

Examiner Sports

Leave None Behind!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Sports Brings Out Best in Beacon's 2-0 NYS Class A Regional Title Win over Yorktown

Beacon's Thomas Robinson (16) was quick to teach us all a lesson during a moment of #TrueSportsmanship when he reached out and was quick to pick up Yorktown's Matt Pozo while his visiting Bulldogs celebrated a 2-0 NYSPHSAA Class A boys' soccer regional title win over the devastated Huskers Saturday at Charlie Murphy Field where state-ranked (No.2) Yorktown's undefeated season came to a screeching halt... See Boys Soccer Notebook



Haldane Maxes Out!

Blue Devils Nip Section 11's Pierson, Advance to 1st NYSPHSAA Class C Final 4

Haldane junior M Max Westphal (15) scored both goals in state-ranked (No.5) Blue Devils' 2-0 NYSPHSAA Class C regional title victory over Long Island-based, Section 11 champion Pierson/Bridgehampton (ranked No.9 in NYS) Saturday at Charlie Murphy Field on the campus of Yorktown High. Haldane, which copped its first regional title, advanced to Saturday's 4:45 p.m. state semifinal match against against Section 5 champ Avon at Goshen High School where a berth to the Blue Devils' first state title appearance awaits... see Boys' Soccer Notebook

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Sports

Grid Notebook

Carmel, Somers, Pleasantville, Byram Advance to Section 1 Finals

Mahopac's Koch Scorched Earth, Runs for 6 TDs, 319 yards in Record-Setting Effort



Carmel RB Nick Rosaforte gets escorted across goal line by Terrence Spofford (46) in Rams' Class AA semifinal rout of North Rockland Friday.

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

It was business as usual for the state-ranked powers that be upon the Section 1 grid circuit. No.4 Class AA Carmel – the reigning NYS champion – No.1 Class A Somers – the 2021 NYS runner-up – No.5 Pleasantville – the Class B runner-up – and Class B No.12 Byram Hills all survived and advanced along the road to Mahopac, home of the Section 1 finals this weekend.

CLASS AA

Top-seeded **CARMEL** wasted no time in dispatching North Rockland, 38-0, doing so behind a whirlwind ground game that saw the Rams (9-0) amass 286 yards, the vast majority before halftime. Par for the course, All-NYS RB Nick Rosaforte paced the attack and was wired defensively. The senior captain had nine carries for 79 yards and three scores, giving him 20 TDs on the season.

“And Rosey is also one of the best free safeties I’ve seen in many, many years,”



Carmel RB Thomas Keating breaks off run in Rams' 38-0 Class AA semifinal rout of visiting North Rockland Friday.

Carmel Coach Todd Cayea said of the two-way sensation, who added four tackles on defense.

Ram sophomore Tristan Werlau added two rushing TDs and 117 yards as Carmel won its 25th-straight game and will play a sneaky good, undefeated Mamaroneck club at 6 p.m. Saturday at Mahopac High where the Rams will play for the Class AA title for a third-straight year. RB Thomas Keating added 81 yards on 11 carries.

While advancing, the Rams have humbled playoff foes by a combined 76-0 count. Normally, No.1B Mamaroneck (9-0), which has never advanced to the sectional finals in the state-playoff era (since 1993), would be a

minor bump in the playoff road, but the Rams will see the film this week, which doesn't lie: This isn't an ordinary Mamaroneck team. They can run power, extend the edges and throw deep behind QB Jason Cox. Neither the Rams, nor the Tigers, have faced anybody as good as each other this season. It boils down to a doozy at Mahopac High, which, and in all probability, will not host the 2023 sectional championships in favor of Mt. Vernon #RumorHasIt.

“Mamaroneck is very good,” Coach Cayea said, “but we will be prepared. Our kids are very physical. We will see fast enough. Mamaroneck ain't no joke, agreed.”

CLASS A

No.1A **SOMERS** (9-0) was a well-oiled machine in its 39-6 thrashing of No.2B Harrison in Friday's semifinals. It was the Tuskers' 25th-straight win over Section 1 foes.

“Everyone came to play,” Somers QB Matt Fitzsimons said after hitting on 6-of-6 passes for three long TD strikes and 196 yards. “Once again, our defense did its thing and just gave the O good opportunities. We capitalized off those opportunities and the O-line just dominated up front and helped put the game away by halftime.”

Fitzsimons connected for scores with Ravi Davis (80 yards), Andrew Violante (35 yards) and ‘Big Mac’ Sullivan (63 yards). Dass added 40 rushing yards on three carries while RB Luke Savino rushed for 90 yards on 10 carries, including a key 31-yard, second-quarter score for a 14-0 lead, just prior to Luke Kennedy's pick-six, which spotted the Tuskers a 21-0 lead late in the second quarter.

“We had our best week of practice this week,” said Savino, who added a second TD trot. “It was a great team win and everyone stepped up. The O-line did a great job opening gaps for me. We have unfinished

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Carmel WR Damien Santiago high-points ball and turns up field to set up TD in Rams' 38-0 Class AA semifinal win over North Rockland Friday.





Somers RB Luke Savino picks up block from OL Matt Klee in Tuskers’ Class A semifinal rout of visiting Harrison Friday.

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business and want to get back to the dome.” Somers senior OL/DL George Forbes was an absolute animal, leading the defense with 12 tackles, including three for a loss. Tusker DL Ryan Cole went to town, adding 10 tackles, three for a loss, and four sacks. Cole and Forbes simply blew the state-ranked (No.13) Huskies up after Harrison showed some ability to push the pile in the first quarter.

“We had a great week of practice and prepared hard,” Cole said. “We knew it was going to be a battle, but I think just us being able to come together as a team and have that bend but don’t break mentality helped us come through in the end.”

The Tuskers will need more of the same as they face No.1B Rye, an age-old nemesis, in Friday’s Class A title tilt at Mahopac (6 p.m.) against the state-ranked (No.15) Garnets.

Here are some eye-popping numbers

posted by **MAHOPAC** (5-4) senior RB Joey Koch we’d like to share. The All-Section captain finished his varsity career with six touchdowns and 319 yards (all school record) on 21 carries in the visiting Indians’ 49-39 non-playoff win over **BREWSTER** (4-5). Koch concluded the season with 1,597 rushing yards and 22 TDs on 158 carries (10.1 yards per carry. He added three receiving scores and two more via kick return for a single-season school record 27 touchdowns in all, 43 for his career.

“I always wanted to play for my town and with my friends that I grew up with and if I’m able to be in the record books then that is just icing on the cake,” Koch exclaimed! “It’s also a testament to my guys up front and on the outside. We are a team 100%. Everyone understands their role and goes at it as hard as we can. Individual records reflect team success. If I have the record, then that’s something we can share as a team forever.”

Brewster Coach Ed Mulvihill is just glad



Somers WR Tyler Ostrander (10) gets hyped to celebrate a Luke Savino (7) TD in Tuskers’ 39-7 Class A playoff rout of Harrison Friday.

he won’t have to see him again.

“Offensively we played one of our best games but ran into a buzz saw in the Koch kid,” Mulvihill said. “It was a back and forth game all night with both sides making plays. Koch was phenomenal as was our QB Massimo Parrello but Koch was too much tonight. You think you have a good angle and with his top-rate speed he’s suddenly by you. I was hoping he would get tired from all the long runs and have to come out.”

Parrello rushed 15 times for 100 yards and three TD’s while hitting on 21 of 28 passes

for 302 yards and two TD’s.

“Mas and Koch combined for over 700 yards of offense,” Mulvihill said. “In the end, Mahopac, with the help of a kickoff return for a TD and a red zone interception, were able to secure the victory. Our offensive line was outstanding, pushing the bigger Mahopac line off the ball.”

LAKELAND (5-5) QB Grady Leonard went out on a high note in the Hornets’ 32-21 win over Clarkstown North, connecting on 12-18 passes for 250 yards and four TD

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Carmel DL Owen Boland engulfs North Rockland QB in Rams’ Section 1 Class AA semifinal rout of Raiders Friday.



Somers RB-WR Ravi Davis has been a cheat code for the undefeated Tuskers, scoring an 80-yard TD grab from QB Matt Fitzsimons in rout of Harrison.



Somers LB Luke Kennedy (6) celebrates his game-clinching pick-6 with Jake Polito and George Forbes in Tuskers' Class A semifinal rout of Harrison Friday.

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passes. He added another seven rushes for 104 yards and a score. Hornet WR Anthony Jennings (6 grabs, 104 yards) was on the receiving end of two of those TD passes.

CLASS B

PLEASANTVILLE will face **BYRAM HILLS** in a be-all, end-all Examiner-area battle for all the marbles after the Panthers and Bobcats took care of business in the semis.

The top-seeded defending champion Panthers (9-0) will head into the finals undefeated after a 30-7 trouncing of No.4 Ardsley, thus securing a second-straight trip to the Class B final.

Versatile Panther Daniel Picart rushed for 203 yards and a pair of touchdowns on

23 carries.

"Daniel is right up there with the best players I've ever coached," Pleasantville boss Tony Becerra said.

P'Ville QB Aidan Picart hit Owen Mooney for a touchdown pass and a 27-0 halftime lead. Emmet McDermott spotted the Panthers a 7-0 lead with a pick-6 just 58 seconds into the game.

"We're starting to get to where we want to be," All-NYS WR/QB/DB Daniel Picart said after padding his season-long numbers to 13 rushing scores and 1,378 yards on the ground, "but we can still be much better and no matter who we play we're prepared to play at the highest level. We are starting to play for four quarters and keep this run alive."

Nobody said getting to the finals would be



Pleasantville DB Shane Mueller comes up for one of several solo sticks in Panthers' 30-7 Class B semifinal win over Ardsley.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



DONNA MUELLER PHOTO

Pleasantville players (L-R) Brian McPhee, Owen Mooney, Emmet McDermott and Nick Reich celebrate a huge Reich INT in Panthers' 30-7 Class B semifinal win over Ardsley.

easy and No.2 Byram Hills (8-1) discovered just that in a 14-12 win over No.23 Nanuet Saturday when Colin McManus blocked a punt and returned it for the game-winning score in the third quarter against a Nanuet club that eliminated Byram Hills on a touchdown in the waning second of last year's semis.

"It was a big day for our defense and special teams units," Byram Coach Simon Berk said. "Defensively, linebackers Jack Quinn and Daniel Leff were making plays in crucial situations. James Moran ran hard and racked up yards, but the defense held when it needed to and Leff, Sean Siegel and Scott Miller were all in on the 2-point conversion sack to maintain the lead.

Senior Colin McManus, our starting strong safety, made the play of the game with a blocked punt, recovery and run into the endzone. Luke Weiler was a weapon in the special teams game also, kicking three touchbacks on three kickoffs and flipping the field position in the punt game." Weiler also recovered the onside kick with four minutes remaining.

Byram was later forced to stop Nanuet's two-point PAT with 4:04 left when Scott Miller played the hero with a strip sack. Miller had also blocked a PAT in the second quarter to help his team hold a 7-6 lead. Bobcat RB Gavin Javorsky, returned from a two-week absence (ankle injury) to rush for a team-high 80 yards on 16 carries. Bobcat QB Jon Accurso ran for a touchdown, but the Bobcat defense will need to stiffen against Pleasantville.

"Javorksy was solid in his first game back from injury and helped secure the key first downs to end the game," the coach said. "Jon Accurso made some huge conversions through the air and ground game. Nanuet's defense was impressive from start to finish and James Moran is as talented as they come in Section 1."

Byram allowed Moran to go off for 210 yards and two touchdowns on 37 carries, so one can only imagine the Panthers are salivating at the chance to unleash Picart in the title tilt.

Byram Hills (9-1) will face Pleasantville

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Somers DB Andrew Violante takes a crucial early INT the other way in Tuskers' Class A semifinal rout of Harrison Friday.

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at 3 p.m. Saturday at Mahopac High School. The Bobcats are on the verge of winning their second sectional title in less than two years after being crowned champs in the spring 2021 COVID season. Ten-time sectional champion Pleasantville will be seeking its fifth sectional title since 2013.

CLASS C

WESTLAKE (7-2) rolled into the Class C semis after smashing their way past Blind Brook, 39-13, but VALHALLA wasn't as fortunate in its 45-20 loss to reigning sectional champion and state semifinalists Dobbs Ferry (8-1).

Westlake junior RB Chris Kalle was the horse the Wildcats rode to the finals. His three TDs set the stage for state-ranked (No.20) Wildcats' Class C title tilt with state-ranked (No.6) Dobbs Saturday at high noon for the rights to rep in the state tourney, what would be Westlake's first and only crack since 2015. History is against the Wildcats, as Dobbs has won 15 sectional titles since 2001, including four state titles.

"We started a little slow against Blind Brook in the first quarter but we picked it up as a team and came together to pull out a win and compete for a championship," said Kalle, the son of former Lakeland baseball great Jay Kalle. "We are definitely going to have a great, sharp week of practice, but me and the team have been waiting for this rematch since week four (a loss to Pleasantville), so we are all excited to play for the championship on Saturday."

Hudson River Football Independent League

WALTER PANAS was building its foundation through the independent league in 2022, and build the Panthers did in their 56-28 Independent League championship win over visiting Spring Valley Friday. Panas QB Travis Carlucci capped a remarkable season by rushing for four touchdowns and connecting with Randy Wiesner for another. Bullish Panas RB Paul Ronga plowed in for two more rushing touchdowns and Cooper Schmidt added another for Panas (7-2).



Pleasantville RB Louis Sdao throws stiff arm during strong gain in Panthers' 30-7 semifinal rout of visiting Ardsley Friday.



BILL KENNEDY PHOTO

Mahopac RB Joey Koch had a historic day in Indians' win over Brewster Friday, capping a record-setting season with six TDs and 319 yards.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Westlake junior RB Christopher Kalle found paydirt three times in Wildcats' Class C semifinal win over Blind Brook Saturday.

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Reigning Section 1 champ Pleasantville is poised to defend its title against No.2 Byram Hills this weekend at Mahopac.

Sports

Volleyball Notebook

Lakeland Wins 1st Section 1 Title, Hen Hud Cops 17th

Horace Greeley, Putnam Valley Put up Valiant Fights in Finale Setbacks

By Tony Pinciario

Kayla Jennings and her **LAKELAND** volleyball teammates noticed something was missing while looking at the program banner in the school gymnasium. While the volleyball team has won league titles, a sectional title was absent from the banner.

Following Lakeland's four-set victory over **HORACE GREELEY** in the Section 1 Class A Girls' Volleyball final, the banner will have a new addition – 2022 Section 1 Champions.

The top-seeded Hornets won the first sectional volleyball title in program history under the guidance of veteran Coach Steve Fallo. Lakeland, 20-3 this season, advances to the regional final, Friday (1:45 p.m.), at John Jay-Cross River against the Section 9/Section 4 winner.

The winner of this match earns a berth in the New York State final four, Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 19-20, at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls. Pool play will be Saturday with the title matches, Sunday.

"To be the first team to do it is awesome," said Jennings, a senior and captain, of winning the title. "I don't believe any of us would have believed we would get to this point, but, in the back of our minds we felt if we worked hard we could do it."

Lakeland found itself, in preseason, having to replace its two setters from 2021. No problem as senior Olivia Berkson and junior Emma Dedushaj stepped up to share the setting position.

The duo made a smooth transition and it enabled the Hornets' offense to click. Combined with an excellent defense,

plus the addition of versatile eighth-grade newcomer Kelly Mallon, Lakeland was a complete team #EyesOnMallon (RayG add). Lakeland realized just how good it could be after winning the Yorktown Tournament in mid-September.

"We had a breakthrough when we won the tournament," said Jennings, a five-year varsity starter. "We knew we could only go up. We showed so much heart and determination. We found ourselves in deficits in games because it was only one set to the next 25 points. We never gave up and rallied to win."

Following a 16-3 regular season, Lakeland earned the No. 1 seed and with it, a jolt.

"It was a great source of motivation," Jennings said. "We knew we had to stay humble, but it gave us a lot of confidence to push through and continue the success we had in the regular season."

Lakeland handled Nyack in the first round, then eliminated Eastchester for a second consecutive year. Last year, Lakeland was seeded 11th and beat No.6 Eastchester.

The semifinal match would be with a well-known opponent, district rival Walter Panas, the No.4 seed.

"The rivalry is always fun whether you're on the winning side or losing side," Jennings said. "The atmosphere in the gym was incredible."

Lakeland faced a Horace Greeley team, in the final, that was having an incredible season. The Quakers showed they were not intimidated by the Hornets by taking the first game.

Despite the loss, Lakeland did not panic. A team conversation following the first game put Lakeland back on track.

"We came in sticking to our own game plan and confident with what we have," Jennings said. "We know how much we have and we never give up. After we dropped the first set, we all talked about the mistake we made, but making mistakes is human. We trusted each other and were there to help each other out. We were not going to get mad or give up. After that, we took it to another level. I never felt that great playing with this team."

HEN HUD came into preseason 2022 with a higher sense of determination. The Sailors were coming off a 2021 season in which they played for a state title only to have John Glenn (Section 11) deny them.

"I think, definitely, following last season, everyone came into preseason very hungry," said senior and captain Amya Davis. "We came into the season looking at it that no matter what we would have to deal with, we were going to make the best of it, work as hard as never before to get to this point and keep going."

Davis was referring to winning a sectional title, which Hen Hud did, sweeping Putnam Valley for the Section 1 Class B title. It was Hen



Lakeland players are next-level excited after securing the Hornets' first-ever Section 1 title over Horace Greeley Saturday at Mahopac High.

Hud's 17th sectional championship since 2000 under the tutelage of veteran Coach Diane Swertfager, the best in the Section 1 business.

Hen Hud, 20-0 this season, moves into the regional final, Friday, at John Jay-Cross River. The winner of this match earns a berth in the New York State final four, Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 19-20, at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls. Pool play will be Saturday with the title matches, Sunday.

Not only did Davis see a hungrier team, she also noticed a more mature team.

"Everyone that came in was a lot more mature," Davis said. "We have a young team, but they were a lot more confident in their ability and how to handle themselves."

This was evident when Hen Hud hosted its annual tournament at the beginning of the season.

"We faced a lot of good teams that

day," Davis said. "I saw a lot of good stuff. Everyone saw and felt that we were on the brink of something good."

Hen Hud completed an undefeated regular season (16-0) and earned the top seed.

Following a first-round bye, Hen Hud dispatched Byram Hills (quarters) and Pearl River (semis) before meeting **PUTNAM VALLEY** in the final. The Tigers reached the finals after defeating host **PLEASANTVILLE**, ending what was a fine season for the scrappy, second-seeded Panthers, who gave the Tigers fits in two of their three sets. Luckily, Pleasantville returns junior Lucy Rosengarden, who brought the house down at times with some shattering kills.

Last year, Hen Hud eliminated Putnam Valley in the quarterfinal round. Putnam Valley did not forget this and the Tigers challenged Hen Hud in the first game of the final before the Sailors prevailed, 30-28.

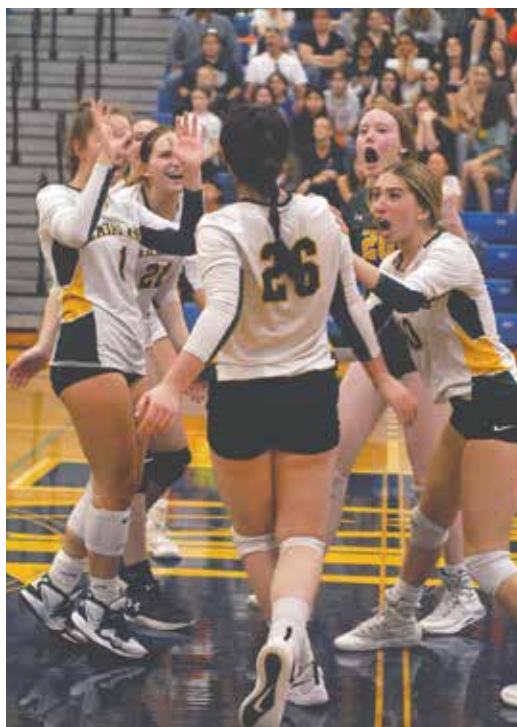
Hen Hud won the next two games to win

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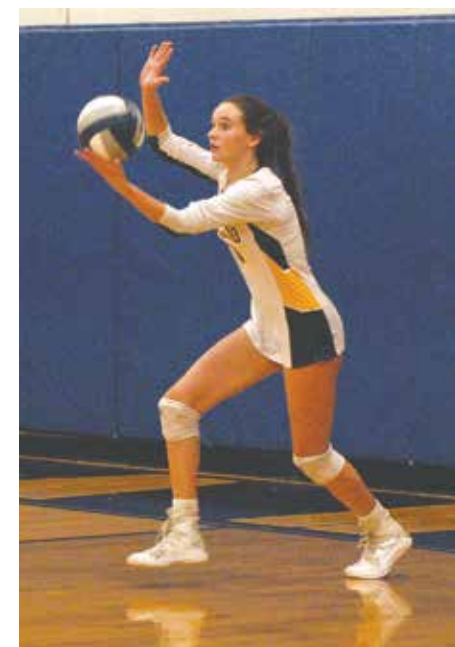


Lakeland captains Emma Dedushaj, Kayla Jennings and Olivia Berkson pose with first Section 1 Class A title plaque in school history after 4-set win over Greeley.

NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Lakeland players celebrate a point in the Hornets' 4-set Section 1 title-clinching win over Horace Greeley Saturday at Mahopac.



Lakeland 8th-grader Kelly Mallon fires up a serve in Hornets' 4-set sectional title win over Horace Greeley Saturday.

Sports

Volleyball Notebook



Hen Hud players celebrate the Sailors' 17th Section 1 title since 2000 after defeating Putnam Valley in straight sets Saturday.

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its third title in four years. The 2020 season (played in spring 2021), Hen Hud had its season cut short by Covid.

"What impressed me was that Putnam Valley was really good compared to last year and they came with so much fire and so much energy and talent, especially in the first set," Davis said. "They pushed us and forced us to get it together. I was so proud of the way everyone was able to come together. It takes a special team to do something like that. We kept our composure. Everyone wants to play well for each other because it's a team sport and we want to win together."

Davis has now experienced three sectional titles. Each one is special in its own way, but nothing compares to winning sectionals senior year.

"My freshman year I was young, inexperienced and a nervous wreck, but we had a big group of seniors to lead us," Davis said. "Last year, I was a junior, but had seniors to rely on. This year, I am one of the seniors that the team was looking to. This being my last one, I wanted to give it my all. I'm very happy, taking it all in and having a good time."

As **HORACE GREELEY** began preparation for the 2022 varsity volleyball season, the Quakers had to make a major adjustment.

"We lost the majority of our team last year so we were unsure how many of the new

players would adapt," said senior and captain Emma Rose. "However, I think once we started playing together in summer league we realized we could have a good season, but none of us expected to make it this far."

What the Quakers did was have an outstanding regular season, earn the third seed in the Section 1 Class A Girls' Volleyball Championship and make a run to the championship match.

Horace Greeley earned the right to play top-seeded Lakeland for the title with a scintillating five-set victory at second-seeded Harrison. Even though Lakeland defeated Greeley in four, it does not take away from the Quakers registering one of the finest seasons in program history.

Greeley got the ball rolling early, and it continued with each win.

"For many of us, our first win against Yorktown started us off on a good note, but our win away at Ossining, beating them in five, was when the team really believed we could win," said Rose, a three-year varsity starter and four-year varsity player. "I think there was a lot of development during the off season, but something different about this team was our ability to have fun and let loose while we were playing. We never took anything too serious and just wanted to play."

After dispatching Gorton and John Jay-Cross River in the first two rounds, Greeley went to Harrison, also a team that had an



Lakeland players hoist the first Section 1 volleyball title plaque in school history Saturday at Mahopac High after taking out Horace Greeley in four sets.

excellent season. The match went five sets with Greeley winning the decisive set, 15-11.

"It was a really emotional match," said Rose, who will attend Rochester Institute of Technology next fall and play basketball. "We were just excited to be there and once we started going on a run we couldn't stop having fun with each other. I think that was some of the best volleyball this team has played and we were one unit on the court."

It was a memorable season for a Greeley team that persevered through a rough couple of years.

"None of us came into this season thinking we would end up where we did, but we are so happy that we made it to the finals," Rose said. "We just kept winning this season and for the first time we were the team to beat. I am beyond proud of everyone on this team and I would have to agree with our coach that this was one of the most fun seasons of volleyball I have ever played. It was amazing to go out with a season like this."

Even though PANAS was one year removed from a state runner-up finish, the Panthers showed why it continues to be one of Section 1's elite volleyball programs.

Panas graduated seven seniors from the

2021 team, many of whom were starters, first-year Coach Caroline Erb noted. The Panthers returned seven players, and with the new varsity players, Panas reached the Section 1 Class A semifinal where it lost to district rival, top-seeded and eventual champion Lakeland.

"I knew we'd have lots of building to do after losing a big class, but I had hopes for another successful season," said Erb, who was the junior varsity coach for three years before moving up to varsity. "My goal as a coach is always for the kids to improve their individual and team skills."

Panas did just this led by the group of seniors, Julia Gallinger, Kimberly Braun and Christine Balbona, and sophomores, Elizabeth Balbona and Jillian Cinquina.

Erb said her team played the toughest teams in the second half of the season. The Panthers' five losses this season came to sectional champions Lakeland (Class A) and Hen Hud (Class B).

"The only teams we lost to were easily two of the best in the entire section, regardless of class," Erb said. "Despite facing serious injuries and illness, I am so proud of the way my girls pushed through. They are so passionate about this sport and also each

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Hen Hud players show their parents and fans the Section 1 Class B title plaque for 17th time since 2000 after beating Put Valley in straight sets Saturday.



Hen Hud captains Amya Davis, Camille Gibson (plaque) and Vera Montalbano hoist the hardware after beating Put Valley for sectional crown in straight sets Saturday.

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other. We at Panas are more than a team, we are a family.”

PUTNAM VALLEY Coach Nicole Scavelli was not bashful when she noted one of her team’s preseason goals.

“Our goal was to make it the furthest Putnam Valley volleyball has ever made it in a sectional run – and make it to the finals, to see Hen Hud again, was always right behind,” Scavelli said. “We felt we put up a good fight last year as an eight seed, so in the back of all my returners’ mind, they wanted to see them again and prove we’re not the same Putnam Valley volleyball from the past.”

The Tigers achieved their coach’s goal as they reached their first-ever Section 1 final where their opponent was defending champion Hen Hud.

Putnam Valley pushed Hen Hud in the first game, with the Sailors winning, 30-28. Hen Hud would take the next two to win its 17 sectional title.

It was quite a season for Putnam Valley, which included a victory over Section 1 Class A champion Lakeland late in the season.

In fact, both Lakeland matches gave Scavelli and her team a deeper insight into how good they could be.

“Prior to our first game against Lakeland, we hadn’t dropped a set,” Scavelli said. “The girls were playing tough, but I always felt there was still more we could give. After losing to Lakeland in four, we realized there were gaps we needed to focus on. Something clicked and I saw a huge shift in productivity and how we were thinking about each game moving forward. We started looking at little game-by-game goals, to help build toward our bigger goal instead of just focusing on the end. That change in mindset really helped us pull through to finish out the season strong with no more losses.”

The victory over Lakeland gave Putnam Valley a confidence boost going into sectionals.

“We saw Lakeland for the second time towards the end of the season, a team that is phenomenal on offense and defense,” Scavelli said. “We knew their only loss, at that point, came from Hen Hud. We knew if we thought we had any shot to make it to the finals, it started with that game. We needed to prove to ourselves we could do it, that we can hang with one of the toughest teams in the section. And we did it.

“After dropping the first two sets, we stopped trying to play catch-up,” she added. “We just started playing our game with the same intensity and drive we had in all our games prior. It was an amazing thing to watch their mental shift in the middle of that match, them working as a team more so than they had all season. That was the drive we needed to sweep past Nanuet and Pleasantville to place us in the finals.”

WHITE PLAINS did not open the season as it would have liked, the Tigers lost to perennial Section 1 elite teams – Hen Hud and North Rockland.

Despite the losses, the Tigers learned from them and went on to have an excellent season, reaching the Section 1 Class AA Championship semifinals. The Tigers accomplished this after losing five impact players to graduation, last June, from an 18-1 team.

“This season, my goal was to win our

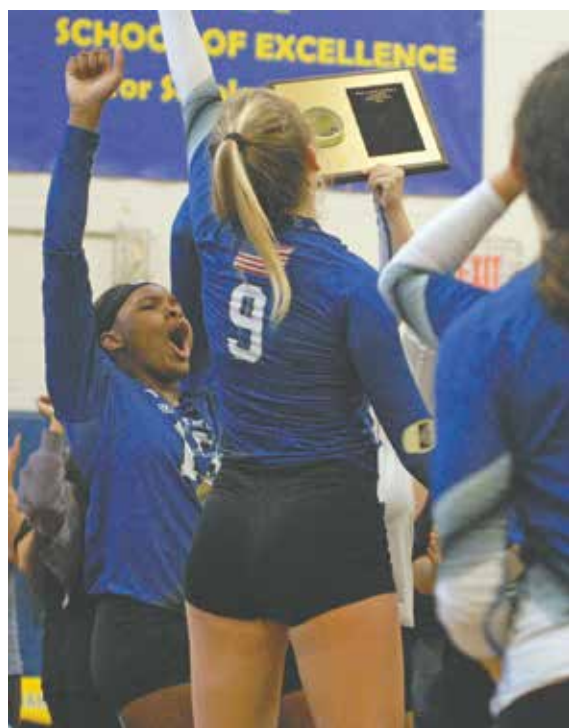


Pleasantville’s Isabella Wish spikes ball in Panthers’ Class B semifinal loss to Putnam Valley.

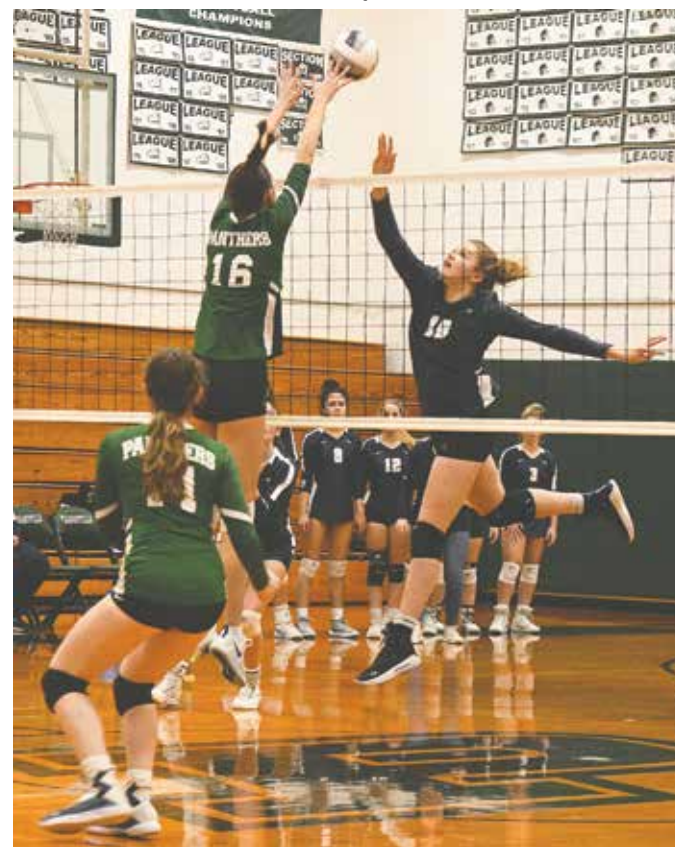
league and to play competitively through sectionals,” said 11-year White Plains’ Coach Caitlin MacDonald.

MacDonald upgraded her 2022 schedule after a shocking quarterfinal loss to North Rockland in the 2021 Section 1 Class AA Championship.

“I felt like we didn’t go out and play the toughest teams in Westchester, so that was my goal for this season, so we would be prepared for sectionals,” MacDonald said. “I



Hen Hud’s Amya Davis (L) led Sailors to Section 1 Class B title with an MVP performance.



DONNA MUELLER PHOTOS

Pleasantville’s Lucy Rosengarden and Putnam Valley’s Izzy Picard meet at net in Panthers’ Class B semifinal loss to visiting Tigers Thursday.

picked up crossover games against North Rockland, Hen

Hud and Harrison to make sure we were challenged during the season. And due to finishing in first place the previous season, I already had all of the other teams that finished in first – Arlington, Mamaroneck and John Jay-East Fishkill.

White Plains concluded the regular season and earned the fifth seed in sectionals. The Tigers beat Carmel and Arlington in five sets in the first two rounds, respectively.

“The one thing that has stayed consistent about this team is their ability to fight back and win four and five-set matches,” MacDonald said. “During the postseason, when we went to a fourth, and then fifth set, I knew that this was a level of pressure the girls were ready for and they handled

it accordingly, winning both matches in five sets.”

Mamaroneck, the top seed, needed five sets to beat White Plains in a sectional semifinal, as the Tigers finished with a 14-7 record.

“I am extremely proud of this team and what we have accomplished,” MacDonald said. “After going undefeated in the regular season last year, we opened this season 0-2 after playing North Rockland and Hen Hud. This was a big eye-opener for us, and we realized we had to start to work harder if we wanted to see different results.

“We then traveled to Hen Hud for their tournament. This was an amazing experience as Diane (Swertfager) brings in the best teams in the state and it was great to share the court with amazing volleyball players. From there we became focused on our mission and growing together as a team.”



Put Valley volleyball players had as much fun as their field hockey sisters had this fall, both reaching the section finals and hoops is on tap.

NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTO

Sports



Justine Maresco hits a serve during the first-doubles match vs. Cold Spring Harbor.

focus on TENNIS



Freshman Daphne Bernstein concentrates on a forehand volley during her match at first doubles in the state's team final vs. Cold Spring Harbor on Friday at the BJK National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows.



Byram Hills head coach Michael Racanelli celebrates with his players Friday afternoon after they defeated Section 2's Ichabod Crane 5-0 in the semifinals and then Section 8's Cold Spring Harbor 4-1 in the finals to win their second successive state championship.



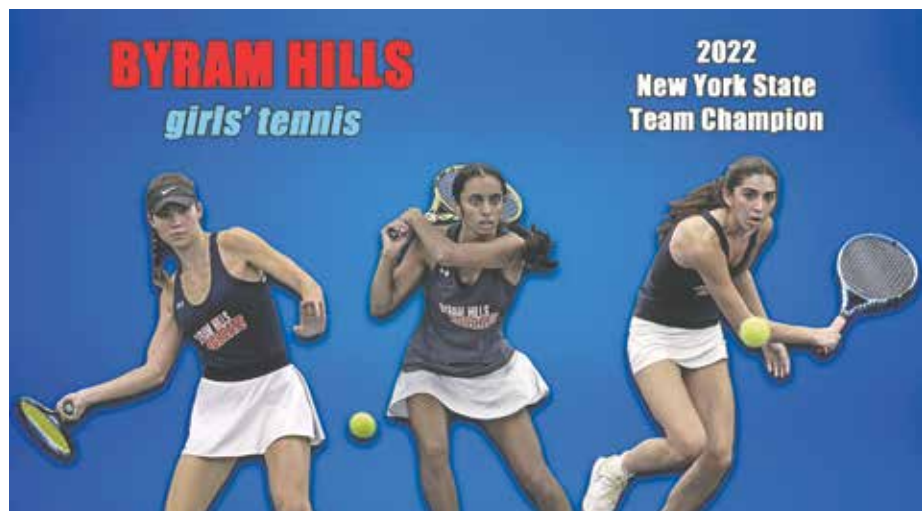
Bobcat sophomore Jordyn Bernstein follows through on a forehand during a 6-0, 6-3 win at second doubles vs. Cold Spring Harbor in the state championship final.



Byram Hills sophomore Jenna Kleynerman slices a backhand return in her 6-4, 7-6 second-singles victory over Cold Spring Harbor's Kati Cotek that helped lift the Bobcats to a 4-1 team triumph in the state final.



The Bobcats' Chloe Bernstein blasts a forehand during her match at first singles vs. Cold Spring Harbor in the state final on Friday afternoon.



Byram Hills singles players, left to right, Jenna Kleynerman, Anika Bobra and Chloe Bernstein in action on Friday afternoon at the National Tennis Center as the Bobcats earned their second consecutive Division 2 state team championship.



Justine Maresco had plenty to smile about moments after she and partner Daphne Bernstein easily won their match at first doubles in straight sets vs. Section 8 champ Cold Spring Harbor.



The Bobcats' Lily Anchin hits a backhand return in her match at second doubles in the state final. She and partner Jordyn Bernstein won 6-0, 6-3 to help Byram Hills repeat as state champion.



Bobcat freshman Anika Bobra had to dig deep to win her match at third singles vs. Cold Spring Harbor. Her hard-fought 7-5, 7-6 win clinched the Division 2 team title for Byram Hills for the second straight year.

Sports

Boys Soccer Notebook

Westphal Nets 2, Makes History for Haldane; Yorktown Ousted

Briarcliff Falls to Lourdes on PKs in NYSPHSAA Opening Round

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS – And then there was one: **HALDANE** is the last Examiner-area soccer team standing after Coach Ahmed Dwidar's state-ranked (No.5) Blue Devils knocked off Section 11 champion Pierson/Bridgehampton, 2-0, in Saturday's NYSPHSAA Class C regional championship at Charlie Murphy Field on the campus of Yorktown High where Haldane advanced to its first NYS Final 4.

"I'm so proud of these guys," Coach Dwidar said. "We set goals right after the sectional final loss to Hamilton last year that we are going to come back strong and put Haldane back on the map and that is what we did."

It wasn't without drama though, as Haldane (16-2) lost its top playmaker Clem Grossman to a pair of yellow cards in the opening round of the state tournament. It wouldn't be easy without Grossman creating in the offensive zone and setting up hotshot Ryan Eng-Wong. The duo have been the most productive pairing in the section this season.

"We prepared the last three days accordingly and went to Plan B," the coach said.

Blue Devil junior Max Westphal orchestrated the plan to perfection, scoring a pair of second half goals to lift the Blue Devils.

"I call Max the workhorse of this team, he's 110% in on everything we do," Coach Dwidar said.

Grossman is returning for the state semis where the Blue Devils will challenge Section 5's top-ranked Avon Saturday (4:45



Haldane freshman Ty Villella burns two Pierson defenders to push tempo in Blue Devils' 2-0 NYS Class C regional title win.



Haldane's Max Westphal scored both goals in Blue Devils' NYSPHSAA Class C regional title win Saturday at Yorktown.

CLASS A

YORKTOWN made three crucial mistakes, which cost the Huskers, ranked No.2 in NYS, dearly in a 2-0 loss to visiting Section 9 champion Beacon, which took some of the steam out of the Yorktown faithful at Charlie Murphy Field with a goal by Jack Philipbar within a minute into the match. That early breakdown was the first crucial mistake.

"We got really surprised and punched in the nose pretty early," Yorktown Coach Zoran Milojevic said. "We chased. We continued to play, we tried to adjust every way possible we could and we just didn't put it in. And then we missed the penalty (kick) and the story ended."

The story almost turned in Yorktown's favor when the Huskers were awarded

continued on next page



Like he has all season, Haldane senior F Ryan Eng-Wong dictates play in Blue Devils' 2-0 NYS Class C regional title win over Section 11's Pierson Saturday.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Briarcliff junior forward Emilio Abud-Chalita (7) and Bears were held scoreless in NYS Class B regional loss to Lourdes, who won 4-2 on PKs last Tuesday at Hen Hud.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO



Haldane senior D Will Sniffen has anchored one of the stingiest defensive units in NYS Class C this season.

continued from previous page

the aforementioned penalty kick midway through the second half, but Beacon keeper Matt Sandison (8 saves) thwarted the attempt. The miss was Yorktown’s second crucial flaw.

Beacon’s back line was big, burly and quick to the ball, limiting Yorktown’s explosive offense while advancing further than any team in Bulldog history.

“That’s a very good back line, very strong” Milojevic said. “It would have been all different if it was a zero-zero game at the half, rather than one-zero.”

And when it was 1-0 late in the second half, Beacon was then credited with an own-

goal after the Huskers botched a clearing attempt in the box. Mistake No.3 was the final nail in the coffin.

“That was it,” Milojevic said. “We had momentum going on. At the end of the day, do I wish we got to the state final and won our last game, yes, that was my goal. We got two games further than last year, but we’ll go back to the drawing board and get back to work.”

With 16 Yorktown seniors graduating, the coach had best bring a bunch of chalk and some fresh erasers after a record-setting season that wrapped up with a 20-1 record.

Beacon plays the Section 3 champion Christian Brothers Academy in the



Haldane sophomore Matthew Silhavy drills shot on goal in Blue Devils’ 2-0 NYS Class C regional win over Section 11 champ Pierson Saturday at Yorktown.

NYSPPHSA semifinal at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Monroe-Woodbury High School.

CLASS B

BRIARCLIFF (18-0-2) had its magical run to the state tournament end in gut-wrenching fashion at the hands of Section 9 champion, Our Lady of Lourdes, who, after 110 scoreless minutes, settled for the draw before winning on penalty kicks, 4-2, last Tuesday at Hendrick Hudson High.

The state-ranked (No.1) Bears could not solve the (No.9) Warriors stingy defense, despite applying constant pressure on Lourdes keeper Ned Van Loan, who made eight saves in the second half alone and was brilliant in the PK session. Toby Young made three saves in regulation for Briarcliff.

“The season was amazing,” Briarcliff Coach Brandon Beck said. “It’s unfortunate to go out on a penalty-kick shootout after

outshooting our opponent 11-3. However, the boys left every ounce of their energy on that field. They had to play the entire season with a huge target on their backs and they delivered in every match. The sectional finals victory in overtime was an amazing moment for our program. I am so grateful to have been able to go through the gauntlet of Section 1 Class B soccer and to end our season unbeaten at 18-0-2.

“These are incredible young men led by five seniors who embodied everything that it means to play with class, discipline, and commitment,” he added. “The future is bright and we are so proud of this memorable season and we’re already looking forward to next season.”

Side Note: losing on PKs is brutal for any team, but it’s an incredibly tough spot for goalies to be put in. Wish the state and sections would consider some form of 7v7 before going to PKs in the future.



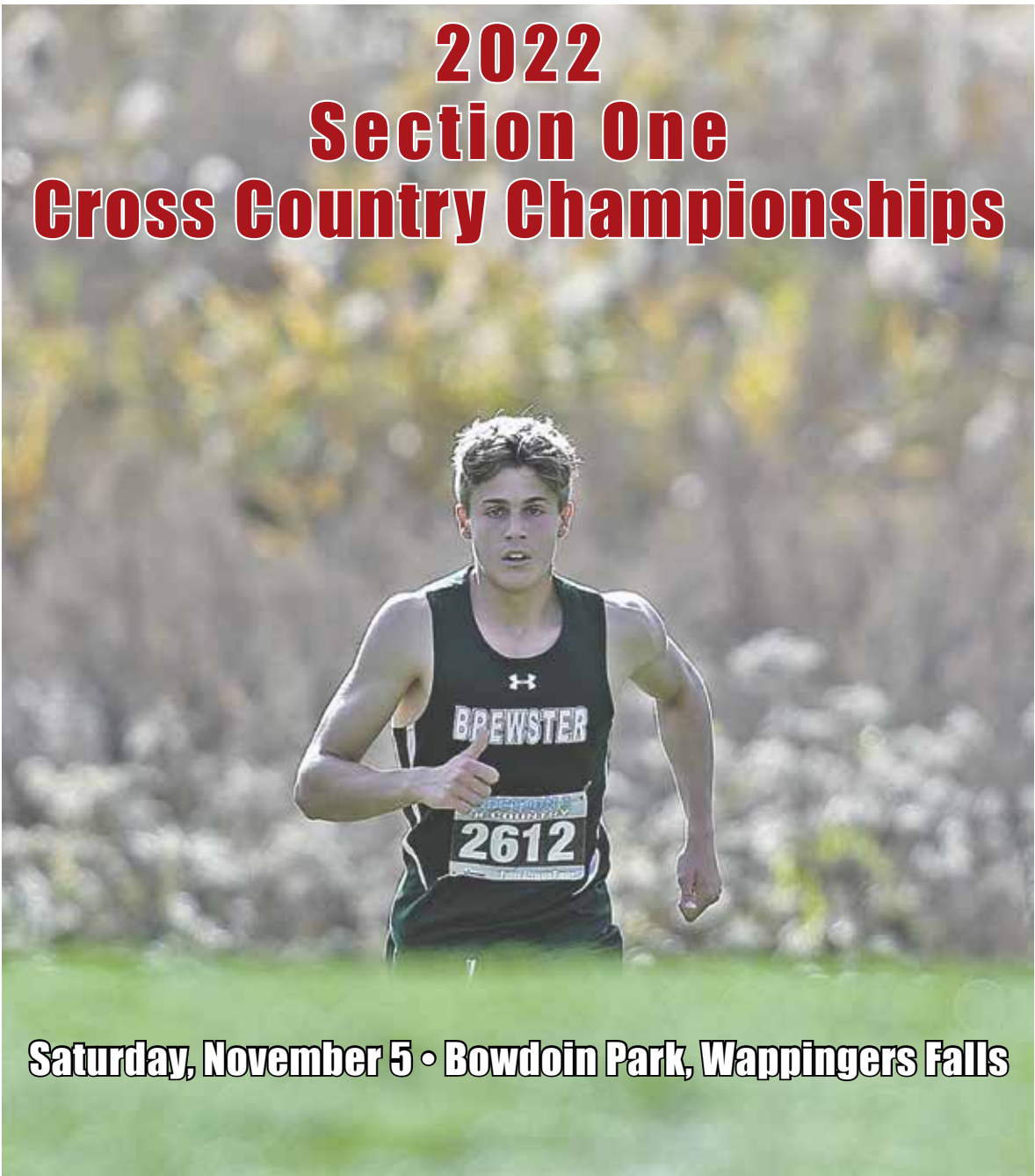
Yorktown senior Adrian Pjetri heads one on goal in Huskers’ 2-0 NYS Class A regional final loss to Beacon Saturday.



Yorktown senior captain Chris Coppola eyes up one of many fruitless attempts in Huskers’ 2-0 NYS Class A regional loss to Beacon Saturday.



Yorktown captain Lucas Buono (8) and Huskers took the 2-0 NYS regional title loss to Beacon hard Saturday.



Brewster senior Patrick Ford has a comfortable lead as he runs to a first-place finish in the Class B race with a time of 17:07.0.



Pleasantville freshman Elizabeth Dean has plenty of company during the Class C race at Bowdoin Park.



Tristan Rutman of Briarcliff leads the pack down the steep hill at Bowdoin Park on Saturday.



Haldane sophomore Oliver Petkus (left) and freshman James Frommer finished 11th and ninth, respectively, in Class D.



Fox Lane senior Morgan Eigel had the lead most of the way in Class A's race, but had to settle for second place.



Briarcliff sophomore Rishab Rao finished the Class C race in 19:49.7.



Gabriella Borello of Westlake runs to a 30th-place finish in Class C's field of 76 runners.



Horace Greeley sophomore Michael Wang, 47th in Class A, reaches the two-mile mark at Saturday's sectional championships.



Jadynn Person of White Plains (center) and Kaitlin Fox of Yorktown ascend the challenging hill in the Class A race.



Briarcliff's Michael Cherubini (left) and Irvington's Indy Minkoff start down the hill just past the two-mile mark in the Class C race.



Roderick Cassidy of Brewster runs in a pack during Saturday's Class B race.



Carmel junior Maggie Faloon reaches the two-mile mark in the Class A race.



Pleasantville junior Genevieve Agati finished among the top third of runners in the Class C race on Saturday.



Westlake freshman Kiera Borello reaches the top of the hill during the Class C race.



Liam Ford, a Brewster sophomore, wound up in 12th place in Class B with a time of 18:32.2.



Sophie Ginsberg of White Plains took first place in Class A with a time of 19:49.5, 18 seconds faster than her nearest competitor.



Jake Santos of Byram Hills was 37th in a Class B field of 143 runners.



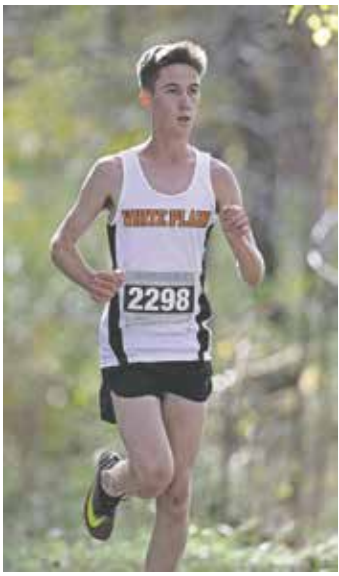
Pleasantville senior Clara Shingler finished in third place, helping the Panthers take the Class C team title.



Valhalla senior Aiza Shikapwashya finished the Bowdoin course in 18:30.8, which was good for 14th place in Class C.



Briarcliff senior Devin Franks was 14th among 74 finishers in Class C.



White Plains senior Ronan Staab took 10th place in Class A with a time of 17:33.3.



Putnam Valley's Gabriella Randazzo was eighth in Class C with a time of 21:59.3.



Greeley senior Mason Barlow paced the Quakers by finishing 12th in Class A's field of 150 runners.



Haldane's Helen Nicholls runs to a third-place finish in the Class D race.

2022 Section One Cross Country Championships



Pleasantville senior Alex Searle took second in the Class C race, finishing in 17:23.3.



Mahopac's Bergerson Brett is on her way to 21st place among 108 runners in Class A.



Willie Cuono of Fox Lane runs to a fourth-place finish in a Class A field of 108 runners and qualifies for the state meet.



Pleasantville eighth-grader Catherine O'Brien was seventh in Class C and earned a trip to the state meet with her Panther teammates.



Christian Wissa (left), who finished in fourth place, and Aiden Meza of Somers run side by side early in the Class B race at Bowdoin Park.



Bobby Mayclim of Lakeland/Panas (center) and Noah Bender of Fox Lane reach the top of the steep hill a mile into Saturday's Class A sectional championship.

Sports

Yorktown Patriots Growing at All Levels

If you have been to the Granite Knolls Sports Complex on a Friday night in the past year, you may have passed a local baseball team, the Yorktown Patriots, playing on their home field. The Patriots, in their American flag socks and striking white and black uniforms, can be seen playing baseball in the snow, rain, and extremely cold temperatures, all while flaunting huge smiles and thunderous cheers. Under the lights, “Eye of the Tiger” or “Thunderstruck” blaring in the background, these boys have become a local baseball force. Recently crowned the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League Fall Season 11U Division 3 Championship Team, the origins story of this underdog team is what makes their accomplishments even more impressive.

The Yorktown Patriots are a local youth baseball team sponsored by the Yorktown Athletic Club. At the beginning of 2022, a group of Yorktown 4th and 5th grade boys found themselves without a team to play competitive, travel baseball. A few kids had experience playing travel baseball, but many of the boys did not. The boys and their families had the motivation to field a team, but what they didn't have was a coach. Nicole Fasce, commissioner of the YAC softball program and parent of Patriots player Nick Fasce, asked John Campobasso, President of Yorktown Athletic Club, to consider coaching. John, who does not have a child on the team, stepped in as volunteer head coach to ensure these kids got the opportunity to play. Parent coaches Pete Hobson, Nick Fasce, and Joe Scuito stepped up to assist John.

In the Spring, expectations were minimal for coaches, players, and parents, with objectives being just to get experience playing together. The Patriots play in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League in Division 3, which often comprises upwards of 30-40 teams from the Greater Hudson Valley and Connecticut. It only took a few games to recognize the raw talent, drive, and competitive spirit the Patriots possessed. The Patriots had an impressive first season

showing, with a regular season record of 12-4, and one playoff win.

After the spring season, Campobasso told the kids and their parents “this team is going to win a championship.” During the competitive summer baseball season, the Patriots went 13-5-1 securing the #3 seed for the division playoff bracket. Their first two rounds they handily knocked off two Connecticut teams they had previously lost to, including the New Milford Green Wave who knocked the Patriots out in the Spring. In the semi-final game they defeated the Hudson Valley Hawks, the best team from Orange County, sending them to their first division championship game. The Patriots lost a heartbreaking 2-1 battle to Bethel, CT in the championship game.

The loss only motivated the Patriot players, coaches, fans, and parents. In their biggest regular season showing yet, the Patriots finished 13-2, securing the 1st place seed out of 30 teams. After a string of impressive wins during the playoffs against the Hyde Park Cyclones, Ridgefield Travel, and the Lagrange Lumberjacks, the Patriots returned to the Championship game. The Patriots beat the Hudson Valley Hawks 5-1 in the battle between the #1 and #2 seeded teams. Coach Pete Hobson shared, “Every kid was an important part of the puzzle during the championship game, and every player contributed to the win. It is amazing what the kids have accomplished in such a short time. They started as a group of kids with limited baseball experience and grew into the #1 seed and Fall champions.”

If you follow the Patriots on social media, you may have also seen the hashtag #CFL. The “Campo For Life” hashtag came out of appreciation for Campobasso, and the assistant coaches, dedicating so much time, energy and devotion to the Patriots. It also symbolizes the evolution of these underdog kids. As Nicole Scuito, mom of pitcher Joey Scuito, puts it, “Campobasso and his coaching staff have not only developed the Patriots as individual players, but they excel at developing them as a team. Their sense of teamwork and camaraderie is unmatched.”



Team Photo (left to right): Coaches: John Campobasso, Nick Fasce, Joe Scuito, Pete Hobson
Players: Nick Fasce, Andrew Baddeley, Jake Nelson, Colby Baer, Nick Hobson, Dominick Elias, Alex Pidgeon, Scott Brooks, John Fleming, Dexter Soto, Joey Scuito, Cal Vogel (not pictured)

With that camaraderie has come, as Loretta Elias shares, “the development of not just a team, but a family. The coaches have cultivated a fun, competitive culture where everyone can thrive. “Reflecting on the season, John Campobasso shared, “these boys have believed and fought and clawed their way to an impressive first year together.

They have played every game right until the last out. They believe in each other from top to bottom. This year has been a character builder and it has been fun and exciting to be a part of. They have been impressive, and the team just keeps getting better and better. I am so very proud of every one of them. Hopefully this is just the beginning.”

CONGRATULATIONS

to our local athletes on a great Fall Season!

WISHING GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TEAM'S CHAMPIONSHIP JOURNEY!



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Mahopac-ing a Punch at West Point 10U Indians Rolls Somers, 14-0



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the Mahopac Sports Association 10U football team, including players, coaches and current varsity players, celebrate their 14-0 Taconic Youth Football League title win over Somers at West Point Sunday.

Can You Dig It!

Sailors Push On!

Hen Hud Wins 17th Section 1 Title Since 2000



NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTOS



With Coach Diane Swertfager -- Section 1's all-time winningest coach -- owning up to her bet of 17 push-ups, members of the Hendrick Hudson volleyball team can't contain their glee after knocking off vastly improved Putnam Valley in three sets to secure the Sailors' 17th Section 1 Class B title since 2000 Saturday at Mahopac High School... see Volleyball Notebook



Lakeland Spikes Greeley, Wins 1st Section 1 Title

Members of the Lakeland volleyball team pose with the first Section 1 Class A volleyball title in school history after the top-seeded Hornets needed four sets to defeat No.3 Horace Greeley Saturday at Mahopac High... see Volleyball Notebook

NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTO