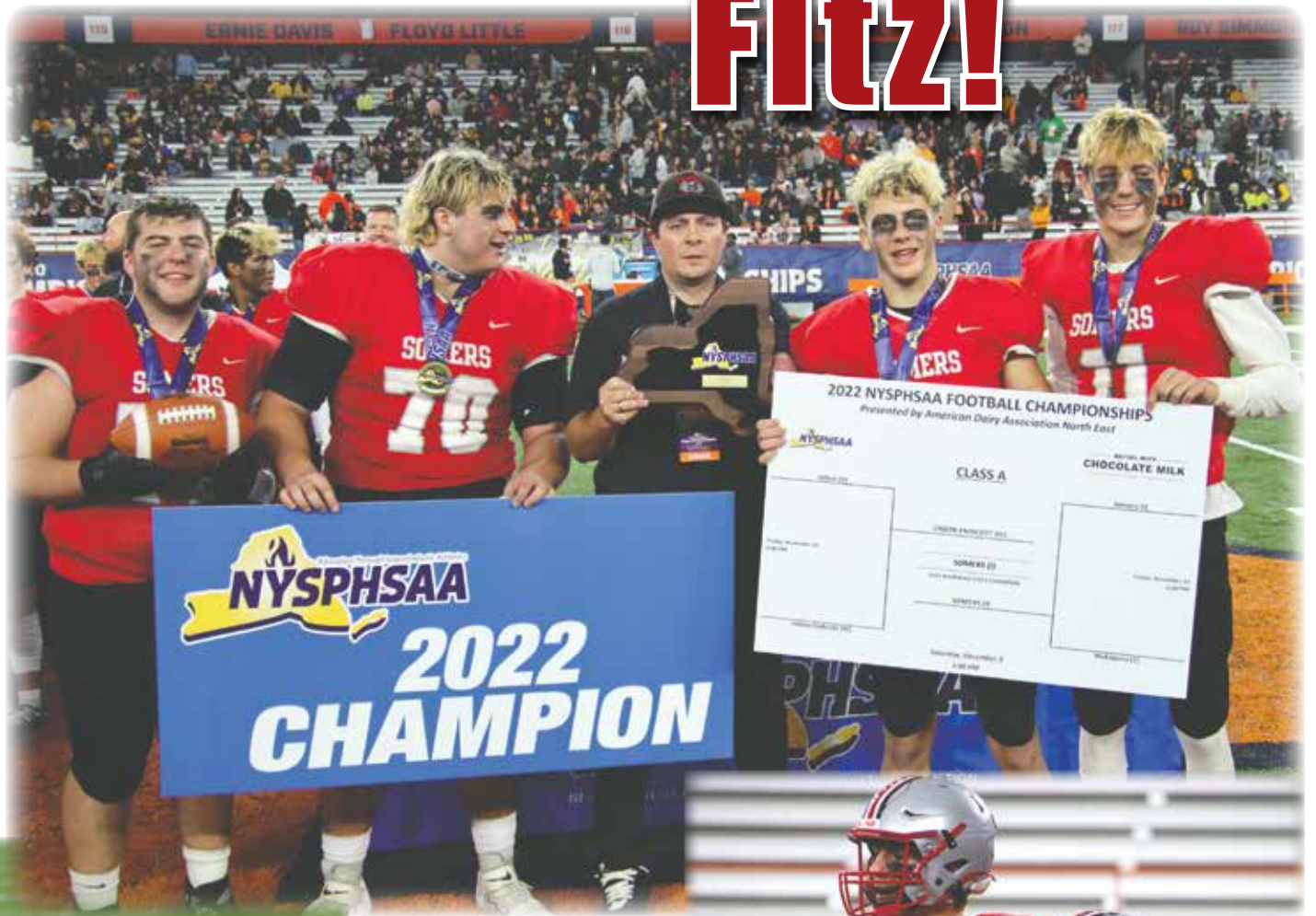


# Examiner Sports Connipion Fitz!



CHRIS SMAJLAJ PHOTOS

## Somers QB Goes Off on Union-Endicott in 58-21 NYSPHSAA Class A Title Rout; Tuskers Crowned State Champs for 2nd Time

Somers senior QB Matt 'Fitz' Fitzsimons eyes up a scoring lane (left) before cementing his legacy as the greatest signal caller in Tusker history when he spun four TD passes and rushed for another score in the undefeated Tuskers' 58-21 NYSPHSAA Class A title win over Section 4 champion Union-Endicott Saturday at the JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse where Fitz padded his school record for TD passes, yards and more while Somers was crowned state champs for the second time since 2016. Somers captains (L-R) Nicky Crecco, Jake Polito, Coach Anthony DeMatteo, Luke Kennedy and Fitzsimons proudly displayed the hardware (top) after Fitz and senior RB Ravi Davi (4) celebrate one of two TD passes they connected on (right)... see Somers Grid Notebook

# Somers Seals Deal, Wins 2nd NYSPHSAA Class A Crown



Somers players pose with 2nd NYSPHSAA title plaque in school history (2016) after a 58-21 walloping of Union-Endicott in Class A title game Saturday in Syracuse.

## Tuskers Cap Perfect Season, Crush Union-Endicott, 58-21

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

Section 1 champion Somers was the searing hot knife. Section 4 champion Union-Endicott was the butter, and the state-ranked (No.1) Tuskers (13-0) cut through the fourth-ranked Tigers like they were somebody's backyard, thrashing their way to the Tuskers' second NYSPHSAA Class A title since 2016 in a 58-21 beatdown

at the JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse last Saturday.

Behind an other-worldly effort from senior QB Matt Fitzsimons, Somers scored on every drive of the game, outside of kneeling out the half when the Tuskers had already amassed a commanding 37-14 lead and again during the final seconds of their second NYS title triumph.

The hours of preparation, the blood, the sweat, the tears... every ounce of what the

Tuskers had left on the field in 2022 was more than worth it after Somers left the dome in 2021 as NYS runner-ups and returned with one collective mission in 2022. Things like doubt and regret don't normally exist in the DeMatteo family lexicon, but Somers Coach Anthony DeMatteo lived a full year's worth of second-guesses after going for two points in the final seconds of last year's one-point loss to the Christian Brothers Academy. He was beyond emotional after the win.

After it was over, and Fitzsimons had gathered his emotions after tossing four TD passes and 264 yards while rushing for yet another score, he finished his post-game festivities and began to soak it all in. His legacy as the greatest QB in Somers history

was cemented. His team is right there – nose to nose – with the 2016 team as the best in Somers history. And most importantly, he is beloved by teammates and coaches.

"The game was unbelievable," Fitzsimons said. "It felt like we were part of a movie after losing last year and bouncing back the next year with an undefeated season. The boys were clicking all over the field, and we have never started a game stronger. It was the best feeling ever to get that win with my brothers since third grade, and I will never forget this weekend and my Somers football experience."

Somers senior RB Ravi Dass, who finished with two TD grabs, took the opening kick 46 yards and then snagged an 18-yard scoring pass from Fitzsimons two plays later for the game's initial score and a 6-0 lead. The PAT was no good but that was all that Union-Endicott (11-2) could stop on this particular day.

Somers senior DL Geroe Forbes then recovered a fumble to end Union-Endicott's first possession before Somers sophomore scat-back Miguel Iglesias (3 catches, 74 yards) hauled in a 16-yard TD pass three plays later for a 12-0 lead. The two-point conversion failed as the Tuskers chased a couple of points. Somers then forced a three-and-out before Fitzsimons dialed up a 42-yard scoring pass to Dass two plays later for an 18-0 lead with less than six minutes off the clock #GameOverEssentially.

The Tuskers turned to senior FB Luke Savino to ground and pound. Savino tore the Tigers up for 165 yards and three touchdowns on just 14 carries. The team's Swiss Army knife all season, Savino will never forget the experience.

"I have played with these seniors for nine years, creating a strong brotherhood and we have had tremendous success together," Savino said. "With the addition of the kids



Somers players storm the dome turf in Syracuse as an emotional Tusker Coach Anthony DeMatteo takes it all in Saturday after winning NYS Class A title Saturday.

# Sports

## Grid Notebook



Somers RB Mason Kelly picks up block from C Anthony Carino for one of two TDs he would score in Tuskers' NYS Class A title win Saturday.

*continued from previous page*

who came to varsity this year we knew from the beginning we were gonna win it all. The coaching staff put in countless hours to make us the best football program in the state. I also think a huge reason for this team's success is the strength of our youth program and the community support. This is truly an experience I will never forget."

Somers is now an astounding 31-1 since the start of the 2021 (Covid) spring season and will open 2023 as the prohibitive Class A favorite in Section 1, despite losing a ton to graduation, much like the Tuskers did this season. None of that matters to second-year Coach Anthony DeMatteo, who has picked up where his dad, Tony DeMatteo (NYS's second most all-time winningest coach), left



Somers RB Ravi Dass breaks free from pack during monster day (3 catches ,81 yards, 2 touchdowns) in Tuskers' NYSPHSAA Class A title rout of Union-Endicott Saturday in Syracuse.



Somers RB Luke Savino hits paydirt for third time in Tuskers' 58-21 NYSPHSAA Class A title rout of U-E Saturday at the dome in 'Cuse.

off. The two are the first father-son coaches to win a NYS football championship since the tournament began in 1993.

"The Somers community means everything to me," said an emotional Tusker boss Anthony DeMatteo, who may never have to buy another drink in Elephant land after taking the Tuskers to a pair of state title appearances in his first two years #BabyGoat. "I grew up there and live there with my family now, and it's a tremendously supportive community from the administration to the people that live in town. To deliver a state championship to these people means so much to us. We were on a mission to do so.

"It means everything to us," he added. "Before we left on Friday the community support was unbelievable and it literally means everything to me to give back to them and bring this plaque home. We have a college-level staff and the kids buy into everything and it shows on the field."

DeMatteo's players all buy in, knowing full well that the mutual commitment from players and coaches will pay true dividends

and last a lifetime in most cases.

"I can't even explain how I feel," said Navy-bound Somers OL/DL Jake Polito, who served pancakes on the side and served as the team's spiritual leader. "I wish I could be in this moment with these coaches and this team forever."

The old adage "it takes a village" is a collective mindset put in place early on at Somers where the community buys in and believes from a young age that nothing less than a state title is the goal. Somers senior C Anthony Carino tweeted: "If you told me in youth football that I'd be ending my football career with a state championship, I'd 110% believe you." That is common among the Tuskers and their coaching staff.

Somers sophomore RB Mason Kelly #PromisingFutureFullBack ran for one TD and snagged a Fitz aerial he took to paydirt. Senior DL George Forbes led the defense with six tackles while Luke Kennedy added five solo sticks and a pick. The contributions came from everywhere, including the youth coaches who coached these guys up well before they arrived at the varsity level.



Somers coaches proudly display their 2nd NYSPHSAA Class A title plaque since 2016 after Tuskers' rout of Union Endicott Saturday.

# Questionable Call Robs Pleasantville of NYS Title Shot

## Picart's 4thQ TD Called Back; Maine-Endwell Repeats as State Champs, 26-25

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

Just like it did last year, Pleasantville will have to endure another 365 days with similar agony, the harrowing pain of losing a second consecutive NYSPHSAA Class B title at the hands of state-ranked (No.1) Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell (13-0), who repeated as state champs in Sunday's 26-25 victory over the previously undefeated, state-ranked (No.3) Panthers (12-1) at the JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse.

Perhaps the worst part, the thing Coach Tony Bacerra's Panthers will have to live with throughout the off-season, was the phantom penalty call for a block in the back that denied Pleasantville its touchdown when junior Daniel Picart looked to have created the go-ahead score late in the fourth quarter. Panther QB Aidan Picart hit his brother, Daniel Picart, in space and the result looked to be a 73-yard TD with 4:38 to play, but the call for a block in the back erased the play, despite the appearance of very little contact, certainly not enough to warrant a flag with the state title on the line.

"We're getting the same response from most people we talk to," Coach Bacerra said when asked if the play warranted a penalty. "No is generally the answer. The focus has been on that call, but we had other opportunities we did not take advantage of. I could have done more as a coach. There were some calls on my part that I wish I

had done differently after thinking about the situations on the bus ride home. I've had better rides home, that's for sure."

Pleasantville kept the drive alive momentarily, but turned the ball over on downs when a fourth-and-nine play at the 28 was denied. The sequence left Panther Coach Tony Bacerra numb and the better part of Pleasantville in a state of refute.

"We were definitely a bit frustrated with that call and it being that late in the game doesn't help," Daniel Picart said. "But we can't get all the right calls, so we just need to get used to it and deal with it and make it so that one call like that can't change the game."

There are few things worse than dealing with a penalty that changes the outcome of a game, particularly a state title game, but that is what the Panthers will have to live with until next September when they enter the 2023 campaign as the likely co-favorites to win a third-straight sectional title and advance to Syracuse with the Picart boys – All-NYS WR/RB Daniel and QB Aidan – all revved up for their senior campaign.

"It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of their junior season, but we're very excited to have them back for senior year," Coach B said. "They never disappoint. We are blessed with them for one more year, but we will take a hit up front. Coach 'Mase' (Brian Maceyak) is like the Pied Piper, though. He will get us some hogs up front to run behind. He always does. But this

*continued on next page*



Pleasantville's Erik Coleman comes up just short of paydirt in Panthers' 26-25 NYSPHSAA Class B title loss to Maine-Endwell Sunday at the dome in Syracuse.

DONNA MUELLER PHOTOS



Pleasantville sophomore Nick Reich celebrates his TD catch in Panthers' 26-25 NYSPHSAA Class B title loss to Maine-Endwell Sunday at the dome in Syracuse.



Pleasantville junior Daniel Picart weaves through traffic in Panthers' 26-25 NYSPHSAA Class B title loss to Maine-Endwell Sunday at the dome in Syracuse.

# Help The Examiner Team Pick Club Fit's Athlete of the Season

By Adam Stone

Hi all,

First off, let me say how excited we are to reintroduce Athlete of the Season (AOS), sponsored by Club Fit, after a more than two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic.

We're picking two local high school student-athlete winners — a female winner and a male winner. There are four female finalists and four male finalists from our Section 1 coverage area, spanning White Plains up through Northern Westchester and across Putnam County.

After consulting with Examiner Sports Editor Ray Gallagher, two things became immediately clear: We have a dominant fall favorite on the girls' side but a more neck-and-neck competition for the honor on the boys' side of the ledger.

Given our uncertainty, we decided to impanel an advisory committee made of, well, you and your fellow Examiner readers! Here are the nominees, eight talented young men and women:

## Male nominees:

- Ryan En-Wong from Haldane (Soccer – Forward)
- Matt Fitzsimons from Somers (Football – Quarterback)
- Daniel Picart from Pleasantville (Football – Wide Receiver/ Running Back)
- Nick Rosaforte from Carmel (Football – Free Safety – Running Back)

## Female nominees:

- Amya Davis from Hendrick Hudson (Volleyball – Outside Hitter)



- Ramsey Edson from Horace Greely (Soccer – Forward)
- Lena Johnsen from Hendrick Hudson (Soccer – Defensive Mid-Fielder)
- Celeste Pagliaroli from Lakeland (Field Hockey – Goalie)

Cast your vote in our poll online at [TheExaminerNews.com](http://TheExaminerNews.com).

## BIG REVEAL

We'll be announcing our female and male winners on Dec. 13.

Also, keep your eyes on these pages all winter and spring, with our next AOS winners scheduled for announcement by April and June, respectively.

The prize is pretty awesome too if you ask me. Whoever wins the Examiner AOS chip earns a free family membership to Club Fit.

Good luck and stay tuned for our Dec. 13 announcement.

And sorry, guys and gals. There's only one male winner and one female winner! But congrats to you all for being nominated, and for your incredible seasons.

Best,

Adam Stone, Publisher

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Pleasantville defenders Ryan Horigan (34) and Daniel Picart swarm to ball in Panthers' 26-26 NYS Class B title loss Sunday in Syracuse.

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particular group was exceptional. We will really miss them."

Daniel Picart finished with 51 rushing yards and a touchdown on 15 carries and hauled in six passes for 108 yards and two TDs from southpaw Aidan Picart, who connected on 15 of 26 passes for 260 yards and three TDs, including a 45-yard score to Nick Reich for a 14-13 lead just before the half and another 43-yarder to his brother with 8:16 left in the fourth to make it 26-25 before the potential go-ahead two-point conversion was botched. Bacerra had every intention of going for two.

"I thought we still had enough time left for another possession," the coach said. "Plus, I've got a very young, talented kicker, who didn't need any more on his

plate. When weighing the options, I've got Daniel Picart, who might be the best in the section at the two-point conversion, which is why we went for two. It just didn't work, but we still had plenty of time."

Pleasantville had several leads, including a 19-14 advantage when Aidan Picart found Daniel Picart outstretched hands for a splendid 17-yard TD grab with 8:44 left in the third, but the two-point conversion attempt was stopped. Every time the Picart boys struck, which was often, Maine-Endwell's Austyn Nyschot had an answer,



Pleasantville defenders team up for tackle in Panthers' 26-25 loss to Maine-Endwell in NYS Class B title game Sunday.

grabbing four huge catches for 96 yards and two scores. M-E QB Anthony Policare had 50 yards on 12 carries and hit on 7 of 9 passes for 138 yards and two touchdowns. Ty Woolfolk and Ethan Sadler each ran for a Spartans TD.

With so many talented underclassmen coming back for the Panthers in 2023, they will likely be talked about as potential co-favorites with Rye, a perennial Class A title contender and 2022 runner-up, who will drop down to Class B next season. Let the hype begin!

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## Sports

## Girls Hoops Notebook

# Lakeland Clips Greeley in Relay for Life Tourney

## Raguso Goes off, Hen Hud Takes Sleepy Tourney Title

By Tony Pinciario

It is always great for a team to open a new season with a couple of wins. It's even sweeter when a team wins its own tournament in the season-opener. **LAKELAND** did this, beating Croton (40-25), then Horace Greeley (69-51), to win the Hornets' Relay for Life Tournament.

It is the second consecutive year Lakeland kept the trophy, thanks to tournament MVP Nichole Ljuljic. The junior guard scored 17 points against Croton and had a game-high 23 points in the final.

"It's our first two games so it's always nice to win, but it's also nice to win your own tournament at home," Ljuljic said. "You're in front of your fans and everyone knows about the Relay for Life and how awesome it is to be a part of every year."

Lakeland led Greeley by two points going into the fourth quarter, but Ava Lugo sandwiched a pair of 3-pointers around an Amanda Franco triple, putting the Hornets in control.

"When Greeley switched to a 2-3 zone, we were able to rotate the ball fast and to the opposite side of the floor and our shooters got hot," Ljuljic said.

One early and positive aspect of Lakeland's two wins was its ability to have balanced scoring. This is a good sign as Lakeland graduated leading scorer Tyler Hormazabal and Hannah Devane, who averaged double-digits in scoring.

"Having balanced scoring is very important for a basketball team because when you have at least five girls who can give you 10 points or more, coaches on the opposing team have to be aware of everyone," Ljuljic said. "It

allows us to create spacing on the floor and run our sets."

Ljuljic cited the maturity of the underclassmen, which enabled Lakeland to spread out the scoring.

"Our two sophomores, Amanda Franco and Sarah Devine are doing such a great job," said Ljuljic of the two returning varsity players. "It's awesome seeing how hard they worked and how they're becoming great players."

While Ljuljic led Lakeland with 23 points and seven assists in the final, Lugo added 15 points, Devane contributed 12 points and Franco finished with 11 points. Devane had a team-best 10 rebounds and Lugo collected seven boards.

Ljuljic (also four steals) and Franco scored 17 points apiece against Croton. Devane had eight rebounds and five steals and Grace Hahn also had eight rebounds and added four blocked shots.

**HEN HUD** opened its season in impressive fashion, winning the Sleepy Hollow Tournament and outsourcing its two opponents by 58 points. The Sailors bested Westlake, 56-36, in the first round behind 22 and 12 rebounds from tournament MVP

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Greeley's Meredith Feiner looks to get off a shot in traffic over Lakeland's Nichole Ljuljic and Grace Hahn.

TONY HUMBERTO PHOTOS



Ava Lugo and Nichole Ljuljic celebrate as the Hornets open up a big fourth-quarter lead over Greeley in tourney title win over Quakers.



Lakeland's Nichole Ljuljic drives past Greeley's Bella Schulman in Hornets' win in championship game Lakeland's Relay for Life Tournament Saturday.

# Sports

## Girls Hoops Notebook



Lakeland's Amanda Franco looks to get a shot off over Greeley's Allie Mosca in Hornets' tourney title win over visiting Quakers Saturday.

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Kaitlyn Raguso.

Elyse Smith added nine points, Madison Porter had a team-leading 16 rebounds and K. A. McCarthy contributed five assists and three steals.

Raguso scored 20 points and added five rebounds and five steals in a 62-24 victory over Sleepy Hollow in the championship game.

Kayla Tresgallo chipped in eight points and Porter had seven points and six rebounds. Kate Stratton shared the team lead with six rebounds and McCarthy added five steals and four assists.

"These were two great team wins to start out the season," Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said. "Everyone was contributing and everyone was playing their roles. And Kaitlyn Raguso is off to a great start."

**BREWSTER** is perfect through two games as the Bears defeated Haldane (53-21) and Class B power Hastings (49-43).

Madison Dakin scored 17 points and added eight rebounds and Jordan Niles chipped in 15 points against Haldane.

"We did a great job getting turnovers on the press and scoring off it," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "Bre Washington and Bri Franklin were solid, all night, for us with great defense and great decision making on the offensive end."

Niles and Dakin led Brewster, with 20 points and 13 points, respectively, against Hastings.

Castaldo cited the play of eighth-grader Lauren Leon, who made two huge baskets in the second half, and sophomore Olivia Francis, who contributed six points, all in the second half.

"It was a tight game from start to finish," Castaldo said. "We just couldn't pull away. Every time we went up by nine or 10 they cut it to five or six. Hastings is very well-coached and very aggressive. It's tough to win on the road and I'm glad we were able to get out of there with a win. I'm really proud of the girls for how they executed late in the game."

**HORACE GREELEY** opened the season splitting its two games in the Lakeland Relay for Life Tournament.

The Quakers cruised to a 60-41 victory over Clarkstown North in the first round. Last year, Clarkstown North defeated Horace Greeley in the first round.

Bella Schulman had a team-high 20 points, Emma Rose connected on five 3-pointers for 15 points and Allie Mosca added 10 points, six rebounds, four assists and three steals. Meredith Feiner grabbed 10 rebounds.

Lauren Bergin, Georgia Sack and Sophia Ivanov all scored their first varsity points.

"This was a nice way to start the season," Greeley Coach Sarah Schum said. "The girls played hard and played together. All 12 girls got to play with 10 of the 12 scoring, which is always great."

The Quakers trailed the host Hornets by two points entering the fourth quarter, but Lakeland outscored Greeley, 23-7.

"It was a close game up until about six minutes remaining then a few untimely errors made the difference," Schum said. "We are asking the girls to play at a much quicker pace than normal. We are still working out some kinks, but we are excited by the start of change."

Mosca led Greeley with 16 points, Rose added 12 and Ava Gusba had 10 points. Feiner grabbed a game-best 16 rebounds.

Rose was selected to the all-tournament team.

**WESTLAKE** went 1-1 to begin its season at the Sleepy Hollow Tournament.

The Wildcats dropped a 57-36 verdict to Hen Hud in the first round, but they bounced back to handle Mamaroneck, 68-49, in the consolation game.

All-tournament pick Allie Castellone poured in a game-high 22 points against Mamaroneck. Sami Oswald added 14 points and Maggie Plotkin finished with 12 points.

"We struggled against Hen Hud with our effort and intensity, overall," Westlake Coach Sean Mayer said. "Against Mamaroneck, we started the game with much more effort and execution. We moved the ball well, connecting on eight 3-pointers, and played solid defense."

Plotkin and Brooke Pfeiffer, in their varsity debuts, scored 14 and 12 points, respectively, against Hen Hud.

**VALHALLA** played two close games to open the season only to come away with losses at the Irvington Tournament – to Irvington (47-35) and Dobbs Ferry (46-41, in the consolation game).

Tvisha Sivaramakrishnan had 15 points and 10 rebounds against Irvington and led the Vikings with nine points against Dobbs Ferry.



Greeley's Allie Mosca launches a three over Lakeland's Amanda Franco.

**HALDANE** had a tough start to its season, losing to Brewster.

"The girls played real hard and showed a lot of grit and determination," Haldane Coach Ed Crowe said. "They gave 32 minutes of effort."

The following schools open their respective seasons this week – **PANAS, OSSINING, SOMERS, PUTNAM**

**VALLEY, BRIARCLIFF, CARMEL, MAHOPAC, PLEASANTVILLE, WHITE PLAINS and BYRAM HILLS.**

Somers will host its annual tournament Thursday-Saturday. Mahopac will play Panas, Thursday, and Ossining has Somers, Friday. The consolation game is 11 a.m. Saturday, and the final is 3 p.m. Saturday.

# Boys Hoops Preview 2022-2023

## *Local Ballers Hope to Hoop it Up, Hit Hardwood Running*

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor @Directtrays

Basketball takes a back seat only to football when it comes to school spirit and the bravado expressed by student bodies and fans across Section 1, so it should come as no surprise to see our local bleachers packed with frenzied fanatics as fall turns to winter and we hunker down for four months of

indoor sports in the days ahead.

Hope springs eternal from as far south as White Plains to as far north as Carmel and all points in between among the slew Examiner-area schools covered in these pages, including CHSAA powerhouse Stepinac to Section 1 title hopefuls like 2022 Class B finalists Briarcliff, Class AA semifinalists Fox Lane, perennial former Class A/now Class B power Byram Hills,



Lakeland senior G Chris Whyte-Luciano will go next-level for Hornet in 2022-23 season.



Panas senior G Alex Tavarez averaged nearly 20 PPG last season and should go for 23 PPG or more in 2023.

plus 2022-23 upstarts like Class A Lakeland, Yorktown, Walter Panas and Somers where the Tuskers and Section 1 will bid adieu to longtime veteran Coach Chris DiCintio in this, his swan song season; a season that features a ton of promise in Northern Westchester.

And for the third time since 2016, DiCintio will be working from behind the eight ball as the Tuskers, many of whom double as football stars, were still at it winning the state tournament; meaning they won't kick into full hoops mode for a few more weeks.

We've got some star power in this neck of the woods, too, including White Plains

point forward Menzy Carden, who, at 6'4" and nearly 200 pounds with terrific handles and All-Conference skills, is a matchup nightmare, along with junior teammate Logan McCormick. Speaking of nightmares, try slowing down 6'2" Panas All-Section senior point guard Alex Tavarez, a silky smooth shooter with legit D-I skills, who has a new sidekick in Mount Saint Michael junior transfer Tyler Green, a dead-eye sniper from downtown.

"Me and the team are very excited this year to get back on the court," Tavarez said. "This group of guys love to be in the gym.

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# Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook

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Going into senior year, I'm very focused and hungry on winning it all this year and that's carrying on to the team. Tyler is a really good addition for us. He's a sniper from three along with Derek Mojica, who is going to be playing a major role for us this year."

Imagine the battle the Panthers will have with intra-district rival Lakeland, who folks best not sleep on with playmakers like guards All-Conference senior Chris Whyte-Luciano and Anthony Jennings and forwards Logan Shiland, an All-Conference pick, to go with bone-bruising F Andrew Mendel. What we don't know is if Peekskill has any players to help change the Red Devils' path back to their former greatness, but they've got a new coach in Tyrone Searight – a disciple of Red Devil hoops – who will die trying. Keep an eye out for Hen Hud senior G Dean Hiltzley, who opposing defenders will need to key on.

You want toughness; look no further than Fox Lane where 6'3" senior G Charlie Shevick starts for his third and final campaign with an eye on challenging White Plains for

league bragging rights before setting their sights on Class A favorite Poughkeepsie in the postseason. But the Foxes won't snooze on rival Horace Greeley and senior Justin Potack.

We'll have our eyes on a trio of backcourt ballers at Yorktown, including juniors Billy Feeks and Justin Price, and remember, they brought up sophomore Kaden Gonzalez last year. They don't do that unless you can ball out #ExcitingTrio. Throw in a rugged junior transfer from Stepinac named Brandon Montero, and the Huskers could be battling Somers and its All-Section senior F Matt Fitzsimons for league supremacy.

"We're beyond ready for the season," said Feeks, who has serious range. "I really think we're going to make a lot of noise this year and show how much we've improved from last year. Not having Eddie (Brucaj) definitely changes things, but it gives us the opportunity to change our style of play and lets us play a much faster game than we played last year.

"Montero can definitely bang," Feeks added. "He fits in really well with us because me and Justin, and all of the juniors on the



Lakeland senior Logan Shiland should be an absolute beast in winter of 2022-23.



Somers senior hotshot Matt Fitzsimons will be tough to match up with in 2022-23 season.

team, played with him throughout middle school, so he fits in perfectly with us."

On the Class C circuit, look no further than Haldane for the top player in the class. Senior swingman, mighty Matteo Cervone – a two-time All-Section choice – is a man on a mission after his Blue Devils were upset by Hamilton in the sectional finals.

Byram Hills provides an electric

environment and one can count on junior All-League G Tyson Repa to supply the juice for a Bobcat team that is a long, lean, fighting machine. Repa isn't the only underclassmen on the rise, though, as Ossining sophomore G Kristian Banwareesingh will ignite the Pride this winter, not to mention Stepinac super soph Danny Carbuccia and junior

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# Sports

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Boogie Fland, among the top recruits in the nation. You can literally name the Crusaders' starting five on a watch list, and you can read along below to see what's what for the 2022-23 hoops season.

## LEAGUE II-D

### WALTER PANAS

**Coach:** Mike Auerbach. 6th year at Panas. 12th Overall

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 16-7 - Lost in Quarterfinals at Tappan Zee 44-41

**League favorite:** (League II-D Lakeland)

**Section favorite:** (Tappan Zee, Lakeland, Fox Lane, Poughkeepsie, Pearl River, Somers)

**Top returning players:** Alex Tavarez, Sr. 6'0", PG (19.2 ppg, 3.5 apg, 3.5rpg, 1st team LHBCA, 4th team all-state, all-section, all-league); Dillon Chenard, Sr. 6'9", C (5.3ppg, 5.3rpg, 1.6bpg); Derek Mojica, Sr. 6'2", G/F (5.0ppg); Jerry Smallwood, Sr. 5'11" G.

**Key newcomers:** Tyler Greene, Jr. 6'1" G; Cayden Turner, Jr. 5'10. Jr. G

**Team Grunt:** Assistant Coach Ryan Dobson

**Team strengths:** Our team speed and athleticism should be a strength. We're hoping to play at a fast pace offensively and be able to put some pressure on our opponents defensively. We return 3 starters in Tavarez, Chenard, and Mojica and should be able to rely on their experience on both ends. Our outside shooting has improved from a year ago as well. Most importantly, we have a group that works well together and enjoys being on the court with one another.

**What we need to get better at:** Winning close games was an issue last year. We were 2-5 in games decided by two baskets or less. Hopefully we can improve upon executing late in close games.

**Goals:** We think we can compete for a league title and be competitive with the top of Class A, which is always deep and challenging.

**Coach's Comments:** We're really excited about the group we have. It's a good mix on and off the court and they've been working hard as group early on. Returning a player like Tavarez should allow our newcomers some time to adjust to the speed of the varsity game and settle in. Tavarez is closing in on 1000 points. He's one of the area's best players and we'll rely heavily on him to lead the offense. The addition of Tyler Greene will be big for us on both ends of the floor. He's shown the ability to be impactful as a shooter, playmaker and defender. Dillon Chenard is a mobile, experienced, center for us and anchors the back end of our defense. His size and mobility allows our guards to be aggressive and active on the ball and in the passing lanes. Derek Mojica, a 3 year varsity player was starting for us by the end of last season. He shot the 3 very well for us a year ago and will step into a bigger role this year. We have a handful of depth guys who fit what we want to do on both ends. We think we can go 8 or 9 deep depending on the opponent and maintain the style of play we're looking for.

**Noteworthy:** (We open up on 12/6 vs. Gorton...Somers Tournament 12/15 & 12/17...Pelham Tournament 12/27 & 12/28... vs. Byram Hills 1/11...@Tappan Zee 1/23... vs. Suffern 1/25...vs. Kingston 1/27....Giglio Games @ Lakeland 2/4....Tavarez is at 923 points)



Mahopac senior Jake Couzens provides the Indians with experience and ability.

RAY GALLAGHER / ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

## LAKELAND

**Coach:** Steve Fallo, 8th year

**Last year's record & playoff result:** 13-10, lost in quarterfinals to Lourdes.

**Top returning players:** Logan Shiland, Sr. F (All-Conference, Capt.); Chris Whyte-Luciano, Sr. G (All-Conference, Capt.); Andrew Mendel, Sr. C, Capt.); Anthony Jennings, Sr. G/F (led team with 18 charges last year, Capt.)

**Key newcomers:** Grady Leonard, Logan Crilly, John Bartolotta, Ryan Tocci, Sean Perry and Ryan Ahmed; all will all be very important to how far we go in the tournament.

**League favorite:** Lakeland and Panas should be co-favorites to win our league.

**Section favorite:** Class A is very competitive and I do not think there is a clear cut favorite.

**Coach's Comments:** Our expectations are to compete every night and be ready for the tournament. Our expectations for our seniors are for them to lead by example: Work hard and compete in every practice, make your teammates better and leave it all on the court on game day. This is a very experienced group who has the talent and competitiveness to lead us deep in the section 1 tournament

**Noteable:** We open with Mahopac on Dec.2 at Lakeland

## HEN HUD

**Coach:** Jordan Hirsch, Year 10, Assistant Coaches: Jason Bertoline, PJ Male

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 11-10, lost in play-in game to Yorktown

**League favorite:** Walter Panas

**Section favorite:** Poughkeepsie

**Top returning players:** Dean Hiltley, Sr. 5'8, Guard (all-league, all-conference), Gino Wamack, Jr. 6'2, Guard/Forward (all-league), Michael Gagliardi, Sr. 6'0, Guard, Thomas Popolizio, Sr. 6'0, Guard, Stephen Raguso, Sr. 6'2, Forward, Conor Prokopiak, Jr. 6'0, Forward, Chris Parkes, Jr. 6'0, Guard/Forward, Matt Pena, Sr. 6'8, Center.

**Key newcomers:** Ryan Olstrom, Sr. 6'2, Forward, Jack Hiltse, Fr. 5'8, Guard, Jeremy Heady, Jr. 6'3, Forward, Joey Abboud, So. 5'10, Forward, Randy Bencosme, 5'8, Guard, Jr.

**Team Grunt:** I think you could put a lot of our guys in this category on our team, they are workers.

**Team strengths:** Chemistry, team speed, toughness

**What we need to get better at:** Playing faster without being careless.

**Goals:** Being competitive in every game and putting ourselves in a position to win everytime we play.

**Coach's Comments:** Our team is a group of workers. They have brought energy, enthusiasm, and grit to our preseason while doing a great job this fall of committing to sharpening their skill sets. We have a group of experienced players that have built great chemistry over a long tenure playing together through the youth ranks and we're optimistic that their familiarity with each other and care for each other will show through in the way they play when it counts.

**Noteworthy:** Opening the season in the Sleepy Hollow Tournament December 2, 3. Home opener December 6 vs Gorton. Gazette Cup with Croton February 4th in

# Boys Hoops Notebook

Montrose. Currently sitting at 92 wins in nine years, so potential for the 100 program wins in 10 years milestone if we play our cards right.

**Sports media Twitter/IG acct:** Twitter: @HenHudBall and @Coach Hirsch, Instagram: @henhudball and @coach\_jhirsch

## PEEKSKILL

**Coach:** Tyrone Searight: 1st Year Head Coach

**Last season record:** 3-18

**Top returning players:** Travis Brown, Jaden Chavis and Leon Middletown are some of our key returning players.

**Coach's comments:** Peekskill will be looking to play a controlled, uptempo game with a lot of pressure on our opponents. I am looking forward to seeing our students improve and make post season play. I look forward to working with our coaching staff, who have a rich history and pride for Peekskill. I am excited about the season.

## LEAGUE II-E

### YORKTOWN

**Coach:** Mark Pavella, 5th year at Yorktown (2 years at Mahopac varsity girls), 7th overall

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 11-11 Lost to Tappan Zee in 1st round

**League favorite:** Everyone in our league will be a tough game.

**Section favorite:** Class A is so deep as usual. Hard to predict a section favorite right now.

**Top returning players:** Kaden Gonzalez 10th, G 6'3; Billy Feeks 11th, G 6'0; Tommy Costello 11th, G 5'11; Charlie DeGennaro 12th Captain, G 5'10; Justin Price 11th Captain (All league last year), G 6'2; Antoine Coles 12th, G 6'0; Rocco Conciatori 12th, C 6'4; John Romero 12th, F 6'3

**Key newcomers:** Brandon Montero 11th, F 6'3; Sean Coney 11th, G 5'8; Joe Granitto 11th, F 6'0; Josh Barton 12th, C 6'3; Troy Diaz 11th, F 6'0; David Gjergji 10th, C 6'4; Nick Gjergji 12th, F

**Team strengths:** We have a team that works hard in practice, as well as the right attitude so far to start this pre-season. We have multiple guys that have the ability to handle the basketball.

**What we need to get better at:** We will continue to work hard in practice on the defensive end.

**Goals:** Take one day at a time, and compete each day, if we do that we will give ourselves a chance to win games.

**Noteworthy:** Season opener at Greeley on 12/6

## SOMERS

**Coach:** Chris DiCintio, 11th season at Somers. Coached 11 seasons at Rye (overall record 244-196)

**2021-22 Record:** Overall 12-10, 1-1 in the playoffs (eat Clarkstown North, lost to Byram Hills)

**League favorite:** Should be a competitive league between Somers, John Jay and Yorktown since getting their transfer from Stepinac back.

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# Sports

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**Section favorite:** Poughkeepsie, Tappan Zee, Somers and Panas

**Top returning players:** Matt Fitzsimons, Sr., 6-5 SF, All Section, Led team in scoring every year since freshman year; Dylan Ingraham, Sr., 6-3 PG, Three year varsity starter; Andrew Violante, Jr., 6-0 SG; Nate Cohen, Jr., 6-0 SG; Brady Leitner, Jr., 5-9 PG; Mac Sullivan, Jr., 6-4 C

**Key newcomers:** Dan O'Brien, Sr., 6-0 SF; Jack Repp, Sr., 6-0 SG

**Team Leader:** Dylan Ingraham

**Team MVP:** Matt Fitzsimons

**Team Grunt:** Brady Leitner and Nate Cohen

**Team Sleeper:** Andrew Violante

**Team strengths:** The team has six returning players that played the majority of minutes last year. They are athletic, tough and talented with good chemistry

What we need to get better at: With half of the team returning to the state football championship, acclimating the boys in a short period of time will be tough. In addition, they will have to get their basketball legs underneath them which may take some time. Last year Somers found itself in the same situation and started out 0 & 6 before turning it around and winning 8 straight. Hopefully last year's experience will enable the veterans to acclimate quicker than last season. We shall see!

**Goals:** Capture its first league title since 1989 and its first sectional title since 1992.

**Coach's Comments:** If there's any coach in the section that is more than ready for the challenge of starting late, it would have to be Chris DiCintio. In his 22 seasons as a head varsity coach between Rye HS and Somers HS, the football teams have won 12 sectional titles and made it to the state finals 6 times! During which time his teams won 133 games and had a winning percentage of nearly 60%.

**Noteworthy:** The Tuskers pushed the start of their schedule back and they will open up in their holiday tournament on Friday, December 16th at 6:15PM at Somers HS. Phenom All State quarterback, Matt Fitzsimons, will switch gears from the gridiron in the Carrier Dome as he sets his sights on reaching his 1,000 career point this season.

**Sports media Twitter/IG acct:** @Somersboyshoops

## BREWSTER

**Coach:** Michael Nicastro (1st year as Head Coach); Jason Weltman (Asst. Coach); Jonathan Palmieri (Asst. Coach)

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 4-16 (Playoffs n/a)

**League favorite:** Yorktown

**Section favorite:** Lakeland

**Top returning players:** Conner Griffin (SR) 6'5 225 lbs (2022 All-League); Steve Switzer (SR) 6'0 185 lbs; Matthew Thompson (JR) 6'4 210 lbs; William Dignan (SO) 5'10 170 lbs

**Key newcomers:** Lucas Cabiati (JR) 5'8 PG/SG

**Team Grunt:** Conner Griffin/Steve Switzer

**Team strengths:** Toughness, Determination, Shooting, Post Offense

**What we need to get better at:** Toughness, Consistency, Taking Charges

**Goals:** Win our league

**Coach's Comments:** With three

returning starters, Brewster is looking to make a name for itself this year.

**Noteworthy:** Season Opener - Home v. RCK (12/6); Mahopac Tournament - (12/28 & 12/29)

## LEAGUE I-A

### MAHOPAC

**Coach:** Matt Calabro (3-year varsity assistant Mahopac, first season as head coach. Previously head coach at Morris HS in the PSAL for 10 years)

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 15-4 record - lost to Lakeland in the first round of sectionals

**League favorite:** Poughkeepsie

**Section favorite:** Lakeland

**Top returning players:** Joey Koch, Sr, 5'11, G, Jake Couzens, Sr, 5'10, G, Liam Dodd, Sr, 6'4, C

**Key newcomers:** Danny Koch, Jr, 5'11, G- Liam Scanlon, Jr, 6'3, F- John Kearney, 6'1, Jr, G/F- Connor Ferreiri, Jr, 5'10, G- Jalen Jones, 6'4, Jr, F

**Team strengths:** Playing together

**What we need to get better at:** Need to become tougher and more focused everyday

**Goals:** Get better everyday

**Coach's Comments:** We have a good group of guys and we are excited for the upcoming season.

**Noteworthy:** Season opener @ Lakeland 12/2. Hosting holiday tournament at Mahopac (12/18 + 12/29), hosting Carmel to open the tourney on 12/28

**Sports media Twitter/IG acct:** @MahopacHoops

## LEAGUE I-D

### FOX LANE

**Coach:** Mike Tomassi, 9th year

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 17-6, lost in Section One Class AA semis

**League favorite:** White Plains

**Section favorite:** Poughkeepsie

**Top returning players:** Charlie Shevick 6'3 Sr. Guard - 3-year starter; Chris Redhead 6' 3 Sr. Guard; Matt Toscano 5 '10 Sr. Guard; Niko Dent 6'4" Sr. Forward; Kevin New 6'2 Jr. Guard; Conrad Hardie 6'2 Sr. Wing

**Key newcomers:** Arthur Shevick 6'1 Freshmen Guard; James Minotti 6'2 Jr. Forward; Logan Mammola 6'2 So. Forward; Eli Daglio 6'2 So. Guard

**Team Grunt:** Charlie Hoyt, James Minotti, VJ Bomba

**Team strengths:** Ball movement, shooting and team defense

**What we need to get better at:** Transition offense and trusting each other

**Goals:** League Championship and Top 4 Seed

**Coach's Comments:** Foxes are hoping to build on two successful seasons with a deep and experienced roster. We have some holes and leadership to fill from last year's 17-6 team, but as a coaching staff we have been pleased with the development of each player. We need to continue to develop daily and trust the process of being consistent each day to make a deep playoff run.

**Sports media Twitter/IG acct:** @foxlanebasketball

# Boys Hoops Notebook



Yorktown junior G Justin Price's sweet stroke will blow the minds of many Class A foes in 2023.

## WHITE PLAINS

**Coach:** Spencer Mayfield

**Returning players:** White Plains returns eight players from last season. And will be keyed by All-Conference 19.0 points per game 6-3 Sr. Menzy Carden and Jr. 6-5 All-League F Logan McCormick 9.9 points per game. A healthy 6-0 jr Miles Johnson returns after missing the majority of the season last year due to injury and continued improvement by combo guard 5-11 jr. Jake Labroschiano give the Tigers good guard play. Returning Juniors 6-1 Luke Brooks and 6-3 Daniel Herzner will be counted on for major contributions both offensive and defensively. The steady play of seniors 6-2 Malik Dawson and captain 6-3 Liam Johnson will be

crucial to our success.

**Key Newcomers:** juniors 6-0 Anthony Crilley, 5-11 Travon DuBois, 6-4 Brendan Locke, seniors 6-4 Ethan Senkyrie and 5-11 Evan Elliott will provide quality depth and make strong contributions.

**Goals:** White Plains is looking to contend in the league and be improved for section playoffs and make a run.

**Noteworthy:** Team is looking forward to hosting the 28th Harry Jefferson Showcase December 9th; playing in the Harrison Tournament December 15th and 17th; will travel to Charleston South Carolina and play in the Carolina Invitational Tournament December 28-30th.

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# Sports

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## OSSINING

**Coach:** Mike Casey (8th season)

**2021-22 record & playoff results:** 13-7 (lost first round to Scarsdale)

**League favorite:** Up for grabs

**Top returning players:** AJ Caparelli, Sr. 5'11, G, Kristian Banwareesingh, So. 6'3, G, Isaiah Ahlers, Jr. 6'3, F, Dominique Bautista, Sr. 6'4 Jaiden Newton, Jr. 6'2 G, Isaiah Haye, Sr. 5'8 G, Sully Shyllon, Jr. 5'9 G, Gavin Thomas-Walters, Jr. 6'0 F Darien Blalock, Sr. 6'3 F

**Key newcomers:** Acalan Fauntleroy So. 6'7 C, Donte Williams, So. 5'8, G, Sebastian DaCosta, Jr. 5'8, G, Franklin Santos, Jr. 5'10, G

**Team Grunt:** AJ Caparelli & Isaiah Ahlers

**Team strengths:** Length, athleticism, sharing the ball.

**Goals:** To reach our full potential while taking advantage of every opportunity.

**Coach's Comments:** The coaching staff is excited for this season and what it has in store for this team. We have a good mix of veterans with some young talent. If the two can blend then we should have a successful season.

**Noteworthy:** We have our season opener 12/2 vs Nyack in the Howard Godwin (Sleepy Hollow) Tournament. On 12/15 we will play in the Michael DiPaoli tournament (Somers) against Walter Panas and Somers, which will be two great match ups for the Pride.

**Sports media Twitter/IG acct:** @CoachCaseyOHS

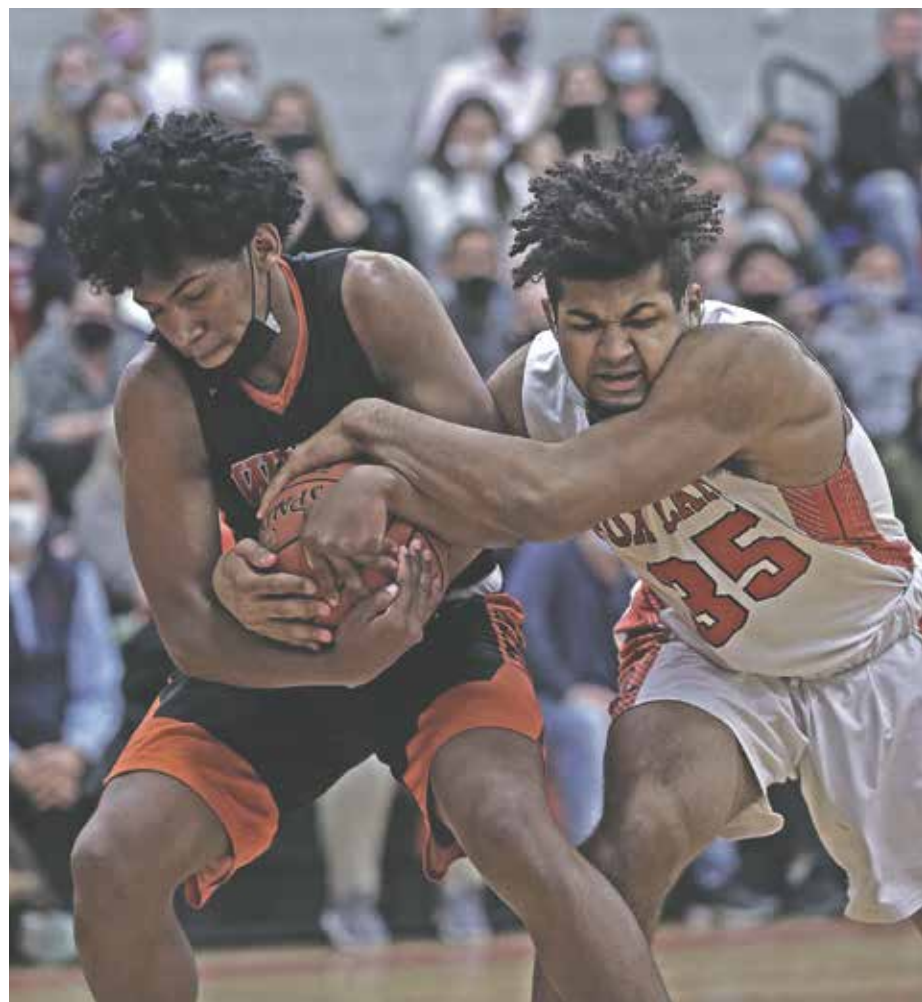
## HORACE GREELEY

**Coach** - Matt Simone, Asst. Coach - Mike McDonnell

**Top Returning Players:** Justin Potack (Sr), Ben Cohen (Sr), Jesse Goldfarb (Sr), Ethan Golub (Sr), Dom Larizza (Sr), Brandon Fitzsimmons (Jr), Noah Smith (Jr), Nick Tasso (Jr), Filip Vujanic (Jr)



Fox Lane senior Charlie Shevick will be a force in league play before becoming a menace in Class A postseason.



Big boys White Plains senior Menzy Carden (L) and Fox Lane senior Nikolas Dent should see plenty of each other in league action this season.

**Key Newcomers:** David Loew (Sr), Benji Ricardo (Jr), Aiden Dunleavy (Jr), Chris Percora (Jr), Zach Boyriven (So)

**Need to work on:** Inside strength and interior defense is our biggest issue, but we hope to be a tough and scrappy defensive team.

**Coach's Comments:** We return nine players this year so are hoping to be more competitive than the previous year. Offensively, we will look for many people to step up as we hope to have a balanced scoring attack alongside Justin Potack. We have a very deep team of guards who can come in off the bench and make an immediate impact, so that constant competition for playing time within our team should strengthen our overall competitiveness each practice/game. The addition of Coach Mike McDonnell has brought a ton of knowledge and experience to our program.

**Sports media Twitter/IG acct:** @GreeleyHoops

Center

**Team strengths:** Size, Versatility

**What we need to get better at:** Experience playing together, improving basketball IQ. Handling adversity.

**Goals:** Gold Ball

**Coach's Comments:** This is a very tall, athletic team that has high expectations. Moving to Class B for the first time in over 20 years will provide a new challenge, however, most crossovers we have are still the top Class A teams. So, there may be some bumps in the road, and how we handle that together will go a long way towards determining whether we can achieve our goals. Our biggest losses from last year's team are leadership and basketball IQ. How we fill those voids will be crucial.

**Noteworthy:** Briarcliff Tournament 12/8-12/10, Bronxville Tournament 12/16-17, notable Class A games: TZ, Panas

## LEAGUE III-A

## CLASS B

## LEAGUE II-F

## BYRAM HILLS

**Coach:** Ted Repa (21st year)

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 17-6 (Lost in Class A Semi's to Poughkeepsie)

**Top returning players:** Sean Siegel 6'4" Sr Forward - 6ppg; Luke Berliner 6'5" Sr Forward; Tyson Repa, 6'4" Jr Guard (11ppg, 2022 All-League); Zac Efobi 6'4" Soph

## BRIARCLIFF

**Coach:** Nick Friedman, 5th year as head coach, 10th year overall

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 14-7, lost in sectional final

**League favorite:** Valhalla

**Section favorite:** Valhalla or Byram

**Top returning players:** Jason Rosenbaum 6'0 Senior Guard; Cooper Plank 6'2 Senior Forward

**Key newcomers:** Luke Lawler 6'1 So. Guard; Xavier Prekelezaj 6'2 So. Forward; Luke Murray 6'0 So. Guard; Ian Miller 6'0

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# Sports

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Sr. Guard; Chris D'onofrio 6'1 Jr Forward; Alex Vream 5'10 SR Guard

**Team Grunt:** Gavin Panitz Sr. Forward 6'0

**Team strengths:** Defense, shooting

**What we need to get better at:** Rebounding

**Goals:** Be playing our best mid February.

**Coach's Comments:** I can't keep these kids out of the gym. They are a pleasure to coach and I can't wait to see how they grow. Our schedule is brutal. That's how we like it.

**Noteworthy:** open up at Fox Lane 12/6, at Mekeel Christian 12/17

## VALHALLA

**Coach:** Rich Clinchy, 6th year at Valhalla, 69-31 record, 22nd high school season.

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 13-8, lost 70-69 to Briarcliff in quarterfinal.

**League favorite:** Rye Neck

**Sectional favorite:** Byram Hills.

**Top returning players:** Chris Purchia 6-1 senior forward; Basiaka Butcher 6-1 senior forward; Devan Cooper 5-10 guard; Mikaele Martinez, 6-4 junior forward; Julian Amorosa 5-8 junior guard; Anthony Naclerio 6-2 junior forward; Matt Langlois 6-1 junior guard

**Key Newcomers:** Antonis Palongous, 6-0 junior guard transfer from Stepinac; Rob Foissett, 5-9 junior guard; Brendan O'Neil 5-10 junior guard; Amari Powell 6-1 junior forward; Emmanuel Aruajo 5-10 junior

guard; Michael Girdauskas, 5-8 senior guard  
**Team Grunt:** Purchia

**Strengths:** We have some speed, not much height.

**Need to get better:** "playing as one." Cohesion is crucial for this team. The whole must be greater than the parts.

**Coach's Comment:** We came out of the fall sports season with a slew of injuries. We won't see our entire team until January, and only then we will have a better idea of our potential. Every game in our league is tough, and every out of league game is a big game. It's the toughest schedule we have had in my time at Valhalla. Hopefully, we will be prepared for what comes our way as the season progresses.

**Sports media Twitter/IG acct:** @VikingHoops

## LEAGUE III-E

### HALDANE

**Coach:** Joe Virgadamo 17th season (183-149)

**2021-2022 record:** 19-3, league champs, lost in the Class C sectional championship

**League favorite:** Haldane, we look to be the League III-E champs for the 5th year in a row.

**Sectional favorite:** Tuckahoe, Hamilton, Haldane but can't overlook a tough Lefell.

**Top Returning Players:** Matteo



Byram Hills junior Tyson Repa should have a monster season in Class B this year.



Briarcliff G Jason Rosenbaum hopes to continue the Bears' strong hoop tradition in 2022-23.

Cervone, Sr., 6'4, G ('22 All Section), Will Bradley, Sr., 6'1 G, Ben Bozsik, Sr. 6', G, Matt Nachamkin, JR. 6'5, G, Ryan Eng-Wong, Sr. 5'10, G, Julian Ambrose, Sr. 6'2, G, Jesse Hagen, Sr., 5'10, F

**Key Newcomers:** Evan Giachinta, Jr. 6'3, F, Nate Stickle, So. 6'2, F, Michael Murray, Jr., 6'2, G., Ryan Van Tassel Jr. 6'1, G, P.J. Ruggiero, Jr., 5'10, G, Jr. 6'1, Thomas Rockett, Sr., 5'10, G., John Bastys, Jr. 6'2, F,

**Team Grunt:** Outwork our opponents and find the open guy.

**What we need to get better at:** Communication.

**Goals:** Get better everyday and play in the Class C Sectional Championship

**Noteworthy:** Competitive Schedule and the Battle of the Tunnel game vs. Beacon is on Friday, 1/27 @ Haldane. The Blue Devils opened the season with a 71-38 win over Marlboro behind Cervone (19 points), Murray (10), Nachamkin, Bozsik and Bradley (9 each).

## PUTNAM VALLEY

**Coach:** Al Morales, 4th season at PV and 20th in total.

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 9-11, won opening round at Westlake, lost in a close second round game to eventual champ Bronxville

**2022-23 League favorite:** Haldane

**2022-23 Section favorite:** Not sure as there are a couple of very good schools.

**Top returning players:** Sean Holzman, Sr. 6'5, Forward, James Apostolico, So. 6'0, SG, Hudson Sperrazza, Sr. 6'3 Forward, John

# Boys Hoops Notebook

Cekaj, Sr. 6'2 Forward.

**Key newcomers:** Leland Petrash, Sr. 6'0 Guard, Connor Flynn, 6'4 Center, Jack Moriarty, Jr. 5'11 PG, Ryan Moriarty, 6'0 Guard, Sal Calicchio, Jr. 5'11 Guard.

**Team strengths:** They all get along and are eager to work and do well.

**What we need to get better at:** Our man-to-man defense

**Goals:** Compete for league champs

**Coach's Comments:** We are coming off a great season and have lost some key players, but with the experience and leadership of the returning players, we hope to get better and compete for our league.

**Noteworthy:** We open-up this Thursday the 1st of December against Kennedy Catholic in the Eastchester Tournament.

**Sports media Twitter/IG acct:** IG @ambc2llc, Twitter -@AMBC2LLC

## CHSAA

### ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC

**Coach:** Patrick Massaroni - Year 8

**2021-2022 record & playoff result:** - 26-4, Lost in Catholic 'AA' State Championship

**2022-2023 favorite** - 3-way race between Christ the King, Cardinal Hayes and Stepinac

**Top Returning Players:** Jr. G - Boogie Fland; So, Guard - Danny Carbuccia; Sr, Forward - Ben Lyttle; Jr, Guard - Braylan Ritvo

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# Boys Hoops Notebook

*continued from previous page*

**Key Newcomers:** Jordan Gabriel; Jr, Forward, Dylan Perry; Fr, Guard

**Team Grunt** - Senior Ben Lyttle & Junior Asher Cort

**Strengths and Improvements:** The team went 26-4 last year losing in the CHSAA 'AA' City Championship game to Cardinal Hayes. While graduating 6 seniors and 3 starters, the team returns 8 players and 2 starters. The team is led by Guards, Junior Boogie Fland and Sophomore Danny Carbuccia in the backcourt with Senior Ben Lyttle and Junior Braylan Rtivo with an addition of Junior transfer 6'8 Jordan Gabriel. Team returns Senior Cole Decker and Juniors Aamyr Sullivan, Howard Easley Jr and Jahi Gary off the bench. The team will play a National Non League Schedule including St. Frances of Maryland at home, at the prestigious City of Palms in Florida, Top 5 ranked Paul VI (VA) in Delaware and Simeon (IL) at the Hall of Fame - this in addition to a challenging 17 'AA' CHSAA schedule. A dynamic backcourt and depth of guard play will be the strength of the team and its ability to guard on the defensive end. Weakness is the team not being as tall up front as in years past and only having 2 seniors on the roster.

**Goals:** CHSAA AA City & State Championship

**Coaches Comments:** The staff and I are

excited for the 2022-2023 season. We return eight guys from a team that lost in the state catholic championship. The team will need to play unselfish at all times, especially playing one of the toughest schedules in the country.

## KENNEDY CATHOLIC PREP

**Coach:** James Loughran, 1st Year Head Coach

**2021-22 record & playoff result:** 9-11, Lost in Semi Finals vs Cathedral Prep 64-61

**League favorite:** Class B, Cristo Rey

**Section favorite:** Cristo Rey / St Johns Prep / Cathedral Prep

**Top returning players:** Justin Smith, Sr. (G), Nick Calandros, Sr. (G), Ciaran O'Gara, Sr. (C), Luis Garcia, Sr. (G), James Arefieg, Jr. (G), Ryan McInerney, Jr. (F),

**Key newcomers:** Sebastian Jackson, Fr. (G), Max Abrahams, So. (G), Michael Cunningham, So. (F), Aidan Hall, Jr. (F), Luke Stephen, Jr. (G), Reilly Tuck, Jr. (G), Ralph Bonavita, Jr. (G). Israel Centeno-Johnson, Jr. (G), Julien Karteron, Sr. (G).

**Team Grunt:** Ryan McInerney, the man who takes the most charges in practice!

**Team strengths:** Our size in our league can be able to contest with a bunch of programs, as well as our returners at the guard spots are what is going to give us opportunities night in and night out. While we have some depth to our bench, it will give us the opportunity to show different



High-flying Valhalla G Basiaka Butcher should emerge as a Class B force in 2022-23.



Haldane senior Matteo Cervone will leave his imprint as an all-time Blue Devil great in 2022-23.

looks at times. What we need to get better at: Our game experiences. We are behind on live game experience, will take some time to adjust to this level for some of our guys at some key spots. Will take time to develop but they are committed week in and week out.

**Goals/ Comments:** Compete. That's the expectation. We have about one, maybe two kids who played meaningful varsity minutes last season here at Kennedy. We have a freshman and two sophomores in our starting lineup, all in which this is their first campaign at the varsity level. Though 'experience' and 'youth' to me, is an excuse. The job is to get these guys to compete as hard as we can. Our motto has been '1%-plus', if week in week out, day in day out, we can get to that 1%-plus of positive progress together, these guys will be alright. We

scheduled a tough schedule, and our league is a tough league. It won't be easy, but I am never one to 'hide' from competition and that's what I want these kids, especially our younger guys coming up in this program, to get used to seeing. We keep reminding them, there will be times we may go through some failure, but how we respond in those times are just as important as how we respond to the success.

**Noteworthy:** Eastchester Tournament this upcoming week, December 1 st and December 3 rd , as our first league game begins December 11 th at Moore Catholic.

**Sports Media:** Twitter: @KennedyHoops ; Instagram: @kennedycatholicprep\_hoops

*Efforts were made to contact every school in the Examiner region, some did not respond before deadline.*

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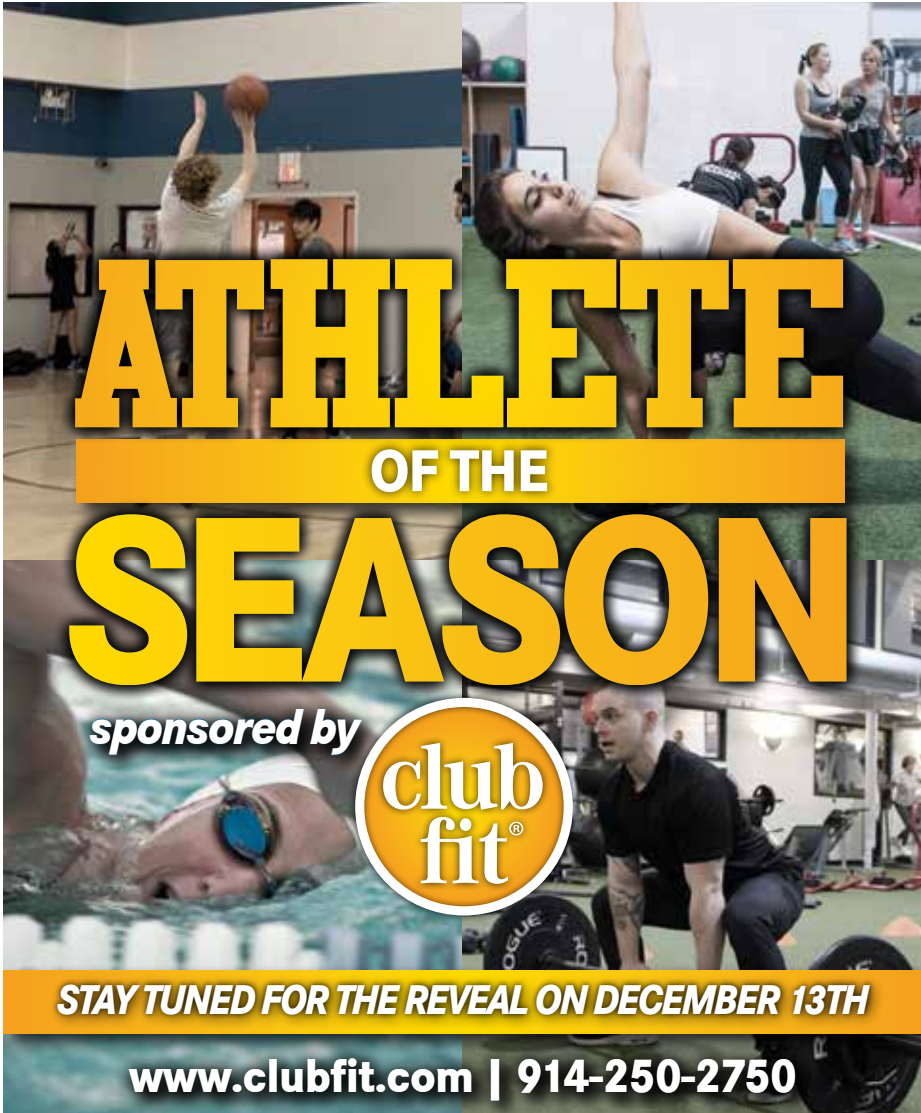
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# Examiner Sports

## Phantom of the Gridiron!



DONNA MUELLER PHOTOS

## Questionable Call Denies Picart TD, Ends Pleasantville's Bid for NYSPHSAA Class B Title; Panthers Fall, 26-25, to Maine-Endwell

Whether it was a figment of imagination or a ticky-tack phantom call, a questionable block-from-behind penalty ended up wiping out a long, fourth-quarter Daniel Picart (10) TD catch and run and was the difference in Pleasantville's 26-25 NYSPHSAA Class B title loss to state-ranked (No.1) Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell at the JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse where the (No.3) Panthers suffered a second-straight loss to the reigning two-time champions despite Picart's attempted heroics. Picart and teammate Erik Coleman (inset photo) had plenty to celebrate this season and are already looking forward to the fall of 2023.. see grid Notebook