's performance.

"Our defense was superb, keeping Mahopac bottled up much of the game," Russo said. "Erica Rosendorf had the high-priority assignment of staying on the foot of Mahopac's top-notch striker and she accomplished her mission with distinction. Additionally, Lauren Singer made several clutch stops in goal throughout the game. Were it not for outstanding Mahopac goalkeeping, victory would have been our's. Despite the loss, it was a highly-competitive and entertaining game."

**PLEASANTVILLE** - The Panthers finished the season at 12-5-1 after losing to Irvington 2-0 in the semifinals last Wednesday. Coach Chris Oosterhoudt stressed how "the girls played hard and fought to the very end."

"I was happy with our season and the progress we made throughout the year," he said. "We were playing very good soccer late in the season when it counts the most."

**FOX LANE** ended its 2022 campaign with a disappointing final record of 4-9-2. The team remained competitive in most of the first half of games, the coach noted. But due to injuries, and as a result a thin bench, the Foxes were often mismatched in the second half of play.

"We had a tough season filled with injuries to players in key positions which made it very difficult for an already young squad to overcome," Coach Fabian Videla said. "The girls worked extremely hard all season long and improved over the season."

Despite the team's struggles, several players thrived. Rosie Vasquez Max, Ava Shuster, and Amanda Griffin all secured All-League honors.

**BYRAM HILLS** ended the fall season with an overall record of 11-7-2, securing a spot in the semifinals. Coach Julianne Marinaro explained how over the past two years, the team graduated its core, "so this year was really a rebuilding year."

"However, the team did a lot better than expected," she also remarked. "Our starting 11 consisted of only one senior, so we are looking forward to the next few seasons."

Standouts included sophomore Amelia Dougherty (15 goals, nine assists), sophomore Abigail Rondeau (nine goals, six assists), junior Grace Corelli (four goals, three assists), and freshman Lucia Brescio

(four goals, two assists).

**LAKELAND** went 9-7 during the regular season and was a first-time league champion in over 20 years.

The Hornets were seeded 15th in the Section 1 Class A Championship, but lost to No. 18 Eastchester, 2-0, in an out-bracket game.

"The team had one of its best seasons in recent memory," Lakeland coach Shawn Sullivan said. "The team showed constant improvement throughout the season and gained the respect of all the teams in Section One."

"The team was led by senior captains, Deanna Lage and Laura MacDonald. Fellow seniors Madga Argiros, Riley McConnell & Ellen Ndreka provided the Hornets with a formidable offensive attack. Defensive players Samantha Moscati and goalkeeper Lily Merriam made it very difficult for opposing teams to score this year. Sofia Muccitelli was unable to play this year due to an injury, but did a great job serving as team manager."

"The underclassmen also provided the varsity with outstanding play on both sides of the ball."

**PANAS** took another step in its evolution for coach Matt Schiff as the Panthers drew the 20th seed in the Section 1 Class A Championship.

Harrison, seeded 13th, defeated the Panthers, 5-2 in an out-bracket game. As a result, Panas finished with an 8-9 record.

Molly Muller and Cassidy Pisani had the Panas goals, both assisted by Giuliana Rodriguez.

"Overall, the season was a success and we look forward to continuing to build our program for the future," Panas coach Matt Schiff said. "We had many scoring contributors this season, including Molly Muller with 10 goals and 4 assists, Cassidy Pisani with 7 goals and 4 assists, Giuliana Rodriguez with 6 goals and 7 assists, and Kaylie Mellars with 6 goals and 5 assists."

"Our defense played incredibly well down the stretch led by seniors Sarah Chiulli, Jaelyn Helfrich, and Sabbia Gale-Donnelly. We would like to give a huge shoutout to Kelly McAleese who volunteered to play goalkeeper this season and made over 100 saves!"

**WHITE PLAINS** and coach Ali Rainone surprised themselves, after graduating 12 seniors from the 2021 team.

The Tigers were 8-7-1 for the regular season, earning the 11th seed in the Section 1 Class AA Championship. Unfortunately, No. 6 R.C. Ketcham eliminated the Tigers with a 2-0 victory.

"After graduating 12 seniors last year, we didn't know what to expect this season," Rainone said. "Thanks to a group of unbelievably talented freshmen added to the roster of already solid returning players, and an eighth-grader! We were able to keep up with high-quality teams that had starting lineups of all upperclassmen. I am so proud of this young team and beyond excited to see what the next few years bring together."

*The VALHALLA girls soccer program did not respond by press time to request for comment and clarification on the season.*



# Examiner Sports Good Heavens!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

## No.1 Yorktown Upends No.2 Tappan Zee, 3-0, Snags 2nd Section 1 Title Since 2017

Exuberant Yorktown keeper J.P. Frucco (L) looks to the heavens as trusty defensive sidekick Sean Horlacher and he ready to join their teammates to celebrate their second Section 1 Class A boys' soccer title since 2017 last Sunday at Lakeland High where captain Ryan Tomeny (inset) was first to get his hands on the coveted championship plaque after the top-seeded Huskers knocked off No.2 Tappan Zee, 3-0... see Boys' Soccer Notebook