

Examiner Sports

Raguso Saucy in Sailors' Tourney Title Win



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Hen Hud Sophomore Tabbed MVP, Pours it on Briarcliff

Hen Hud super soph Kaitlyn Raguso had plenty to smile about (inset) Saturday night after scoring 31 points and earning MVP honors in the Sailors' 51-41 win over Briarcliff in the finals of the Bears' annual Booster Club Tournament where she relentlessly pushed the ball up court on Briarcliff's Cat Carrafiello (left) and Nico Vargish and dominated the game... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Examiner Readers Pick Picart, Pagliaroli as Club Fit Athletes of the Season

Pleasantville football wide receiver/running back/defensive back Daniel Picart and Lakeland field hockey goalie Celeste Pagliaroli were picked by Examiner readers as Club Fit Athletes of the Season, after a reader poll generated

44,180 responses in less than a week. As Athlete of the Season picks, Picart and Pagliaroli both win family memberships to Club Fit. Initially, the reader poll was created as an “advisory committee,” to help Examiner Sports

Horace Greeley soccer forward Ramsey Edson, Hendrick Hudson volleyball outside hitter Amya Davis, and Hendrick Hudson soccer defensive mid-fielder Lena Johnsen were the other female nominees. The other male

community active and moving,” Club Fit Marketing Director Matt Lowy said. “Club Fit is honored to be able to partner with The Examiner to recognize and award these hard-working and dedicated athletes.”



Daniel Picart



Editor Ray Gallagher, in consultation with Publisher Adam Stone, make a final determination in a close race amongst a stellar group of finalists nominated by Gallagher. But after the overwhelming public participation in the reader poll, a determination was made to make the public poll binding.

nominees were Haldane soccer forward Ryan En-Wong, Somers football quarterback Matt Fitzsimons, and Carmel football free safety/running back Nick Rosaforte. Winter season winners will be announced by April while spring winners will be unveiled in June. “It’s our priority to help keep the



Celeste Pagliaroli

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A large graphic banner for the "Athlete of the Season" award. It features a collage of four images: a basketball player in mid-air, a gymnast performing a backflip, a swimmer in a pool, and a weightlifter with a barbell. The text "CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ATHLETE OF THE SEASON" is prominently displayed in the center, with "ATHLETE" and "SEASON" in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the main text, it says "sponsored by club fit®" with the Club Fit logo, and at the bottom, the website "www.clubfit.com" and phone number "914-250-2750" are listed.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

Hen Hud MVP Raguso Propels Sailors to Briarcliff Tourney Title

DeChent Breaking Records Regularly at Put Valley

By Tony Pinciario

When a team has that one player who can take over a game, offensively, you keep feeding her.

HEN HUD possesses this lethal offensive force/impact player in sophomore Kaitlyn Raguso, who scored 94 points in three more Hen Hud victories last week as the Sailors improved to 5-0 this season.

The sophomore forward netted 29 points and added seven rebounds and six steals in a 64-41 win over Nyack to open the week. Raguso also poured in 34 points, including a game-winning three-pointer in the final seconds, propelling Hen Hud to a 48-46 overtime win over Somers in a

Briarcliff Tournament first-round game. She followed that with 31 points, 15 rebounds and six steals in a 51-41 title-game win over Briarcliff. #RagusoIsLegit.

“Kaitlyn has made the next step from a freshman on our squad last year to a sophomore who can take over a game,” Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said. “The Briarcliff game was impressive because Coach Hamlin put sort of a box-and-one on Kaitlyn and she still produced 31 points. It took our team a half to figure out what would work. We also did a good job defensively in the championship game.”

Through five games, Raguso is averaging 27.6 points a game and 10.2 rebounds per game.



Hen Hud super soph Kaitlyn Raguso drives lane for two of her 31 points while earning MVP honors in the Sailors' win over Briarcliff in the finals of the Bears' annual Booster Club Tournament Saturday.



Hen Hud's Kate Stratton brings ball up court in Sailors' tourney title win over host Briarcliff Saturday.

While Raguso excelled offensively, Sherman came away from the Briarcliff tournament also impressed with other players and facets of the game.

“In both games our defensive intensity was a key to victory as was the play of our forwards, Maddy Porter and Hailey Pearson,” Sherman said. “They did a great job on the boards to give us extra possessions.”

Sherman also has liked the energy and effort his team has displayed through five games along with his team's unselfishness.

“I know this sounds funny with Kaitlyn taking over games, but we are a very unselfish team,” Sherman said. “Nobody cares who is scoring as long as we get a W.”

In the Somers' game, Porter grabbed 14 rebounds and Pearson added nine rebounds. Porter collected eight rebounds against Briarcliff. Porter, who had 15 rebounds against Nyack, currently leads the team, averaging 11.4 rebounds per game.

PUTNAM VALLEY improved to 3-0 after beating two major Class B rivals – Irvington (68-34) and Hastings (76-47). PV super senior Eva DeChent, who is on pace to set every scoring record at PV and #Perhaps Section 1 Class B, scored 34 points and Nai Torres added 16 points against Irvington.

DeChent, the 2021 NYS Class B Player of the Year, poured in a game-high 40 points and also added six assists and a career-best 13 steals against Irvington. Torres finished with 18 points and four thefts and Jona Kabashi added nine points and eight rebounds. Additionally, DeChent bested her own school record by dropping 52 points in a win over Yonkers, just days after going for 40 points, seven assists and eight steals in a 76-47 win over Hastings. Torres added 18 points and four steals while Jona Kabashi introduced herself with nine points and eight rebounds.

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FOX LANE was impressive in its season-opener as the Foxes defeated Ramapo, 50-30. Maddie Broghammer had a team-leading 14 points. She also added five rebounds, four assists and four steals. Freshman Morgan Clinton had nine points and 10 rebounds and fellow freshman Riley New finished with eight points, eight rebounds, six assists and six steals.

After opening the season with two losses, including one to Dobbs Ferry in a tournament, **VALHALLA** reversed the final outcome in a rematch with the Eagles. Tvisha Sivaramakrishnan scored a team-best 19 points in a 49-39 victory, the Vikings' first of the season.

Valhalla coach Dave Berry was proud of the way his team handled the necessary adjustments against Dobbs Ferry.

"We went to a pack-line defense and cut back on our turnovers," Berry said. "The girls are hard-working, coachable and dedicated to one another. This leads to strong communication and allows them to implement new concepts in a short amount of time."

Cydney Waterman and Paige Williams added seven points

apiece. Bronxville beat Valhalla, 50-35, to close out the week.

CARMEL won its first two games of the season for new Coach John Sullivan. The Rams opened 2022-23 with a 54-37 victory over Lincoln and followed it up with a strong second half, rallying to a 37-32 triumph over East Ramapo.

Carmel trailed 20-6 at the half and 26-19 after three.

"Defensive intensity and rebounding were the keys to the turnaround," said Sullivan of the East Ramapo game. "Clutch free throws from seniors Maeve McGlynn and Sadie Zion in the final minute closed it for us."

Megan Whitford and Devin Fusco each scored nine points against East Ramapo.

McGlynn finished with 14 points against Lincoln, highlighting three Rams in double figures as Fusco added 13 points and Zion had 10 points. McGlynn also registered six steals and Fusco collected 11 rebounds.

WESTLAKE won both of its games last week -- 54-38 over Tuckahoe and 52-31 over Croton.

Allie Castellone finished with a team-high 14 points and Ann Mastracchio added 11 points against Tuckahoe. The pair combined for eight steals. Riley

Giaccone finished with nine points and 10 rebounds.

Giaccone was Westlake's leading scorer, with 12 points, against Croton. Sami Oswald and Brooke Pfeiffer each scored nine points.

LAKELAND received a game-high 24 points from Nichole Ljuljic and 11 points from Ava Lugo in a 50-45 victory over Nanuet.

"Nanuet is a physical and tough team," Lakeland Coach Miranda Mangan said. "It was a good win on the road for us. Our next four games are away so we are hoping to keep the same intensity and focus."

The Hornets (3-0) were scheduled to play Yonkers, but Mangan said it was canceled at the last minute.

PANAS opened its season with an overwhelming win over Edgemont as Cadence Nicholas led the Panthers with 20 points. She also added six assists and seven steals. The Panthers had balanced scoring with Katie Hofmann adding 10 points and five steals and Sofia Tavaréz had nine points and eight steals. Julia Gallinger finished with eight points and nine rebounds and Jillian Cinquina also had eight points along with six rebounds and six assists.

BREWSTER won its third consecutive game to open the season -- 55-44 over Clarkstown North -- but then Harrison dealt the Bears their first loss.

"We started off playing great

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Girls Hoops Notebook



Hen Hud senior forward Madison Porter heads to the hoop in the Sailors' 51-41 win over Briarcliff during Saturday's tournament final hosted by the Bears.



Hailey Pearson of Hen Hud drives to the basket during the first half of Saturday evening's title game in the Briarcliff Booster Club Tournament.



Briarcliff senior Cat Carrafiello splits a pair of Hen Hud defenders as she drives to the hoop in the girls' title game of Saturday's Booster Club Tournament. She scored a team-high 18 points, but the Bears fell 51-41.



Caroline Barbalato of Briarcliff heads to the basket in the second half of Saturday evening's championship game of the Bears' annual Booster Club Basketball Tournament.

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defense and jumped out to an early 10-point lead, but Clarkstown North never backed down," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "They attack the glass very well on both ends and play aggressive defense.

It was nice to win our home-opener and get balanced scoring from three different players. Madison (Dakin) played great on both ends and hit big shots when we needed it."

Dakin had 21 points and 11 rebounds



TWITTER PHOTO

Members of the Hen Hud girls' hoops team pose with championship hardware after winning the Briarcliff tournament Saturday.



Briarcliff sophomore guard Ava Makaron goes up for two in the first quarter of Saturday's Booster Club Tournament title game vs. visiting Hendrick Hudson.

against Clarkstown North. Olivia Francis added 13 points and Jordan Niles chipped in 11 points.

"Harrison is a team that could be playing for a gold ball in March," Castaldo said. "They are big, fast and can score at every position. We were up 7-1 halfway through the first quarter, but Harrison went on a 14-0 run and never looked back."

Dakin finished with nine points, eight rebounds and three steals against Harrison.

Brewster will host its sixth annual tournament 12/15-12/16 with Poughkeepsie, John Jay-East Fishkill and Pelham in the field.

A veteran **WHITE PLAINS'** team kicked off the season with a dominant 28-point win over Scarsdale behind a balanced scoring effort.

Ineivi Plata led the way with 19 points and six steals. Aliya McIver finished with 15 points and 10 assists and Capri DeMara added 13 points and five steals.

White Plains welcomed Harrison in the 28th annual Harry Jefferson Showcase, but the Huskies came away with a 49-44 win.

"We were excited and prepared to match Scarsdale's intensity by playing good, solid offense and moving the ball quickly to get quality open baskets," White Plains' Coach Benjamin Carter said. "Defensively, we played good 1-on-1 and help rotation that caused Scarsdale to rush and play faster than they usually do. We went into the Harrison game with the same mindset, but got complacent, shots stopped falling and our defense broke down at times. That allowed Harrison to take advantage of extra scoring opportunities that propelled them to victory. That was a tough learning lesson that we now have to grow from. When the offense is off, we have to remain focused, defensively, for 32 minutes."

McIver and Plata each had nine points in the Harrison game and Anneliese Reggio received the Sportsmanship Award.

OSSINING split its first two games of

the season. The Pride defeated Yonkers Montessori Academy, 58-41, behind an outstanding game from Nicole Perriott. The junior led the Pride with a game-high 19 points and 18 rebounds. Angelica Rios added 12 points and seven rebounds and Zoey Jowers chipped in nine points. Freshman Claire Schnecker began her varsity career with 11 assists and Saniya Bell grabbed 16

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Yorktown's Olivia Lucas fires a contested three from the wing in win over Mamaroneck.

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rebounds. New Rochelle handed Ossining a 64-45 loss.

SOMERS lost a tough game to open the season as Hen Hud scored a last-second basket to pull out a 48-46 overtime win in a Briarcliff Tournament first-round game. Tusker senior Ava Giudice led Somers with 27 points. The Tuskers bounced back to overwhelm Gorton, 64-28, in the consolation game as Chloe Gabriele had a team-leading 14 points and Giudice added 13 points.

BYRAM HILLS opened the season with losses to Pelham and John Jay-East Fishkill (Suffern Tournament first round). However, the Bobcats salvaged their week with a last-second 49-47 victory over Suffern in the consolation game.

Grace Corelli swished a three-pointer with 6.1 seconds on the clock to give Byram Hills the thrilling win. The Bobcats trailed, 34-22, at halftime. Corelli, who scored a game-high 24 points, was also named to the all-tournament team. Eighth-grader Lucianna Parrotta added 11 points.

Corelli scored 13 points against John Jay and Pelham. Kiley Blackmar chipped in nine points against Pelham.

BRIARCLIFF began its season with a big win over Gorton in a first-round game of the Briarcliff Tournament. Unfortunately, for the Bears, they faced a red-hot Hen Hud team and lost, 51-41, in the final.

"We hung real tough with a very, very good Hen Hud team," Briarcliff Coach Denise Hamlin said. "I was super proud of our effort. We got into foul trouble early and that hurt us. Hen Hud is tremendous on defense."

Cat Carrafiello led Briarcliff with 18 points, six rebounds and six steals in the final. Caroline Barbalato added 14 points.

In Briarcliff's first-round win, Barbalato scored 22 points and Carrafiello added 21 points.

PEEKSKILL began the new season with an emphatic 59-35 victory over Poughkeepsie as Amari Murphy scored a game-high 25 points.

Croton handed **PLEASANTVILLE** a 43-38 loss in the Panthers' first game of the season.

Meghan Raefski led Pleasantville with 19 points.

HORACE GREELEY and **MAHOPAC** did not play last week.



Yorktown's Martina Prybylski attacks the basket in Huskers' win over Mamaroneck last week.

TONY HUMBERTO PHOTOS



Yorktown's Ava Costello lines up a shot in Huskers' win over Mamaroneck last week.



Yorktown Coach Kristi Dini picked up her first win with the Huskers in their season opener against Mamaroneck.

Sports

Boys Hoops Notebook

Panas Nips Yorktown; Byram Hills an Early Class B Force

Carmel Stuns Poughkeepsie; Peekskill Wins PC Tourney

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

Welcome, welcome, welcome to the weekly Examiner News Boys' Hoops Notebook. We will do everything we can, based on the reports we get from our local coaches, to promote the athletes and programs of the Examiner region north of I-84 from White Plains to Carmel/Mahopac and the better part of the Taconic State Parkway from Pleasantville to Lakeland/Putnam Valley. Cooperation is the key and every coach in the region has been invited to the party, so let's get this shindig started with a Week 1 intro.

Man, this **WALTER PANAS** club is going to be a pain in the rear for its foes this year, just ask **YORKTOWN**, which played a terrific second half but came up shy in a 55-50 loss to the visiting Panthers (2-0) Thursday. Silky smooth Panas G Alex Tavarez led all scorers with 26 points and added five boards while junior sniper Tyler Greene, the Mount Saint Michael transfer, finished with 13 points, including three 3's in the first half. Panas C Dillon Chenard chipped in with eight points and was a defensive menace in the paint.

"I think Yorktown is really good," Panas boss Mike Auerbach said of Coach Mark Pavella's 1-1 Huskers. "We were very impressed with them in their opener against Greeley. They're young but they have some serious athleticism and shot-making ability. "We came out hot from the perimeter,"

the coach added. "Tyler Greene had three first-half 3's to go along with one each from Tavarez, Chenard and (Derek) Mojica. We went ice cold though from the middle of the second quarter on. We didn't make a three in the second half, and we're pretty perimeter-oriented this year, so that makes it tough against their zone. We've been very streaky offensively all preseason. When we're on we can score in bunches with anybody, but we're prone to long draughts as well. In all honesty, we were very excited to get out of Yorktown with a win. We've heard good things about them all preseason. Not an easy place to play either."

The youthful Huskers made it tough down the stretch, closing to within two points a handful of times, but when Panas needed a basket it went to Tavarez for six of its last seven points to seal the deal. This Tavarez kid is fearless and just might lead the Panthers to their third Section 1 title in school history if the cards are dealt in their favor.

Yorktown's Brandon Montero (15 points, 10 rebounds) was a legit force, forging his first double-double of what should be many. Justin Price (12 points, 4 rebounds) and Kaden Gonzalez (11 points, 7 rebounds) were primary contributors as well.

Panas opened the season with an 81-38

trouncing of Gorton behind 23 from Tavarez and 18 from Greene.

In Yorktown's 62-37 win over Horace Greeley, Montero had 21 points, six rebounds and five steals for the Huskers. Billy Feeks added 12 points and four rebounds and Price added 11 points and four assists.

Yorktown has been down two key players, including seniors Tommy Costello (returning on 12/30 vs Suffern) and Antoine Coles (out 4-6 weeks).

LAKELAND (3-1) is going to be a fun watch this winter on account of many things; high-octane offense and bruising defense, among them. Coach Steve Fallo's Hornets defeated **MAHOPAC**, 70-60, to open the season then crushed John Jay CR, 61-37, and handled Class AA New Rochelle, 60-47. The Hornets' lone loss this season is to Section 9 power Monroe-Woodbury, 69-55. Hornets G Chris Whyte-Luciano (19.7 ppg, 5 rpg) has been steady and was named to the All-Tournament team in the Suffern tournament. Logan Shiland (10 ppg, 6 rpg) and Grady Leonard (9.2 ppg) have all gotten off to solid starts. Lakeland plays Ardsley 12/14 before a big tilt with rival Yorktown 12/16.

FOX LANE (1-1) took a 59-32 win over **BRIARCLIFF** behind Niko Dent (14 points, 8 rebounds), Charlie Shevick (10



Yorktown's Justin Price leads a break as Panas' Alex Tavarez defends in host Huskers' 55-50 loss to Panthers Thursday.

points, 2 assists, 4 rebounds), Chris Redhead (13 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists), Conrad Hardie (8 points, 2 assists, 3 rebounds), Matt Toscano (4 points, 7 assists, 6 steals, 3 rebounds) and Kevin New (6 points). The Foxes were up against a state powerhouse in Mt. Vernon a couple days later and the Knights pulled a 64-45 decision despite some solid efforts from Dent (13 points, 5 boards),

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Panas C Dillon Chenard goes up for two in Panthers' 55-50 win over host Yorktown Thursday.

TONY HUMBERTO / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Panas junior G Tyler Greene shows some real athleticism on this dunk attempt in Panthers' 55-50 win over host Yorktown Thursday.



Yorktown's Kaden Gonzalez glides to the rim as Panas' Derek Mojica goes for the block in host Huskers' 55-50 loss to Panthers Thursday.

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Redhead (9 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists), Hardie (6 points, 4 assists, 3 rebounds) and Toscano (12 points, 2 assists).

BREWSTER Coach Michael Nicastro is hoping to turn the Bears around in his first season and a 1-1 start went down last week when RCK beat the Bears, 60-52, after the Bears opened the season with a 56-44 win over **PUTNAM VALLEY** (0-3).

Against RCK, Brewster excelled in transition with 18 points, capitalizing off RCK's turnovers. Steven Switzer led the Bears with 16 points, also contributing on defense with four steals. Connor Griffin notched a double-double, with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Christian Freeman came off the bench to put up eight points, including a pair of late-game 3's as Brewster staged a late comeback attempt. Matthew Thompson secured 10 rebounds and junior Lucas Cabiati also contributed eight points before exiting the game with a knee injury in the third quarter (he is day-to-day).

"We're looking to bounce back after this loss against a solid AA program," Nicastro said. "We're looking to improve on shot selection and controlling the pace of the game."

Against Putnam Valley, Brewster shot a solid 41% from the field with Griffin leading the way for the Bears, scoring 27 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Steven Switzer also shined for Brewster with 22 points and seven rebounds. Thompson cleaned up the glass with 10 rebounds and provided a solid defensive effort, but PV hung tough until William Dignan's corner 3 with 3:07 left in the game iced it for the Bears. He also leads the Bears with seven assists.

"We're looking to be a league contender this year, which can happen if we continue to play team basketball, eliminate lapses on defense and look for the best option on the offensive end," the coach said.

HEN HUD is off and running with a legit start after winning the Sailors' Jack McGuire Memorial Tournament title over the weekend. Hen Hud senior G Dean Hiltzley was named MVP and led the way with 17 second-half points while Sailor Stephen Ragaso was All-Tourney as the Sailors (4-1) beat Pelham, 62-44, to win its own holiday tournament for the first time since 2018. The

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Horace Greeley's Brandon Fitzsimmons handles the ball at the top of the key in Friday's 50-48 road loss to the Ketcham Indians.



Fox Lane's Arthur Shevick runs the offense for Foxes in win over visiting Briarcliff.



Fox Lane's Chris Redhead gets off a tough shot over Briarcliff's Gavin Panitz in Foxes' win over Bears.



Fox Lane's Charlie Shevick attacks the basket as Briarcliff's Alex Vaream defends in Foxes' win over Bears last week.



Fox Lane's Conrad Hardie goes up for a shot over Briarcliff's Luke Murray in Foxes' win over visiting Briarcliff.

TONY HUMBERTO / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

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Sailors have been sharp to start the season at 4-1, including a win over Roosevelt, in which Hiltzely went for 23 and Gino Wamack added 19 points. Coming out of the gate, Hen Hud players and coaches have paid special attention to local foes Panas and Yorktown.

"Both teams are legit," Sailors Coach Jordan Hirsch said of Panas and Yorktown. "Tough, tough matchups. We see Yorktown right before holiday break at their place, which is not an easy place to play. Lakeland is going to be very good this year. Honestly, our whole league is tough. No guaranteed outcomes ever."

PEEKSKILL took a 66-52 win over Port Chester in the championship round of the Port Chester Tournament after knocking out Clarkstown North in the opening round. The Red Devils and new Coach Tyrone Searight improved to 2-0 in his first season, doing so behind an MVP effort from Travis Brown (14 points) and an all-tourney showing from Marquet Webster (4 points). In the championship game, Josh Jones had 18 points to lead all scorers.

"I'm very proud of our start

to the season," Searight, affectionately called SeaDawg, said. "At 2-0, the boys are really taking steps going in the right direction. We still have our work cut out for us going into next week when we have our home opener Tuesday against Harrison and Friday night in the Bronxville Tournament against a solid Byram Hills team."

Ketcham star Owen Paino, an Ole Miss baseball commit, scored 35 points in RCK's 50-48 win over **HORACE GREELEY**, which was led by Justin Potack (19 pts, 5 steals) and Nicky Tasso added (17 points, 10 rebounds). The Quakers fell to 1-1.

CLASS AA

CARMEL shocked the section with its 47-46 win over an undermanned but still-impressive Class A Poughkeepsie club Friday night in the Rams' home opener under first-year Coach Bobby Russo, who upended the reigning Section 1 Class A champion with a defensive mindset. Damien Santiago and Nate Antoniuk led the Rams with 13 points apiece while Jack Salisbury added 11 in a massive come-from-behind win

(Poughkeepsie led Carmel 41-35 after three quarters). The Rams (1-0) host Horace Greeley today at 6:15 p.m. in the hopes of taking that momentum forward.

OSSINING (2-1) defeated Ramapo 73-56. The Pride were led by junior G Jaiden Newton, who had 14 first-quarter points before finishing with a game-high 28 points, including an impressive tone-setting, monster throw-down, to go with six boards and three steals. Senior G AJ Caparelli (14 points, 5 assists, 4 boards), junior F Isaiah Ahlers (9 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals), sophomore Donte Williams (7 points) and Gavin Thomas-Walters (7 points) were key contributors for the Pride.

WHITE PLAINS dominated Spring Valley, 77-55, in the 28th Annual Harry Jefferson Showcase behind a 24-point effort from senior MVP Menzy Carden. Ethan Sekeri scored 15

Points and won the sportsmanship award. Logan McCormick (12 points), Jake Labroschiano (8), Luke Brooks (4), Malik Dawson (4), Daniel Herzner (2) and Evan Elliott (2) all found the score sheet for the Tigers (1-0).

CLASS B

In the finale of the **BRIARCLIFF** tournament, Hastings wing Casey Maiorino drained a left-wing, buzzer-beating 3 for a 59-56 win over the host Bears Saturday night. Casey Rosenbaum and Cooper Plank were named all-tourney for the Bears (1-2).

BYRAM HILLS opens with a 60-46 road win to Roosevelt where Luke Berliner showed up with 16 points, 15 rebounds and four assists. Bobcat sophomore Zac Efobi introduced himself to Section 1 with 15 points and eight boards while Tyson Repa did his usual damage (14 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists). The versatile Repa also dropped 28 points in the opening-round loss to Hastings. One could easily see the well-coached Bobcats (1-1) emerging as serious contenders for the Class B crown before all is said and done.

Likewise, **VALHALLA** was very impressive in its 69-52 season-opening win over host **HALDANE**.

"They have some good guard play, shot it well and are tough," Haldane Coach Joe Virgadamo said of the Vikings after his Blue Devils fell to 2-2. "We were down three going into the fourth and they just outplayed us. We lost four starters to graduation last year. We're going to be a different team come February. Should be a fun year for us."

CLASS C

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Boys Hoops Notebook



Briarcliff's Chris D'Onofrio takes a jumper in loss to host Fox Lane.



Fox Lane's Kevin New blocks the shot of Briarcliff's Alex Vaream in Foxes' win over visiting Bears.



Greeley senior guard Justin Potack goes to the basket for two during the first half of the Quakers' 50-48 loss at Roy C. Ketcham on Friday evening.

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Boys Hoops Notebook

Tuckahoe made two huge defensive stops in the final 10 seconds and beat Haldane, 57-56, despite solid efforts from Blue Devils (1-2) Matteo Cervone (17 points), Matthew Nachamkin (13), Ryan Eng-Wong (9), Ben Bozsik (8) and Will Bradley (7) but it was not enough to offset Chase Garcia's 22 points for Tuckahoe.

CHSAA

STEPINAC hammered Holy Cross in its home opener, 81-41, behind clutch efforts from Amyr Sullivan (20 points, 3 assists), Danny Carbuccia (14 points, 8 assists), Braylan Ritvo (13 points, 8 rebound), Jordan Gabriel (9 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists) and Dylan Perry (6 points, 7 rebounds). The Crusaders (3-1) also participated in the NY Hoops Festival where they lost to St. Peter's 66-63. Carbuccia (21 points, 6 assists, 3 rebounds), Fland 14 points, 5 assists, 4 rebounds and Ben Lyttle (12 points, 12 rebounds, 3 steals) all posted big numbers in a losing effort.

Boy's Basketball Preview

CARMEL

Coach: Bobby Russo: Carmel 2022-2023 (1st Season), Bronxville: 2017-2022 (5 Seasons)
2021-22 record: 12-8, 1st round loss to Clarkstown South 44-42
2022-23 League favorite: (Poughkeepsie, Mahopac)
2022-23 Section favorite: (Mount Vernon, Scarsdale, Fox Lane, North Rockland)
Top returning players: Jack Salisbury G/F: 6' 5"
Key newcomers: Aiden White, So. 5'8", PG/SG; Nick Kreatsolus, So. 5'8", PG/SG; Jake Storen, Sr. 6'4", SG/SF; Damien Santiago, Jr. 6'4", SG/SF; Joe

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Greeley junior forward Nicky Tasso gets inside for a bucket in the fourth quarter of Friday night's game at Ketcham High School.

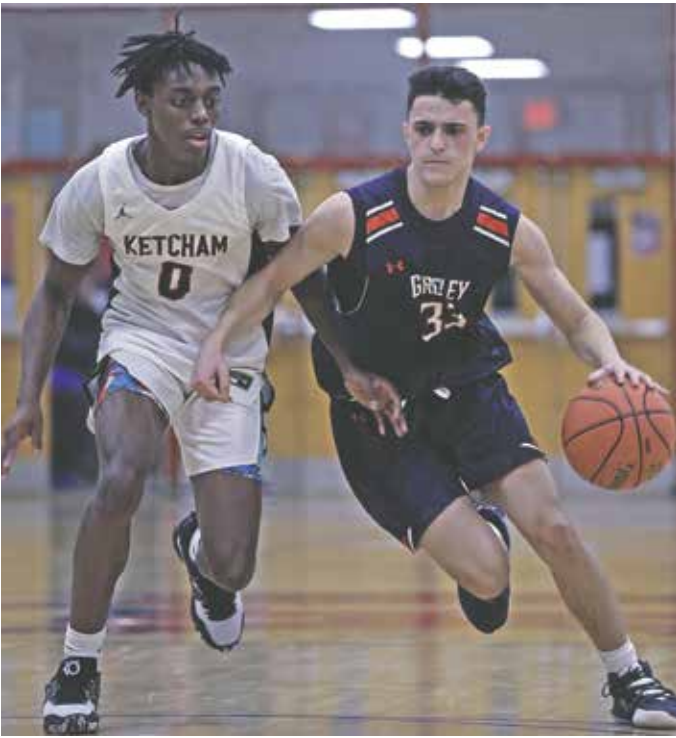
TONY HUMBERTO / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Dominic Larizza of Greeley sets his sights on the basket as he drives toward the lane in the second half of Friday evening's game at RCK.



Briarcliff senior guard Jason Rosenbaum fires a jump shot near the top of the key during the second half of Saturday night's Booster Club Tournament title game vs. Hastings.



Junior guard Chris Pecora of Greeley is pressured as he dribbles the ball in the fourth quarter of the Quakers' 50-48 loss at Roy C. Ketcham on Friday.



Senior forward Alex Vaream of Briarcliff sends up a shot over Hastings' Luke Ciszewski in Saturday night's tournament final, won by the visiting Yellow Jackets on a last-second 3-pointer.

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Cooper Plank of Briarcliff dribbles across the court during the first half of the Bears' last-second loss to Hastings in the championship game of their annual Booster Club Tournament.

Loughlin, So, 5'8", PG/SG

Team Grunt: Nick Kreatsolus Soph., Santiago

Team strengths: Ability to play smart and fast. In order to be successful we will need to push the tempo and apply pressure on the defensive end. We have multiple guys who can apply serious pressure on the defensive end and score on the offensive end.

What we need to get better at: Understanding to trust one another. This is a group with one player from last year's varsity team. So trust is something that this group needs to get better at immediately. The pace of varsity is going to be a little bit of a shock but in time they will be much better for it.

Goals: Defending our home court,



Briarcliff sophomore forward Xavier Prekelezaj shoots the ball from the left corner in the first half of the Bears' heartbreaking 59-56 loss to Hastings in the title game of the annual Briarcliff Booster Club Basketball Tournament.

winning/being at the top of our league, and winning a sectional playoff game (it has been a long time since the program advanced past the first round)

Coach's Comments: As this being my first year with the program I am excited and determined to try to help build Carmel basketball into what it used to be known for. We have a very young and inexperienced group but they bring it day in and day out. It may take some time for them to adjust to the speed and physicality of the varsity level but when they do we are going to be an exciting team to watch for years to come.

Noteworthy: Big win vs Poughkeepsie

Boys Hoops Notebook



NICK ABREAU PHOTO

Prior to Thursday's home tip-off win over Ramapo, Ossining honored Kahseem Trotter, a class of 2017 alumni who tragically passed away in August of this year.



TWITTER PHOTO

Members of the Peekskill hoops team pose with championship hardware after winning the Port Chester Tournament Saturday to improve to 2-0.

on Friday night, we have the Mahopac Holiday Tournament and the North Salem Tournament. Coach is sitting at 98 career wins..

Sports media Twitter/IG acct: Twitter: @CarmelBoysBball; IG: carmel_

boys_basketball

For inclusion in our Examiner-area weekly hoops notebook, we ask that coaches please pass along game-by-game results to raygallaghersports@gmail.com or text the number you've ALL been sent.

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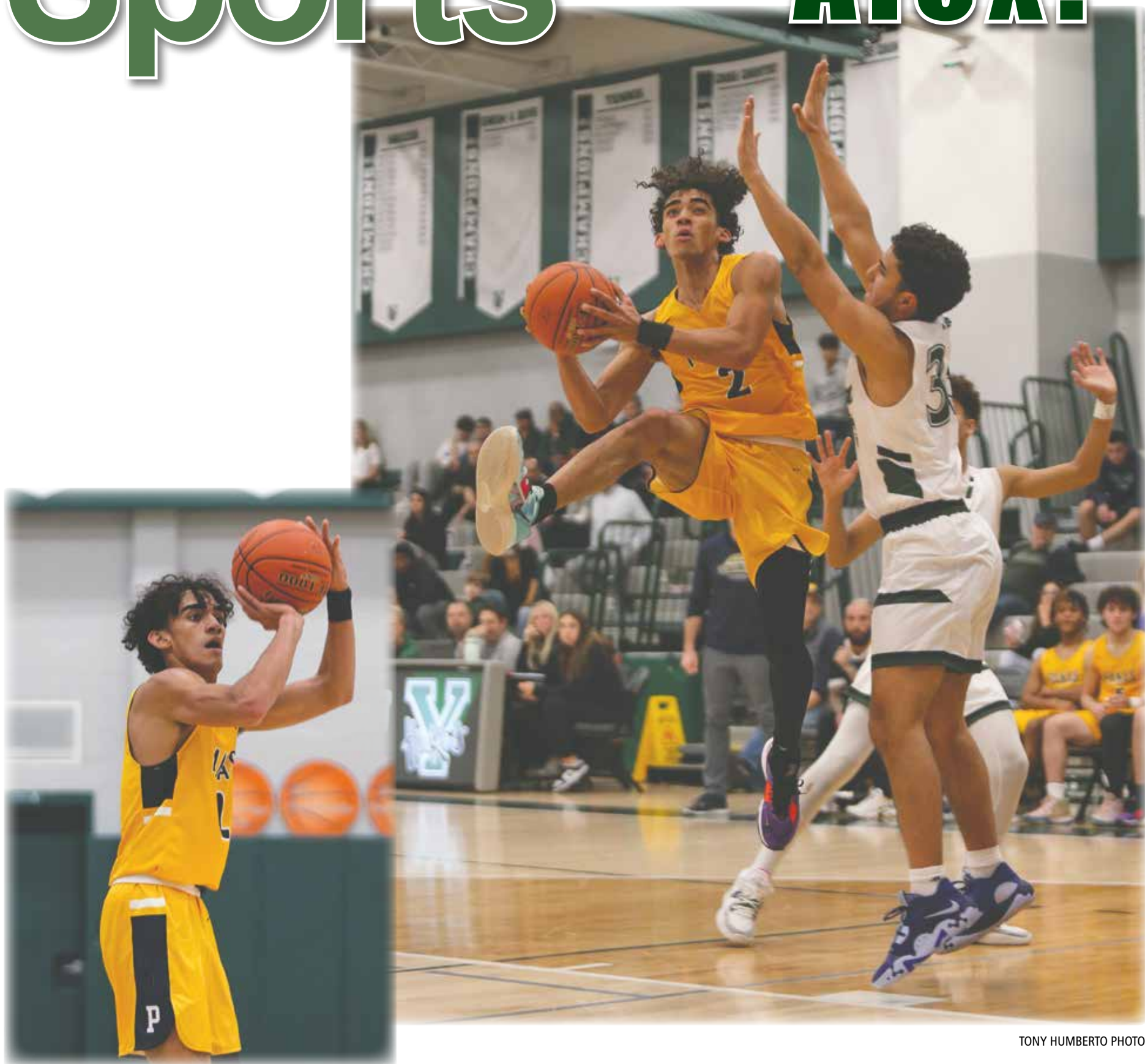
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Smart Alex!



TONY HUMBERTO PHOTOS

Panas is Wiser in 55-50 Win over Yorktown

Walter Panas senior G Alex Tavarez (L) slides and glides to rim for two of his game-high 26 points as Yorktown's John Romero defends in Panthers' 55-50 non-league win over the host Huskers last Thursday when the two Class A title hopefuls got after each other... see Boys' Hoops Notebook