

# Examiner Sports

## Devane Intervention!



### Lakeland's Prayers Answered in Class A Playoff Win over Byram Hills

Things looked bleak for No.5 Lakeland when senior star G Tyler Hormazabal went down with a knee injury (MRI scheduled for Tuesday) in the first half of the host Hornets' Section 1 Class A playoff opener against visiting No.12 Byram Hills last Saturday, but Lakeland freshman G/F Sarah Devane (21) and company prayed to the basketball Gods and prevailed in a 69-62 win over Carmen Parrotta's feisty Bobcats to advance to Friday's highly-anticipated 5 p.m. quarterfinal round against No.4 Mahopac... see Girls Hoops Notebook

# Steady Eddie!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

### Yorktown Strikes First, Last in Class A Playoff Win over Hen Hud

Yorktown C Eddie Brucaj gets a good luck on Hen Hud F Xavier Juarez in the 16th-seeded host Huskers' 55-37 Class A outbracket win over the 17th-seeded Sailors Friday when Brucaj went for six points and snagged a game-high 11 rebounds while the Huskers advanced to today's first round against top-seeded Tappan Zee... see Boys' Hoops Notebook



# Sports

## NWE/Putnam Boys' Hoops Notebook

# Yorktown Pulls Away from Hen Hud; Lakeland, Panas Advance Somers Trounces C. North; Put Valley Upsets Westlake; Carmel, Ossining Ousted

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

The road to the gold ball veered off course for the locals along the Class AA scene with both **OSSINING** and **CARMEL** getting eliminated in the first round of postseason play, but the results were far better in Class A/B where all the locals survived and advanced their respective outbracket and/or first round action.

### CLASS A

**YORKTOWN** sophomore G Billy Feeks doesn't need a whole lot of time or space to get into a good shooting groove, and when he finds his stroke, he's tough to stop. Given the time and space he needed in transition, Feeks drained three-straight 3-balls to bust open a six-point halftime lead en route to the 16th-seeded Huskers' 55-37 Class A outbracket win over visiting No.17 Hen Hud last Friday.

"I was able to get into such a rhythm by my teammates looking to get me shots and pushing the ball in transition," Feeks said of his shooting display." They know I only need one to get myself going, so all credit to them."

Feeks finished with 15 points and G Antonie Coles added eight for Yorktown (11-10), who advanced to face No.1 Tappan Zee today. Husker senior C Eddie Brucjaj added six points and 11 boards while sophomore G Justin Price went for six points, five rebounds and five assists in a well-rounded

presentation of his skills.

"We were able to get out in transition and shoot with some confidence and made some big shots tonight," Yorktown Coach Mark Pavella said.

The Sailors didn't have their best shooting night and without a major game from their guards Hen Hud stood little chance, but an 11-win season is nothing to sneeze at.

No.13 **LAKELAND** won its fifth straight game – a 66-45 rout of Albertus Magnus – advancing to today's opening round against host **MAHOPAC**, which, as the No.4 seed, did not have an outbracket game and had plenty of time to prepare for a Hornet club that witnessed the prime-time play of G Chris Whyte-Luciano, who dropped a team-high 22 points and nailed four from distance.

When Lakeland (12-9) is hitting from beyond the arc, they are lethal and junior F Logan Shiland was the proof in the pudding, stroking five treys and sinking 21 points overall. Something tells us both fan bases will turn out and turn up the heat today at 5 p.m. There was a time back in the day when Lakeland vs. Mahopac was all we needed to see to circle the date #BorderWars! And then the ladies will do it all over again in Friday's 5 p.m. quarterfinal between the No.4 host Indians and the fifth-seeded Hornets #LetsDoThis.

No.14 **SOMERS** was another Class A club to survive the outbracket round and reach the Sweet 16 after a 61-39 pouncing of

*continued on next page*



Yorktown G Antoine Coles drives lane on Hen Hud F Rocco Capicotti in host Huskers' 55-37 Class A outbracket win over Sailors Friday.



Yorktown G Billy Feeks drives lane against double team from Hen Hud's Eugene Wamack and Dean Hiltley in Huskers' Class A playoff win over Sailors.



Yorktown G Justin Price is hounded by Hen Hud G Michael Gagliardi in host Huskers' 55-37 Class A outbracket win over Sailors Friday.



Hen Hud F Rocco Capicotti is hounded by Yorktown F Jack Prybylski in Sailors' 55-37 Class A outbracket loss to host Huskers Friday.



# Sports

## NWE/Putnam Boys' Hoops Notebook



Somers F Dylan Ingraham gets a look at the rim in Tuskers' 61-39 Class A outbracket win over Clarkstown North Friday.



Yorktown G Billy Costello is checked by Hen Hud G Eugene Wamack in host Huskers' 55-37 Class A outbracket win over Sailors Friday.



Yorktown G Marco Jovicevic pulls up for shot on Hen Hud's G Conor Prokopiak in host Huskers' 55-37 Class A outbracket win over Sailors Friday.

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No.19 Clarkstown North.

Somers junior G Matt Fitzsimons crushed it. The silky shooter dropped a game-high 24 points and snagged an additional 13 caroms. He drilled four 3-pointers and the Tuskers (13-8) found little resistance while building a 34-5 halftime lead. Mighty Christian McGrane added 11 points, five rebounds and six assists while speedy guards Bennett and Brady Leitner added nine points apiece.

"We stayed in the moment mentally and we never quit on each other," Fitzsimons said.

Fitz-Magic believes the Tuskers have some staying power as they advance to face

No.3 Byram Hills in today's opening round (5 p.m.).

"The team is ready to go," he said.

No.8 **WALTER PANAS** found little push back from No.25 Gorton in its 81-22 trouncing of the Wolves, who had no answers for Panther reserve Jerry Smallwood, who scored a career-high 14 points. Panthers Alex Tavarez and Maleek McNeil added 12 points apiece as Panas (15-6) advanced

to today's opening round against visiting No.9 Pearl River (13-7), which finds itself embroiled in the controversy surrounding its racially-based issues due to its fan base having been held to account for sensitive matters currently under investigation by

school and section officials.

Panas will need its best effort going forward as they will head across the Hudson to Rockland County where No.1 Tappan Zee lies in wait for a potentially riveting quarterfinal.

No.27 **PEEKSKILL's** season ended in a 69-28 setback to No.6 Eastchester. Isaiah Crawford scored 10 points to lead the Red Devils (3-18), which has become a shell of its past.

*photos continued on next page*



Hen Hud G Eugene Wamack gets up for two points in Sailors' 55-37 Class A outbracket loss to host Yorktown Friday.



Somers G Bennett Leitner goes up for two of his nine points in Class A outbracket playoff win over Clarkstown North Friday.



Somers F Matt Fitzsimons posted double-double and was a dominant force in Tuskers' Class A playoff rout of Clarkstown North.



# Sports



RAY GALLAGHER / MATTHEW TURRI PHOTOS

Somers G TJ Olifers splits pair of defenders in Tuskus' Class A outbracket playoff win over Clarkstown North Friday.

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## CLASS AA

No.6 **OSSINING** had its heart ripped out in a stunning buzzer-beating loss to No.11 Scarsdale, which survived a 63-61 when Carlos Rodriguez dropped a 3-pointer from distance to offset another incredible performance from Pride (13-8) senior G Jaeden Carr went for a game-high 26 points and six rebounds. Vinny Bernardo, who spotted the Pride a short-lived lead in the waning moments, added 13 points and seven rebounds for the Pride while teammate Dominique Bautista had eight points and eight rebounds and hit two free throws with 5.1 seconds remaining to give the Pride a 61-60 lead.

Like Ossining, No.10 **CARMEL** suffered a last-minute 44-42 loss to No.7 host Clarkstown South, which saw Mike Holder hit the winning bucket to snap a 42-all tie with nine seconds remaining. Ram F Nick DiLeo had another great effort and fell one rebound shy of yet another double-double (21 points, 9 rebounds). F Randy Aboagye (11 points, 13 rebounds) notched a double-double for Carmel, which finished 12-9. G Kevin Dall (6 points, 7 boards) and G Andrew Fiore (4 points, 5 rebounds) were solid contributors.

## CLASS B/C

No.9 **PUTNAM VALLEY**'s 54-50 win over No.8 host Westlake wasn't just some run-of-the-mill playoff win. It was about restoring the luster on a prideful program and building for a potentially bright future. Putnam Valley senior G Tommy Calicchio (10 points) made the play of his three-year varsity career when he picked off an inbound pass under Westlake's hoop with 2.6 seconds left and his team up two, 52-50. He then iced



Putnam Valley freshman F Nate Shillingford went off for team-high 17 points in the 9th-seeded Tigers' opening-round Class B playoff win over No.8 Westlake.

the win with two free throws for the final margin.

"We were expecting the pass to be somewhere near the hoop," Calicchio said, "so I angled myself to see the court and the passer. After about three seconds, I decided to put pressure on the ball because I knew he had to get a pass in and that's when I got the steal. We have been practicing situations like this to prepare and it showed. We were able to get the final stop and win the game."

When we mentioned the future is potentially bright, we bring up freshman F Nate "Big Baby" Shillingford, who led the Tigers (10-10) with 17 points and a never-say-never approach. Junior F Sean Holzman added 13 points, including two pivotal 3-balls down the stretch.

"Honestly that was a huge game for us and that win showed how hard we work and how when we trust each other we can do anything," senior G and four-year veteran Cole Durocher said. "Moving on to the quarterfinals is amazing, it really feels like we can shock the section and make a run for the gold ball. My past four years playing we haven't made it past the first round, so this is awesome right now."

Putnam Valley will be at No.1 Bronxville (17-4) for Friday's 5 p.m. quarterfinal. Ironically, it was a six-point loss to the Broncos in early January that turned Coach Al Morales' Tigers around, all but erasing a dismal 1-8 start. PV has gone 9-2 since, losing twice to state-ranked (No.5) **HALDANE** (18-2), which will play host to No.4 Leffell in the Class C semis on March 1 at 5 p.m.

# NWE/Putnam Boys' Hoops Notebook

## N.West./Putnam Fab Five Hoops Poll

**No.1 MAHOPAC** – Coach McMahon's fourth-seeded Class A Indians (15-4) are eager to avenge an early-Dec. loss to No.13 Lakeland, which figures to translate into one hell of a game today 5 p.m. #BeThereorBeSquare

**No.2 PANAS** – Coach Auerbach's Class A Panthers (15-6) have made things hard on themselves as the No.8 seed, given the fact that No.9 Pearl has a win over No.6 Eastchester and No.5 Lourdes, not to mention extremely close losses to top-seeded Tappan Zee and Class AA power North Rockland. TZ would be next. This is a brutal opening-round and quarterfinal draw for Panas.

**No.3 LAKELAND** – Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets (12-9) are on the brink of shocking the section and busting up the Class A bracket should they knock off a Mahopac club they've already defeated back in Dec. #MustSeeTV on Local Live if you can't be there in person.

**No.4 HALDANE** – Coach V's Class C state-ranked (No.5) Blue Devils (18-2) have a tuneup with Leffell before they venture into a dogfight with the Hamilton/Tuckahoe winner. Either way, if Haldane isn't reppin' Section 1 in states, the season will conclude as, well, a subpar finale.

**No.5 SOMERS** – Coach DiCintio's Class A Tuskus (12-9) draw a vintage No.3 Byram Hills squad in the opening round and would draw No.6 Eastchester should the athletic Tuskus survive a well-coached Bobcat club. This game intrigues us.

**HM YORKTOWN** – Coach Pavella's Class A Huskers (11-10) will need to replace senior C Eddie Brucaj next year, but they have some legit guards in the stable who will need to shoot the lights out today against host top-seeded TZ, as tough a place to play as there is.

**HM PUTNAM VALLEY** – Coach Morales' Class B Tigers (10-10) are hoping to bust up the Class B bracket Friday when they take on top-seeded Bronxville, which has won 8 of 9, including an 18-point win over a Haldane club that swept PV. On the road, this will be tough.

**HM OSSINING** – Coach Casey's Class AA Pride (13-8) had a season to remember and a heartbreaking finale they won't soon forget. No doubt, a solid effort from start to finish.

**HM CARMEL** – Coach Johansen's Class AA Rams (12-9) had a terrific season for a bunch of footballers. They've changed the culture over there during the last 2 years.

**HM HEH HUD** – Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (11-10) picked a bad time to go stone cold in their outbracket loss to Yorktown, but they'll always have those two wins over Lakeland and nine others to be proud of.

## Put Valley, Mahopac Clean Up at Cheer Tourney



TWITTER PHOTO

Mahaopc's Lilah Greco, Bella Chiodi, Alexa Palushevich, Lexi Leblanc and Keira MacDowell, Putnam Valley's Teresa Sigmund, Adriana Raus, Gaby Alvarez, Leah Lundberg, Megan Stephan's and high-scorer Nia Givan, along with Hen Hud's Jenna Perilli and Kayla Cohen pose as part of the All-Section 1 cheer team at Mahopac Saturday where the host Indians and Tigers settled for second in class while Hen Hud walked off with small school top honors.

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# Sports

## NWE/Putnam Girls' Hoops Notebook

# Lakeland Bounces Byram Hills; Mahopac Sinks Sailors

## No.5 Hornets to Visit No.4 Indians in Class A Quarterfinals

By Tony Pinciario

**LAKELAND** was facing a difficult situation when its leading scorer, Tyler Hormazabal, was sidelined with an injury in the second quarter of its Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship opener against Byram Hills.

Many teams that face this hardship will go one of two ways. The team will either fall apart because it relies heavily on its leading scorer. Or, a team will do what Lakeland did as Ava Lugo, Nichole Ljuljic and Hannah Devane raised their level of play.

The trio combined for 53 points as the fifth-seeded Hornets eliminated the 12th-seeded Bobcats, 69-62.

Lakeland, now 18-3 this season, travels to No. 4 Mahopac for a quarterfinal game, Friday (5 p.m.), in a loaded Class A. The winner of the Lakeland-Mahopac game will go to No. 1 Tappan Zee for a semifinal, March 2.

Lugo, Ljuljic and Devane have been

consistent double-digit scorers all season, making opponents pay for focusing their defensive attention on Hormazabal. As a result, once the team was assured that Hormazabal was not returning, the trio took over.

"Honestly, Tyler has been a huge part of our success this season and we were all very concerned when she went down," Lugo said. "We saw Tyler was in pain and when we learned she wasn't going to get back out there, we got together, pumped ourselves up and knew we all needed to step up. We are all confident players and we know that we can go out there on any given day and have a big game."

Lakeland Coach Miranda Mangan was also concerned about Hormazabal, but she knew her team would respond.

"I am very proud of how everyone stepped up," Mangan said.

While Lugo, Ljuljic and Devane were the offensive standouts, Lugo said the keys to victory were defense and rebounding.

"We had some great

defensive moments," Lugo noted. "We played great team basketball. We are all very close and love playing together."

Even though Lakeland came into sectionals with a 17-3 record, it only earned the Hornets a fifth seed. Mahopac, for many years a Class AA school, only earned a fourth seed. Panas, also with three losses, is seeded third. Tappan Zee and Harrison are the top two seeds, respectively.

**BREWSTER** was seeded sixth, but was upset by perennial power and No. 11 Pearl River. The Pirates play at Panas Friday.

This depth of excellent teams in Class A makes for an exciting sectional championship, annually.

"I think there is so much talent in our section because girls are super committed to being the best and always practicing and doing things to constantly improve," Lugo said. "Mahopac has some great players and they're always a very competitive program in all sports. It will take a great week of practice and watching game film to prepare."

**MAHOPAC** closed the regular season rolling, winning 10 consecutive games going into the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championships.

The fourth-seeded Indians received a first-round bye, then opened up with a 66-



Lakeland G Amanda Franco and Byram G Beth Corelli launch for rebound in Hornets' 69-62 Class A playoff win over visiting Bobcats Saturday.

35 win over No. 20 Hen Hud.

Mahopac, 17-4 this season, will host Lakeland in a quarterfinal-round game, Friday. The winner advances to the semifinal where it will play No. 1 Tappan Zee, Friday, in a semifinal.

Lauren Beberman led Mahopac with a game-high 22 points. Julie DeBrocky added 15 points and Melanie DeMeo finished with 13 points.

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Lakeland F Hannah Devane gets step on Byram F Olivia Barry in Hornets' 69-62 Class A playoff win over visiting Bobcats Saturday.



Lakeland G Nichole Ljuljic goes up strong for two of her 17 points in Hornets' 69-62 Class A playoff win over visiting Byram Hills Saturday.



Lakeland G Ava Lugo drops two of her team-high 19 points in 69-62 Class A playoff win over Byram Hills Saturday.

RAY GALLAGHER / MATTHEW TURRI PHOTOS





Mahopac F Lauren Beberman went off for team-high 22 points against Hen Hud and F Shannon Ellis (24) in Indians' 66-35 Class A playoff win over Sailors.



Hen Hud Madison Porter (15) yanks down rebound in front of teammate Kaitlyn Raguso (12) in Sailors' Class A playoff loss to host Mahopac Saturday.



Mahopac G-F Julie DeBrocky fights off Hen Hud F Kaitlyn Raguso in Indians' 66-35 Class A playoff win over visiting Sailors Saturday.



Hen Hud Kaitlyn Raguso drives on Mahopac's Piper Klammer in Sailors' 66-35 Class A playoff loss to host Indians Saturday.

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"Lauren has been great this season," DeMeo said. "Lauren is only a junior, but she has been a huge part of this team ever since she joined in ninth grade. She can play anywhere on the court and does it well. Lauren is basically a guard and forward all in one."

Mahopac turned in another strong defensive effort, holding yet another opponent under 40 points.

"I was very pleased with the intensity of the entire team," DeMeo said. "Whether they were on the floor or on the bench, the intensity was incredible. Every game it's somebody different stepping up, whether it's defensively or offensively."

**PANAS**, the 2021 Northern Westchester/Putnam Large School runner-up to Mahopac, earned the third seed and a first-round bye in the Section 1 Class A Girls Basketball Championship.

The Panthers opened play with a 64-43 over No. 19 Nyack, advancing to the quarterfinal round.

Panas will host No.11 Pearl River, which upset No.6 Brewster, Friday, 5 p.m.

Cadence Nicholas continued her outstanding freshman year with a game-high 30 points. She also grabbed six rebounds and had three steals. Kelsey Cregan added 15 points, nine rebounds and four steals and Sofia Tavaréz contributed 12 points, nine assists and six steals.

"We have been struggling in some games trying to find our rhythm as a unit, but I'm very happy that we played together," Cregan said. "We played hard and together for 32 minutes."

Panas Coach Matt Evangelista cited his team's solid defense, highlighted by Julia Gallinger, who had a team-high 12 rebounds.

Panas is not surprised that it will be playing Pearl River, an 11 seed. This shows the depth of excellent teams in Class A.

"We need to stay focused and play like we're capable of," said Cregan of the Pearl River game. "We know that teams are coming to compete and a seed doesn't mean anything. Pearl River showed that they are here to compete and we need to compete with them."

**OSSINING** finished the regular season with a win over Saunders and received the seventh seed in the Section 1 Class AA Girls' Basketball Championship.

The multiple-time Section 1 Class AA champions, 14-6 this season, will host No.10 Arlington in a first-round game, Tuesday.

The winner of this game will face the No.15 Suffern-No.2 Our Lady of Lourdes victory in a quarterfinal Saturday.

**PUTNAM VALLEY** capped the regular season with a 70-43 victory over Haldane behind 25 points from Amanda Orlando and 20 points and 13 rebounds from Eva DeChent.

The Tigers drew the fifth seed in the Section 1 Class B Girls' Basketball Championships.

Putnam Valley will host No.12 Dobbs Ferry, Tuesday, in a first-round game. The winner of this game will take on the No.13 North Salem-No. 4 Bronxville victor in a quarterfinal, Saturday. Nobody wants to see Putnam Valley at this point in time.

**YORKTOWN** was seeded eighth in

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Mahopac G Melanie DeMeo goes airborne for one of many assists in host Indians' 66-35 Class A playoff win over Hen Hud Saturday.

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the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship and hosted No.25 Horace Greeley in an out-bracket game.

Kaitlyn Judge scored a career-high 25 points and Melissa Severino added 20 points in a 61-35 victory. The Cornhuskers had a five-point lead at halftime over No.9 Nanuet in their opening-round game, but Nanuet took control in the third quarter.

The Golden Knights outscored Yorktown by 17 points in the third quarter on their way to a 45-37 win. Yorktown, which was forced to play its final 15 games in 30 days, finished with a 14-8 record.

"I think we were moving the ball better on offense and taking care of the ball better, enabling us to get more open looks in the



Putnam Valley will need top-notch efforts from junior G Eva DeChent to get past Bronxville, Hastings and Irvington en route to Class B gold ball.

first half," Yorktown Coach Brian Mundy said. "Our ball control wasn't as good in the second half and that's one of the reasons the third quarter got away from us."

Despite the loss, Yorktown had a memorable second half of the season with three last-second victories. Yorktown also had eight wins in a 10-game stretch spanning January into February.

"The girls knew they were never out of a game," Mundy said. "Their drive and determination enabled them to come back and win games in the second half. They played well together and moved the ball well on offense. Defensively, especially in full-court pressure, they were relentless. The girls hit key shots in tough spots all season. It was a pleasure coaching this team."

**HEN HUD** won its Section 1 Class A outbracket game against Rye, outscoring the Garnets by nine in the second half on its way to a 51-47 victory.

Alex Figueroa led the No.20 Sailors with 18 points and Alexa Robinson added nine points. Shannon Ellis and Kaitlyn Raguso each collared 13 rebounds.

Hen Hud ran into a red-hot Mahopac and the No. 4 seed ended the Sailors' season with a 66-35 verdict.

Coach Ken Sherman will graduate three seniors, but he will return a young nucleus that is promising and has sectional experience.

"The sectional win over Rye was huge for this team," Sherman said. "Even though we graduate three seniors, we are a young team. Our leading scorer is freshman Kaitlyn Raguso and next year we will only have one senior, so the sectional win was good so that the young players know how to win come playoff time."



Lakeland senior G Tyler Hormazabal goes for two points on Byram G Grace Corelli in Hornets' 69-62 Class A playoff win over Bobcats Saturday.

## Yorktown Cops West/Put/Dutchess Sectional Cheer Title



ROB BARRETT PHOTO

Members of the Yorktown cheerleading squad proudly pose with their Westchester/Putnam/Dutchess Section 1 Large School/Large Team title plaque after edging out second-place host Mahopac Saturday. Hen Hud took the small school crown after holding off Walter Panas.

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Hen Hud G Kayla McCarthy tries to go baseline against Mahopac G Kristina Rush in Sailors' 66-35 Class A playoff loss to host Indians Saturday.



# Sports

## Tigers' Big Upset Bid Falls Just Short at Roy C. Ketcham

By Andy Jacobs

There's no telling what might've happened differently in the final moments of Saturday's opening-round playoff game had star guard Menzy Carden not been sitting on the White Plains bench.

Carden, the Tigers' talented junior, had torched the Roy C. Ketcham defense for 30 points, but he was whistled for his fifth foul with 2:30 remaining and was just a spectator as the dramatic last seconds ticked off the clock.

"Yeah, it was a tough call, what're you gonna do?" said disappointed White Plains head coach Spencer Mayfield afterwards about the offensive foul that sent his best player to the sideline with the Tigers trailing by a point.

Without their go-to scorer on the floor, the 13th-seeded Tigers wound up falling 64-63 to fourth-seeded Ketcham in a dramatic and tension-filled Class AA sectional game. The host Indians, who had routed White Plains by 23 points back in early December, got the game-winning basket with 14 seconds remaining from Gabe Bristow, then barely hung on to advance to a quarterfinal matchup against Arlington.

"I thought it was a great effort," said Mayfield. "We did a lot of things right, but we just didn't do quite enough."

The Tigers arrived up in Wappingers Falls with just six wins in the regular season after dropping five of their last six games. But behind the scoring skills of Carden, they



The Tigers' Daniel Herzner dribbles across midcourt in the second half of Saturday's first-round playoff thriller at Roy C. Ketcham.

served notice right from the start against the Indians that they were a team to be reckoned with. Carden scored the first nine points for White Plains and finished the first quarter with 14 points, helping the Tigers grab a 20-16 lead after the first eight minutes.

"He's grown tremendously," said Mayfield about the sweet-shooting Carden. "He's done a lot. He's one of the best players in the section and he's only gonna get better."

White Plains closed the first quarter on a 9-2 run and took the lead on a Carden 3-pointer with 14 seconds remaining. Elijah Pierre then made a steal and went coast to coast for a layup that just beat the buzzer, leaving Ketcham, 14-6 coming in, facing a four-point deficit.

The second quarter began with a put-back basket by the Tigers' Malik Dawson. RCK moved within a point before Shane Washington drove the lane to spin a shot



Logan McCormick of White Plains tries to get past Ketcham's Thomas Gambichler on the last play of Saturday's dramatic playoff game.



White Plains point guard Shane Washington sails through the lane for a fourth-quarter basket in Saturday's 64-63 Class AA playoff loss to fourth-seeded Ketcham.

off glass into the basket. Then Logan McCormick followed with a right-corner 3-pointer and a 17-foot pullup jumper that gave White Plains its largest lead of the afternoon at 29-21.

A short jumper from the left baseline by Bristow, who led Ketcham with 24 points, ended the first-half scoring and brought the Indians to within 33-28. When play resumed, a couple of buckets by Carden in the first 90 seconds helped restore the Tigers' eight-point advantage. But RCK responded with an 11-2 burst, tying the score on a 3-point shot from Bristow.

Consecutive 3-pointers by Vinny Iuele 35 seconds apart gave Ketcham a 48-44 lead, but then Carden stepped up to answer with two treys of his own. As the clock was ticking down to end the third quarter, Carden passed ahead to McCormick, who hit a buzzer-beating shot high off the backboard that sent the teams to the final period even at 52-apiece.

Just 45 seconds into the fourth quarter, Carden provided the highlight of the day for the Tigers, rising in the lane for a two-handed put-back dunk after teammate David Debernardo's lefty layup try rolled off the rim. But with 6:24 still remaining, Carden picked up his fourth foul, and his fifth was soon to come.

He was called for it with two and a half minutes left, pushing off as he dribbled near the foul line with the Tigers trailing 60-59. Still, White Plains managed to retake the lead 40 seconds later when Washington, using a high screen from Pierre, drove into the lane to score on a scoop shot.

After RCK went ahead on Liam Cassidy's only basket of the game, with 1:25 remaining, the Tigers grabbed their final lead of the contest with 1:05 on the clock as Daniel Herzner, who scored all five of his points down the stretch, connected on a short pop from the right baseline. A Ketcham turnover then gave White Plains a chance to extend its narrow lead, but both Herzner and Pierre each missed shots close to the basket.

The Indians' Bristow, scoreless in the



White Plains junior Menzy Carden poured in 30 points before fouling out of Saturday's Class AA first-round playoff game against fourth-seeded Roy C. Ketcham.

fourth quarter, rose to the occasion by driving to the hoop, hesitating for a moment, then shooting over a pair of Tigers for the inside basket with 14 seconds on the clock that gave Ketcham its winning margin.

With one final chance, the Tigers inbounded the ball after a couple of timeouts and it wound up in the hands of McCormick, who dribbled toward the right baseline before sending up an off-balanced shot that fell short of the basket. The buzzer sounded with both teams battling for the rebound.

"We just felt like we let one get away," said Mayfield after his team had its season come to a frustrating finish. "We played well enough to win. A couple plays here and there, we would've pulled it out. But we just couldn't make those tough plays at the end."



White Plains senior forward David Debernardo passes the ball up the floor in the fourth quarter against the host Ketcham Indians.



The scoreboard tells the sad story as the Tigers' Logan McCormick walks off the court after his last-second shot misfired vs. host RCK.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



# Sports

## Bobcats Use a Second-Quarter Surge to Oust Sleepy Hollow

By Andy Jacobs

Up until the final buzzer last Thursday afternoon, there were no surprises for Byram Hills girls' basketball coach Tara Ryan, whose Bobcats were facing an opponent they had already seen twice since the start of February.

But just as soon as the Bobcats had finished defeating Sleepy Hollow for a third straight time, Ryan was suddenly caught unprepared. Her giddy team gathered around and informed her she had just earned her 100th victory as a coach, then presented her with celebratory balloons and a cake.

"I honestly had no idea," Ryan would say moments later about reaching the milestone. "I don't keep track of this, so I'm glad somebody did. I bet it was my dad. I think that's what I heard. But I'm very happy. That was super nice of the school and the girls to celebrate this."

With Beth Corelli scoring 22 points and Grace Corelli chipping in with 19, the host Bobcats made sure Ryan would not have to wait another season to reach 100 wins. They used an 11-0 spurt at the end of the first half to break open a close game and went on to a convincing 61-43 triumph in a Section 1, Class A outbracket playoff game that set up a first-round showdown two days later at fifth-seeded Lakeland.

"With a league opponent, you know what they're gonna do, they know what we're gonna do," said Ryan about the matchup between her 12th-seeded Bobcats and the 21st-seeded Horsemen. "Especially with Sleepy Hollow, they're so talented with Alexa Charles. It's whoever shows up that day and plays the better 32 minutes, and today was definitely our day."

Charles, the standout senior guard with a 29-point scoring average, still managed to finish with 25 points in her farewell despite Byram's box-and-one defense. But Sleepy Hollow's only lead of the day came when Eva Bertiz scored the game's first basket. The Bobcats never trailed again once Kelsey Vaquero connected on a 3-pointer that gave them a 4-2 lead with 5:48 to go in the first quarter.

A 17-foot jumper by Bertiz tied the score at 7-7 before Beth Corelli swished a 3-point shot from the right wing exactly midway through the quarter that put the Bobcats in front to stay. Back-to-back layups from Grace Corelli and Kiley Blackmar late in the period increased the Byram Hills lead to 18-11, but then the Horsemen got a little lift as Isabella Smith drilled a 3-pointer just ahead of the buzzer ending the quarter.

Smith's runner from the right baseline a half minute into the second quarter brought Sleepy Hollow within two points, and the Horsemen were still only behind by three after two free throws by Charles with 5:38 left in the half. But they never scored again before intermission and the Bobcats went on an 11-0 run to open up a 32-18 halftime cushion.

Grace Corelli sparked the Bobcat spurt, scoring seven of the points, starting with a long 3-point shot from the left elbow on a feed from her sister. Next came a drive left of the lane that she finished using her left hand. With 2:34 left in the half, she received an inbounds pass from under the basket to score inside, stretching the lead to 12 points.

The Bobcats' big run was capped with just over a minute remaining in the second quarter as Beth Corelli got a step on Charles, moved into the lane and then split off a pair of Horsemen for a toss off glass. Byram, which had needed a 3-pointer by Vaquero with six seconds to go to barely win at Sleepy Hollow just 10 days earlier, would not require any late-game heroics this time.



The Bobcats' Olivia Barry rises for a shot in the fourth quarter of the 61-43 playoff win over Sleepy Hollow.

The Horsemen never got any closer than 10 points after halftime.

"You know what, against such a solid team, it takes time to start to chip away," said Ryan. "And that's what we were able to do. You get a couple-minute stretch and before you know it, it's eight points. You just keep trying to increase it there, keep reiterating our defensive strategies, which happened to work today. And our players played great."

With Grace Corelli providing eight points in the first three and a half minutes of the second half, highlighted by a short half-hook shot off a spin move in the lane, the Bobcats built their lead up to 40-25. But with just over a minute left in the quarter, Charles banked in a trey from the right key, then followed with a drive through traffic 25 seconds later. That gave her 1,500 points for her career and brought the Horsemen within 43-33.

But the third quarter ended with a buzzer-beating layup by Byram's Carmen Parrotta, and then the Bobcats made sure the fourth quarter would have very little drama. They scored the first four baskets, starting with Beth Corelli going backdoor for a layup, assisted by Parrotta. Another Beth Corelli bucket, this time on an underhand scoop in the paint, was soon followed by baskets from Vaquero and Olivia Barry.

The Byram Hills lead was suddenly up to 20 points before Charles ended the spurt with two free throws. A fast-break layup by Grace Corelli with 3:13 left in the game gave the Bobcats their largest lead of the afternoon, 59-35, and it wasn't long before they were hastily putting together the post-game surprise for their coach, who had nothing but praise for what her star players were able to do against the Horsemen.

"Yeah, they're fantastic players, both Beth and Grace," she said. "I thought our



Beth Corelli of Byram Hills goes up for an easy basket in the first half of the Bobcats' Class A outbracket win over visiting Sleepy Hollow last Thursday afternoon.

other teammates did really well at opening them up for their lanes. They really allowed Beth and Grace to do what they naturally do. So we're happy with our post players, who are coming out and doing that. When they're offensive-minded, you can't focus on the Corellis as much. I believe that's what has been keeping us winning the last three weeks."



Byram Hills sophomore guard Grace Corelli scores on a fast break during the first half of last week's outbracket victory over the Horsemen.



Carmen Parrotta finds her path to the basket blocked as she works inside in last Thursday's Byram Hills playoff win.



Byram Hills sophomore Kiley Blackmar gets free inside and sets her sights on the basket in the Class A playoff win over visiting Sleepy Hollow.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



# Sports

## Dominant First Half Lifts Fox Lane to a Playoff Win Over the Vikings

By Andy Jacobs

With a matchup against top-seeded Ursuline looming, the Fox Lane girls' basketball team's stay in the Section 1, Class AA playoffs doesn't figure to last very long. But the Foxes are sure making the most of the time they do have.

On Friday night, they kept visiting Clarkstown South off the scoreboard for the entire first quarter and went on to a 38-25 victory in an outbracket game that earned them a first-round date with the mighty Koalas. Senior point guard Quoya Schnell scored a game-high 12 points and Lauren Antolino came off the bench to add 10 as the 16th-seeded Foxes put an end to the 17th-seeded Vikings' season.

"Defensively, we came out really fired up," said Fox Lane head coach Kris Matts, who couldn't recall ever watching one of his teams blank an opponent for so long. "We had such a tough schedule this season, one of the top-ranked schedules around. So we didn't really get many opportunities to showcase how good these girls really are."

Facing a Viking squad they had barely beaten in late January, the Foxes made certain this game would not be nearly as close. They built a 10-0 advantage after one quarter, then stretched the lead to 13 points when Antolino delivered a 3-pointer 43 seconds into the second. Clarkstown South, which missed all nine of its shots from the field and both free throws in the opening quarter, finally scored just over a minute into the second period.

"Clarkstown South is a good matchup for us," said Matts. "We jumped them at the last minute to take the 16th seed so we get a home game. The senior girls were really fired up. They're so happy. The whole time thinking, 'Oh, we're gonna have to drive to Rockland on a Friday night.' That's not the way they wanted to end it."

With the boys' basketball team standing in the bleachers vociferously cheering them on, the Foxes claimed the lead for good when



Fox Lane's Nicole Picinich takes the ball to the basket in the 38-25 Class AA victory over Clarkstown South.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Fox Lane senior point guard Quoya Schnell dribbles near the top of the key in Friday night's 38-25 outbracket playoff win over Clarkstown South.

senior forward Ella Bahari swished a 15-foot pop near the foul line to start the game's scoring with 6:19 to go in the first quarter. Both teams then struggled mightily shooting the ball before Fox Lane finally erupted late in the quarter.

Schnell made a steal and went coast to coast for a layup, giving the Foxes a 5-0 lead. Soon eighth-grader Morgan Clinton grabbed a rebound, took the ball up the floor and weaved through the lane for a toss that rolled in. With just under a minute left in the quarter, Antolino swished a high-arching 3-point shot from the left elbow.

Another trey from Antolino, a sophomore guard, opened the second quarter and gave Fox Lane a 13-point cushion. After the



Eighth-grader Riley New launches a jump shot in the second half of Friday night's outbracket game vs. the Clarkstown South Vikings.



Freshman guard Cara Drapala sends up a shot on the move during the second half of Fox Lane's outbracket win over the visiting Vikings.

Vikings finally did score, on a 3-pointer from Grace Camerlingo, they then continued their offensive drought and didn't get another basket until Fallon Shapiro beat the halftime buzzer with a fast-break layup.

The Fox Lane lead had grown to 20-3 late in the second quarter following a 15-foot jumper by freshman Cara Drapala, then Antolino's third 3-pointer of the half and, finally, a lefty layup from Schnell on an assist by Clinton. Even though the Foxes didn't score over the final two minutes, they still held a 20-5 halftime lead.

Clarkstown South had a little more success against the Foxes' constant 2-3 zone once the second half got underway. A pair of 3-pointers by Schnell in the third quarter gave Fox Lane a 28-10 advantage, but the Vikings answered with back-to-back triples from Shapiro and Kate Frae 30 seconds apart to close within 12 points.

The Vikings could have whittled the Foxes' lead even more, but Shapiro's short jumper in the lane with 1:18 left in the third quarter hung tantalizingly on the rim before falling off. Clarkstown wound up outscoring the Foxes 12-10 in the period and went to the final quarter trailing 30-17.

"Yes, I think my girls care for me," said Matts, "but they do enjoy pumping up the cardiac situation for me, which I wish they wouldn't. They're better than that. But this is a game where they kind of let them sneak back in a little bit and cut the lead a little bit. You fall asleep at all, any team can get you in girls' basketball."

Just 45 seconds into the fourth quarter, Drapala drained a 3-pointer, but the Vikings countered with five straight points, slicing the Fox Lane lead to 11 points midway through the period. Any doubt about the outcome disappeared for good, though, when the middle schooler, Clinton, scooped up a loose ball near the basket and scored an easy layup to give the Foxes a 35-22 margin



The Foxes' Lauren Antolino connects on one of her trio of 3-pointers in the first half of Friday's home playoff victory.

with just 3:18 remaining.

Matts was delighted that his eight seniors got to relish a playoff victory on their own court.

"Some of them are actually going away now, so this was their last game, period," he said, referring to the school's upcoming winter recess. "So to do it at home, with a victory, it means the world to them. You could see it on their faces. They really deserve it, too."



Senior forward Ibby Moccia shoots the ball over Clarkstown South's Ella Sutherland in the Foxes' home playoff win on Friday.



# Sports



Mt. Pleasant's Thomas Schutt skates past North Rockland's Jack Woodhead as he tries to get to the goal in the second period of Friday night's playoff game at Westchester Skating Academy.



The Ice Cats' Nathan Xie moves the puck up the ice during the first period of Friday night's playoff game vs. North Rockland.



Noah Whitney of the fourth-seeded Ice Cats moves in from the right wing as Sean Campbell of North Rockland pursues in Friday's playoff game, won by the visiting Raiders 2-1.

## Ice Cats Ousted in the Sectionals by North Rockland



Junior forward Daniel Kauber controls the puck near center ice in the Mt. Pleasant Ice Cats' 2-1 playoff loss to 13th-seeded North Rockland.



Aaron Bottiglieri controls the puck just inside the point in the second period of the Ice Cats' disappointing 2-1 playoff loss to the Raiders.



Mt. Pleasant sophomore Aidan Schutt awaits a faceoff in the first period of the Division 1 playoffs at Westchester Skating Academy.



Mt. Pleasant players celebrate after a second-period goal cut their 2-0 deficit to North Rockland in half at the Westchester Skating Academy on Friday night.

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**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**



Ice Cat players and coaches intently follow the action during Friday night's 2-1 loss to North Rockland in the opening round of the Division 1 hockey playoffs.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



## BOBCAT BLOWOUT



**Beth Corelli Scores Inside  
as Byram Hills Wins Easily  
Over the Visiting Horsemen  
in a Class A Outbracket Game**