

Examiner Sports



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO



Harry Situation!

Yorktown Not Sharp in Loss to Meola-led Briarcliff, Huskers Bounce Back to Nip L/P, 6-5, Secure Murphy Cup

Yorktown senior All-American A Harry Griff (8) is hounded by Briarcliff junior D Luca Meola in the visiting state-ranked (No.9) Class A Huskers' 12-4 loss to the state-ranked (No.2) Class D Bears last Thursday when Coach Al Meola's Bears knocked off the Huskers in dominant fashion for the second year in a row and second time ever. Yorktown recovered in time to secure the coveted Murphy Cup in Saturday's 6-5 win over rival Lakeland/Panas when Griff and cagey junior A Jack Duncan (inset) worked a hidden-ball trick to perfection in overtime... see Boys' Lax Notebook

-- Ray Gallagher

Mustang Allly!



MATTHEW TURRI PHOTO

Mahopac Revs Past Somers in Stunning Come-From- Behind Fashion

Mahopac senior attack Ally Savino takes aim at loose ball as she attempts to set up one of her three goals -- despite great chase from Somers sophomore D Ella Lassen -- in host Indians' thrilling 13-12 come-from-behind win over Tuskers Friday when the Indians erased a four-goal, second-half deficit in a battle of Class A title chasers... see Focus on Girls' Lax

Sports

NWE/Putnam Softball Notebook

Class AA Carmel Set to Contend; Yorktown Cruising in Class A

By Tony Pinciario

Coming into the 2022 Section 1 High School Varsity Softball season, the powers in Class AA were established with 2021 sectional champion **MAHOPAC** on top. White Plains, North Rockland, Arlington and John Jay-East Fishkill were also among the Class AA elite. This season, one team has been under the radar, but has established itself as a Section 1 Class AA contender – the **CARMEL** Rams.

Carmel improved to 10-1 last week with victories over Arlington and John Jay-East Fishkill. The Rams lone loss came this week to White Plains, a major AA player.

Despite the loss, Carmel heads into the final week of the regular season with an excellent opportunity to secure a top-four seed in the Section 1 Class AA Softball Championship. That would ensure the Rams of at least two home games, following a first-round win.

Carmel and Coach Brandon Johanson established the foundation last year, finishing 9-10 and earning a berth in sectionals. Two seniors graduated so the Rams returned a deep, experienced nucleus. Even with the returning experience, Carmel has surprised itself.

“We didn’t come into this season thinking we would do this well and I think that’s why we have done so well,” said senior and captain Alyssa Zangrilli. “We play better as a team when we have fun without thinking about the outcome.”

Fellow captain Mandy Fernandez and Zangrilli have been Carmel’s leaders. Johanson said the duo, along with Hailey Basso, Sam Stallone and Emma Alicea, were instrumental in the victories over John Jay and Arlington.

Fernandez (.714 BA), Alicea (.600 BA), Basso (.540 BA) and Stallone (.525 BA) have ripped the cover off the softball while Zangrilli was dominant in the circle, allowing just two earned runs.

Zangrilli attributes the new-look Rams to one major factor: Unity.

“We are doing so much better than last year because we finally learned how to play together as a team,” said Zangrilli, who will attend The College of Staten Island in September and continue playing softball. “We have always had talent, but we didn’t know how to come together.”



Carmel slugger Mandy Fernandez celebrates her 100th career hit after 3-1 win over Arlington.

Johanson agrees with his captain.

“The girls have really come together as a team and have been working so hard day in and day that it is truly a wonderful thing to be a part of,” Johanson said. “The hard work and development of the girls and the entire softball program over the last six years is beginning to pay off and is starting to translate into success on the field.

“The team is so close and dedicated that they are committed to one goal, and no one cares who gets the credit as long as the job is done. That is why we have had so many different people step up in big spots for us all year which has helped the success that we have had thus far.”

Carmel came out the gate fast with a few wins, which instantly gave the Rams a confidence infusion. An early 9-3 win over Arlington made Carmel realize something about itself.

“Our first game against Arlington was the game that confirmed that we were going to be a hard team to beat this year,” Zangrilli said. “The score was not a close game, in the slightest. Arlington is always a team we have struggled with as a program. We haven’t beaten them in a very long time.”

Carmel is using the White Plains’ game as a learning experience.



Carmel players celebrate another memorable moment of their 10-1 campaign; Mandy Fernandez’s 100th career hit in 3-1 win on May 3.

“White Plains was a tough loss but one we needed to keep ourselves grounded,” Zangrilli said. “We’re going to move on from this loss and get back to where we left off.

Fernandez was 3 for 4 with two RBI against John Jay and Basso added two hits and also drove in two runs. Stallone led the way as Carmel swept the season set from Arlington. She had two hits and collected two RBI.

Carmel will host R.C. Ketcham (Tuesday) and John Jay-East Fishkill (Thursday) before closing the regular season at Clarkstown South (Friday).

YORKTOWN continued to hold a firm grip on the No.1 seed for the Section 1 Class A Softball Championships with victories over Brewster (10-0) and Somers (9-5). The Cornhuskers are 14-1 and have a busy final week of the season.

Yorktown played Mahopac (Monday), will host Horace Greeley (Wednesday), travels to John Jay-Cross River (Friday) and hosts Harrison (Saturday).

Maya Servedio allowed one hit and struck out 17 against Brewster. Slugger Olivia Salveggi went 4 for 4, scored four runs and drove in six runs. Kelly Jennings went 3 for 4 with a RBI.

Salveggi had three hits and three RBI against Somers. Bella Gomes, Vittoria Milizia and Servedio had two hits apiece and Mandy Albano drove in three runs. Servedio surrendered one hit and collected 11 strikeouts in 6.1 innings.

MAHOPAC registered wins over Somers and Horace Greeley, improving to 11-3 this season. Indian sophomore P Ava Lichtenberger tossed a one-hitter and rang up 14 strikeouts against Greeley. She also ripped a three-run homer and finished with five RBI. Mia Lanter mashed a three-run homer, Ally Wanner hit her second home run in as many games and Olivia Whitmarsh had four RBI.

Lanter led the hit parade on Senior Night against Somers, doubling twice among her three hits and driving in two runs. Wanner hit a tape-measure home run – 215 feet – and Gianna Lafaro and Lichtenberger each drove in two runs.

HEN HUD went 2-2 for the week and is now 10-5 this season. The Sailors defeated Somers (9-4), on Senior Night, and blanked Lakeland, but dropped a 3-2 verdict to Our

Lady of Lourdes and a 4-0 decision to John Jay-East Fishkill. Sailor P Alana Espinoza struck out seven and held reigning Class A champ **LAKELAND** to one hit. She also had two hits and scored three runs. Lexi Schaffer and Johannsen each had two hits. Taeghan Dapson had a team-high four RBI and Johannsen had three RBI.

Espinoza pitched well against Lourdes, allowing just four hits and striking out eight. Paige Johannsen went 2 for 3, including a triple, and scored a run.

PUTNAM VALLEY broke through and entered the win column after sweeping a doubleheader, 11-3 and 6-3, from North Salem on Senior Night. In the opener, Mary Mikalsen had two triples among her four hits and drove in a career-best eight runs.

Seniors Ava Derella and Maddy DeVito scored four runs and two runs, respectively, and DeVito was the winning pitcher. Katelyn Flanagan had one hit, drove in two runs and scored twice. Seniors Taylor Peduto, LeAnn Keeler, and Victoria Spitzer each had a hit and RBI in the second game.

DeVito also won the second game. She helped herself with three hits and two runs scored. Flanagan, the centerfielder, threw out at baserunner at second and at the plate.

For the second time this season, Putnam Valley Coach Rena Finsmith and her team lost to Finsmith’s alma mater – Pleasantville and coach Gina Perino. Mikalsen had two hits and eighth-grader Maggie Caputo singled and scored two runs. Maggie Sampson, Spitzer and Flanagan had a RBI apiece.

Putnam Valley closes out the regular season with four games. The Tigers played a doubleheader against Walter Panas (Monday), close out league play Croton (Tuesday) and conclude the regular season against Scarsdale (Saturday), both home.

SOMERS had a good case to question the schedule-makers after the Tuskers played Mahopac, Hen Hud and Yorktown in a three-day span. Even though Somers lost all three, the Tuskers were in each game.

Emily Julius doubled and had two RBI in the 9-4 loss to Mahopac. Katherine Papa singled, drove in a run and scored a run and Katie Cole tripled and scored. Avery Kossow and Papa had two RBI apiece in a 9-4 setback to Hen Hud. Somers raced out to a 5-1 lead after one inning against Yorktown before the Cornhuskers rallied to a 9-5 win.



Behind the courage and unwavering strength of the Salveggi family (center), Yorktown softball raised money and awareness for the American Heart Association last week.

No.1 Panas, Hen Hud to Clash for League Bragging Rights



Yorktown C Brad Garrity is late with tag in Sunday's 14-10 loss to Fox Lane.

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

In one of the coldest and wettest springs we've ever seen in this neck of the woods, the baseball Gods are going to allow our local teams the opportunity to finish the regular season with a blast of warm temps and sunny skies this week; baseball like it ought to be (at least that's what forecaster are calling for after Monday).

Despite the chill in the air, **WALTER PANAS** remains as hot as anybody in Section 1, including a potential No.1 seed should Coach Anthony Fata's Class A Panthers (15-1) – the only one-loss team left in the section – finish strong. But they are tailed closely by the likes of current No.2 Rye (15-2), No.3 Eastchester (12-2-1) and No.4 **BYRAM HILLS** (12-4-1).

Panas will close out the regular season with four huge tests, including a pair where the league title is on the line with **HEN HUD** (10-7), defending Class AA champion **CARMEL** (10-7) and Eastchester (the trio are a combined 32-16).

Panas wrapped up the week with a 7-1 win over Class AA New Rochelle when winning P Alex Enea (3-0, 2.33 ERA), just a soph, pitched three innings and Anthony Jaeschke pitched the final four. Panas C Danny Witters continued to scald the ball, stroking

two doubles and driving home five while upping his average to .500 on the year. With just five runs scored, though, the Panthers need to do a better job of plating the Stetson-bound Witters in the playoffs.

Panas also nipped Lourdes, 2-1, behind P Aidan Cohall, who improved to 5-0 (0.78 ERA) after a tidy three-hitter, which included seven strikeouts. Senior CF Tony Humprey had Panas' only RBI, so the bats best get hot. The sweet-swinging St. John's-bound Cohall is also batting .422 with a team-high 16 RBI.

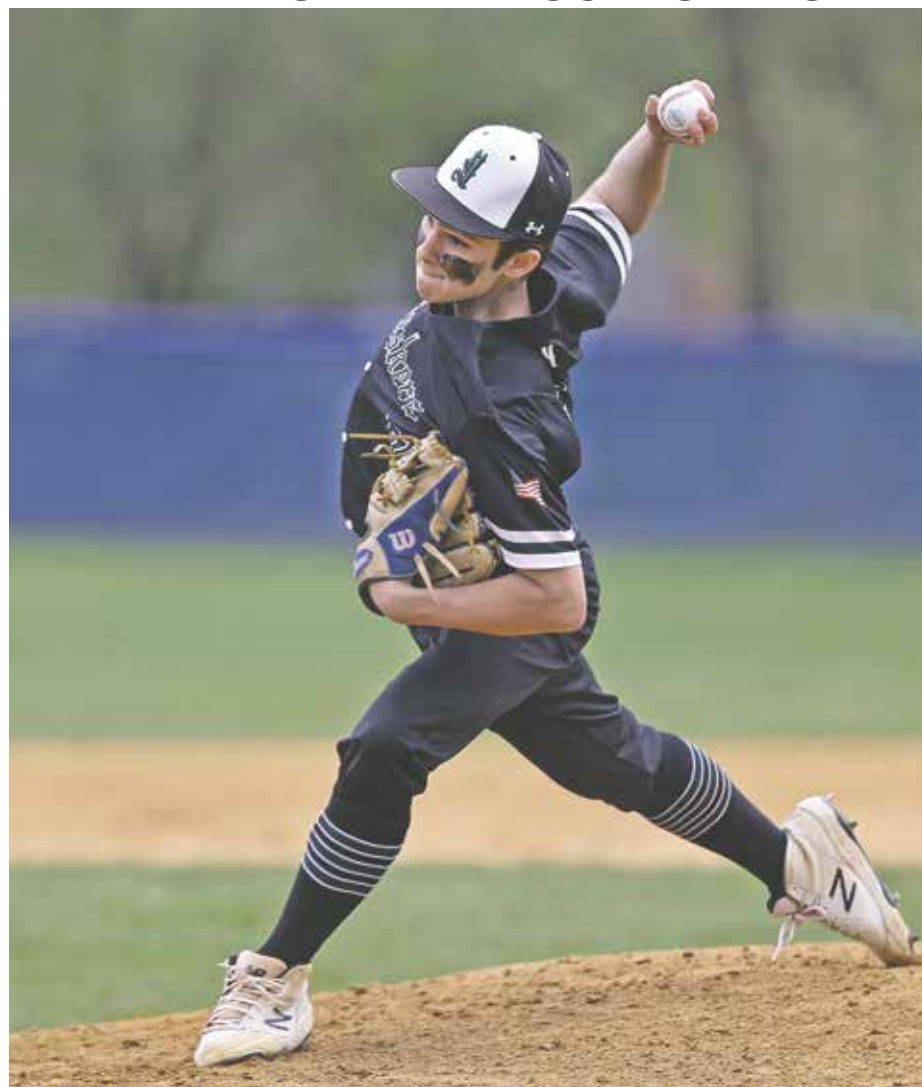
HEN HUD senior P Josh Shea is a man on a mission this spring. Despite harrowing weather conditions, Shea is having a whale of a season, including picking up his sixth win in a 2-1 triumph of vastly improving **LAKELAND**, which has now played in six-straight one-run games, going 3-3, including losses to Panas (2X) and the Shea-led Sailors (10-7).

Shea had a day, firing a complete game while sending 12 Hornets down K-way. He allowed one run, walked two and scattered five hits to hold until Matt Bronner poked a game-winning, bases loaded, two-out, two-run single to take the lead.

Through 41 innings this season, Shea is unbeaten while pitching to the tune of a 1.19 ERA, having allowed just 24 hits while fanning 65 with a WHIP of 0.80. He has one more start on tap this week (vs. Panas



Yorktown senior IF Nick Jacoby slides in safely at 2B ahead of tag from Fox Lane's Feingold in Huskers' 14-10 loss to Foxes Sunday.



Yorktown P Derek Patrissi has been a mainstay on the bump for the Huskers this spring.

possibly) before leading the Sailors into the postseason.

"He puts the team first," Sailor skipper Van Vourliotis said. "He's a tremendous leader, and he's the perfect role model for our other five other pitchers, who are all sophomores. Hopefully, they see how he conducts himself everyday and implement it in their own baseball careers going forward."

Hen Hud, with two left against Panas and another with Lakeland, will likely need to win two of three for a home game in the playoffs as the current No.11 seed. The 19th-seeded Hornets (6-11) will be a tough first-round out should they survive the mean streets of the outbracket round (only the top 20 will qualify in Class A).

YORKTOWN, the current No.14 seed at 9-9 had a busy weekend up at the RCK tournament after knocking off **MAHOPAC**, 10-5, last Thursday, and a 1-0 win over **SOMERS** earlier.

Against Mahopac, Husker reliever Cole Haddock chucked the final four frames to shut down the Indians (5-12), who are in the No.24 spot among the Class A seeds and will have to go the outbracket route to crack the field of 16 in what has been a very un-Mahopac-like campaign. Haddock struck out six Indians and drove home a pair of runs, getting additional support from Dylan Koch (3 for 3, 3 RBI, run) and Nick Jacoby (2 for



Carmel senior SS Kevin Dall drove home four runs in Rams' 12-3 win over visiting Brewster Wednesday.

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ANDY JACOBS / RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys Lax Notebook

Briarcliff New Sheriff in Town, Bears Rout Yorktown, 12-4

Huskers Nip Rebels to Retain Murphy Cup in OT, 29th time in 32 Years

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

We don't know if it's cyclical or an empire in the making, but what's been going on down at Class D **BRIARCLIFF** the last three/four years is one of the most impressive turnarounds in Section 1 lax history #FromDormatsToCEO's. If it's just a cycle of good players, including All-American and All-Section talent the likes of which Briarcliff has never seen, then so be it, but I'm more inclined to believe Briarcliff Coach Al Meola is more bound to the emperor's castle rather than some short-lived stay at the top after the state-ranked (No.2) host Bears dispatched 40-time Section 1 champion **YORKTOWN**, 12-4, last Thursday for the second time in two years, and second time ever.

It was unlike anything folks in these parts have ever imagined. Since the wee 80s, no team in Section 1 has demonstrated on Yorktown like the two-time defending champion Bears did. Briarcliff showed Yorktown-like instincts, Briarcliff displayed Yorktown-like intuition, Briarcliff chased down the 50-50 balls and had Yorktown's number behind Brandon Raspoli (3G, 2A), Jack Ricciardi (4G, 1A) and a total team effort.

The giant B at midfield on the Bears' turf looked as puffed out as it had ever been as Briarcliff poured it on in the fourth quarter, taking an 11-3 lead at 8:22 of the fourth when Raspoli found Jack Dineen in a deflating moment for a state-ranked (No.9) Class B Yorktown club that had gained major footing leading up to this massive test. The Bears piled on with another at 6:47 when Alex Kirshenbaum notched his hat

trick for the final Bear tally, which ensured Briarcliff's bearing upon the upper crust of Section 1 with additional wins over state-ranked (No.4) Class A Mamaroneck, Class A (No.3) Rye, Class D (No.6) Pleasantville and reigning Class A champion Scarsdale.

Yorktown (7-7), still the second-rated team among Section 1 teams in Class B this season, regained its composure to retain the coveted Murphy Cup after Saturday's 6-5 overtime win over visiting Lakeland/Panas, which took a 1-0 lead on a goal from Nic Connetta and kept it close after the first quarter, tied at one, and then again through halftime (3-2 Yorktown), but the Rebels (5-9) had little in their repertoire to contain Griff when push came to shove down the stretch.

The Rebels took a 5-4 lead with 8:30 to go when a lengthy possession concluded with a Thomas Kuney goal, but Griff responded to make it 5-5 with 4:13 to play and then worked the old hidden-ball trick with cagey Jack Duncan (1G), who sold the fake like a used car dealer, to work the ball out from behind the X for the game-winning goal in OT.

"During the timeout, our coaches decided to try the hidden-ball trick," Duncan said. "Me and Harry have been practicing it a lot and we were confident that we could sell it. We need to go to work at practice this week, and I think this game will give us the motivation that we need to become the team we can be."

Griff scored twice in the first quarter for a 2-1 lead and Duncan made it 3-1 Husker before L/P got it level early in the third quarter when Rebel Joe Alleva tied it at 3-all, preceding a second-quarter Nick Graap goal.

Rebel Chris Mac then cranked a feed off



Yorktown senior G Vito DeBellis was under constant fire in Huskers' 12-4 loss to host Briarcliff Thursday.

the X for a 4-3 L/P lead halfway through the third. It was short-lived, though, when Drew Weissman answered for Yorktown at 5:24 of the third to tie it, 4-4.

L/P, as well coached as any team in the section, played a smart, tight zone defense despite battling a rash of injuries, so they sat in that zone effectively and made it tough on Yorktown to generate much of anything. If it weren't for Yorktown senior M Jay Fastiggi (who won 13 of 15 faceoffs) the outcome would likely be different.

Lakeland/Panas was a goal short for the second year in a row, and has not won the Murphy Cup since 2010, leading to a 29-3 Yorktown edge in the coveted cup game.

Lakeland/Panas had better fortune earlier in during a 12-6 win over Wappingers where Alleva bagged a career-high six goals.



Yorktown sophomore M Drew Weissman on the move in Huskers' 12-4 loss to host Briarcliff Thursday.

Graap added a hat trick and one assist while Conetta and Michael Pisacreti added one goal and three helpers each.

MAHOPAC senior A Mike Harney put on a show in the Indians' 10-2 win over **HEN HUD** Thursday. Army-bound Harney notched four goals and added an assist. Junior teammate Jake Degnan, a silky lefty, added a hat trick and one assist. Mike Rettberg (2G), Danny Koch (1G, 2A) John Kearney (2A) filled the stat sheet for the Indians (11-4). Sailor Scott Lupi scored both Sailors goals off assists from Thomas Popolizio. Mahopac's stingy defense, which has allowed just seven goals over the last three wins, figured out a way to slow down Hen Hud's Dean Hiltsey, who was held without a goal. Mahopac junior G Tommy Jacobellis has been a wall of late and All-Section senior pole Sean Massett has dudes on lockdown. The Indians were set to test their mettle in the regular-season finale last night against state-ranked (No.4) Class A Mamaroneck.

Degnan (3G) and Harney (1G, 3A) triggered a 7-3 win over visiting Arlington on Senior Night. Rettberg added a pair while senior M Chris Evans owned the draw box (13 for 14). Jacobellis made 10 saves, a couple of big ones when the Admirals tried to get on a run in the fourth. Since losing to Somers, the current No.4-seeded Indians (11-4) have reeled off six-straight wins but haven't beaten the upper crust just yet, and anything less than a Final 4 run would be disappointing and won't be easy with the likes of Somers, John Jay, Yorktown (all losses for Mahopac) and defending Class B champ Rye also vying for the final four spots.

"There's been a culture shift," said the Monmouth-bound Massett. "When you take those difficult losses, you have to adjust. We were in every game we played this year, never out of any game and never sat down to any opponent. Some teams just got the best of us. After that stretch, we had to reevaluate and set ourselves straight. We have been rolling for two weeks now. We understood we needed to get hot going into May and here we are."

SOMERS saw its stock drop a bit last week as the Tuskers suffered a third-straight loss, including 6-4 setback to John Jay CR, which took home the League F title in the win. T.J. Olifiers and Henry Ellison scored two goals apiece for the current No.5 seeded Tuskers (10-4), who finish with a pair of tough tests against Lakeland/Panas and national power Greenwich (CT).

CLASS C

HEN HUD Junior M Dean Hiltsey continued his torrid tear last week doing so in a most impressive 10-9 win over **LAKELAND/PANAS**. Hiltsey dropped four goals and two assists for the Sailors, who overcame a 7-6 and closed on a 4-2 run for a rare win over the Rebels, their first since 2004. In his last five games (prior to a loss at Mahopac), Dean the Dream 22 goals and seven assists, before adding seven more in a 15-9 win over visiting **CROTON** Saturday.

Against L/P, Rocco Capicotti added three goals for Hen Hud and Thomas Popolizio finished with a goal and three assists. Sailor

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Yorktown sophomore D Dino Bowen tries to slow the attack of Briarcliff's Alex Kirshenbaum in Huskers' 12-4 loss to host Bears.

ANDY JACOBS / GIL MCMAHON PHOTOS

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys Lax Notebook



Mahopac senior Michael Harney cranks shot on Hen Hud's Tyler Robinson in Indians' 10-2 win over host Sailors last week.

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G Rowan Caffrey (11 saves) soaked two Rebel blasts to preserve the win. Senior A Nick Graap had three goals and one assist for Lakeland/Panas while Nic Connetta added two goals and two assists.

Celebrating Senior Night in the Dave Palmisano Memorial game, the Sailors took a 5-1 lead after the first before Croton had a great second quarter, but the Sailors were shot out of a cannon in the third and pulled away behind Hilsley (8 points), Popolizio (2G, 3A), Scott Lupi (4G), Capicotti (1G, 1A), Dylan Lennox (1G), Marty Stewart (1A), and Ryan Clark (1A).

Sailor G Joey Connolly needed five five saves for the win but was beaten by multi-scoring Noah Bovenne (4G) and Mike McCarthy (2G).

Congratulations to **PUTNAM VALLEY** Coach Tim Weir who earned his 200th career win on his birthday in a 18-8 victory over Dobbs Ferry last Thursday. While

the bulk of those wins came at Lakeland/Panas, including two sectional titles (1997-2003 and 3 more as an assistant to Coach Frank Vitolo), Weir is still grinding out wins on the PV sidelines, including seven in row for the surging Tigers (10-5), who are set to wrap up the regular season against a feisty **HALDANE** club (8-5), the current seven seed in Class D.

Tiger Andrew Dzubak led Put Valley with six goals and three assists, working in tandem with senior M Ryan Denike, who went for a team-best 10 points (5G, 5A).

The Tigers, the current No.5 seed in Class C, then drubbed Lourdes 18-4 for their seventh win in a row behind Dzubak (8G, 1A) and Denike (1G, 5A), who scored scored his 150th career point while Dzubak scored his 100th career point. The Tigers were set to play Haldane for the league championship Monday.

In **BREWSTER's** 11-6 win over Lourdes, both Josh Walsh and Andrew Tyndall put three between the pipes while adding an assist on Senior Night at the Bears' den. Luke Sanchez and Joe Anfuso each scored twice for the Bears (6-8 overall), the current No.11 seed, which will finish out the regular season with a pair of tough challenges from Carmel and Lakeland/Panas.

CLASS A

CARMEL saw junior hotshot Matt Risley (3G, 4A) roast Ossining 15-1. Thomas Connolly added four goals and one assist for the Rams (8-5), the current No.5 seed. Carmel's Jimmy Lyons (5 points) added a hat trick and Adam Boehiem tickled twine twice for the Rams, who were set to tango with Brewster last night before seeing Wappingers later in the week. A couple of



Mahopac G Tommy Jacobellis has been a brick wall during Indians current win streak.

wins might carry the Rams to a semifinal home game.

Boys' lax coaches are encouraged

to send game stats and comments to raygallaghersports@gmail.com.

NWE/Putnam Baseball Notebook continued...

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4, 2 runs, RBI).

Against Fox Lane, Koch added three more RBI and two hits but the Huskers and Foxes combined for eight errors in an otherwise ugly game. Jacoby (3 runs, 3 hits, RBI) got on, got over and scored often while Jon Munoz added two hits and two runs. Starter Derek Patrissi was victimized by several errors and deserved a better fate, working into the fourth while allowing just two earned runs and touched up for eight overall.

Mahopac was in the win column earlier in the week, taking an 8-6 decision from Greeley behind starter Chris Watts, who pitched six-plus innings and smacked a two-run home run. Gianluca Santoro also homered for Mahopac.

SOMERS had a huge 8-7 win over John Jay CR, which saw the current 13th-seeded Tuskers (8-8) even their record and procure a win against a solid Wolves (10-6) club. The catalyst, as often is, was junior OF Ravi Dass, who went 3 for 4 with two runs scored, an RBI, a walk and two steals, giving him 22 base swipes for the year. The table-setting Dass has been the epitome of the 'get-on, get-over, get-in' philosophy.

"Ravi is fun man," Somers Coach Anthony Nappi said. "He hit .400 last year as a sophomore and he's just getting better and better. He plays excellent defense and is a menace on the bases. The second he's on, all attention is on him and people play tight. I was talking to another coach about him, and he said he would rather Ravi hit a triple than get on first base. So much energy and attention has to be allotted towards him, or he will be off to the races. I'm lucky to have him because he's instant offense."

Somers P George Creighton battled through 5.1 IP, allowing four earned runs while whiffing nine.

"We had some misplays behind George that allowed Jay to come back and tie it 7-7," Somers Coach Anthony Nappi said.

But the never-say-die Tuskers rallied in the top of the seventh. With nobody on, and two out, senior SS Matt Kapica laced a double to right on a 1-2 count to provide some life. John Roublick followed with a run-scoring double for the go-ahead run.

BREWSTER won two of its last three but the 21st-seeded Bears (7-9- 3-4) have had trouble stringing wins together over the long haul until P AJ McBride worked five-plus innings and allowed one earned run to

earn in a 3-2 win over Greeley, giving way to Justin Parodi for the save.

Perhaps more impressive was Brewster's 7-6 extra-inning win over John Jay CR, who failed to contain John Gerfen, who provided the highlight of the season with a first-pitch, walk-off bomb in the bottom of the ninth. The Bears will wrap up the regular season with a pair against Somers and another with Greeley in the hopes of holding on to the No.20 seed and an outbracket playoff venture.

CLASS AA

CARMEL cruised to a 12-3 win over Brewster when senior SS Ryan Dall knocked in four runs to support winning P Michael Youngman while improving to 10-7 overall. Patrick Kiernan knocked in two runs for the Rams, who hold the No.8 seed as they enter a very tough stretch with two games against current No.2 RCK this week. The Indians will be seeking some payback on the Rams, who ended RCK's season in the Class AA finals last spring. Leading up to the win, the Rams were swept by front-running Arlington and fell on the road to Clarkstown South. Carmel is also scheduled to face Panas, so the Rams will be battle-tested and

possibly on the road throughout the playoffs if they can't hold on to No.8.

OSSINING, on the other hand, has the potential to host a pair of playoff games if the Pride (11-6) can continue this current stretch, which has them as the current No.4 seed after taking five of the last six games, including a win over Fox Lane and a sweep of White Plains. In the series finale against White Plains, Lucas Rodriguez (3 for 4 with a home run) aided the cause of Pride ace Nolan Sniffen, who allowed one earned run over seven frames and poked a two-run single for a lead he would not relinquish. The Pride stand at 11-6 overall, 6-3 in league play, and will find it tough to catch a streaking **FOX LANE** (12-5, 8-2) club that has won 11 of its last 13 and holds the current No.5 seed. Coach Scott Deleso's Ossining club is not to be slept on, though, with wins over the Foxes, Byram Hills, Mamaroneck, Briarcliff and two over White Plains.

Ossining took home the Casey Cup in Sunday's 1-0 win over **CROTON** behind a career effort from sophomore Brian Griffin, who threw a complete game one-hit shutout.

Good luck this week, boys... And down the stretch they come!

focus on **Girls Lax**

Mahopac Stuns Somers, 13-12, in Epic Rally



Somers' Yale-bound junior Lauren McCartin sets up 1 of 2 goals she would score against Mahopac despite tough D from Giana Rispoli (R) in Tuskers' 13-12 loss to host Indians Friday.



Cincinnati-bound Mahopac senior M Ava Jennings (3G) takes a run at Somers J Lauren McCartin (2G, 1A) in Indians' 13-12 come-from-behind win over Tuskers Friday.



Mahopac sophomore Julianna Mangione scored 2G, including game-winner in Indians' 13-12 come-from-behind win over Tuskers Friday.



Somers G Nicole Cassara looks to clear field under pressure from Mahopac A Hannah Harney in Tuskers' 13-12 loss to host Indians Friday.



Somers' George Washington-bound senior Julie Sirchia breaks down Mahopac defense en route to an 8-point effort (5G, 3A) in Tuskers' 13-12 loss to host Indians Friday.



Somers junior Teagan Ryan (2G), bound for University of Colorado Boulder, looks to gain ground in Cincinnati-bound Ava Jennings of Mahopac.



Mahopac's Coastal Carolina-bound senior Avery Przytylski zips 1 of 2 goals she would score past Somers defense in 13-12 Indian win.

Sports

Bears' Dominant First Half Leads to a Win Over Yorktown

By Andy Jacobs

No one has to tell Briarcliff head coach Al Meola about the significance of any victory over Yorktown, easily the most successful team in Section One lacrosse history.

"For me, I grew up in Lakeland, I was part of the Murphy Cup for a few years when I was in high school," he was recalling late Thursday afternoon. "I always came out on the losing end of it."

Meola had just seen his Bears put together a dominant first-half performance, jumping out to a commanding 6-0 advantage, on their way to a lopsided 12-4 win over the turnover-plagued Cornhuskers. Jack Ricciardi finished with four goals, while Brandon Rispoli and Alex Kirshenbaum added three apiece as the host Bears defeated Yorktown for a second straight year.

"Yeah, it's pretty cool," said Meola about watching his players matter-of-factly accomplish something that was so elusive back when he played — jump all over the Huskers. "It's awesome, so I'm pretty happy as a coach."

The game was two and a half minutes old when Ricciardi scored the first of his goals, using a double-spin behind the cage before coming around to deposit the ball in the back of the net from right of the crease. The Bears' lead grew to 2-0 after a careless Yorktown turnover set the stage for Lucas Proctor feeding a cutting Kirshenbaum in front with 7:35 remaining in the opening quarter.

Just 45 seconds later, Kirshenbaum, at the right doorstep for a point-blank shot, was on the receiving end of a pass from Elliot Jones and scored Briarcliff's third goal of the day. And even though Proctor would leave the game for good with just over two minutes left in the quarter after getting shaken up trying to intercept a pass at midfield, the Bears continued their domination right into the second period.

The Bears came out of a timeout after another Yorktown turnover and Rispoli, from straightaway, fired a shot past the Huskers' Vito DeBellis with 8:37 left in the half. Up



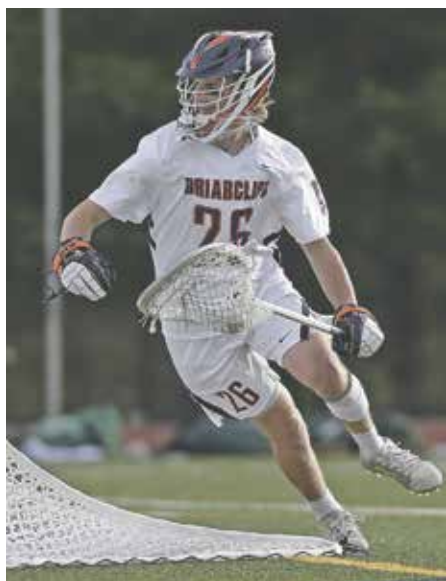
Brandon Rispoli fires a shot at the cage in the third quarter of the Bears' 12-4 victory over Yorktown.

a man a minute later, Yorktown nearly got on the scoreboard but Bear goalie Evan Van Camp thwarted a close-range shot and Briarcliff maintained its 4-0 cushion.

The lead grew to five goals when Ricciardi, from a restart behind the cage, came around the front and sent a low, lefty sidewinder shot into the net with 6:18 on the clock. Three minutes later, after Jared Sturman intercepted a Yorktown pass to give the Bears possession, Ricciardi scooped up a loose ball in front of the cage, spun to his left to avoid contact, then gathered himself while on the move before somehow putting the ball past DeBellis an instant before getting hit.

At halftime, ahead by half a dozen goals, Meola kept his message to his players very brief.

"Probably the shortest one I've ever had,"



Briarcliff goalie Evan Van Camp looks up the field before clearing the ball in the Bears' home win over Yorktown.



Briarcliff's Elliot Jones searches for an open teammate from behind the cage during Thursday's home win over Yorktown.

he said. "Sometimes you don't need to over-talk it."

The offense was clicking and defensively they had stifled the Huskers, especially when they spent a good portion of the first quarter with Nico Santucci shadowing Yorktown's main weapon, Harry Griff, everywhere he moved.

"We're getting ready for playoffs, so we're trying some different things," said Meola about the special defense on Griff. "Seeing what works and hopefully send a message to the rest of the section, like we're doing some different things. They have to be ready for it. Get people uncomfortable. That's our hope. It worked pretty well for a while."

A minute into the second half, Ricciardi and Rispoli played catch up top before Ricciardi cranked a lefty shot into the cage to stretch the Briarcliff lead to 7-0. The Cornhuskers finally got their first goal nearly three minutes into the third quarter when Drew Weismann fired a shot over Van Camp's shoulder.

But the Bears answered 82 seconds later when Rispoli, from the exact spot Ricciardi had scored from earlier in the period, fired in a low shot to give the Bears an 8-1 lead. Just 13 seconds later, after Yorktown won the faceoff, Chris Constantine scored the second Husker goal. With 4:13 to go in the quarter, a shot by Jack Duncan from the right doorstep cut the Briarcliff lead to five goals.

In the fourth quarter, the Bears ended any doubt about the outcome when they scored three times in a 71-second blitz, starting with a goal by Rispoli dodging to his right and firing to the far side of the cage with 9:54 left. The next two came from Shane Dean, who until recently was a member of the Bears' JV team.



The Bears' Lucas Proctor winds up for a shot from right of the cage in the first quarter vs. visiting Yorktown.

He wound up on the receiving end of set-up passes from Jones and then Rispoli and converted on both.

"Yeah, stepped up," said Meola of the scoring by Dean. "His first goals. It was pretty sick, so that's awesome. We just pulled him up from JV a couple days ago."

The Bears built their largest lead of the day, nine goals, when, out of a timeout, Kirshenbaum raced in five seconds later to score with 6:47 remaining. Yorktown midfielder Chris Buckenberger closed the day's scoring with just over two minutes to go, but it wasn't long before Briarcliff was celebrating its fifth consecutive win and 11th in 13 games this season.

"I think we try to really have an identity riding and clearing," said Meola. "We got the ball back a bunch of times. Our rides did really well and our clears did really well. We're really big on riding and clearing. We place a really high premium on that part of the game. So that's our identity. We did a tremendous job."



Alex Kirshenbaum, who scored three goals, controls the ball behind the cage in Briarcliff's win over Yorktown.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Briarcliff's Nico Santucci sets his sights on the back of the net as Yorktown's Justin Meyreles tries to stop him during the first half of last Thursday's 12-4 Bear win.

Sports



Valhalla's Leo Dragone awaits a pitch during last week's home victory against Croton.



Ellie Barnett of Westlake tries to run past Rowan Capko of Pleasantville in the first half of last week's game won by the visiting Panthers 9-7.



Fox Lane's Michael Lombardi blasts a two-run homer in Sunday's 14-10 win over Yorktown in the first round of Roy C. Ketcham's annual tournament.



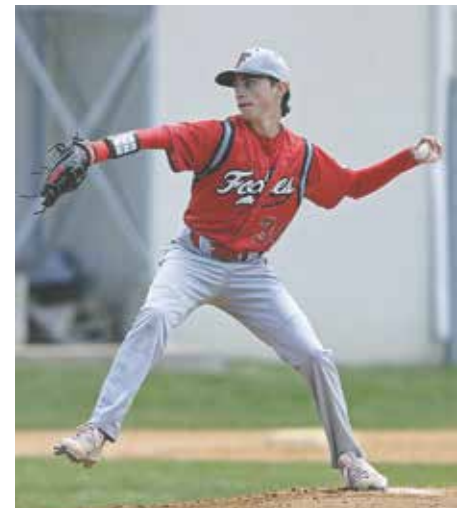
Westlake's Gianna Eglauf takes the ball up the field in last Tuesday's home game vs. Pleasantville.



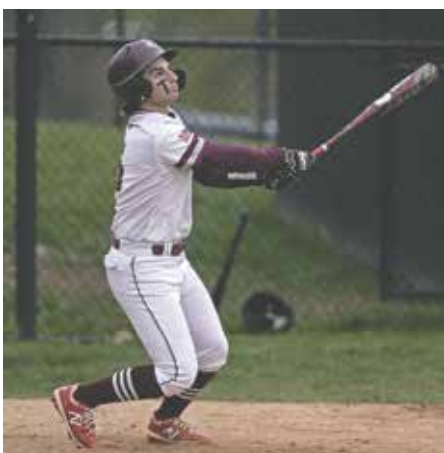
Steven Spota of Valhalla scampers down the first-base line trying to beat the throw in the Vikings' 3-2 win over Croton.



Cadence DeLuca moves toward the cage with the ball in Pleasantville's road win over Westlake. She finished with two goals.



Nick Dellorso of Fox Lane delivers a pitch in Sunday's opening-round victory over Yorktown at the annual Ricky Lombardo Memorial Tournament, hosted by Ketcham. He went six innings to earn the win, but the Foxes later fell to Clarkstown North 7-6 in the final at Dutchess Stadium.



Jake Sekinski of Valhalla watches the flight of the ball toward left-center field during the Vikings' 3-2 home win over Croton-Harmon.



Erin Drillock of Pleasantville shields the ball as she moves toward the cage in the first half of the Panther win at Westlake last Tuesday.



Fox Lane's Matt Antolino contributed two doubles and three RBIs in Sunday's tourney win over the Yorktown Cornhuskers.



Pleasantville's Abby McAllister scans the field in the first half vs. host Westlake. She led the Panthers with three goals in their 9-7 win.

Sports



Francesca DeMartino, who scored a game-high four goals, is determined to get past Pleasantville's Rowen Kennedy for a shot at the cage in last Tuesday's game.



Valhalla junior Michael Burns delivers a pitch to the plate in last Tuesday afternoon's walk-off win over Croton.



Fox Lane second baseman Luke Feingold pursues a pop fly in Sunday's tourney win over Yorktown.



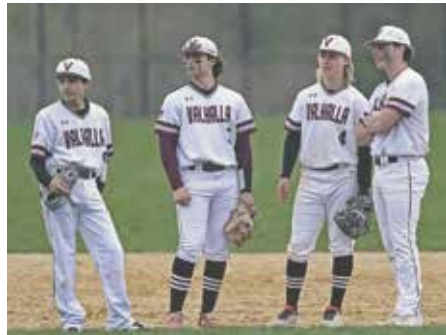
Valhalla second baseman Kori Prosperino fires to first for an out in last Tuesday's win over the Croton Tigers.



Pleasantville's Summer DeLuca is chased by Westlake's Shaina Picucci in the first half of last Tuesday's game won by the visiting Panthers.



Westlake's Lily Wurster searches for a teammate to pass to as Summer DeLuca of Pleasantville defends during last Tuesday afternoon's game.



The Valhalla infield takes a break during a pitching change in last Tuesday's home win over the Croton Tigers. Michael Dawson, far right, delivered the game-winning hit on a bunt in the bottom of the eighth inning.



Colin Witz takes a lead off second base in Fox Lane's 14-10 victory over Yorktown this past weekend.



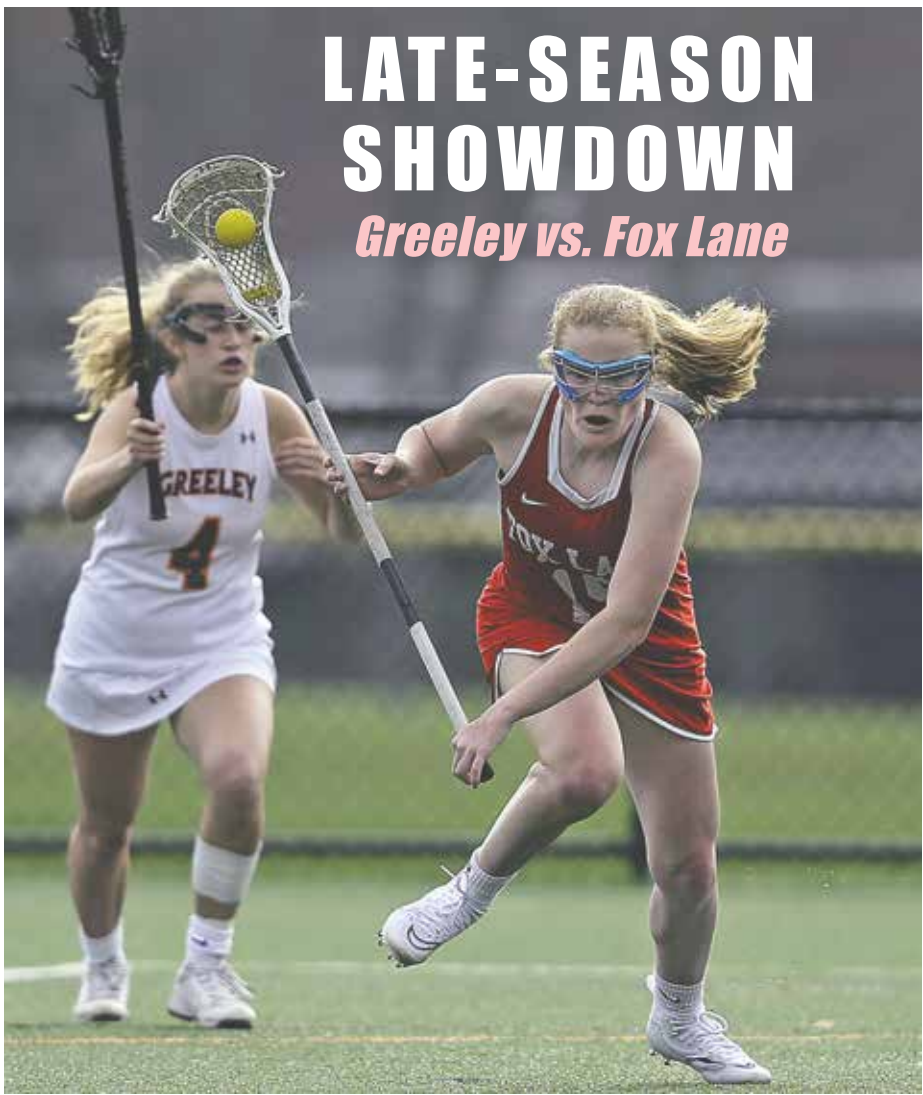
Pleasantville goalie Ciara McCarthy looks to make a clearing pass after one of her four saves in the win at Westlake.

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Horace Greeley senior Molly Byrne considers her options as she controls the ball vs. Fox Lane.



Fox Lane's Emma Greene charges toward the cage on a free-position opportunity in last week's clash with rival Greeley.



Greeley's Erica Rosendorf races toward the cage in the win over Fox Lane. She finished with a game-high six goals.



Maddie Broghammer of Fox Lane draws plenty of attention from the Quakers as she tries to start a clear in the first half of last week's game.



Bae Bounds celebrates after a Greeley first-half goal in last week's 13-9 home win over Fox Lane.



Fox Lane freshman midfielder Sophia Bueti turns on the speed as she heads for the cage vs. host Greeley.



The Foxes' Nicole Castaldo takes the ball across the field in last Wednesday's game.



Greeley goalie Tatum Walsh turned aside 11 Fox Lane shots in last week's 13-9 Quaker win.



Greeley junior Ramsey Edson starts a transition from defense to offense in the home victory over Fox Lane, the Quakers' 12th straight this season.

Sports



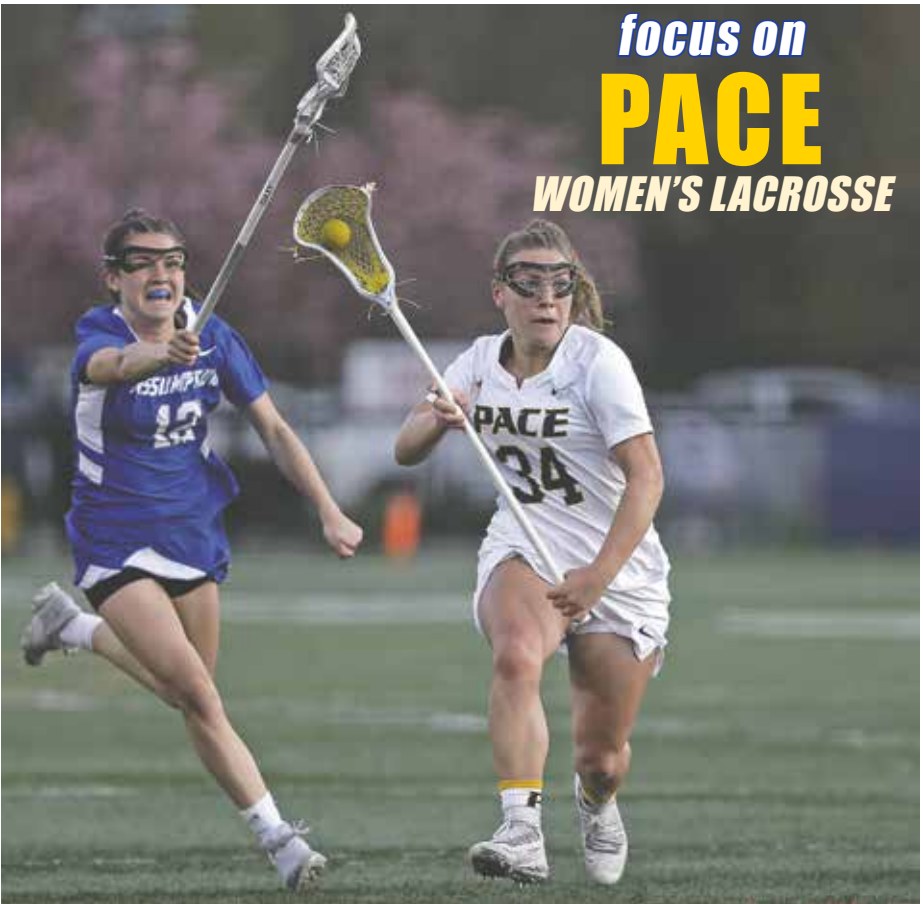
Kayla Conway takes the ball up the right sideline in last week's NE10 playoff game. She finished with three goals and two assists.



Pace junior Sydney Juvelier, who finished with a pair of goals, gets set for an 8-meter shot in the 13-12 playoff win over visiting Assumption.



The Setters' Alexandra Quinn moves toward midfield in the second half last Wednesday night.



Pace University sophomore midfielder Angelina Porcello moves toward the cage in the second half of last Wednesday evening's come-from-behind 13-12 win over Assumption in the NE10 Conference quarterfinals. Two days later, she scored six goals but the Setters fell to top-seeded Stonehill in the semifinals.



Jolie Urraro, who led Pace with four goals, runs around the side of the cage in the Setters' 13-12 quarterfinal win over the Assumption Greyhounds, who built a 10-5 first-half advantage before the Setters stormed back.



Setter senior Jaimie Bell sets her sights on the cage as she runs past Assumption's Isabelle Edwards during the second half of last Wednesday's NE10 playoff game.

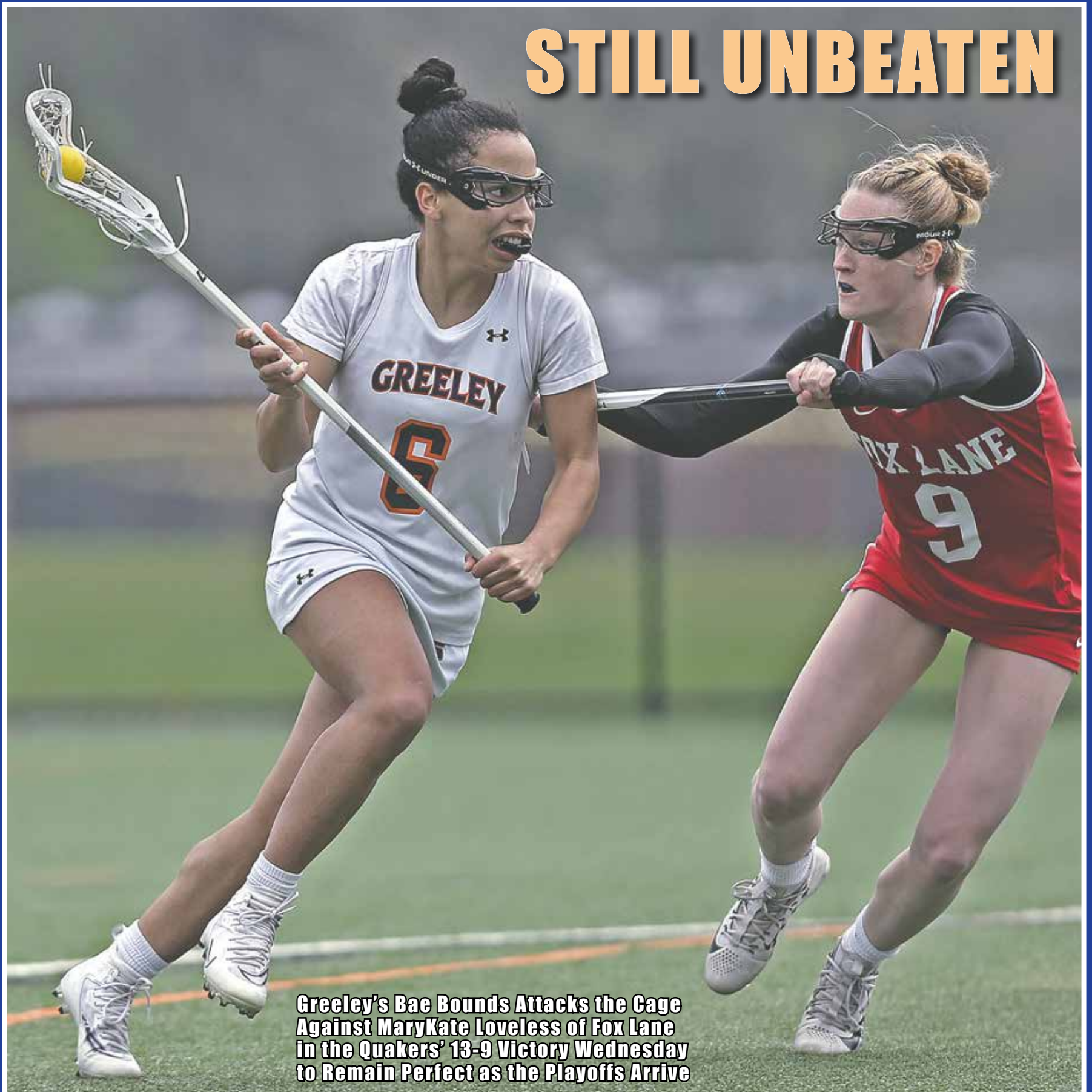


The Setters' Margaret Flocco searches for an open teammate vs. Assumption. She scored two goals in the 13-12 win.



Nikki Mattes tries to get to the front of the cage in Pace's home victory over Assumption in the NE10 quarterfinals last Wednesday evening.

STILL UNBEATEN



**Greeley's Bae Bounds Attacks the Cage
Against MaryKate Loveless of Fox Lane
in the Quakers' 13-9 Victory Wednesday
to Remain Perfect as the Playoffs Arrive**