

Examiner Sports

Fat Cats!



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Westlake Feasts on Dobbs Ferry, Win 1st Section 1 Title since 2015

Westlake junior RB Chris Kalle (33) went for career-highs in touchdowns (3), rushing yards (177) and attempts (17) to ignite a ground game that amassed close to 350 yards as Coach John Castellano's Wildcats devoured former Class C champ and perennial powerhouse Dobbs Ferry, 46-14, last Saturday at Mahopac High where state-ranked (No.12) Westlake hoisted the Section 1 title hardware for the first time since 2015. The Wildcats advanced to the NYS tourney where they will face eighth-ranked Section 9 champion O'Neil Saturday (noon) at Middletown High School... see Grid Notebook

Panthers Shoot for the Mooney!



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Pleasantville Achieves Its Goal, Knocks off Byram Hills to Repeat as Class B Champs

Pleasantville RB Owen Mooney rejoices after scoring go-ahead touchdown in state-ranked No.5 Panthers' 27-20 Section 1 Class B title victory over No.10 Westlake Saturday at Mahopac High where the 2021 NYS runner-up Panthers (inset) posed with their second-straight gold ball and plaque. The Panthers will now prepare for Section 9 champ Port Jervis for a 4 p.m. kickoff on Friday at Arlington High School... see Grid Notebook

Carmel, Somers, Pleasantville, Westlake Crowned Section 1 Kings



Carmel RB Nick Rosaforte took 22 carries for 174 yards and a TD, plus an INT on D, in Rams' 31-28 Class AA title win.

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

MAHOPAC – The rain held off for Friday morning's Class D championship but the Class A final was played amidst a steady rain at Mahopac High where two blowouts prevailed, but the sun shone bright Saturday and temps were very mild when conditions were ripe for top-notch football in the Class C, B and AA championships. And, boy oh boy, Section 1 delivered.

As always, hats off to the Mahopac Touchdown Club and the entire Mahopac football outfit for providing a superb venue. If this was, indeed, Mahopac's swan song (it has been rumored that newly renovated Memorial Stadium in Mt. Vernon will play host in 2023), Mahopac's – environment, concessions and accommodations will be hard to match. Thanks from all of us for providing a professional venue. Here's some of what we saw on the grid.

CLASS AA

One would be hard-pressed to recall a better title tilt in the last decade or so after watching reigning NYSPHSAA champion **CARMEL** (10-0) fend off a truly incredible back-and-forth fight from Mamaroneck in the state-ranked (No.4) Rams' 31-28 win over the 16th-ranked Tigers (9-1) in the last of five championship bouts Saturday night.

In a game that had no quit in it, Carmel won its 26th-straight game and will face Section 9 champion Newburgh Free Academy (ranked No.22 in NYS) Saturday at 3:00 p.m. in the opening round of the state tournament at Middletown High School.

More than once, Mamaroneck (9-1) had the undefeated Rams (10-0) on the ropes (Carmel trailed by four, 28-24, with 7:30 to play), but Carmel took its best shots and produced a momentum-changing, third-quarter pick-6 by Jeremy Smith, and then capped a game-winning drive with a 36-yard

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Carmel QB Matt Gay picked a fine time for a career game, spinning two TD passes and 149 yards in 31-28 Class AA title win over Mamaroneck.



Carmel's Mike Andricosky (64), Owen Boland (R) and Jeremy Smith (23) blaze trail for RB Nick Rosaforte.

RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Carmel RB Tristen Werlau fires up a stiff arm as he gains edge in Rams' 31-28 Class AA title win over Mamaroneck.

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Carmel FG unit celebrates Jared Navidad's clutch FG just before half of Rams' 31-28 Class AA title win over Mamaroneck Saturday.

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TD strike by QB Matt Gay to WR Chris Nerys for the final margin.

With one last crack, Mamaroneck heaved a deep one that fell, fittingly, into the arms of Carmel DB/RB Nick Rosaforte, the best two-way player on the field in every game this season.

"He's one of the best players I've ever coached, period," Carmel Coach Todd Cayea said of his senior captain, who finished with 174 yards and a first-half touchdown on 22

totes, many from the Wildcat formation. "He's unbelievable and has the heart of a champion. He's a pleasure to coach but as I told him after the game, 'You're a great football player but you're an even better person than you are a player', and that's saying something."

"Mamaroneck was a gritty, tough team," Coach Cayea said of the Tigers, who saw explosive RB Damari Hamilton take five first-half carries for 121 yards and two long TDs. "They did a great job over there. It's too



Carmel DB Damien Santiago and DL Owen Boland apply pressure in Rams' Class AA title win over Mamaroneck Saturday at Mahopac.



Carmel LB Jeremy Smith brings his crucial pick-6 to the house in Rams' Class AA title win over Mamaroneck.

bad somebody had to lose this game. Both teams played their butts off. They broke those two big long runs off us early when we had some confusion with some calls and they caught us, but I thought our defense played outstanding in the second half. Smith's interception changed momentum, but then they came back and scored again. Matt Gay then made a great play to Nerys on the bender route for the TD. Great throw, great catch and we won it."

Gay finished with 149 yards on 10 completions for two TDs, including one to Damien Santiago (4 grabs, 47 yards) and another huge gain to a leaping Jake Storen for 41 yards to set up a critical 32-yard field goal by Jared Navidad just before the half.

"I'm just so proud of how we never let them get in our head when they took those

leads," Rosaforte said. "We just kept playing our game and battled to the end. Chris Nerys came up huge for us. Our defense got a late pick and we had a defensive touchdown, which was huge. We got some turnovers and our offense was able to pound it in."

"This is one of the greatest games I've ever been a part of," Rosaforte added. "Obviously, last year was a great feeling, but tonight, me being a senior now, was amazing, and now we have the opportunity to keep on playing."

Rosaforte admits his O-Line is the reason for his success, but you can bet your last dollar the O-Line – led by senior Owen Boland – will go all out for their standout back.

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Carmel's Nick Rosaforte (L) and Ryan Aabel are quick to get with WR Chris Nerys after his game-winning TD catch clinched the Section 1 Class AA title.



Somers HB Ravi Davis gains edge on pair of Rye defenders in Tuskers' 45-13 Class A title win over Garnets Friday at Mahopac.

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"You know, we go to work each day," Boland said, "and it's a grind, but Rosey is a hell of a player and we love to open things up for him and the rest of our backs. We made some mistakes tonight, but we're going to fix them up and come back better next week. This was one of the greatest games I've ever played in. I've never been in a game this close in my three years on varsity, and to come out on top is amazing. Mamaroneck was a hell of a team. I have not seen a team that good in a while. In the end, Coach Cayea always says it comes down to the team that makes the least mistakes, and tonight we made the least mistakes and won the game."

Been that way for two-plus seasons now.

CLASS A

They throw the phrase "Cheat Code" around a lot these days, but **SOMERS** senior FB Luke Savino's act was so redonkulous that a higher power must have programmed his performance in the Tuskers' 45-13 Section 1 Class A title win over Rye on a rainy Friday afternoon.

Savino, who rushed for 227 yards and four TDs, ignited a stretch of 38 unanswered points to erase a 7-0 deficit and provide Coach Anthony DeMatteo's state-ranked (No.1) Tuskers (10-0) their third-straight sectional title, including the 2020 spring title (Covid-induced).

Savino's six extra points and 24-yard field goal added to his total of 33 points, helping



Somers QB Matt Fitzsimons rolls over a pair of Rye defenders in Tuskers' 45-13 Class A title win over Garnets.

RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



A bewildered Rye sideline watches Somers sophomore FB Mason Kelly rumble for big gainer in Tuskers' Class A title win over Garnets Friday.

the Tuskers nab their sixth sectional title since 2012, seventh since 2000.

"I played with a chip on my shoulder," Savino admitted. "Our coaches and players get me fired up for the game. I ended up showing out but all the credit goes to my coaches and teammates and our scouts, who are incredible in practice. We couldn't do it without them."

Still, Savino looked to punish on every attempt, including an array of stiff arms and bull runs.

"I love contact," said the Division I recruit, who has offers to kick for West Virginia, New Hampshire and Marist, (7). "I don't want to be looked at as just a kicker, I want to be a running back, too, and I love contact. That's just my thing and if there's contact to be made I'll try to go through it. Our practice habits are pristine and we played amazing in this game. If we continue those practice habits, we hope to make it back to the dome this year."

State-ranked (No.13) Rye (9-2), which Somers had to fend off twice last postseason, including the sectional final and NYS semis, scored on its first play from scrimmage, WR Rafferty McSweeney going 80 yards off a deflected pass. From that point forward, though, it was all Somers.

"We just stuck to the game plan," said Coach DeMatteo, now 22-1 since taking the reins from his dad. "I thought Rye's kids came out and played really hard, which is what we expected. Rye is a storied program, and we thought this was going to be a war and it was early until we started to break it open. Our kids saw what was ahead of them and put Rye away."

On both sides of the ball, the Somers offensive and defensive lines were a force the Garnets could not match.

"Our offensive line was the reason we went out and sought games against teams like Greenwich and St. Francis," Coach DeMatteo said. "Specifically Jake (Polito) but we roll six or seven guys around Jake. They're all college football players in my opinion. And because of the offensive line you see guys like Savino and Ravi (Dass) and Matt (Fitzsimons) doing great things, but our offensive line is the soul of our team. Our defensive philosophy is something that I inherited from my father (Hall of Fame Coach Tony DeMatteo). That's really what we hang our hat on. The offense has been

super explosive but defense is really our identity.

"Savino is our workhorse when we need it," the coach said of the likely-DI-Bound kicker, who had seven touchbacks on seven kicks, including one that split the uprights. "We kept him fresh so he could run hard late in the season. That's what we decided to do with him."

The aforementioned defensive identity was provided by DL Ryan Cole (8 tackles, 2 sacks), George Forbes (5 tackles, 1 for loss) and Luke Kennedy (who added a sack and four tackles on defense (2 for loss)).

Somers, the 2021 NYS runner-ups, won its 25th-straight game against Section 1 foes, a streak that dates back to the 2020 spring season. The Tuskers advanced to the NYSPHSAA tournament for the third time since 2016 when Somers was crowned state champs. They'll face a familiar opponent Friday (6 pm) in ninth-ranked Section 9 champ Our Lady of Lourdes, which beat No.8 Cornwall, 8-7, to win its first Section 9 title after playing for decades in Section 1.

"We stayed composed, had no worries, even after Rye broke that first big one," said

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Somers senior RB Ravi Davis was all smiles after winning his fourth sectional title as a Tusker (3 football, 1 baseball) since 2020.



Somers Tuskers pose with Section 1 championship hardware for the sixth time since 2012 after hammering Rye, 45-13, Friday at Mahopac.

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Tusker QB Matt Fitzsimons, who completed 5 of passes for 47 yards and two TD strikes to Ravi Dass Jr. and Kennedy. "Our O-line is the best in the section, I say it every day. Every time Savino got the ball, I got excited thinking he was gonna bust it. We just expect to chase him to the end zone to celebrate. We got Lourdes next so we're not going to get ahead of ourselves."

Lourdes was a streaky squad the last 5-10 years in Section 1, but if size matters the Warriors will provide some issues.

"They are very big up front," Coach D said. "They are much improved from last year and the QB is a very good athlete."

CLASS B

State-ranked (No.5) **PLEASANTVILLE** and No.10 **BYRAM HILLS** prepped each other for the rigors of the NYSPHSAA tournament in a game that will only help push this rivalry to the limits. It was, essentially, a broken play that led Coach Tony Becerra's top-seeded Panthers (10-0) to a 27-20 Class B title triumph over the second-seeded Bobcats (9-2) on an absolutely gorgeous Saturday afternoon.

In the Wildcat-formation that Panther fans were clamoring for, Panther Daniel Picart, who rushed the Panthers into scoring position, pitched to his brother, Aiden, who

fired an end-around pass to Owen Money for the game-winning touchdown despite the play not going as practiced.

"I told Daniel back in Pleasantville that he better get a good warm-up and a good stretch in because you're going to get a lot of touches tonight," Coach Becerra said. "I had a feeling based on how they played us last time he was going to have to carry us on his back and he did just that. Fortunately, for us, we have him for another year. The book's not closed on him yet but he's already been the Class B Player of the Year as a sophomore, so the sky's the limit for him."

Pleasantville junior RB/QB/WR/DB – Mr. Everything – Daniel Picart put the Panthers on top, 7-0, early in the first quarter, pushing home the first of his two TD runs off 30 carries for 203 yards. He added a TD catch in yet another MVP performance.

"Honestly, it's kind of what we practice for during the work week," Daniel Picart said

of the insane finish. "We focus on the last quarter, we preach fourth-quarter football, out-conditioning other teams. We know that if it's a stalemate we can count on that fourth quarter, not that we want to count on that as our wild card. We want to come out firing but today we didn't do our best at that, so we ended up out-conditioning them in the end, but they were a great team."

"The Wildcat was amazing today, knowing what our hogs can do up front," Picart added. "They are an amazing group of guys, who put in the most work I've seen guys put in. We work on everything so we're not in Hail-Mary situations. I just try to do whatever my coach needs me to do, whether it's the start of the game or the end of the game."

Byram drove the length of the field on the ensuing drive. On first and goal, a halfback option pass from Luke Weiler to Luca Scali brought the Bobcats to the 8-yard line.

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Somers LB Stefan Swee sticks a Rye RB with support from Nicholas Crecco (L) and Luke Kennedy in Tuskers' Class A title rout of Rye.



Somers head coach Anthony DeMatteo shares some congrats with his dad #TheGOAT, Tony DeMatteo, after Tuskers three-peated as sectional champion Friday.

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Pleasantville star Daniel Picart gets past Colin McManus of Byram Hills as he carries the football during the first half of Saturday's Class B title game won by the still-undefeated Panthers.

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Bobcat RB Gavin Javorsky went backwards to the 10 before QB Jon Accurso found Sean Siegel for a 10-yard scoring strike at 1:32 of the first, the PAT tied it at 7-all.

Daniel Picart then snared a swing pass from his brother, QB Aidan Picart (9 of 12 for 100 yards and the two touchdowns), fired up a stiff arm and scooted in from 23 yards out with 4:11 remaining in the half for a 14-7 lead after the PAT.

WR Luke Weiler struck vertically from

that point, getting ahead for a 47-yard grab to the Panther 34 where Tyler Marescot hauled in a 34-yard TD grab to cap a remarkable three-play drive at 2:49 of the second to tie the score at 14 #GameOn!

While the Bobcats came up short of their goals, there was plenty to be proud of this season.

"I am fiercely proud of our guys and their efforts all season," Byram Coach Simon Berk said. "Pleasantville is a dangerous combination of size, talent and experienced



Pleasantville quarterback Aidan Picart runs with the football in the third quarter of the Class B title game. He later threw the game-winning TD pass as the Panthers defeated Byram Hills.

RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Pleasantville RB Owen Mooney celebrates his 14-yard, game-winning TD with just over 2 minutes to go in Panthers' 27-20 Class B title win over Byram Hills.

coaching."

Accurso hit on 16 of 32 passes for 232 yards, including three TD strikes. Byram WR Sean Siegel was a nightmare mismatch all day, hauling in eight catches for 81 yards. Marescot, who snared a 34-yard TD pass, had 79 yards of offense, including a fake punt that caught P'Ville by surprise and set up Byram's initial score.

"Oh, my God, the game plan they came in with and executed we were kind of shocked," Coach Becerra admitted. "They threw some punches at us. Sometimes when you go to states, the toughest part is getting out of Section 1 and that rang true tonight."

Pleasantville's defense was up to the task, led by Michael Hundzynski, who had two interceptions, including the game-sealing pick in end zone on the final play of the game. Brian McPhee added a clutch fourth-quarter pick.

The Panthers will now prepare for Section 9 champ Port Jervis (ranked No.19 in NYS),

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Brian McPhee of Pleasantville (second from right) is greeted by his teammates after making a big interception in the fourth quarter of Saturday's Class B championship game at Mahopac High School.



P'Ville Coach Tony Becerra celebrates back-to-back Section 1 Class B titles with his sons Saturday at Mahopac after Panthers defeated rival Byram Hills.



Pleasantville assistant coach Terry Singletary celebrates Class B title win with Joseph Reich Saturday at Mahopac.

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which they defeated last year on a last-second field goal in the state quarters, for a 4 p.m. kickoff on Friday at Arlington High School.

CLASS C

Most folks figured state-ranked (No.12) **WESTLAKE** would find a way to give No.3 Dobbs Ferry all it could handle in Saturday's sectional final before the then-defending Section 1 champion Eagles (8-2) would eventually advance to the state tournament for the 12th time since 2001.

But veteran Wildcat Coach John Castellano – among the best in Section 1 history – unleashed junior HB Christopher Kalle, who made mincemeat of the Eagles' vaunted defense in a 46-14 Westlake triumph, its first sectional title since 2015.

Kalle, who transferred in from Kennedy Catholic this season, went for career-highs in touchdowns (3), rushing yards (177) and attempts (17) to ignite a ground game that amassed close to 350 yards and stunned the partisan Dobbs faithful.

"I felt like we knew we were the better team coming into this and we just had to execute our game plan," Kalle admitted. "That's what we did and they weren't able to stop us all game. I gotta give it up to my blockers, that O-line did a great job sealing that edge for me so I could get outside where I saw nothing but green. The last time we won the section was my brother's team in 2015, so this feels great. We wanted this so bad after not having the best year last year. We got more ahead of us, though."

DB Rafeal Savino then grabbed a self-induced Dobbs Ferry fumble and provided the 'Cats with a short field at the Dobbs 37. Kalle then took consecutive rushes and gashed the Eagle defense all the way to the Dobbs 17, forcing a Dobbs timeout at 7:11 of the second. The Wildcats went for it on 4th-and-5 from the 12 where the drive continued on the conversion to the seven. A holding call on second down pushed Westlake back to the 19, but a dinged-up Kalle, undaunted, flushed a counter to the house for an 18-7

lead with 4:12 to go before the half.

The Eagles tried to go up top on the ensuing drive and the Wildcats (8-2) picked them off deep in Westlake territory. Kalle was winning and spinning all the way to the Eagles' 21 with :24 left before the half. Wildcat Nicholas Castellano then snared a 19-yard TD grab from QB Michael Pagan with :08 left in the half for a 25-7 lead when the Wildcats finally converted a PAT and went to the half in total domination.

"I thought they took it to us early, but we've been focused ever since that first game,

that first time we got beat by them," Coach Castellano said. "I gotta tell you, they beat us, but we didn't punt in that game. We had six possessions, three we gave up on turnovers, and I think that changed a little bit today. They turned the ball over, we



Byram Hills quarterback Jon Accurso rolls out to his right looking for an open receiver during Saturday's Class B title game vs. Pleasantville.



Sean Siegel of Byram Hills hauls in the touchdown pass from quarterback Jon Accurso that gave the Bobcats the lead in the fourth quarter of the Class B title game late Saturday afternoon.

didn't. We knew if we played a clean game, we'd be in good shape."

It didn't look that way after Dobbs marched the length of the field for a 7-0 lead while taking up most of the first quarter, capped by a Brian Dann TD. The Wildcats licked those wounds quickly and responded when RB Christian Knapp, on a gimpy ankle, scooted 44 yards for a touchdown just before the end of the first quarter to cut Dobbs' lead to 7-6, and it was FB Justin Occhipiniti who provided a second-quarter spark for the Wildcats, who then took a 12-7 lead at 8:23 when Kalle cashed in on paydirt from 15 yards out.

"I thought the key to the game was, after they punched it in, we responded right away," Castellano said.

"I mean, if we had gone three and out and punted, it might've been a long day. But as soon as we responded, I knew they couldn't stop us. We kind of figured at halftime, we knew the first drive of the third quarter was critical. And we put that in to go up by four scores, and then I said, 'This is not a team that throws the ball. So they're gonna have to pound it.' They're not a come-from-behind team. We aren't either, to be honest with you."

Scoring just before halftime was huge for Westlake, as it added to the notion that it would be tough for Dobbs, a team that rushes the ball more than 90% of the time, to come back.

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Byram Hills senior running back Gavin Javorsky creates some havoc while picking up yardage on the ground for the Bobcats in their near-upset of defending champion Pleasantville in the Class B final.



The Westlake defense throttled Dobbs Ferry after the first drive of the game and helped pave the way to the 46-14 rout of the Eagles in the Class C final.



Christian Occhipinti of Westlake does some high-stepping to break a tackle in the Wildcats' 46-14 demolition of defending champion Dobbs Ferry in Saturday's Class C title game at Mahopac High School.



Tyler Marescot of Byram Hills celebrates in the end zone during Saturday's Class B title game.



Pleasantville's Owen Mooney (left) and Erik Coleman display the newest additions to the school's trophy case after the Panthers defeated Byram Hills 27-20 in the Class B championship game.



Westlake's Nicholas Castellano is about to cross the goal line for his second touchdown in the Wildcats' 46-14 victory over Dobbs Ferry in the Class C championship game.

RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

averaged 34 points a game this year. And in Wing-T, that's pretty damn good. That goes to show you we can spread it out. All the halfbacks can run. The fullback is a tough son of a gun. The quarterback can throw. We've got some talented kids and our offensive line played awesome today. I thought after the first drive, where I thought they owned the trenches, we came back and took over the game in the trenches."

From this point on, Coach Castellano wants his team to address a more aggressive defensive mentality in the state playoffs where the Wildcats will face eighth-ranked Section 9 champion O'Neil Saturday (noon) at Middletown High School.

"This year, for some reason, we've always had a swagger offensively," he said. "But we've had to develop a swagger defensively, which I think we have in the last four or five games. But offensively, from Day One, even against Tuckahoe when we got beat 35-32, listen man, they were young then and they still, offensively, were able to move the ball on a regular basis. And then it's just a matter of building on that. I thought offensively we've always had our chest out a little bit. Defensively is where we needed to catch up and I thought we did that today."

And then some.

CLASS D

HALDANE had a chance to cut a three-TD deficit to two touchdowns with just under eight minutes to go before the half, and Blue Devil junior RB Evan Giachinta did just that with 7:43 left in the second, plowing in from two yards out to make 28-13. That was as close as Haldane would get as state-ranked (No.3) Tuckahoe (9-0) worked a methodical 47-20 triumph in the Section 1 Class D championship game Friday morning.

In need of a big stop on the ensuing kick, Haldane gave Tuckahoe a short field to work with, the Tigers taking over at the Haldane 46. Several big chunk plays from Tiger RB

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"I thought that was a big drive for us," Castellano said. "We went 94 yards in three minutes. We went on a little bit of racehorse. I thought we did a pretty good job. The kids handled it well. Pagan extended the play for us and caught the kid in the corner of the end zone, which was big."

Even bigger was putting up 46 points on a Dobbs Ferry outfit that hasn't hemorrhaged points like they did Saturday since allowing 33 in a Week 2 loss to Tuckahoe.

"I wouldn't have thought that would happen," Castellano admitted. "Offensively, we're pretty good. I knew that, and I thought the key to the game was after they scored we came back in five or six plays and put it in the end zone. That felt like they couldn't stop us there. So all we had to do is shore ourselves up a little bit defensively and then I knew we could move the ball. And the turnovers helped too, obviously. Listen, we

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A scene no Haldane player or coach hopes to see next year in Class D title game against defending champion Tuckahoe.

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Jason Smith (132 yards and three TDs on eight carries) led the Tigers inside the 25, but the Blue Devils held firm when Haldane CB Michael Murry made a diving deflection in the end zone and Giachinta forced a fourth down. Those two great defensive plays were followed by DB Brody Corless stopping the drive when he blew up a bubble screen to turn the Tigers over on downs. It was, in reality, Haldane's best shot at an improbable comeback.

But the Blue Devils went backwards on the ensuing possession and the Tigers took over at the Blue Devil 15 after a long punt return, which led to Jake Matarazzo's second TD catch from seven yards out with 2:54 before the break for a 34-13 lead.

Matarazzo's third TD of the half with 11 seconds left in the second quarter spotted the Tigers a 41-13 lead at the intermission, and the undermanned Blue Devils were doomed as Matarazzo and QB

Michael Annunziata proved an unstoppable connection. Haldane was unable to match the Tigers' scoring proficiency like they did last year in Tuckahoe's 48-40 title win over the Blue Devils.

Giachinta, who rushed for 154 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries, in addition to snaring three passes for 50 yards, to go with an electrifying 85-yard kick return to paydirt, highlights a formidable junior class that Blue Devil Coach Ryan McConville is very high on for the 2023 campaign.

"One of the biggest things we preach is competition and our guys hung in there and kept trying to make plays the entire game," McConville said. "We look forward to watching our guys compete in the winter and spring and hitting the weight room. We believe we have some very talented guys returning and we're excited to see how they grow and develop for next season."

Andy Jacobs contributed to this story



Westlake junior running back Chris Kalle carries the football in Saturday's Class C title game. His three TDs helped the Wildcats roll past Dobbs Ferry 46-14.



Chris Kalle of Westlake (with the football) is joined by teammates Stephen D'Napoli and Christian Occhipinti (32) for an end-zone celebration during the Class C championship game vs. Dobbs Ferry.



Haldane players and coaches took Class D title loss to Tuckahoe hard Friday morning at Mahopac.



Westlake junior quarterback Michael Pagan runs with the football during the second quarter of the Wildcats' 46-14 rout of Dobbs Ferry in Saturday's Class C championship game.



Westlake players celebrate their 46-14 victory over Dobbs Ferry in Saturday afternoon's Class C championship game at Mahopac High School.

Sports

Volleyball Notebook

Hen Hud Snags 11th NYS Regional Title, Lakeland Falls Short



Hen Hud players and coaches celebrate Sailors' 11th NYSPHSAA regional title win since 2000 after 4-set romp of Section 4 champ Maine-Endwell Saturday.



The joy in Sailor-land was evident after Hen Hud won its 11th NYSPHSAA regional title since 2000 Saturday over Section 4 champ Maine-Endwell.



Hen Hud's Ryan Calhoun (6) and Julia Nelson begin to celebrate the Sailors' 4-set regional title win over Section 4 champ Maine-Endwell Saturday.

MATT TURRI PHOTOS



Hen Hud's Vera Montalbano celebrates one of her team-high four blocks in Sailors' 4-set regional title win over Section 4 champ Maine-Endwell Saturday at John Jay CR High.

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Volleyball Notebook



Jubilant Hen Hud players storm court upon taking the NYSPHSAA Class B regional title after 4-game romp of Section 4 champ Maine-Endwell Saturday at John Jay CR High.

By Tony Pinciario

Following set two of its New York State Class B regional volleyball final with Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell, HEN HUD experienced a season-first. Maine-Endwell had dealt Hen Hud its first set loss this season, evening the regional final at 1-1 with a pivotal third set upcoming.

Hen Hud senior Amya Davis and her teammates understood the Section 4 champs raised their level of play in set two.

"Their serving was picking up and this enabled their offense to pick up," said Davis, a four-year varsity player. "We came together between sets two and three. We said that set was over and it was time for us to play better. Set one we came out fired up and they responded in set two so we knew we had to respond."

Hen Hud (21-0 this season) did just that, winning the last two sets to eliminate Maine-Endwell and punch its ticket to its 11th NYS Final Four since 2011, Nov. 19-20, at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls.

The final four teams in Class B will participate in pool play, beginning 3 p.m., Saturday. Each team will play two sets against the other three teams. The two

teams with the best record after pool play will face off for the title, 2 p.m., Sunday.

Even though Hen Hud lost its first set of the season, Davis pointed out that the Sailors had faced deficits during the season, but always rallied to victory.

"This is probably the most composed team I've played with," said Davis, who will attend Shepherd College (W.V.) next fall, majoring in Nursing and continuing with volleyball. "Everyone has become a lot more mature, individually, and that has led to getting themselves through these situations and helping each other get through these situations."

Volleyball players and coaches will always note that when a match is even at 1-1 after two sets, a win in set three is crucial.

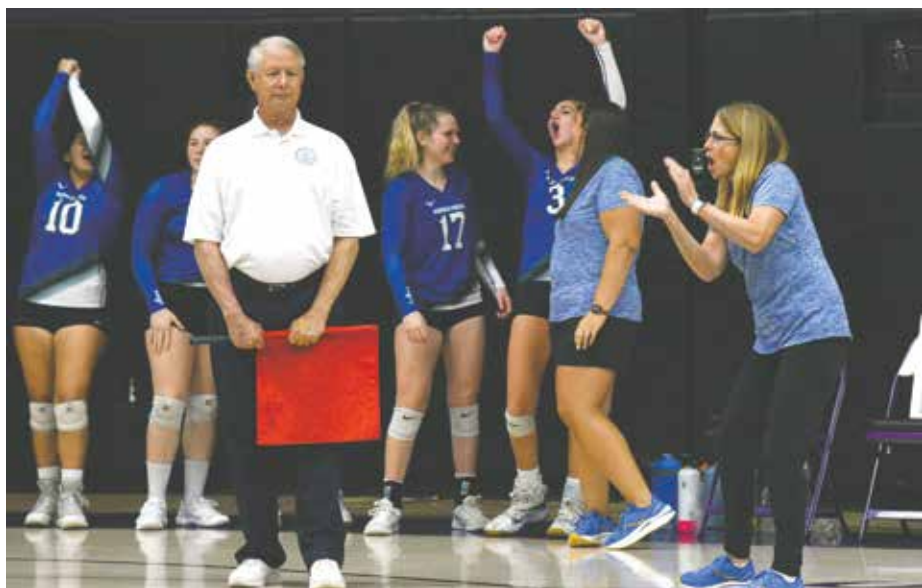
"It was super important to win the third set because if we didn't then we would have been down, 2-1, and that's a whole different level of energy and momentum we would have had to push back against," Davis said. "It was important to be able to do that, especially in the state tournament and the state final four. To know we can handle that and come back is super important."

Along with its composure, Davis pointed

continued on next page



With legendary Coach Diane Swertfager watching, Sailor Amya Davis tallied an astounding 26 kills, 18 digs, three blocks, two aces and two assists.



Legendary Hen Hud volleyball Coach Diane Swertfager celebrates a big point in Sailors' 4-set NYSPHSAA Class B regional title win over Maine-Endwell Saturday at John Jay CR.



Lakeland players come to grips with the fact that the best season in Hornet history has ended in NYS Class A regional title setback to Section 9 champ Cornwall.

Sports

continued from previous page

out another strength of the team that led to the victory.

"The last two sets showed our heart," Davis said. "We didn't let the loss in set two affect us, negatively. Everyone knew we could play better and wanted to play better."

"Coach (Swertfager) said she was proud of our composure and the amount of heart we played with. We all agreed that we were proud of each other in that we were able to pull it together, keep playing and win."

Hen Hud was the state runner-up last year, to John Glenn (Section 11). The veteran, returning group is very familiar with the venue and what needs to be done in order to win a state title.

"It's a big gym with depth perception and noise issues, but we're used to it having been there before," Davis said. "We're used to the pressure of playing in the finals, from last year. No one wants to feel that way again, like we did after the final last year. We're going to keep working so that we don't feel that way."

Davis and her fellow seniors, Camille Gibson, Madison Porter, Vera Montalbano and Adelina Elezaj, will be raising their level of play so that Hen Hud can return home with the championship plaque.

"To be back at the state final four is something we've all wished for and have been working hard for, this year," Davis said. "The team, especially the seniors, is going to give it our all. I'm hoping the third time is the charm."

LAKELAND and 18-time defending Section 9 champion Cornwall were all even through two sets of their New York State Class A regional final.

The Hornets, who had never advanced to this point previously, won the second set and had the momentum, but the Dragons halted that, winning the last two sets and advancing to the state final four.

The Hornets completed their memorable sectional-title season with a 21-4 record.

"Cornwall was very consistent in their serving and attacking," said senior and captain Kayla Jennings. "They went on a lot of scoring runs and limited their mistakes."

Jennings, along with classmates Olivia Berkson, Sarah Cahill, Nikole Langan, Eve Gallagher and Abbey Wuerth, were instrumental in giving Lakeland and veteran Coach Steve Fallo the first sectional volleyball championship in school history.

"For us to be able to go out with a section title is bittersweet," Jennings said. "It was a perfect ending to our career especially because we've all been with the program for 4-6 years. What made this season so special is we got to make history and did a lot of things no one ever expected us to do. This team was so close on the court and, especially off the court which made every moment with them the last two months so much fun."

Fallo, the varsity volleyball coach for 37 years, agrees.

"Any time you win a Section 1 title it's very special," said Fallo, who won consecutive Section 1 girls' basketball titles in the late 80s with Patty Daly, Renae Rutigliano, Janine Giovanazzi and Adrienne Williams. "This team just improved every day and believed they could win it all. Now, they will always be remembered as the team that won Lakeland's first Section 1 volleyball title."

Even though Fallo's six seniors graduate in June, Jennings knows Lakeland will be a sectional contender from this point forward.

"I think the future is very bright for this program," Jennings said. "In my time here we've always been considered 'underdogs,' but now that we've finally broke through, won the title and got to the top, I think this is only the beginning for this team. There were lots of underclassmen this year, who gained tons of experience, so by next year they should be more than ready to lead the way."

Eighth-grader Kelly Mallon (15 kills and 20 digs) and Emma Dedushaj (20 assists), along with Jennings (11 kills and 28 digs), were named all-section. Berkson (8 assists) and Cahill (18 digs) were chosen all-conference and all five girls also received all-league honors.



Talented Lakeland 8th-grader Kelly Mallon nails one of 15 kills in Hornets' NYSPHSAA Class A title loss to Section 9 champ Cornwall.



Lakeland junior Emma Dudushaj enjoys a light moment in Hornets' 4-set, season-ending loss in NYS Class A regionals Saturday at John Jay CR.



Lakeland senior Kayla Jennings had 11 kills and 28 digs in Hornets' 4-set NYS Class A regional title loss to Section 9 champ Cornwall.



Lakeland senior Sarah Cahill bumps one up in Hornets' 4-set NYS Class A regional title loss to Section 9 champ Cornwall.

Sports

DEFENSE 'RAINS' AS 14U BLUE STORM WIN LARCHMONT TOURNEY

The 14U Blue Storm Team (of the Katonah Lewisboro Bedford Softball league) won the Larchmont Fall Tournament Championship over the weekend of November 5th and 6th. The tournament included nine total teams from across the Lower Hudson Valley and Connecticut.

The Blue Storm after pool play on Saturday seeded sixth for the elimination rounds on Sunday. In the first game Sunday the Blue Storm Defeated the Elmsford Fury 5-4 in extra innings, before upending the Connecticut Jags 14U 10-6.

In the championship game, the Blue Storm bested an excellent Empire State Huskies 3-0, giving the Empire State Huskies their only loss of the entire weekend.

The pitching for the Blue Storm, was handled by Evangeline Santos, Natalie Sacco and Maria Degaetano and highlighted on Sunday by Natalie Sacco's six and a third scoreless innings in the championship game, Maria Degaetano's pitching in all three games and getting two saves and Evangeline Santos winning the second game. The hitting was highlighted on Sunday in game one by a Sofia Valente RBI triple and a Clare Doherty 2 RBI double and Game 2 was highlighted

by a bases clearing double by Sienna Grecco. In the championship game, the hitting was highlighted by two hits from Maggie Lawton, rbi's from Evangeline Santos and Sienna Grecco and hits and runs scored by Sophia Cheng and Clare Doherty.

The Blue Storm played great defense all weekend as a team with their best game being in the championship game where twenty of the twenty one outs being made in the field. In addition, Tara McNamee did a great job catching all three games Sunday. Ava Rose Kalarchan played an outstanding center field and Helena Hudson homered on Saturday.

"I know I speak for my assistant coaches [Kirk Santos, Paul DeGaetano and Ross Sacco] in saying that we couldn't be more proud of how the girls competed the entire weekend against a number of very good tournament teams," Head Coach John Doherty said during the trophy ceremony. "For a group of girls from the same rec league to stick together and win a tournament against this level of tournament teams with players from all over is something special. We were all just glad to share it with all of them."



The KLBS 14U Blue Storm celebrate winning the chip.

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Sports

Boys Soccer Notebook

En-Wong, Grossman Lead Haldane to History

State-Ranked (No.4) Blue Devils Upset No.1 Avon, No.3 Maple Hill to Claim 1st NYS Title

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

History is special when you make it, and there's a group of young men at Haldane High who know the feeling after the state-ranked (No.4) Blue Devils (18-2) ratcheted up their game last weekend and snagged the first NYSPHSAA Class C championship in school history last Sunday at Middletown High School where senior Ryan En-Wong's lone goal in the 78th minute provided a 1-0 win over Section 2 champ Maple Hill, ranked No.3 in NYS going in.

Blue Devil M Clem Grossman, who scored the game-winner off his own rebound in Saturday's 1-0 state semifinal win over top-ranked Section 5 champ Avon, set up the En-Wong goal.

"Oh my God, this feels amazing," En-Wong said as he clutched the coveted Section 1 title plaque. "There's no feeling like this. They had like eight guys on the back line the whole game, so I seen the ball get chipped over to me, flick it, the keeper takes me out from my knees obviously, and then history from there, it goes right into the back of the net. We just kept pushing. We've been through adversity all year, every game. We came through and we won like we always do. This means the world to me, no feeling like it."

En-Wong wasn't alone. After beefing up the regular-season schedule to prepare for the rigors of postseason play, the Blue Devils were prepared for this moment.

"I'm on cloud nine, man," Haldane Coach Ahmed Dwidar said. "We made history, it feels amazing! The job is done, our goals for the season complete. There couldn't have been another player as clutch as Ryan has been all year. Clem and Ryan are absolutely the best 1-2 punch I've ever coached. They are Batman and Robin!"

The coach also cited the play of Max Westphal, Matt Silhavy and 21 other Blue Devils and coaches.

"Our job is done, check mate," Dwidar exclaimed!

As it has been all season, Haldane's defense was stout throughout the state tournament, highlighted by the play of senior Will Sniffen and G Ronan Kitar, who stood on his head to stop Avon in the semis. Avon came into the semis 21-0 and had not given up a goal in its last 18 games. The last time the Braves were scored on was in their third game of the season, on Sept. 7.

"We had to do it for Will," Dwidar said. "He is our general on the field, and I kept yelling to my guys, 'Do it for Will!'"

And they willed their way to history in the end.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Haldane senior F Ryan Eng-Wong scored lone goal in Blue Devils' NYSPHSAA Class C title triumph of Maple Hill Sunday at Middletown high School.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the history-making Haldane Blue Devils pose with first boys' soccer NYSPHSAA plaque in school history Sunday at Middletown High School.

Sports

Tennis Notebook

Brewster's Palladino Leads Section 1, Places 3rd-Place in NYS Tourney

By Jessica Medoff

Brewster senior Mia Palladino is a tennis wunderkind. A nationally ranked tennis player, seventh in New York, she finished third most recently at the New York State Tennis Championships, and has been recruited to play for a Division 1 school. She's also tough as nails.

Palladino is perfectly suited for tennis because she likes to be in control. "I definitely like being able to strategize myself, make my own decisions, figure things out on my own." And she happens to come from a tennis family. Like many top players—Andre Agassi, Maria Sharapova—Mia has a father who excelled in the sport, a 4.0 NTRP ranked USTA player. From the time she was little, Palladino's dad has been her coach. The big moment came about two years ago, when she finally beat him.

Palladino's dad taught her how to slice a backhand and ace her serve, but he also taught her about tennis culture and good sportsmanship. His role models became hers.

"My dad told me stories of how Rafael Nadal trained rigorously and always kept his cool on the court. I don't get angry on the court. You see a lot of bad sportsmanship out there. I try to keep calm and collected."

Palladino is also inspired by Danielle Collins, who was a top ranked college player at University of Virginia and is now a top ranked professional player.

When a Brewster athlete or team makes it to States, the community has a special tradition: a Parade of Champions. When Palladino was sent off, the students at Brewster High School lined the halls cheering her on as drummers from the band kept the beat. Bum-ba-bum-ba-bum. Palladino and her teammates, followed by the Brewster Bear mascot, walked around the school—receiving shouts of encouragement and high fives. They all walked over to JFK elementary school where kindergartners, first graders and second graders had made signs "Go Mia!" "Mia You are Our Champion!"

Palladino, who has been a student in

Brewster since the start, remembers when she was in eighth grade and the lacrosse team made it to States. There was a Parade of Champions for the team, "To have the community come together for a parade for me going to States is so cool."

The New York State Championships were held in Schenectady from October 27th-29th. There were 32 players from across the state in the singles draw, and the top three players from each Section competed at States.

As a senior, Palladino was excited and more relaxed than she was last year. Since it was her last run, she just wanted to play her best and have fun. The first two rounds of States weren't tough. But the third round against Nina Wiese of Garden City was a really mentally and physically draining match. Palladino said, "Nina was good. I had to stay focused and calm to make sure I won."

Palladino won, 7-5, 7-6 to advance to the semifinals but by the end, was spent. She only had an hour before the second match of the day—the semifinals. To recharge, she did what she usually does: yoga.

In the semifinals, Palladino and her opponent Victoria Matos split sets, it was so close—there were more than five match points— and it could have gone either way. The match was three hours long.

Palladino said, "I was disappointed to lose, but she is a great player."

Victoria McEnroe of Bronxville won the state singles championship, defeating Victoria Matos of Longwood. Palladino had beaten McEnroe at Sectionals. "I won sectionals, she won states. I'm just really proud of my season and how far I've come."

Palladino was of course helped by her Brewster varsity teammates and her coaches: her dad, her coaches Greg Anderson and Angus Thompson from Armonk Tennis Academy, and her high school tennis coach, Rob McCullum.

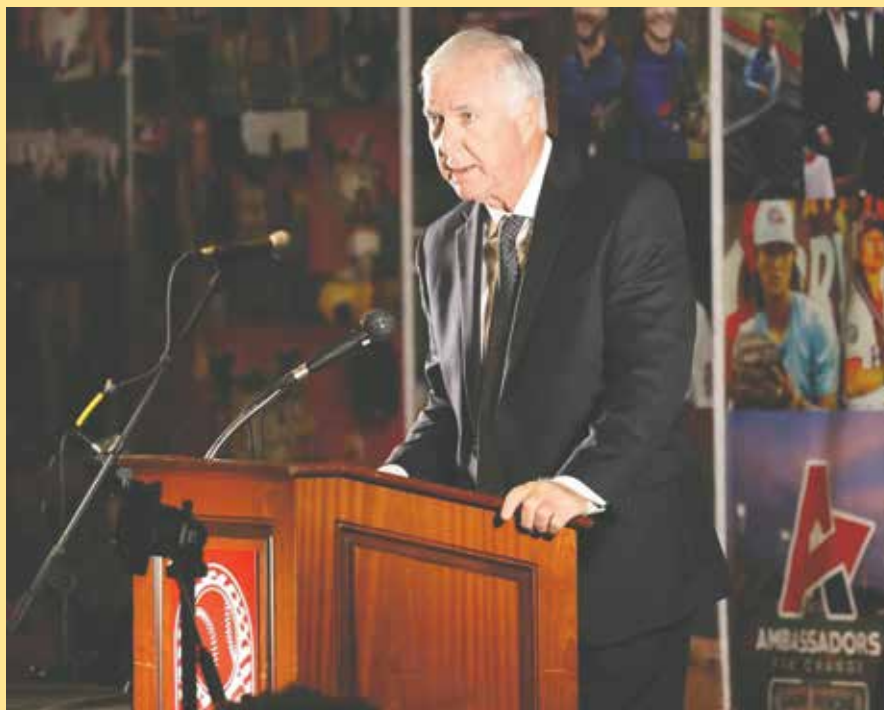
Of her future, "I can't wait to play with other Division 1 players. I am excited that I am going to be with the team every day, practice, condition, travel, and play top D1 schools on the East Coast—just the idea of being on a team with great players and doing it all together is exciting."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Brewster senior Mia Palladino recently finished third in NYS Tennis Championships.

Kennedy's Fletcher Inducted in NYS Baseball Hall of Fame



TWITTER PHOTO

Revered Kennedy Catholic baseball Coach Bob Fletcher's career speaks for itself and it spoke volumes over the weekend when the veteran mentor was inducted into the NYS baseball Hall of Fame after decades of unparalleled success in both Section 1 and the NYS CHSAA.

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RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers FB Burns Rye, Provides Alpha-Aminos in Tuskers' Class A Title Romp; Lourdes Next in NYS Tourney

Somers senior fullback Luke Savino (7) left Rye defenders helplessly peering at his four ambles to paydirt in the state-ranked (No.1) Tuskers' 45-13 Section 1 Class A title romp of Rye last Friday at Mahopac High where #CheatCode Savino hit on 6 of 6 PATs, booted a 24-yard field goal, accounted for 33 points and mugged for the photographer in the back of the end zone as the undefeated Tuskers advanced to Friday's opening round of the NYSPHSAA tournament against Section 9 champion Our Lady of Lourdes at Middletown High School (6:00 p.m.)... see Grid Notebook

A Perfect Storen!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Carmel Weathers Mamaroneck, 31-28, Repeats as Section 1 Class AA Champs

Carmel senior WR Jake Storen went up high to snare this 42-yard grab from QB Matt Gay, which set up a crucial 32-yard field goal by K Jared Navidad just seconds before the half in the state-ranked (No.4) Rams' 31-28 Section 1 Class AA title win over No.16 Mamaroneck, which did everything it could to prevent members of the reigning NYS champion Rams (inset) from posing with their second-straight Section 1 Class AA title plaque Saturday at Mahopac High. Carmel won its 26-straight game and advanced Saturday's opening round of the NYSPHSAA tourney to challenge Section 9 champ Newburgh at Middletown High School (3:00 p.m.)... see Grid Notebook