

Examiner Sports Alive and Mel!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac Survives Scare from Put Valley; Indians Prevail, 73-70, in Epic Putnam County Hoops Battle

Mahopac senior G Melanie DeMeo drives lane on Putnam Valley senior G Amanda Orlando for two of her 18 points in the Class A Indians' 73-70 win over the Class B Tigers last Thursday when the two bordering rivals slugged it out in one of the finest girls' basketball games in Putnam County history... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Feeks Don't Fail Me Now!



MATTHEW TURRI PHOTO

Yorktown Soph Drops 25 in Win over Carmel

High-flying Yorktown sophomore G Billy Feeks (1) went ballistic in the Huskers' 57-42 romp of visiting Carmel and Andrew Fiore (4) last Thursday, dropping a career-high 25 points to secure Yorktown's second-straight win after dropping six of seven... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

Sports

NWE/Putnam Girls' Hoops Notebook

Put Valley vs. Mahopac was Epic; Yorktown Heating Up

By Tony Pinciario

Putnam Valley vs. Mahopac was one of the finest regular season girls' hoops games in Putnam County history last Thursday when the host Indians prevailed, 73-70, in a heavyweight slugfest.

MAHOPAC swept three games last week – John Jay-Cross River, Rye and Putnam Valley – improving to 10-4 this season.

"All three were really good wins for us," said senior and captain Melanie DeMeo. "The wins against John Jay and Rye really helped us improve and fix the little things so when it was time to play Putnam Valley, we just had to translate our practices into the game."

"We knew PV was going to be a difficult team to beat," DeMeo added. "We battled them all game. When we play good defense, make our shots and play with energy, we are a really good team. Now we are just looking forward to finishing the regular season strong and heading into the playoffs ready to go."

Mahopac had four players in double figures against Putnam Valley in a 73-70 win. Kristina Rush led the way with 19 points, DeMeo added 18 points, Julie DeBrocky scored 14 points and Lauren Beberman added 12 points.

This offset a game-high 37 points by Putnam Valley's Eva DeChent, who added an astounding 24 rebounds to go with five steals and five assists; one of the most impressive stat lines in recent memory.

"She is outstanding," Mahopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava said of DeChent. "She's smooth, doesn't panic, plays great defense... total package. Our help D wasn't very helpful on her. PV is quick and athletic. They went small and we had to do the same to counter it. We had a good shooting night, which saved us."

DeBrocky and Rush each had 17 points as Mahopac went into halftime with a 12-point lead on Rye in a 61-42 win.

Mahopac opened the week with a last-second win over John Jay as Beberman provided the margin of victory on a hoop with 2.5 seconds remaining in the game. DeMeo led Mahopac with 19 points and Rush added 13 points.

PUTNAM VALLEY went 1-1 on the week. PV beat North Salem last night 65-39 on senior night. DeChent had 19, Amanda Orlando had 13, Nai Torres had 11, Natalie Mazza had 10. The loss to Mahopac, while heartbreaking, seemed to bring the Tigers together. If nothing else, it proved that when the Tigers (8-6) put their best foot forward, they will be tough for anyone in Class B to contend with. Brianna Foody hit several clutch shots and played one of her best games of the year for PV.

YORKTOWN was anxiously awaiting the 2021-22 varsity girls' basketball regular season to begin in December. However, once it started, the Cornhuskers were placed on delay.

Covid issues for opponents, the first few weeks of the season, resulted in games being rescheduled. As a result, Yorktown



Mahopac senior G Julia Paolicelli is hounded by Put Valley junior G Eva DeChent in host Indians' 73-70 win over Tigers.



Put Valley senior G Amanda Orlando splits Mahopac defenders Melanie DeMeo and Julie DeBrocky in Tigers' 73-70 loss to host Indians.

was relegated to practice.

"It was definitely a difficult time for us all, mentally," Yorktown senior captain Melissa Severino said. "Having practice six times a week without games is a hard situation to be in. We were all waiting for the games to start and trying to get through the down time. We were able to have some time off and regroup mentally to allow us to come back stronger than before."

Yorktown welcomed the break and focused intently on practice and prepared itself for the condensed schedule it would have – 15 games in 30 days.

"I think our team benefited from having a change and not just having practice everyday," Severino said. "It motivated everyone to keep



Mahopac junior F Lauren Beberman gets an easy two in Indians' 73-70 win over visiting Putnam Valley last Thursday.



Put Valley junior G Eva DeChent goes for two of her game-high 37 points to go with 24 boards 5 assists and 5 steals in Tigers' 73-70 loss to host Mahopac Thursday.

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RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Putnam Valley senior F Natalie Mazza grimaces as she gets fouled by Mahopac's Julia Paolicell in Tigers' 73-70 loss to host Indians Thursday.

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pushing. Although it was nice to be back on the court, it was an overwhelming feeling. We knew as soon as we started there would be no break, which is a lot to prepare for both mentally and physically."

The Cornhuskers have opened the new year with five wins in their last six games, including some thrilling last-second triumphs last week. Yorktown opened the week with a 39-36 win over John Jay-Cross River behind 16 points from Severino and 10 points and 10 rebounds from Erisa Krsniqi.

The Cornhuskers followed with a 38-34 overtime victory over Fox Lane as Kaitlyn Judge swished a 3-pointer with 20 seconds on the clock, giving Yorktown a two-point lead. Severino made two free throws with 3.6 seconds remaining to seal the win.

Yorktown closed the week, rallying from a 10-point deficit in the fourth against Port Chester. Olivia Lucas completed the furious charge with a 3-pointer from the right corner, with 6.5 seconds remaining in the game, for a 59-56 win. Lucas also swished a trey in the final minute against Brewster earlier in January.

Severino scored 12 of her team-best 26 points in the fourth quarter against Port Chester as the Cornhuskers are now 8-5 this season.

"We have stuck together as a team," Severino said. "We help each other through the hard times, and we all have each other's backs. We are starting to gain chemistry on the court and learn what works and what doesn't. We have locked down on defense and left everything on the court."

"Our team has also stepped up in end of

game situations to pull off wins. These are the things that are ultimately going to be the deciding factors in our success during

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Putnam Valley's Brianna Foody goes up for two points in Tigers' 73-70 loss to host Mahopac Thursday.



Mahopac senior G Julie DeBrocky runs off pick set by Lauren Beberman as PV's Brianna Foody defends.



Yorktown senior captain Melissa Severino and the Huskers are playing their best brand of ball at the right time.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys' Hoops Notebook

Mahopac, Somers Set to Rock for League Bragging Rights

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
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As my son, Tyler, likes to say about his newly-minted man cave: "It'll be buzzing, dad!"

The same will be true of **SOMERS** High today when the surging Tuskers – winners of eight-straight – take on visiting **MAHOPAC** – winners of seven of the last eight – for the top spot in League II-C.

Somers' eighth-straight win came on the heels of six consecutive setbacks to start the season, and last Tuesday's 71-43 win over Rye was just another step in the process as the Tuskers (8-6, 5-1) seek to attain their first league title since 1989. A loss to Mahopac today would all but ensure the Tuskers add another year to one of the longest droughts in Section 1 hoops history, so saddle up for a doozy.

Against Rye (7-8), the Tuskers went off behind the exploits of senior G Bennett Leitner (22 points), junior F Matt Fitzsimons

(16 points, 8 boards) and sophomore wing Andrew Violante (8 points). Win or lose against Mahopac, Somers Coach Chris DiCintio has put his Tuskers (8-6) in a prime position to challenge after nobody in their right mind thought they could so as late as Jan. 6 when Mahopac edged the Tuskers. We suspect Round 2 will go down to the wire with Tusker Nation and the Mahopac Maniacs pulling out all the stops in support.

At the same time, Mahopac (9-4, 5-0) was bolstering its approval ratings by taking down **BREWSTER**, 61-46, behind a balanced attack led by Colum Ranaghan (12 points), Max Gomes (11), Jake Couzens (9), Joey Koch (9) and Ryan Reilly (8). The thing about Mahopac is; it's never one guy. It's hard to say the same thing about Somers, which runs through Leitner and Fitz. Expect Mahopac Coach Tom McMahon to be mindful of that as the Indians attempt to take a two-game lead on the rest of the league.

The Indians then went on to

claim third place Palisades Prep tourney where their string of seven-straight wins came to an end. Without the services of senior sniper Patrick McMahon, Mahopac fell behind early against Clarkstown North before falling, 59-53 in OT. Gomes (14 points) and Michael Callahan (13) led the way.

YORKTOWN, which has missed having star G Antoine Coles in the lineup the last few games, got off the schneid by beating a solid Briarcliff club, 53-36. The Huskers had lost six of seven going in, but sophomore G Justin Price had a career day, including 10 points, six rebounds, six assists and five steals. Senior G Marco Jovicevic added 12 points, four rebounds and five steals while G Billy Feeks and C Eddie Brucaj added 10 points each for the Huskers (7-9), who carried that momentum into a dominant 57-42 win against visiting **CARMEL** Thursday. The two solid wins have Coach Mark Pavella's Huskers believing they can get this fixed before the postseason unfolds.

The Huskers needed a quality W and knocking off Carmel, behind a career-high 25 from Feeks, provided just that. Price (8 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists) continued his progression while Brucaj (8 points, 8 rebounds) was solid in the paint, giving Yorktown reason to believe.

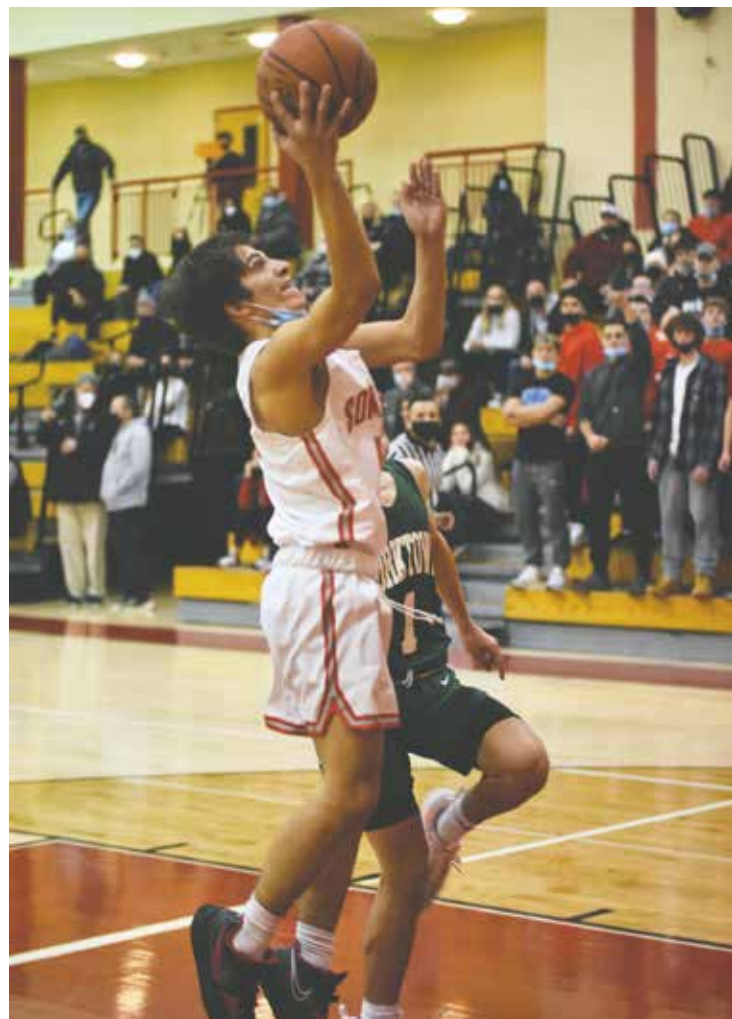
Kevin Dall (9 points), Andrew Fiore (9 points), Nick DiLeo (6 points, 11 boards), Randy Aboagye (3 points, 9 rebounds) and Danny Monahan (14 points) paced the Rams.

LAKELAND is getting healthy again and the Hornets (7-5) snapped a three-game slide with a solid 72-58 win over visiting John Jay CR. Andrew Mendel scored six of his 10 points in the fourth to hold off a 16-13 John Jay run. Hornet junior F Logan Shiland owned the first half, dropping 18 of his 20 points, including four 3's.

Hornet G Chris White-Luciano was hot early, sinking three 3's and 15 of his game-high 21 points before the half when Lakeland rolled out to a 48-24 lead. David Mula and David Pinkowsky added eight more apiece for the Hornets, who might be getting hot at the right time, just as they did last year.

BREWSTER snapped its nine-game skid behind 25 points from Conner Griffin in the Bears' (4-9) 76-60 win over North Salem.

After losing to Lourdes, Put Valley and Panas, **PEEKSKILL** finally got back in the win column



Somers senior G Nick Locovello's Tuskers need this win today over Mahopac in worst way if they want 1st league title since 1989.



Mahopac senior G Max Gomes' Indians are ready for today's League II-C showdown with Somers.

MATTHEW TURRI / RAY GALLAGHER / GIL MCMAHON PHOTOS



Mahopac is hopeful that injured senior G Patrick McMahon can return in time for Somers today.

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Yorktown G Tommy Costello (4) goes for two against defense from Carmel G Kevin Dall in Huskers' 57-42 win over visiting Rams Thursday.

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with a 54-49 road win at Port Chester.

CLASS AA

CARMEL (8-4) is having an about-face/forward-march-type season, one that has gained traction after the Rams got their basketball legs back after winning the NYS Class AA grid title in early Dec.

In Carmel's 81-67 win over Ramapo, the Rams (8-4) got contributions across the board, none bigger than the double-double from DiLeo (19 points, 11 boards). Fiore (23 points, 5 boards), Dall (19 points, 7 boards) and Aboagye (11 points, 16 rebounds) provided four additional prime-time contributors, who are looking to change the way people look at Carmel hoopers.

"Our goal remains the same as it did for football, we want to win the section championship,"

Fiore admitted. "Carmel has always been looked down on. We've had a number

of losing seasons, but this team is trying to change that. We're trying to change the Carmel basketball culture."

In a 63-54 win over John Jay EF, Dall (8 points), Fiore (19 points, 5 rebounds), DiLeo (19 points, 8 rebounds), Aboagye (8 points, 13caroms) and Monahan (9 points) each delivered in a big way.

OSSINING is emerging as a potential quarterfinal club after a 50-33 road win at Ramapo and a 65-30 blowout of rival Sleepy Hollow. Senior G Jaeden Carr (14 points, 4 steals, 3 assists) triggered the win over Ramapo. Talented Pride sophomores Isaiah Ahlers (11 points, 4 rebounds) and Jaiden Newton (11 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals) were on the rise.

Against Sleepy Hollow, Carr paced the Pride with 19 points, six boards and three steals. Vinny Bernardo (18 points, 4 rebounds), Dominique Bautista (8 points, 4 boards) and Isaiah Haye (6 points) were prominent.

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N.West./Putnam Fab Five Hoops Poll

No.1 MAHOPAC – Coach McMahon's Class A Indians (8-4) will find it tough but not impossible – as the current No.9 seed – to feast at home in the playoffs, which is always vital in these 8/9-type games. Need to finish strong to play in front of the #Maniacs.

No.2 PANAS – Coach Auerbach's Class A Panthers (9-4) have moved up to the No.8 seed after three-straight wins, one of which – a 62-53 win over White Plains – was pretty impressive. The rest of the schedule is daunting, so we'll see if Panas can find that moxie that had us all buzzing a month or so ago. Circle up Feb.7 vs. Somers and a pair with Lakeland (Feb. 5 & 12).

No.3 HALDANE – Coach V's Class C state-ranked (No.5) Blue Devils (14-1) will not be challenged for the top seed, but this Hamilton team has reeled off a batch of W's and cannot be bypassed as a legit challenger.

No.4 SOMERS – Since Jan.6, Coach DiCintio's Class A Tuskers (8-6) have moved from the No.31 seed to No.13, and in doing so there's nothing left to complain about in Tusker Nation. Would love to see them snap this league title drought but the deck is stacked against them with 4 league games left and no wiggle room for losses.

No.5 OSSINING – Coach Casey's Class AA Pride (9-5), the current No.8 seed, have reeled of four-straight wins, two of which were impressive home wins against Mamaroneck and Fox Lane. Of their six remaining games, the Pride have two tough games against a desperate White Plains outfit, which is better than its 5-9 record would indicate, and another with Arlington.

No.5A YORKTOWN – Coach Pavella's Class A Huskers (7-8), the current No.19 seed, have five league games left (all winnable, we might add), which could turn that 0-5 league frown upside down with a .500 finish. We'll settle for nothing less than 4-6, though.

HM CARMEL – Coach Johansen's surging Class AA Rams (8-4) blindsided most of us with that 15-point drubbing at the hands of Yorktown, thus snapping their four game win streak and falling to No.9 seed as a result. The docket is loaded with major upcoming challenges against RCK (2X), Fox Lane, Clarkstown South and Arlington, who combine to go 33-14 (vs. Section 1 foes). Let's see what we're made of, boys.

HM LAKELAND – Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets (7-5) snapped a 3-game skid with an impressive win over John Jay to inch up to the No.12 seed. Remember, Lakeland had a shaky start in 2021, only to win the West/Putnam small school regional #JustSayin.

HM HEH HUD – Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (7-6) cling to the No.17 seed but have one of the toughest schedules left in the land, including Lourdes (2X), Panas, Lakeland and Poughkeepsie.

HM PUTNAM VALLEY – Ever since that 8-point loss to a solid Bronxville club (9-3) on Jan. 15, Coach Morales' Tigers (6-8) have figured the game out, doing so with almost-stunning wins over North Salem (9-4) and Valhalla (8-3). Suddenly, the Tigers, the current No.13 seed, can compete and challenge with anyone in Class B #YaGottaBelieve! Sidenote: Section 1 is without representation in the NYSSWA Class B poll.



Bodies will surely hit the floor today when Somers hosts Mahopac today with league bragging rights on the line.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys' Hoops Notebook

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CLASS B/C

After a 1-6 start, **PUTNAM VALLEY** is turning a hard corner, doing what it can to restore some of the luster of a program that won 102 games in six years under former Coach Mike McDonnell, who turned the Tigers into a perennial Section 1 Class B contender, reaching four final fours and two championship games in his six years (2014-19) #GloryDays.

Tuesday's 70-63 win over Valhalla was a monster blow to the visiting Vikings, who came into the game at 8-2 with a potential top four seed in the Class B tournament. The loss set the Vikings back to a current No.5 seed and bolstered PV from No.15 to 13 after senior F Arthur Holzman dropped a career-high 24 points to lead the surging Tigers. PV freshman F Nate Shillingford added 14 points and senior G Cole Durocher went for 13. Coach Al Morales' rebuilding Tigers (5-8) had already opened some eyes with their 65-46 beatdown of North Salem, but Valhalla was no joke and nobody is laughing at the Valley, which has three really tough tests remaining on its schedule, including Somers, Haldane and Carmel, none of which seemed beatable

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Yorktown senior Eddie Brucaj lifts off for jumper in Huskers' 57-42 win over visiting Carmel Thursday.



Yorktown's Justin Price (5) and Antoine Coles (10) did all they could to contain Carmel's Nick DeLeo in Huskers' 57-42 win over visiting Rams Thursday.



Carmel G Andrew Fiore is clamped down by Yorktown's Will Schietinger (2) and Eddie Brucaj in Rams' 57-42 loss to host Huskers.



Carmel F Randy Aboagye goes up for contested shot by Yorktown F Rocco Conciatori in Rams' 57-42 non-league loss to host Huskers Thursday.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys' Hoops Notebook



After dropping six games to start the season, Putnam Valley has won five in a row and sits at 6-8 as the No.13 seed in Class B playoffs.

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just 10 days ago.

HALDANE routed Section 9 Class A rival Beacon, 53-39 behind 16 points from senior F Soren Holmbo. Ryan Irwin and Tristian Reid each dropped a dozen for the Blue Devils (14-1), who will visit Putnam Valley Friday. The Blue Devils then outworked another Section 9 foe, Millbrook, 68-48, when Irwin went off for 19 points. Junior swingman Matteo Cervone added 16 and Robert Viggiano (12) provided a third double-digit scorer. Holmbo (9 points) and Will Bradley (7) rounded out the scoring.

Around Class A: We haven't talked much about Pelham because, let's face it, the Pelicans haven't been much to mention as I recollect the last three-plus decades, but the 2022 Pelicans (14-2) are not to

be overlooked as the current No.2 seed. No.1 Tappan Zee, ranked No.5 in NYS, will enter the postseason as the favorites for good reason. History tells us that and more about the vaunted Dutchmen, and on that same side of the river, No.6 Nanuet (12-4) has handed Pelham one of its two losses. No.3 Eastchester (11-3) is another club without a ton of hoop history but, nonetheless, would host a couple of playoff games if the postseason began tomorrow, which brings us to No.5 Byram Hills (10-4), a solid club with a ton of hoops history. And we haven't even touched on perennial Dutchess powers No.7 Poughkeepsie (6-3 in Section 1, 8-5 overall) and No.10 Lourdes (9-4 in Section 1, 10-4). Point being: Class A is gonna be an unpredictable freak show, so load up and bring it, or be one-and-done!



Haldane senior G Ryan Irwin Blue Devils were set to square off with Bronxville last night before clamping down on the league title later this week.

Girls Hoops Notebook continued...

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playoffs."

The win over Brewster gave Yorktown a huge confidence boost. It also prepared the Cornhuskers on how to handle close, late-game situations.

"That win was crucial," Severino said. "We are in the most important part of the season, and needed a pick-me-up. Not only was it important for our confidence, but everyone needed a morale booster. It's always fun winning a close one. We

needed another win going into a tough last few games. Being able to win another game that was close down to the wire allows our team to adjust to tough situations and gain confidence in environments requiring mental toughness."

BREWSTER made good on its only game of the week, a 54-46 victory over Lakeland, improving to 12-3 this season.

"Whenever playing Lakeland you know you are in for a very tough, physical game and that's exactly what it was," Brewster coach Mike Castaldo said. "In the third quarter senior guard Adrianna Calicchia went off hitting four three-pointers to help give us some breathing room."

"The girls executed the game plan to perfection and Adrianna was the difference in the game. She was unbelievable and I'm so proud of her. Grace (Galgano) was a force, defensively, down low."

Calicchia made seven 3-pointers, finishing with a career-high 24 points. Galgano added 19 points, 13 rebounds and seven blocked shots.

PEEKSKILL won twice, beating Hen Hud and Tuckahoe. Afuo Yeboah scored 11 points and Bethany Overby added nine

points against Hen Hud.

T.K. Cowan Honghoch had a season-high 27 points against Tuckahoe and Overby contributed 25 points.

LAKELAND sandwiched wins against Sleepy Hollow and Lincoln around a loss to Brewster.

Tyler Hormazabal scored 31 points and Ava Lugo added 20 points in the victory over Lincoln.

Hormazabal led Lakeland (13-2) with 22 points and four steals against Sleepy Hollow. Lugo chipped in 20 points and three blocked shots and Nichole Ljuljic scored 16 points.

PANAS (14-1) defeated Somers, 47-32, in its lone game of the week behind Cadence Nicholas, who had 25 points, seven rebounds and six steals. Sofia Tavez added 9 points and Kelsey Cregan added 8 points. Lauren McCartin led Somers with 8 points.

New Rochelle halted **OSSINING'S** seven-game winning streak with a 63-38 victory. Michelle Mercado had 14 points and five assists and Karen Perriott grabbed 13 rebounds for the 10-2 Pride.

Ray Gallagher contributed to this story



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Sports

Foxes Overwhelm Greeley in Front of a Boisterous Crowd

By Andy Jacobs

In a couple of weeks, the Horace Greeley boys' basketball team just might be entering the sectional playoffs as the scariest, most dangerous sub-.500 opponent any high seed would ever want to face.

But on Thursday night, with the one player, Nick Townsend, who could instantly transform the Quakers' fortunes still relegated to their bench as an assistant coach/cheerleader, they had to endure at least one more outing as the proverbial 98-pounder who gets sand kicked in his face at the beach.

In front of a boisterous crowd that nearly filled the gym, host Fox Lane never trailed all evening and used an 11-0 second-quarter run to pull away from the Quakers in a 61-33 victory. Senior guard Justin Allen scored a game-high 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds as the Foxes earned local bragging rights while improving to 9-5 this season.

"This is a tough team," said Quaker head coach Matt Simone about Fox Lane. "Watching them on film and playing them today, I was very impressed with how Fox Lane plays. I think in AA, they're one of the top teams. They've got inside, outside, senior leadership, guys that can shoot. So we knew regardless of who we had on the floor, this was gonna be a tough team and a tough game."

Greeley, which fell to 5-10 with the loss, was forced to play without three starters, including point guard Connor Melis. To make matters worse, Justin Potack, who had erupted for 37 points in the Quakers' win at Brewster a day earlier, was forced to the bench by an injury with just under three minutes remaining in the third quarter.

By then, though, the outcome was hardly in doubt. Potack picked up right where he left off against Brewster by nailing a long 3-pointer from the top of the key for Greeley's first basket of the game, but then he never scored again as the Fox defense



Michael Lombardi of Fox Lane scores on a first-half layup in Thursday night's 61-33 win over Greeley.

harassed him into rushed and contested shots.

"We've got some of the best defenders in Section One with Justin Allen and Charlie Shevick," said Fox Lane coach Mike Tomassi. "They definitely saw the 37 last night and we pride ourselves on our defense, and that was definitely something we wanted to take away tonight. Charlie took the assignment and he's been a three-year varsity player and one of our best defenders during his tenure here."

Without the steady hand of Melis on the floor, the Quakers turned the ball over half a dozen times in the opening quarter and found themselves trailing 14-3 after a 9-0 spurt by Fox Lane that began with a 3-pointer from the left corner by Michael Lombardi. Allen soon followed with a steal that led to his coast-to-coast layup after he weaved past a pair of



Fox Lane senior guard Justin Allen pushes the ball up the floor in the home victory over Horace Greeley. He scored a game-high 19 points.

Greeley defenders in the lane.

Lombardi, who scored seven of his 10 points in the first quarter, then added a fast-break lefty layup off a lead pass from Allen. Junior forward Nikolas Dent capped the spurt by hitting on a short off-balance runner in the paint with 2:46 to go in the quarter.

Greeley finally gave its black-clad student section something to cheer about when Josh Nadel, who paced the team with 13 points, nailed a 3-pointer and then Brandon Fitzsimmons spun into the lane for a scoop shot off glass. But the quarter ended with Fox Lane ahead 18-8 after Dent drove to the right baseline for a bucket and then Lombardi scored on a fast-break layup just before the buzzer.



Fox Lane center Dylan Watson takes the ball to the basket vs. Greeley. He finished with 12 points and eight rebounds.

After the Quakers cut their deficit down to just six points early in the second quarter, Fox Lane proceeded to score the game's next 11 points to take complete command. The blitz began with Aidan Giannelli driving the right baseline for a layup and ended with Giannelli hitting on a 3-point shot from the left corner. The highlight, though, was

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Josh Nadel, who led Greeley with 13 points, is closely guarded by Fox Lane's Dylan Watson during the first half of Thursday night's rivalry game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Greeley guard Justin Potack dribbles the ball up the court in the Quakers' road game vs. Fox Lane.



Ethan Golub of Greeley tries to score inside despite the defensive presence of Fox Lane's Nikolas Dent in the second half.

Sports



Horace Greeley's Mikey Gecaj rises in the lane for a shot as Fox Lane's Charlie Shevick tries to stop him in Thursday night's game.

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Allen's steal that led to his breakaway one-handed dunk.

Nadel provided five points for the Quakers late in the half, connecting on a 15-foot turnaround jumper and then an 18-footer from the left elbow. But a basket by Dent with 50 seconds to go gave Fox Lane a 31-16 cushion at the break.

"This is one of our bigger rivals," said the Foxes' Tomassi. "We're neighbors. This has been a game that's been important to Fox Lane, and Greeley, for decades. So I think they were just fired up to play a crosstown rival and we want to get as many wins as possible before the end of the season. A great atmosphere, so how do you not get pumped up for that?"

Three baskets by Nadel in the early minutes of the second half moved Greeley to within 33-22 with 5:47 remaining in the



Fox Lane's Michael Lombardi (left) and Aidan Giannelli try to corral a rebound in the second half of the win over visiting Horace Greeley.

third quarter. But after a timeout, Fox Lane responded with a 12-2 run that all but sealed the victory. By the time Lombardi concluded the spurt with a left-corner trey, the Foxes had a 21-point lead and the ailing Potack had joined Townsend and Melis on the bench.

The Foxes used another 12-2 run in the fourth quarter to open up their largest lead of the night, 60-29, and the game ended with one final indignity for the Quakers as Mikey Gecaj's toss in the lane at the buzzer teetered on the rim before falling off.

"It was a great atmosphere," said Simone, finding a silver lining in the pre-pandemic-like crowd support. "It was fun. I'm glad the guys got to experience it."

Tomassi, too, was thrilled that the school's administration made a night like Thursday possible for his players.

"We're really thankful," he said. "It felt normal tonight. The kids deserve it. It's just been awesome. The administrative support for athletics in this district is unbelievable and tonight showed it. I think it was a fun



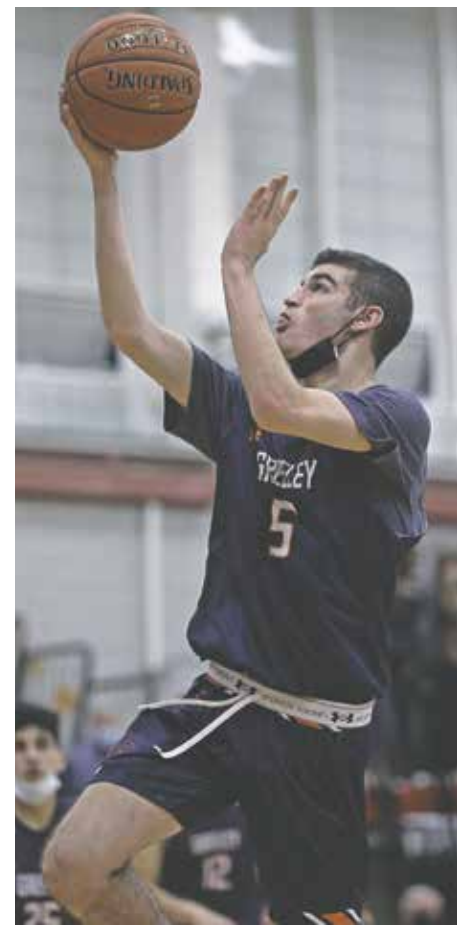
Nick Townsend, who led Greeley to a section championship as a sophomore two years ago and has now returned to the school, helps direct his teammates from the Quaker bench in last Thursday's game.

environment for everybody, including Greeley."

The Quakers, who have lost four games this season by three points or less, might soon be participating in more fun environments if Townsend, the star center who led them to a sectional championship as a sophomore before enrolling at a private school, can get back on the court soon. He recently started classes again at Greeley and might be terrorizing opponents again in the paint.

"Yup, he's enrolled as of Monday," said Simone. "So we're kind of taking it day by day with him. I'm not exactly sure of what all the protocols are, but even with him on the bench, the energy he brings, his leadership, is a ton for us."

Even though the presence of Townsend would instantly elevate the level of play from every one of his teammates, Simone is not about to get carried away with what the



Ben Cohen of Greeley goes up for a basket in the third quarter against Fox Lane.

immediate future holds for his team.

"We're not looking forward to anything except the next game," he said. "We still have a tough five-game stretch at the end of the season. So we're just kind of taking it day by day. Listen, there's all ideal things, but we just try to focus on what we've got here."

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FULL HOUSE



The Fox Lane student section watches in the fourth quarter as the school's boys' basketball team defeats rival Greeley last Thursday evening in Bedford.



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Sports

Despite a Slow Start, Westlake Earns a Win Over the Tigers

By Andy Jacobs

Playing its first game in nine days, the Westlake girls' basketball team had to shake off a bit of rust on Friday afternoon.

The Wildcats struggled mightily to put points on the board in the first half against visiting Croton-Harmon and even went more than six minutes before finally scoring in the second quarter. But they emerged from the locker room after halftime and quickly took command, outscoring the Tigers 16-4 in the third quarter on the way to a 44-31 victory.

"We were off all week and it took us a little time to get our groove back," said Wildcats head coach Sean Mayer shortly after his team had earned its fourth straight win. "We didn't make some shots, we were a

little sluggish, a lot of turnovers. At halftime, we made some adjustments."

Allie Castellone scored nine of her game-high 20 points in Westlake's big third quarter, helping the Wildcats improve to 10-3 this season. Her 3-point basket from the top of the key just 10 seconds into the third quarter broke a 14-14 halftime tie and gave the Wildcats a lead they never relinquished.

After a pair of free throws by Lucia Thoreson moved Croton within a point nearly a minute into the second half, the Wildcats outscored the Tigers 13-2 over the rest of the third quarter. Back-to-back layups from Riley Giaccone started the big run and then a couple of baskets from Castellone, exactly a minute apart, enabled Westlake to grab its first double-digit lead of the day.

With 35 seconds remaining in the period, Castellone weaved her way through the lane for a scoop shot that gave the Wildcats, who once trailed 9-2 and 11-4, a 30-18 advantage heading into the fourth quarter. Westlake built its largest lead, 14 points, when ToniAnn Mastracchio, who scored all nine of her points in the last quarter, connected on a 17-foot jumper from the right baseline 30 seconds in.

"We wanted to get the ball inside, in the paint, a little bit more, and we did that," said Mayer about the halftime adjustments. "Obviously when your half-court offense is sluggish, getting fast-break points is huge. And that opened things up. We had a big third quarter and that kind of set the stage."

Despite 10 fourth-quarter points from Thoreson, who finished with 20, Croton never got any closer than eight points down the stretch. A 15-foot jumper from just left of the foul line by Mastracchio with 1:13 remaining on the clock all but sealed the outcome, and Castellone provided the Wildcats with their final margin when she hit on a 3-pointer out of the right corner with 45 seconds to go.

"It was a nice win," said Mayer, who would've liked to have played a game or two during the nine-day layoff. "We've had some good practices, but, you know, when you don't play for that long it does take time to get to your groove. We made some very basic mistakes early."

As a result, Croton, now 4-11, jumped out to a surprising early lead. The Wildcats just couldn't put the ball in the basket and it took a baseline jumper by Julie Lyden and then a put-back from Francesca DeMartino to get them within 11-8 at the end of the first quarter.

In the first minute of the second quarter, the Tigers stretched their lead back up to six points, but then never scored again the rest of the first half. Westlake, meanwhile, wasn't much better offensively. But after going scoreless themselves over the first six minutes of the period, the Wildcats ended the half with a pair of 3-pointers from Castellone that sent



Westlake's Medina Celaj pulls down an offensive rebound as she's surrounded by Croton's Erin Baumeiser (left) and Maddie Sena during Friday afternoon's game.



Westlake's Riley Giaccone drives to the basket in the first quarter of Friday's 44-31 victory against Croton-Harmon.



The Wildcats' Allie Castellone fires a jump shot in the first half of Friday's 44-31 win over visiting Croton-Harmon.

the teams off at halftime even at 14-apiece.

The first-half struggle for the Wildcats was a disappointing follow-up to their dazzling 56-28 home rout of Briarcliff in their previous game. Castellone and Lyden led the way with 14 points apiece and Giaccone and Sami Oswald combined for 20 more as Westlake played one of its most memorable games in Mayer's long tenure at the school.

"That was probably one of our best games as a program, and I've been here 21 years," he said. "Really, from start to finish, we took it to 'em. We made a lot of shots. Briarcliff wasn't on and we were."

A game like that can cause a team to dream of even bigger things down the road.

"You know, we've talked about it," said Mayer. "We certainly have our goals. But



Sami Oswald sets her sights on the basket while Croton's Erin Baumeiser defends in Friday's game won by the host Wildcats.



Julie Lyden of Westlake shoots the ball just inside the 3-point arc during the Wildcats' home win on Friday afternoon.

we're just gonna take one game at a time. Now we have seven games left, so we still have a lot of improvement to do. I think if we play well, we can keep going as far as we can go."



Westlake point guard ToniAnn Mastracchio pushes the ball up the court in the second half vs. the Croton Tigers.

Sports



Dan Cardozo, who recently broke the White Plains record for goals in a season, heads for another one in the first period against Mahopac. He's scored eight goals in each of the Tigers' last two games.

focus on
**WHITE
PLAINS
Hockey**



White Plains star Dan Cardozo celebrates after scoring one of his eight goals in last Wednesday's 13-5 win over Mahopac at Brewster Ice Arena.



Jason Monte, who finished with a goal and two assists, has something to shout about after the Tigers scored a first-period goal vs. Mahopac.



White Plains' Alex Farben-Griggs waits for the puck to drop during a second-period faceoff vs. Mahopac.



Phillip Shargordsky of White Plains skates up the left wing with the puck in the first period of last Wednesday's 13-5 road win.



The Tigers' Mario DeMaira moves the puck up the ice during last week's lopsided win at Brewster Ice Arena.



Jesse Formica sends a lefty slap shot toward the goal in the Tigers' rout of Mahopac last week at Brewster Ice Arena.



George Snyder controls the puck in the second period of the 13-5 White Plains rout of host Mahopac last Wednesday night. He wound up with two goals and four assists.



The Tigers' Jason Monte considers his options as he handles the puck near center ice.



White Plains goalie Justin Esposito stays ready in net during the first period vs. Mahopac. He wound up making 20 saves in the Tiger victory.

ROCKING THE RIM

**Justin Allen Glides to the Basket
for a Second-Quarter Dunk Shot
in Fox Lane's 61-33 Win Thursday
Over the Visiting Greeley Quakers**