



Examiner Sports Justice D-Nai'd!

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Tigers Can't Walk on Waterloo! Putnam Valley's Miracle Run Ends in NYSPHSAA Semis

Putnam Valley sophomore G Nai Torres pulls up in lane for shot in Tigers' 61-39 NYSPHSAA Class B Final 4 loss to Section 5 champion Waterloo Saturday at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy where senior tri-captain Natalie Mazza (11) walked off with her head held high (inset) with teammate Ava Harmon (12) and company after the state-ranked (No.4) Tigers fell to top-ranked Indians, who then settled for runner-up status after Sunday's 56-54 loss to Section 2 champion Schalmont in the state title tilt... see Grils' Hoops Notebook

Putnam Valley Meets its Waterloo in NYS Class B Semis

State-Ranked (No.4) Tigers Fall, 61-39, to Top-Ranked Indians in Final 4

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

TROY – When it rains it pours and when the deluge finally stopped, two-time reigning Section 1 champion Putnam Valley was fully drenched amidst its 61-39 loss to previously undefeated Section 5 champion Waterloo in Saturday's semifinal round of the NYSPHSAA Girls' Class B Basketball Tournament at Hudson Valley Community College's swank McDonough Sports Complex.

Before losing in Sunday's state finals, the state-ranked (No.1) Indians (26-1) forced the No.4-ranked Tigers (19-8) into a dysfunctional rhythm at both ends of the floor, forcing PV to shoot 5 for 23 from the field in the second half. And if that wasn't bad enough, the Tigers shot a woeful 2 of 18

for the game from downtown and an equally inefficient 7 of 18 from the charity stripe. Adding to its issues, PV's zone defense seemed out of sorts on the other end from the second quarter on, leaving uncommon soft spots around the rim. After a terrific start to the game, whatever could go wrong, did go wrong throughout much of the second half, which was unusual for a team that had seen so much go right since the start of the new year.

"We just couldn't get into gear," first-year Tigers Coach Don Hamlin said. "We tried to push them into that gear. We were very nervous to start the game. We just couldn't push ourselves past ourselves. We just couldn't find a way to grind through what we were going through, credit to (Waterloo). I don't know, sometimes you get into a funk.

continued on next page



Teary-eyed PV captains Eva DeChent, Amanda Orlando and Natalie Mazza put on brave smiles while displaying the school's 1st NYS Final 4 hoops plaque after semifinal loss to Waterloo.



PV coaches and players bring the energy in Tigers' 61-39 NYS Class B semifinal loss to Waterloo Saturday at HVCC in Troy.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Class B Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page

I felt like in our last game we kind of got into that in the third quarter and pushed through it in the fourth. We just couldn't find a rhythm. We were off the whole game. But those kids had a great season and I couldn't be more proud of them."

Still, as out of sync as the Tigers were, senior G Amanda Orlando drained a key three-ball to open the fourth quarter, then took a dime from senior F Natalie Mazza to score again, trimming the PV deficit to five, at 44-39 with 6:11 to play.

With half the town of PV seemingly in attendance, hope had been restored and the PV Superfans were in full throat again. Surely, the Tigers had one last run in them that might vault them to Sunday's finals. But Waterloo put the clamps on Putnam Valley and closed on a 17-0 run, which forced Orlando's five-year varsity career into a teary finish.

"They were a great team," said Orlando, whose five-year legacy will be one of fearlessness. "We played with heart and were just happy to be here. We came to states and we had fun and that's what it's about, so we're winners no matter what. I think we felt the pressure. We weren't making shots we usually make. They're a great team and it's hard to push through those situations against a team that good."

Waterloo C Giavanna White-Principio, the 6'1" 270-pounder, forced a ton of those issues. The senior center posed a physical presence the Tigers had not seen, forcing PV into haphazard finishes around the rim. She finished with 11 points (well below her season average) and 15 rebounds, but her economical existence in the paint was the main issue. Equally effective was the play of Indians' point guard Jazzmyn Lewis, who divided PV's zone and smashed the Tigers for 18 points and four assists.

It was a close game in the first half with Waterloo holding a 24-23 lead heading into the break. Waterloo struggled from the field in the first half, shooting 36% from the field, making nine of their first 25 shot attempts. Things changed drastically after the break, though, when Waterloo went on a 20-11 run to open the third quarter.

PV junior G Eva DeChent kept the Tigers close with 18 points, 10 rebounds, four assists, five steals and five blocks in a well-rounded effort, but the URI-bound prospect drew a ton of attention in the second half and wasn't as efficient as she hoped. She came out blazing in the first half, hitting 5 of 9 from the field for 12 points and seven boards. She made no excuses afterward.

"We just could not get the



Putnam Valley G-F Brianna Foody goes for two points in Tigers' 61-39 NYS Class B semifinal loss to Waterloo Saturday at HVCC in Troy.

offense going in the second half," said DeChent, a three-time All-Section selection. "Usually, our defense creates many offensive opportunities, but Waterloo made shots and made us pay when we did not rotate defensively quick enough. We could've played much better in the second half, so part of it is on us, and part of it was that they were a good team with good size, good shooting and they shared the ball well. We will be back next year."

Orlando added 13 points and four steals while sophomore G Nai Torres netted six points despite foul trouble that had her glued to the bench for much of the second half.

Waterloo, which went on to appear in its first state title game since 2013, was denied its first NYS title when it went on to fall to Section 2's state-ranked (No.2) Schalmont, 56-54, in the Class B finals. Schalmont, who defeated No.3 General Brown 52-42, secured its first NYSPHSAA title. All four teams in the 2022 Class B state semis were seeking their first state championship.

continued on next page



Put Valley G Eva DeChent squares up for contested jumper in Tigers' 61-39 NYS Class B semifinal loss to Waterloo.



Putnam Valley G Amanda Orlando takes on 6-1 270-pound Giavanna White-Principioas in Tigers' 61-39 NYS Class B Final 4 loss to Waterloo Saturday at HVCC in Troy.



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NWE/Putnam Class B Girls' Hoops Notebook



Put Valley G Ava Harmon battles pair of Waterloo players for loose ball in Tigers' 61-39 NYS semifinal loss Saturday.



PV senior F Nat Mazza gets an embrace from junior F Rachel Berdeccia after Tigers' 61-39 NYS semifinal loss to Waterloo Saturday at HVCC in Troy.



Put Valley G Eva DeChent faces triple team with 6-1 270-pound Giavanna White-Principioas as final road block in Tigers' NYS semifinal loss to Waterloo.



PV Coach Don Hamlin consoles Amanda Orlando and Natalie Mazza after NYS semifinal loss to Waterloo Saturday in Troy.

Examiner+

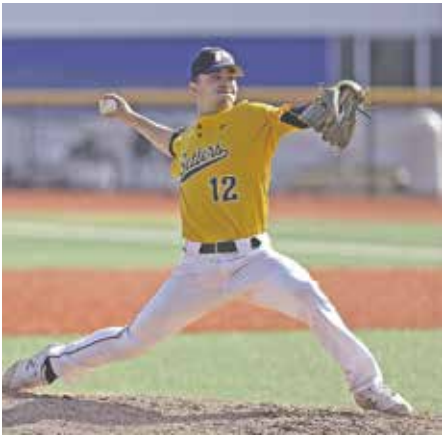
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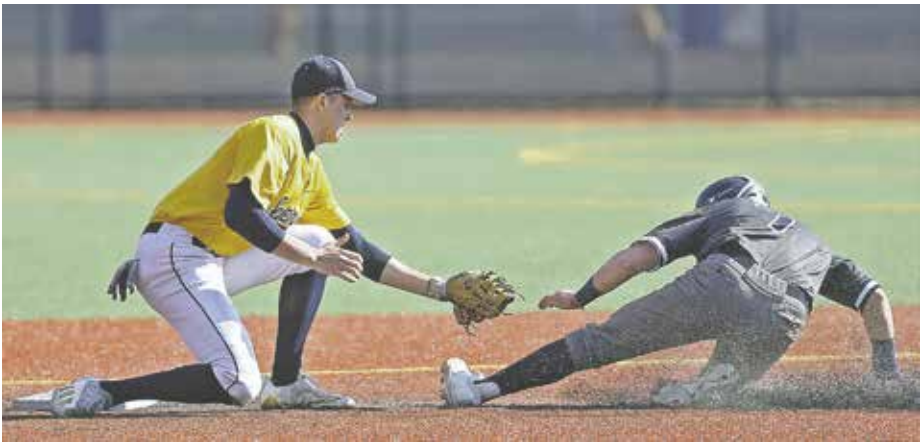
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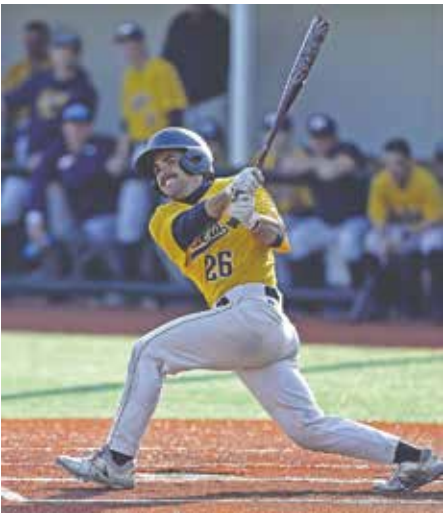
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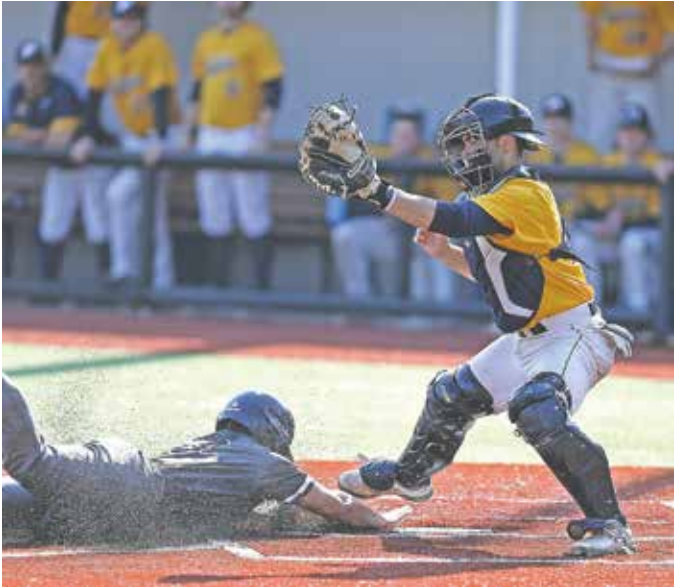
Freshman Grant Biederman pitched four shutout innings in relief for the Setters in last Wednesday afternoon's 12-7 loss to Mercy.



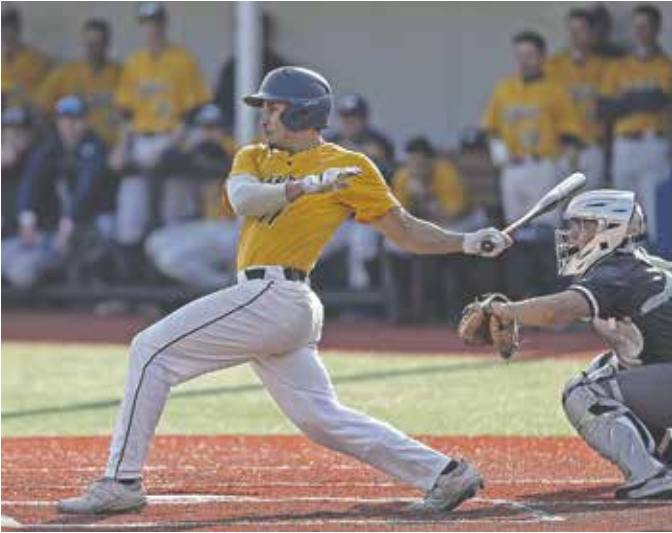
Pace University second baseman Anthony Labita tags out Mercy College's Ryan Saltzman on a steal attempt in the second inning.



Pace senior catcher Andrew Primm sends a pitch down the left-field line in last Wednesday's home game against Mercy College.

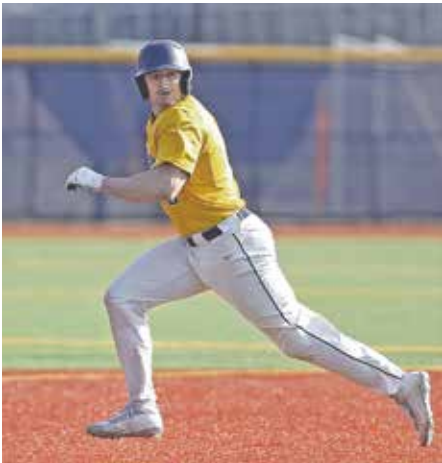


Nolan Giblin of Mercy slides head first to score on a sacrifice fly in the third inning before Pace catcher Andrew Primm can apply a tag at the plate.

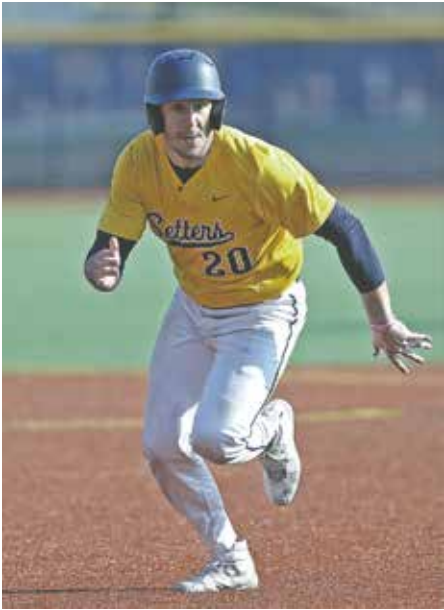


Matt Almonte hits a fifth-inning single in Pace's 12-7 home loss to Mercy. He finished the game with two hits and two RBIs.

focus on
PACE
Baseball



The Setters' Mitchell McCabe races toward second during last week's home game vs. Mercy.



Luke Jacobi of Pace runs to third base in last Wednesday's home game. He had two hits and drove in two runs in the 12-7 loss to Mercy.



Nate Carminucci's seventh-inning home run gave the Setters a 7-6 lead in last week's game vs. Mercy, but they eventually lost.



Pace senior left fielder Matthew Rinaldi waits his turn to bat in the on-deck circle in last Wednesday's game.

Sports

Boys' Basketball 2021-22 *A Look Back*



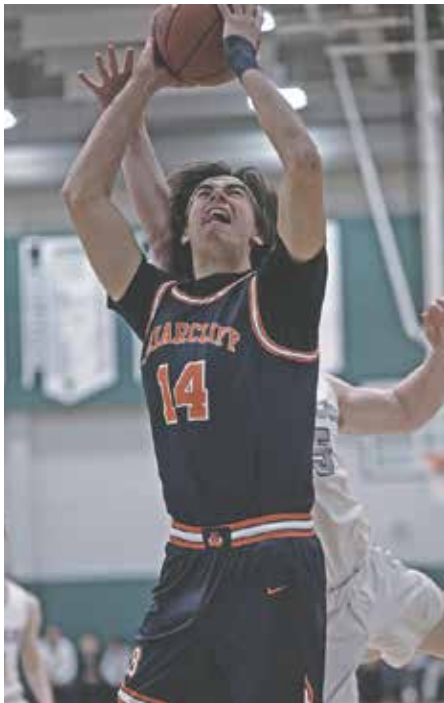
Fox Lane standout Justin Allen tosses up a shot in the Foxes' Class AA semifinal playoff game at North Rockland.



Danny Bernstein of Byram Hills takes the ball to the basket in a road win over Horace Greeley.



Valhalla junior guard Devan Cooper sets his sights on the rim as he handles the ball near the top of the key.



Briarcliff forward Luke McCann tries to score inside early in the sectional final against Bronxville.



Fox Lane senior Aidan Giannelli dribbles toward the basket in a home win over White Plains.



Elliot Jones of Briarcliff sends up a jumper from the top of the key during the Class B playoffs.



Justin Potack of Greeley dribbles out of the backcourt in a game against host Fox Lane.



Logan McCormick of White Plains puts up a runner from just outside the lane during a Tiger road game.



Pleasantville sharpshooter Dom Matica fires a jumper from the left corner in the Panthers' game at Briarcliff.

Sports



Pleasantville sophomore guard Daniel Picart tries to score inside as he's met in the air by Briarcliff's Luke McCann.



Justin Silva sets up the Westlake offense during a game late in the regular season.



Basiaka Butcher of Valhalla sails in from the right baseline for an easy bucket in the Vikings' home win over Pleasantville.



White Plains junior standout Menzy Carden rises for a jump shot against Fox Lane.



Westlake's JJ Jackette gets to the basket for two in a game against host Valhalla.



White Plains point guard Shane Washington gets to the basket for two points in the fourth quarter of the Tigers' near-upset of Ketcham in the Class AA playoffs.



Dylan Watson of Fox Lane fires a jump shot during the sectional playoffs.



Briarcliff senior guard Jayden Larregue shoots the ball in the first half of the Class B championship game at Yorktown High School.



Horace Greeley guard Connor Melis tosses up a shot in the lane during a Quaker home game early in the season.



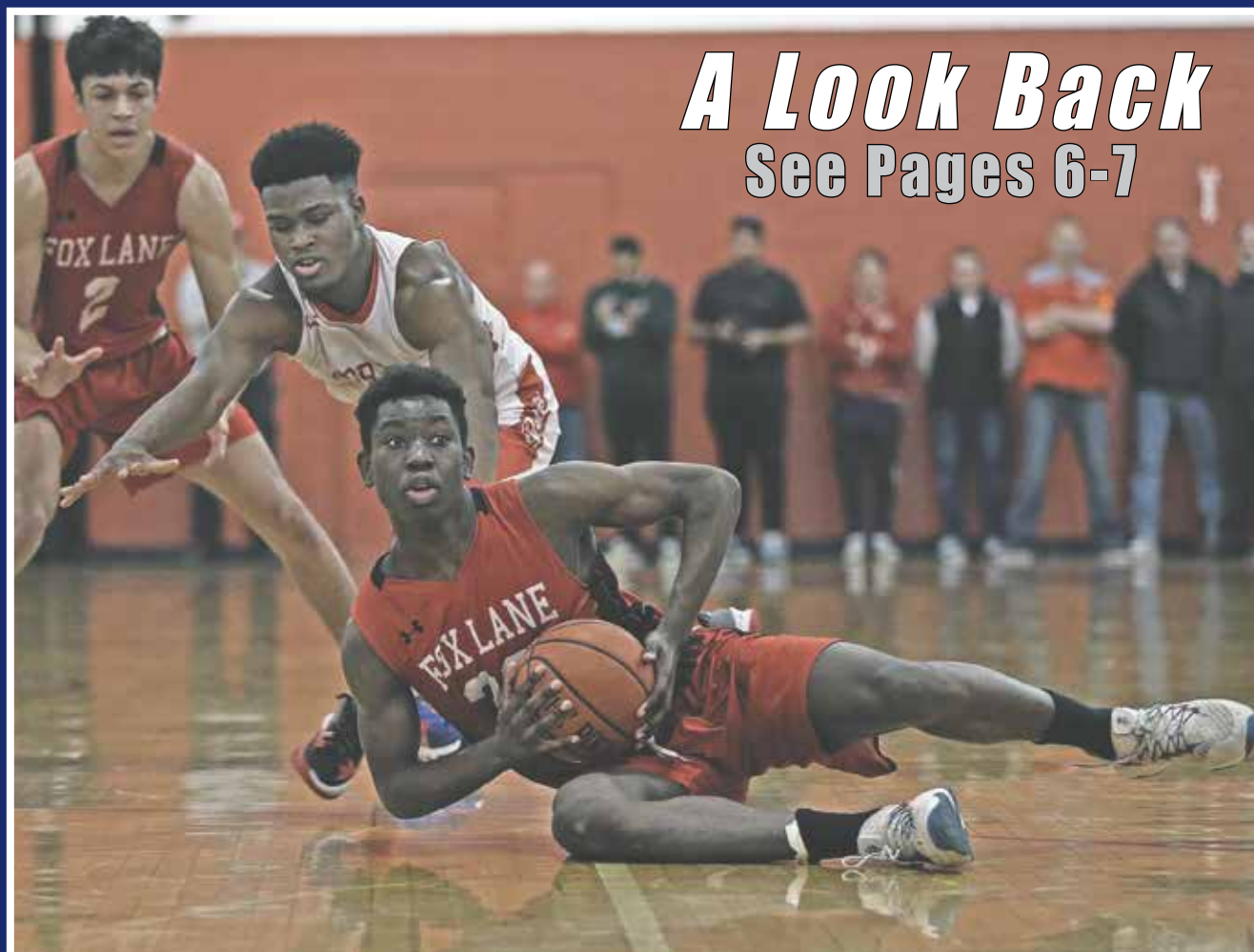
Bobby Chicoine of Byram Hills celebrates in the final moments of the Bobcats' playoff victory over Eastchester.



Byram Hills sophomore Tyson Repa takes to the air along the left baseline for a basket against visiting Pelham.



BOYS' BASKETBALL 2021-22



A Look Back
See Pages 6-7