

Examiner Sports

Push Comes to Shove!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Panas P DiLorenzo Wheels, Deals; Panthers Sweep Lakeland

ECU-bound Panas junior P Jackson DiLorenzo shoved 90+MPH heat in Panthers' 3-2 come-from-behind win over host Lakeland last Friday when DiLo dealt darts into the seventh before Clemson-bound SS Sam Stafura cleared the bases with a three-run, seventh-inning double and C Dan Witters slapped a key tag on Hornet Logan Crilly (inset)... see Baseball Notebook

Sports

NWE/Putnam Baseball Notebook

Panas Nips Lakeland in Pair of Wins; Somers, Yorktown Split

Don't Sleep on Ossining; Croton's Rosen Notches 100th Win

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

If **LAKELAND** can run with **WALTER PANAS** like the Hornets did in a pair of one-run, nail biting losses last week, Class A baseball is going to be mighty interesting come postseason. In fact, first-year Coach Justin McCarthy's Hornets (6-10) had veteran Coach Anthony Fata's Panthers (13-1) on the ropes – leading 2-0 through six frames – in Friday's 3-2 come-from-behind Panas win; until Clemson-bound SS Sam Stafura mashed a bases-clearing double in the top of the seventh and ECU-bound P Jackson DiLorenzo slammed the door shut in the bottom half.

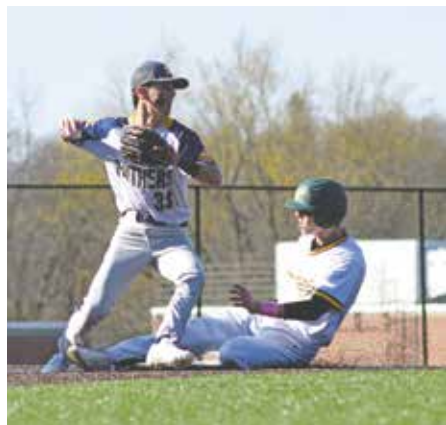
"Sammy came up huge," Fata understated. "And Jackson gutted out the win."

There were impressive players all over the field, including five D-I-bound Panthers, but another player in green and gold truly stood out, that being eighth-grade Hornet sensation Devin Diaz. If Diaz, a C/3B by trade, was to stay at Lakeland, he'd draw rare comparisons to 1989 Hornet C Ben Lindsey, who was drafted by the Minnesota Twins out of Lakeland High. Diaz is of that ilk, which is why prep schools are on the hunt and Iona Prep is in the lead.

At the core of its program, Lakeland has always had some prime time players; most recently BC-star Joey Vetrano and Evan Berta, but no Hornet has ever seen the varsity diamond as an eighth-grader, including Lindsey, until Diaz, who already looks the part of a D-I prospect, this spring.

"He's an absolute stud," said McCarthy, who played at Lakeland alongside two-time NYS Gatorade Player of the Year Jonathan de Marte back in 2010-11. "If he stayed with us, he'll go down in history as one of the best to ever play at a super successful baseball program."

Many think the grass is greener at prep schools, but scouts will find prospects



Panas 2B Gavin Carlucci forces Lakeland's Jason Portella in Panthers' 3-2 come-from-behind win over host Lakeland Friday.

no matter where they play, which is why it's more important to play where you're comfortable, but this kid looks like he can play anywhere, including the next level.

Panas senior Aidan Cohall, who pitched the Panthers to a blustery 3-2 victory in the series opener with Lakeland, and Austin Pagliettini had two hits each in the win over the Hornets while Diaz scored a run.

In a 5-4 win over Pelham, Panas P Gavin Carlucci pitched six strong innings and Anthony Jaeschke earned the save. Travis Carlucci added two RBI while Stetson-bound C Danny Witters and BCU-bound OF Tony Humphrey, who transferred to Panas out of Iona Prep after a racially sensitive comment from an Iona Prep assistant A.D., each added an RBI.

Lakeland opened the week with a 4-3 extra-inning win over host White Plains when Justin Ramos drove home the winning run in the top of the eighth. Jason Portella drew a bases-loaded walk in the seventh to force extra innings. Joe Torres clouted a two-run home run and starter AJ Passafiume allowed two earned runs in seven innings and Ryan Done pitched the eight to notch



Panas C Dan Witters slaps a key tag on Lakeland's Logan Crilly in Panthers' 3-2 win over host Hornets Friday.

the save.

"Three one-run games (for the week)," McCarthy said. "We're getting there."

Panas has several big tests to close out the regular season, including a dustup with reigning Class AA champion **CARMEL** and a pair with border rival **HEN HUD**, who handled **BREWSTER**, 8-3 when P Kieran Plunkett lasted five innings for the win. Closer Josh Shea recorded the final six outs for Hen Hud, who will memorialize the life and times of longtime former pitching coach Ed Lent Sr. Saturday, May 7th for a 1:30 p.m. ceremony and a 2 p.m. game against visiting Lakeland at Sunset Field.

Connor 'Big Country' Harbolic stroked the game-winning hit for the Sailors in a 3-2 ninth-inning walk-off win over Lourdes to open the week, but the youthful Sailors (9-7) missed out on the sweep of the Warriors and

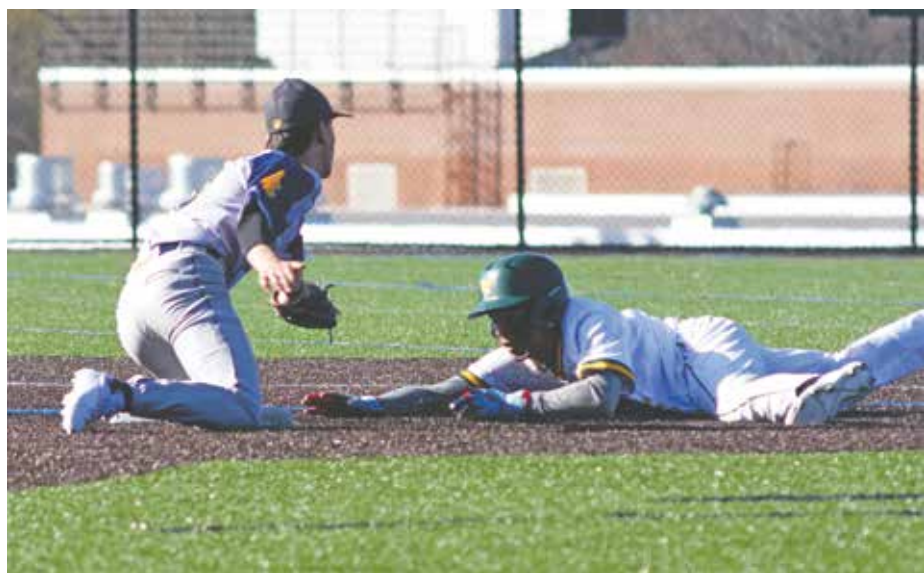
then fell to visiting Pearl River, 13-8, as well.

SOMERS had a big league week, going 3-1 to improve to 7-6-1, adding to the parity throughout Class A. The week ended in a 1-0 setback to **YORKTOWN** Saturday, salvaging a split of the series, and the Tuskers did manage to sweep **MAHOPAC** earlier in the week.

"We played really well this week," Somers Coach Anthony Nappi said. "Our pitching was phenomenal all week. We let up four runs and just two were earned. George Creighton, Stefan Swee and Andrew Kapika were tough as nails."

Freshman Kapika pitched a no-hitter in a 10-0 win over the Indians (4-11), a game shortened to five innings by mercy rule. He added two RBI while Kapika's brother, senior SS Matt, came up strong for his kid

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Good-looking Lakeland 8th-grader Devin Diaz swipes bag ahead of tag by Panas 2B Gavin Carlucci in host Hornets' 3-2 loss to Panthers.

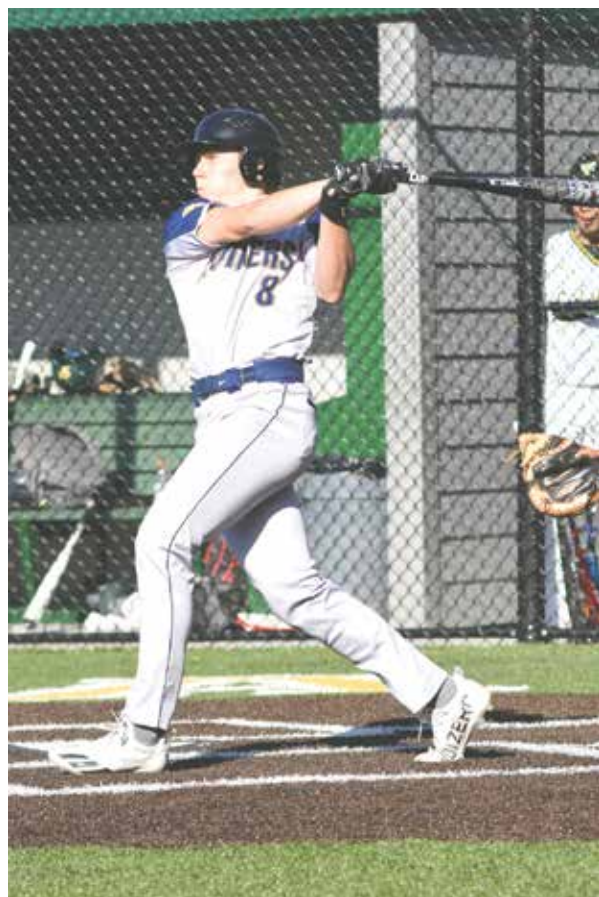


Lakeland IF Dom Toscano slaps a quick tag on Panas OF Aidan Cohall in Hornets' 3-2 loss to visiting Panthers Friday.

RAY GALLAGHER / MATTHEW TURRI PHOTOS

Sports

NWE/Putnam Baseball Notebook



Panas SS Sam Stafura cracked 3-run, 7th-inning double in Panthers' 3-2 win over host Lakeland Friday.



Lakeland P Ryan McArdle was sterling throughout the Hornets' 3-2 last-inning loss to visiting rival Panas.



St. John's-bound Panas slugger Aidan Cohall tracks another well struck bomb in his rather historic Panther career.

continued from previous page

bro, delivering four RBI on two hits (1 2B).

"On the first play of the game we made an error and from that point forward Andrew Kapica was in complete control," Nappi said. "Evan Carway threw out Joey Koch on a steal and Andrew did not allow another base runner. He did an amazing job hitting spots and mixing pitches. It was honestly just fun to watch, a kid at such a young age being on top of everything."

Swee started game 1 against Mahopac didn't have his best stuff and battled through two innings, letting up one run until Creighton saved the day and went five innings in scoreless relief, picking up the 4-1 win.

In the Somers win over Yorktown, Creighton came back to take the start and set

an awesome tone. "This kid straight up competes," Nappi said. "He went six innings, letting up one earned run and striking out eight to earn the win. Eddie Baranowski had a big day at the plate with three hits and four RBI.

In Yorktown's 1-0 win over the Tuskers, the only run of the day scored on a dropped third strike that kicked away. Swee went six innings and let up no earned runs. Yorktown's Derek Patrissi earned the win, scattering four hits over five frames while whiffing six. Cole Haddock chalked up the save with two innings of scoreless relief, allowing just a hit while fanning four.

"He deserved better but sometimes baseball is a funny game," Nappi said. "We lost to a good team, so there's no shame in that."

Tusker OF Ravi Dass led the offense all

week and was a menace on the bases. He was 6-12 with two walks and nine steals.

Here's more Class A parity:

BREWSTER pulled off a 4-2 win over Yorktown. Bear P Sean Pawloski allowed one earned run on four hits in six innings for the win. George Vallecillo went 3 for 4 with two runs scored and pitched the seventh for the save. Collin Brennan went 2 for 4 with a double and two RBI for the Bears (5-8), who could not sustain that momentum in a 13-3 drubbing at the hands of the Huskers (7-7).

Huskers Jason Peragallo (3 for 3) and Nick Jacoby (2 for 2) each drove home a pair of runs to support P Patrissi, who allowed one earned run over four frames for the win.

Anthony DeMatteo had two hits, two RBI and two runs in Mahopac's 13-8 win over visiting **GREELEY**, which committed a ghastly six errors, leading to 10 unearned runs. Chris Sapienza (4 K's, 3 ER) went five

innings for the win.

Class A is anybody's guess but current No.1 Rye (14-1), Eastchester (11-1-1) and Panas are the only one-loss teams remaining.

"Nothing makes sense in Class A, so expect the unexpected," Hen Hud Coach Van Vourliotis

said. "Rye is really, really well coached and organized. They never beat themselves."

CLASS AA

The Dutchess power trio of Arlington (12-2 vs. Section 1), RCK (6-3) and John Jay EF

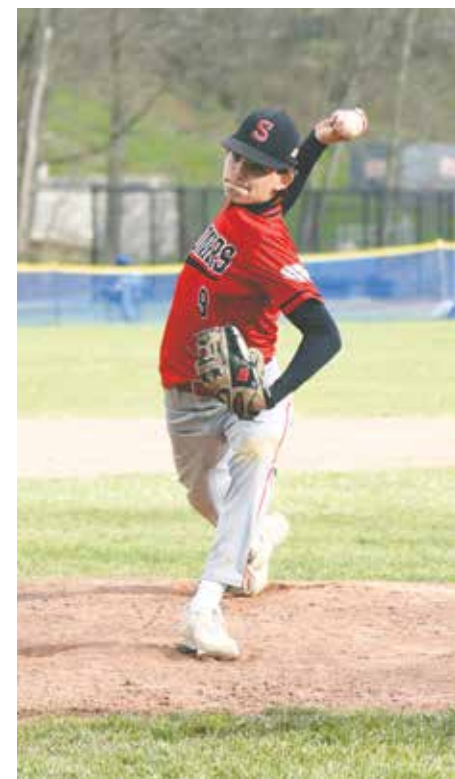
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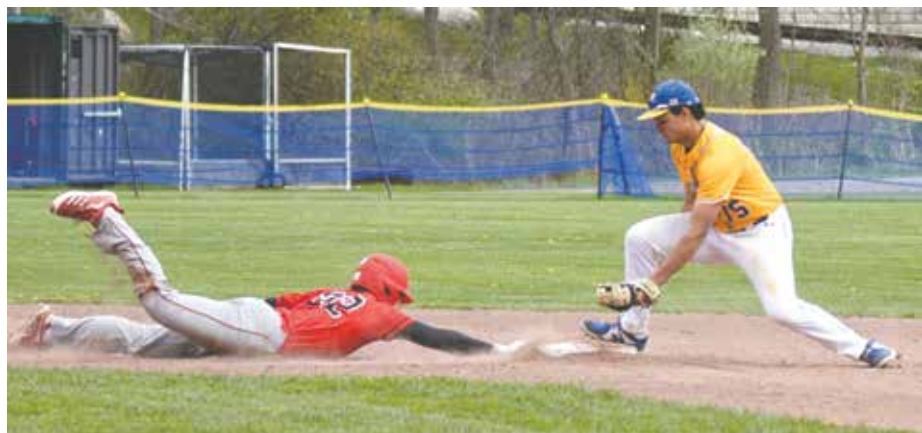
First-year Lakeland baseball Coach Justin McCarthy has rebuilding Hornets headed in right direction, especially if Lakeland can keep key players like 8th-grade standout C Devin Diaz aboard.



Somers junior Ravi Davis sparks yet another rally in Tuskers' 10-0 win over host Mahopac Wednesday.



Somers freshman P Andrew Kapika fired a five-frame no-hitter in Tuskers' 10-0 mercy win over host Mahopac Wednesday.



Somers junior Tan Thomas slides in under tag of Mahopac senior Anthony DeMatteo in Tuskers' 10-0 win over host Indians Wednesday.

continued from previous page

(9-4) are currently the No.1, 2 and 3 seeds, respectively, if the Class AA tournament was to start today, so yeah, the road to the title will likely run through Dutchess County where these kids are always in it to win it. Just ask defending Section 1 champion **CARMEL**, which has gone 0-4 against Arlington and JJEF, with RCK on the horizon. Coach Joe Hackert's Rams (9-6, 3-6) were an easy mark for Arlington last week, dropping a pair by a combined 21 runs, 11-0 and 10-0, after opening the week with a 6-3 win over North Rockland where P Nevin Scaperotti picked up the win and IF Kevin Heffernan drove home two runs.

Nobody should snooze on **OSSINING** after Coach Scotty D's Pride (8-5) defeated **BYRAM HILLS**, 7-5, in the finals of the beloved Christian Federico Baseball Tournament, **FOX LANE**, 8-5, and **WHITE PLAINS**, 6-1. A 9-1 loss to Mamaroneck was mixed in, too, but that's as impressive a stretch of wins as we've seen from Ossining in moons.

Against White Plains, the Pride's Ethan Hernandez went 2-4 with a HR and two RBI. Kevin Wittekind went 1-4 with two RBI. P Ethan Bruckner scattered three hits over five innings while sending eight Tiger down K-way to pick up the win.

Against the Foxes (8-4), Jack DeAngels went 3-4 and Lucas Rodriguez went 2-3 to support P Nolan Sniffen, who picked up the

win before Joe Post posted the save.

"The team has really found its stride now," Pride Coach Scott DeLeso said. "Our pitchers have been very competitive, throwing a lot of strikes and challenging hitters. At the plate our players have taken our approach we work on in practice and executed it in games. We have been getting big, two-out hits 1-9. These last few wins put us right back in the hunt for a league championship in one of the toughest leagues around."

CLASS B

CROTON's 14-11 win over **BRIARCLIFF** at Boulders Stadium Friday night was the 100th win for the program since Coach Rosen, Coach Tomasulo and Coach Brunelle began coaching the Tigers (10-5). Korey DeBeer (3-3, 4 runs), Mekhi Smithwick (4-5, 2B, 2 RBI), Nate Bilgoray (2-4, 3 RBI), John Sarcone (1-4, 3 RBI) were impressive offensively while Sarcone delivered on the mound (5 2/3 IP, 3 ER, 3 K's).

PUTNAM VALLEY fell on hard times last week when the Tigers (4-9) lost three lopsided affairs by a combined 28-3 count, losing a pair to North Salem, 7-2 and 10-0, plus an 11-1 setback to Rye Neck. The two Class B opponents were a combined 22-6 and the current No.2- and 3-seeds, respectively. The Tigers have dropped six of the last seven and need to get back on track ASAP.



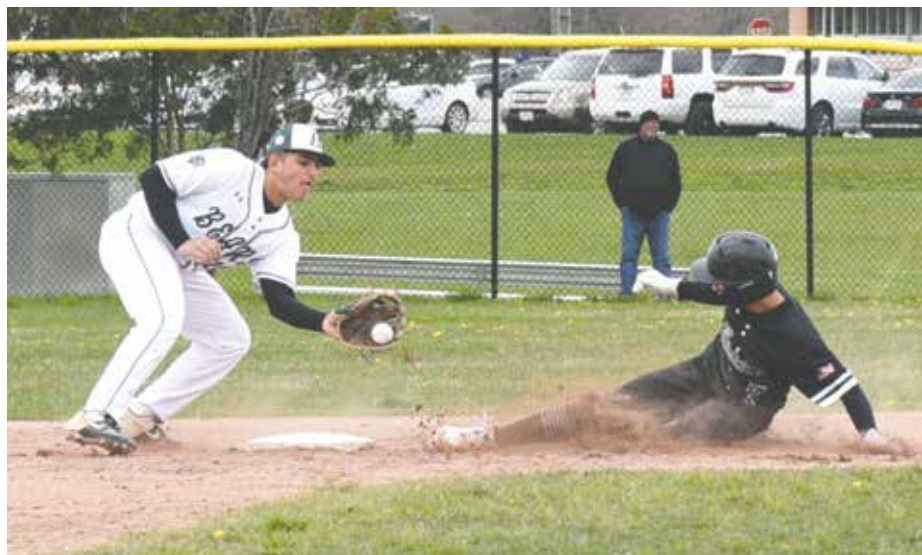
Brewster 2B Jason McGill can't get tag down in time on Yorktown's Nick Pace in host Bears' 13-3 loss to Huskers Wednesday.



Brewster SS Shane McLaughlin turns 3B before scoring run in Bears' 13-3 loss to Yorktown.



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Yorktown's Derek Patrisi gains 2B as Brewster 2B Jason McGill readies for tag attempt in Huskers' 13-3 win over host Bears Wednesday.



Croton coaches Eric Rosen (L) and Jay Tomasulo (R) celebrated their 100th win after Tigers' 14-11 over Briarcliff at Boulders Stadium Friday.

TWITTER PHOTO

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys Lax Notebook

Yorktown Adds John Jay to List of Conquests; Somers Falls to Byram

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

Scrutiny is part of the contract when you sign on with state-ranked (No.12) **YORKTOWN**. It comes with the territory when you're held to the standards of a 40-time Section 1 and seven-time NYS champion. We told you last week in this very space things like "Yorktown has lost four in a row, but don't be fooled into thinking Coach Tim Schurr's state-ranked (No.4) Huskers (4-5) are not prime-time players for the Section 1 Class B crown," and that "We're not going to panic on the Huskers, who traditionally play an extremely tough schedule, until we see what happens later today, though a loss to John Jay would give cause for concern."

And what we saw last Tuesday in the Huskers' 10-4 victory over the visiting Wolves was a reminder that when things are clicking and April turns to May Yorktown will be one of the last two teams standing in Class B, for nearly 50 years. The Huskers (now 6-5 overall, 6-2 in Section 1) added John Jay to the list of prime-time Section 1 Class B challengers they've now beaten this season, including **MAHOPAC** and **SOMERS**. And they will likely add **LAKELAND/PANAS** to that list on May 7 at the annual Charlie Murphy Cup game.

continued on page 7



Putnam Valley and Kennedy Catholic players assemble after host Tigers took the Warrior Cup in an 11-7 come-from-behind win Friday.



Carmel's Damian Santiago is kept in check by Mahopac D Sean Massett in Rams' 12-6 loss to host Indians Wednesday.



Yorktown senior James Solazzo (23 points in 10 games) has been a major catalyst as the Huskers are starting to hit their stride.

Yorktown, Hen Hud, Mahopac Among Class A's Elite

By Tony Pinciario

Alana Espinoza knew she would have to be at her best when she stepped into the circle against 2021 Section 1 Class AA champion **MAHOPAC**. The **HEN HUD** senior focused on one thing, staying in control.

"I've struggled a bit with controlling my pitches this season, and I knew when facing a good team like Mahopac that they'd take advantage of that," Espinoza said. "My main focus was to throw strikes and stay calm in the circle."

Espinoza accomplished this as she held the high-powered Mahopac offense in check, and her teammates supplied the runs. Hen Hud erupted for six runs in the top of the eighth inning to back Espinoza's four-hit, 10-strikeout performance in a 7-1 victory.

Along with the victory, what pleased Espinoza the most was she did not issue a walk. Taeghan Dapson supplied the decisive hit in the eighth. She battled Mahopac pitcher Ava Lichtenberger for nine pitches before delivering a run-scoring single.

"After playing with Taeghan since I was eight, it's safe to say she is definitely not one to give up," Espinoza said. "Taeghan is an amazing example on how to approach the game even when under pressure like she was in that at-bat. She stayed relaxed, but still fought to start up a rally in the last inning."

The eighth-inning uprising was a result of Espinoza's performance. Espinoza realized early her pitches were on the rise.

"I was very happy with my riseball and felt confident enough to use it on both sides



Sailors, including (L-R) Lisa Marie Pasquale, Taeghan Dapson, Alana Espinoza and Sydney Muranaka have had good reason to smile after beating Mahopac 8-1 Saturday. (Twitter photo)

of the plate," Espinoza said.

Espinoza and Lichtenberger established themselves early, quickly transforming the game into a pitchers' duel before both teams scratched out their respective runs in the fifth inning.

"From the start of the game we knew it was going to be a battle, but I felt like we did an amazing job keeping our heads in it and picking each other up wherever we needed it which kept our confidence level high.

"This win was definitely important to us. We were able to prove our ability against a

top team and we kept each other focused and hyped all game."

Emma Morley and Dapson each had two hits and a RBI. Isabella Buscetto and Lexi Schaffer had a hit and RBI apiece.

Hen Hud, now 8-3 this season, opened the week with a 9-0 loss to Pearl River. The game resumed where it was suspended because of rain.

The Sailors rebounded with a 13-4 victory over 2021 Section 1 Class A titleist Lakeland.

Espinoza struck out 12 and allowed two runs in six innings. She aided her cause with two hits and two RBI.

Ja'Nae Walker supplied the power with three hits, including a home run, and four



Mahopac sophomore P Ava Lichtenberger has chucked smoke all season for the reigning Class AA champion Indians.

RBI. Dapson had two hits and scored twice and Lisa Marie Pasquale drove in two runs.

MAHOPAC wielded the aluminum in victories over John Jay-Cross River (11-2) and Brewster (14-6) before a tough 7-1 loss in eight innings to Hen Hud.

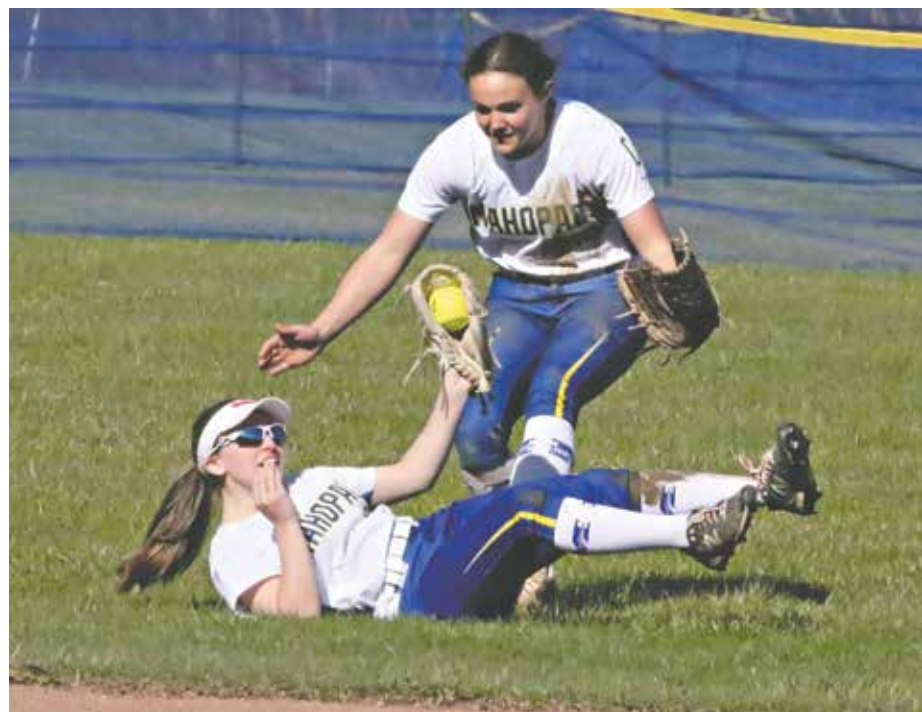
Despite the setback, Ava Lichtenberger continued her excellent season as Mahopac's No. 1 pitcher, surpassing 100 strikeouts to date.

It is always difficult to be the successor to an outstanding, impact player. However, Lichtenberger learned from one of Section 1's all-time pitching greats – Shannon Becker, now Notre Dame's No.1. This helped prepare Lichtenberger for the season.

continued on page 7



Mahopac senior OF Mia Lanter, covered from head to toe in dirt and clay, eyes flight of ball in recent Indian win over Arlington.



Mahopac RF Olivia Whitmarsh makes diving stab as CF Mia Lanter backs up play in Indians' recent win over Arlington.

NWE/Putnam Boys Lax Notebook continued...

continued from page 5

That's not to say there isn't work to be done, because, quite frankly, Yorktown can't and won't rest on its laurels when it hasn't been crowned Section 1 champs since 2017. But they did look like a team that could challenge for its 41st title against John Jay, and then again back on April 16 in a two-goal loss to reigning Class B champion Rye in what was a back-and-forth affair before the Garnets took over in the fourth. And, certainly, they looked special in a one-goal, double OT loss to nationally-ranked Darien on April 19, so when it all comes together this unit has had its moments. And they'll need more consistency starting next week when they take on Wilton (CT), state-ranked No.3 Class D Briarcliff, Lakeland/Panas and Ridgefield (CT).

Against John Jay (8-4, 8-3), Yorktown scored three times within a minute to grab a 3-0 lead, but allowed the Wolves to come back at 3-all and 4-all before scoring six unanswered.

Lefty sophomore Drew Weissman scored three goals and looks the part of a true finisher. Senior A James Solazzo continued to put up big numbers, adding a hat trick for goals 15, 16 and 17 on the year. Senior All-American A Harry Griff (22G, 22A) went for two goals and a helper, giving him a team-high 44 points through 10 games. Senior M Sava Makarenko and sophomore M Ryan Vogel bagged a goal apiece and dished an assist. Senior M Jason Fastiggi was a huge key for the Huskers, winning 11 faceoffs, and

senior G Vito DeBellis notched eight saves.

Yorktown finished off the week with a 13-5 win over Carmel behind junior A Jack Duncan (4G, 2A) and Griff (3G, 3A) Husker senior Jack Baker netted a career-high three goals and sophomore Connor Fastiggi scored twice while his senior brother Jay Fastiggi owned the draw box (won 17 of 20 faceoffs).

Class A **CARMEL** came across the reservoir to **MAHOPAC** last Wednesday and were greeted rudely by a barrage of first-quarter goals, including tallies from Indians John Kearney (from Jake Degnan at 9:14), a pole goal from Liam Dodd pole at 7:33, plus a pair of cranks in the final 21 seconds from Michael Harney and Mike Rettberg (1A). It wasn't much of a game after that as the Indians went up 12-2 before the Rams (7-5) tacked on a few late goals with seconds and thirds on the field to make it look closer than it was, 12-6. Mahopac senior M Chris Evans set a dominating tone in the draw box, winning 16 of 17 faceoffs while Army-bound senior A Harney (1A) finished with a hat trick. Junior A Degan (2A) and sophomore Kearney (2A) each scored twice for the Indians (8-4 in Section 1, 9-4 overall), who continue to OWN their crosstown rivals on the lax green. Mahopac neutralized Ram hotshot Matthew Risley (24 G, 18A for the year). Thomas Connolly is second for the Rams with 37 points this season.

Luke Kelleher and Gavin Viglucci also scored for Mahopac, which added a 6-2 win over Wappingers Friday behind Degnan (2G, 1A for 34 points this season), Harney

(2G, 1A), Gavin Viglucci (2G), and Danny Koch 1A. Since losing 10-7 to Somers, Mahopac has now won four in a row and will finish with three huge tests against Class A heavy's Arlington and state-ranked (No.3) Mamaroneck and another with Class C Hen Hud.

Just days after moving past state-ranked (No.12) Yorktown in the state rankings, No.10 **SOMERS** suffered an 8-7 loss to Class C **BYRAM HILLS**. The Tuskers (10-2) were led by senior T.J. Olifiers' two goals and three helpers for 36 points on the season. Henry Ellison also scored twice for Somers, which failed to neutralize Bobcat Michael Oronzio (3G, 4A). Somers chalked up a 9-3 win over **FOX LANE** when Olifiers, Nick Newman and Ryan Brush each scored twice.

LAKELAND/PANAS got itself on track with a 14-8 win over **OSSINING** last Wednesday when senior Nick Graap went for a career-high 11 points, including nine goals and two assists. Justin Stabile (2G, 2A), Will Moore (2G, 1A) and Nic Connetta (1G, 3A) all finished with multiple points.

CLASS C/D

If **CROTON** had a book on **PUTNAM VALLEY** senior Andrew Dzubak, they should burn it after the Tiger attackman went for a career-high 11 points (8G, 3A) in a 16-11 win over visiting Croton last Wednesday. Dzubak was in sync with fellow senior and offensive orchestrator Ryan Denike (1G, 4A, 40 points this season) as the Tigers improved to 7-5 overall.

"Andrew is under the radar, most teams forget about him because they zero in on Ryan," PV Coach Tim Weir said of Dzubak (31G, 11A for the year). "To make a long story short, Ryan and Andrew play an awesome two-man game."

Cole Doucher (2G, 1A), Hayden Gumbrecht (2G, 1A), Chris DeGiorgio (1G, 2A), Doug Brown (1G, 1A), Thomas Cunningham (1G) and Davin Porteus (17/30 on faceoffs), plus PV G Roger Raimo (10 saves) all played a major part for the Tigers (6-5, 7-5). Croton's Mike McCarthy (2G, 2A), Ryan Robine (2G, 1A), Noah Bonne (2G) and Bryce Laemer (2G, 1A) did all they could to keep Croton (4-6, 4-7) close, though it was 9-4 by the half and 13-6 after three.

PV followed that up with an 11-7 win over **KENNEDY CATHOLIC** in the Warrior Cup game Friday night. Gumbrecht (27 points this season) took home MVP honors after what amounted to a career day (2G, 4A). Denike (1G, 2A), Davin Porteus (2G, 1A), Durocher (2G), DeGiorgio (2G), Dzubak (1G), Brown (1G) and Roger Raimo (11 saves) all found the score sheet.

"It was our fifth time trailing at the half where we pulled the game out," said Weir, who is two wins shy of 200 career high school victories, the vast majority coming at Lakeland/Panas. "It was a great atmosphere in the Valley and we thank Kennedy for coming. I love the grit, desire and attitude of this team."

NWE/Putnam Softball Notebook continued...

continued from page 6

"I definitely learned from Shannon that not everything is going to go your way in games, especially when you're pitching and you can't let a couple of hits or misplay get to you," said Lichtenberger, the starting shortstop last year.

Becker would be proud of Lichtenberger who is currently 9-2 with a 1.09 earned run average. Lichtenberger has registered 109 strikeouts and yielded just 48 hits in 77 innings.

Lichtenberger did admit she was nervous having to take the place of Becker, but she quickly found her composure.

"I had to tell myself that I'm my own person and player and I'm definitely not expected to do as well as Shannon, but I was also excited to be filling her role and getting to come out and trying to have a great season like we did last year.

"I also had to tell myself that even though there is pressure to do well it's a brand new team and the expectations were not as high for us as they were last year. It was a fresh start and an opportunity to come out strong for Mahopac and myself."

The transition from shortstop to the circle was also smoother because Lichtenberger and catcher Gianna Lafaro play travel softball together.

"I've had the opportunity to work with Gianna for over a year now which really helps us have a great pitcher-catcher relationship," Lichtenberger said. "She was also one of my first friends after moving to

Mahopac last year so we have a really good bond and we work really well together."

Lafaro led the offense against John Jay with a 210-foot home run and three RBI. Lichtenberger helped herself with three RBI and she also struck out 12.

Lafaro was the offensive catalyst against Brewster with two doubles and four RBI. Gaby Marino drove in three runs and Mia Lanter and Caitlyn Wolf each had two RBI.

Mahopac owns a 9-3 record with eight games remaining before the Section 1 Class AA Softball Championship begins later this month. Lichtenberger and her teammates look to continue raising their level of play so they can peak for the postseason.

"We just need to keep working hard every day in practice to fine-tune our fielding and hitting so that we can play clean games and play to our potential because we are capable of being a very successful team," Lichtenberger said.

Coach Samantha Fernandez and her **YORKTOWN** team continue rolling with four more wins making the Cornhuskers, 12-1.

Yorktown defeated Mahopac (4-3), Horace Greeley, Lakeland and Walter Panas. Maya Servedio blanked Lakeland and Panas.

Servedio twirled a two-hitter against Mahopac. Last year, Servedio dealt Mahopac its only loss of the season.

Servedio had three hits and scored a run and Vittoria Milizia singled and drove in two runs.

Olivia Salveggi drove in a team-best nine

runs against Greeley. Bella Gomes went 5 for 5 with four RBI and Milizia was 4 for 4 with five RBI.

Servedio finished with a two-hitter against Lakeland and was buoyed by Lauren Strauss and Salveggi with two RBI apiece.

Salveggi had another huge RBI game with six against Panas, along with three hits and three runs. Servedio had three hits, scored four runs and drove in four. Kelly Jennings and Strauss each had three RBI and Charlotte Constantine went 5 for 5 with three runs scored.

BREWSTER had its hitting shoes on, scoring 21 and 20 runs in wins over Horace Greeley and Somers, respectively. Mahopac held Brewster to single digits in runs in a 14-6 win.

The Bears are 7-4 this season.

Kate Katsetos had two doubles among her four hits and had three RBI against Greeley. Natalie Hayes (four RBI) and Christy Restucci also collected four hits and Kayla Edwards posted two hits and three RBI.

Katsetos and Restucci drove in three runs apiece against Somers. Rory Charbonneau had three hits and scored three runs and Alex White and Brianna Franklin each doubled twice.,

"We have a lot of players that need to learn how to win," Brewster coach Lisa Delzio said. "It sounds cliché, but we don't play to our full potential as a team each game. We have amazing senior leadership which I am so proud of, but we need their discipline and desire to win to become more

contagious".

Delzio said her team led Mahopac, 3-2, after three innings, but the Indians capitalized on some Brewster misplays.

"We need to not give away runs against the better teams and that has plagued us all season," Delzio said. "They need to challenge themselves to not settle for those types of innings and learn from their mistakes. We are good, but we need to want to be better."

SOMERS had a busy week, going 2-2 with wins over Byram Hills (8-7) and Horace Greeley (20-5) and losses to John Jay-Cross River and Brewster.

Krista Gallagher's two-out, two-run homer in the seventh inning was the decisive blow against Byram Hills. Katie Cole (two runs), Emily Stavola, Julia Rossi (two runs), Alyssa Pirraglia and Gallagher (two runs) each had two hits.

Katherine Papa, Avery Kossow, Rossi and Pirraglia each had three hits and Papa also knocked in three runs against Greeley.

The schedule-makers were not kind to Somers as the Tuskers play Section 1 powers, Mahopac, Hen Hud and Yorktown in three days.



focus on **Girls Lax**

Hen Hud Handles Mahopac, Sailors Surge



Hen Hud junior G Madison Porter came up huge in Sailors' 7-6 league win over host Mahopac Tuesday.



Mahopac senior M Avery Przymyski sets up to crank shot on Hen Hud freshman Caitlin Pignataro in Indians' 7-6 loss to visiting Sailors.



Hen Hud senior M Sabrina Byrne gets congrats from Katherine Couch after scoring goal in Sailors' 7-6 win over host Mahopac.



Mahopac M Ava Jennings sets up a goal in 7-6 league loss to visiting Hen Hud Tuesday.



Mahopac senior Audrey Colucci and Hen Hud's Lexi Robinson eye up a loose ball in host Indians' 7-6 loss to Sailors Tuesday.



Hen Hud's Katherine Couch checks Mahopac's recent-record-setting A Nicole Panny (13 points vs. Wappingers) in Sailors' 7-6 win over host Indians.



Hen Hud senior M Shannon Ellis scoops GB as Mahopac senior A Ally Savino gives chase in Sailors' 7-6 win over host Indians.



Up-and-coming Mahopac soph Juliania Mangione eyes the terrain in Indians' 7-6 loss to visiting Hen Hud.



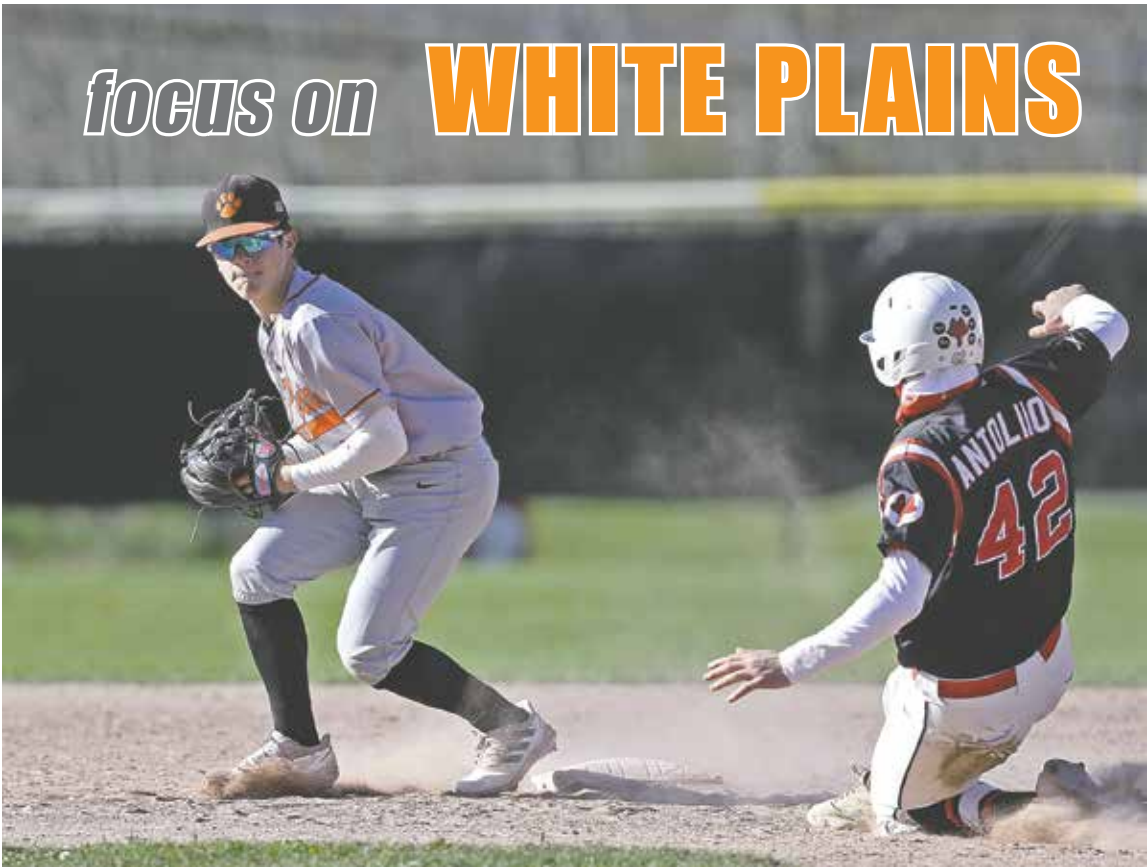
Mahopac's Audrey Colucci (R) is quick to celebrate teammate Juliania Mangione's goal in Indians' 7-6 loss to visiting Hen Hud.



Sports



White Plains start Alexa Galligani belts a pitch toward right field in Thursday's lopsided win over host Fox Lane.



White Plains second baseman Jesse Alfalla transfers the ball to his throwing hand for a potential double play after getting a force out on Fox Lane's Matt Antolino in last Thursday's game.



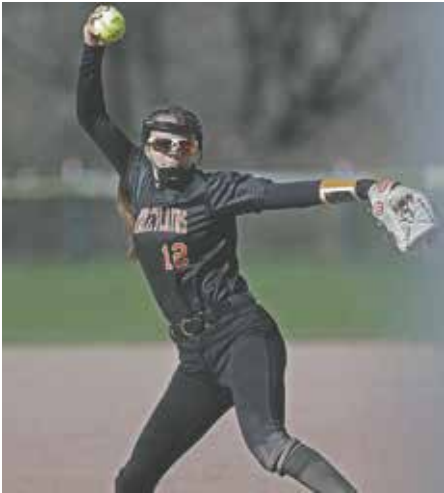
Adam Torres races toward home plate in the Tigers' game at Fox Lane.



First baseman Bella Cummings stays ready in the infield during Thursday's win at Fox Lane.



White Plains shortstop Nicky Vendola applies a tag on Fox Lane's Panos Sinis in a cloud of dust during the Tigers' 10-7 loss on Thursday afternoon.



The Tigers' Serena Gillen fires a pitch during the 21-2 rout of host Fox Lane in the cold and wind last Thursday.



The Tigers' Felix Morales hits the ball toward right field in the 10-7 loss to host Fox Lane.



White Plains left fielder Sasha Persaud awaits a pitch vs. the Foxes last week.



White Plains baserunner Lily Haynes moves down the third-base line early in the Tigers' rout of Fox Lane.

Sports

Briarcliff Overcomes a Slow Start to Defeat the Panthers

By Andy Jacobs

After yielding a pair of goals in the first five minutes on Friday afternoon, the Briarcliff boys' lacrosse team sure made it a lot harder for the Panthers of Pleasantville to do any more celebrating.

In fact, the Panthers went nearly 40 minutes between their second and third goals of the day, a scoring drought they couldn't overcome, and wound up on the short end of a 6-3 decision to the archrival Bears in the annual Saw Mill Slugfest Cup. Elliot Jones and Jack Ricciardi both finished with two goals and an assist as Briarcliff maintained its perfect record against Section One foes and dealt the Panthers their fourth straight defeat.

"I think we're just slumping a little bit right now," said Panthers head coach Chris Kear, whose team had cruised to six successive wins to start the season. "You know how it is with offensive players. If you start missing a few shots and the goalie's making a few saves, it starts to get in your head a little bit. I think we just need a game where we break out of that slump and we'll be fine."

Despite just one victory over the previous two and a half weeks, the host Panthers were fired up as they huddled together one final time just before stepping on the field to challenge the mighty Bears. The game was nearly three minutes old when Ryan Challice moved around the back of the cage and got to the right side of the crease to send a shot past the Bears' Evan Van Camp, putting the Panthers in front 1-0.

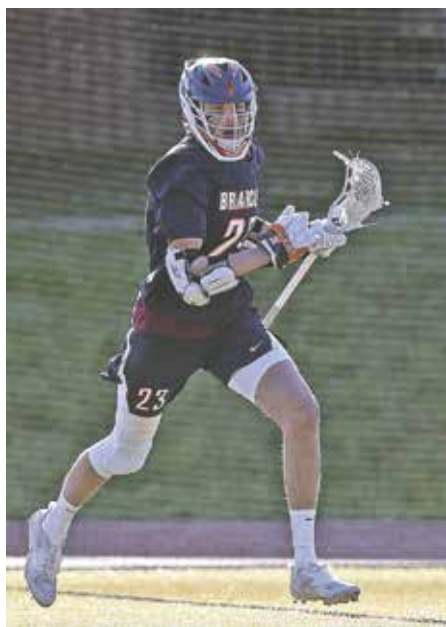
The Bears never even touched the ball over the game's first three minutes and 45 seconds. When they finally did, their initial possession of the sunny, breezy afternoon ended with quite a surprise — Brandon Rispoli's blistering shot from straightaway that seemingly tied the score with 7:17 to go in the opening quarter was disallowed by the officials because the head came flying off his stick.

"I've never seen that where the goal's already done and we're ready to take a face-off and they disallow it," said Bears coach Al Meola. "That was bizarre. The stick broke, what are you supposed to do?"



Briarcliff goalie Evan Van Camp made 15 saves in Friday's 6-3 win over rival Pleasantville.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Briarcliff's Elliot Jones finished with two goals and an assist in Friday's win over Pleasantville.

Adding to the Bears' frustration, just 20 seconds later Nick Reich converted off an unsettled situation at midfield to increase Pleasantville's lead to 2-0. But Briarcliff's sagging fortunes didn't last long. A Panther turnover paved the way for Rispoli to find the back of the net, for keeps this time, cutting the Bears' deficit to 2-1 with 5:43 remaining in the first period.

With just under two minutes left, Ricciardi, from just left of the crease, got a pass from Lucas Proctor and sent the ball past goalie Ryan Raefski, tying the score. The contest remained even until Proctor put the Bears in front to stay, assisted by Ricciardi, with just 3:53 left on the scoreboard in the first half.

Raefski made a big save on a shot by Nico Santucci with two and a half minutes left in the half, and then just seconds before the



Brandon Rispoli of Briarcliff unleashes a shot in the first quarter that found the back of the net, but was disallowed because of a stick infraction.



Pleasantville sophomore Daniel Picart hits the brakes as he gets set to change direction between Briarcliff's Lucas Proctor (left) and Alex Kirshenbaum in Friday's Saw Mill Slugfest Cup.

buzzer it was Van Camp's turn to come up big, somehow deflecting a potential game-tying shot by the Panthers' Daniel Picart from the left doorstep that sent the teams off the field at halftime with Briarcliff ahead 3-2.

"We're always talking about those momentum goals," said the Panthers' Kear. "If we get a goal right before the half, that's a huge momentum goal. The goalie made a great save. Both goalies played tremendous today. So it was just one of those hard-fought defensive battles, and they just hit a few more shots than us."

An impressive save by Van Camp just over three minutes into the second half on a point-blank shot from Reich preserved the Bears' slim lead. Then with 5:38 remaining in the third quarter, Jones scored the first of his two goals, this one from right of the crease that the Panthers vehemently argued should have been waved off.

continued on next page



The Bears' Jared Sturman moves toward midfield with the ball as the Panthers' Hank McCourtney defends during Friday afternoon's game.



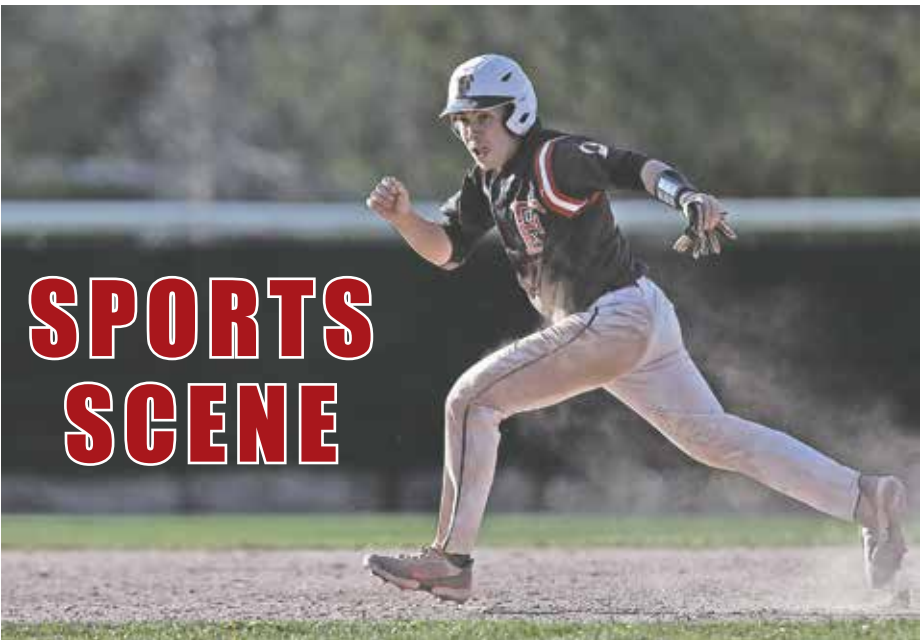
Ryan Challice moves the ball behind the cage in Friday's game. He scored two of Pleasantville's three goals.



Fox Lane's MaryKate Loveless turns up the field with the ball in the first half of Thursday evening's 11-6 win over Byram Hills.



Mallory McCarthy slices the ball toward left field in Westlake's 8-7 victory over visiting Valhalla last Wednesday afternoon.



Fox Lane's Panos Sinis races toward third base in last Thursday afternoon's 10-7 victory over visiting White Plains.



Briarcliff's Jayden Amador rounds third base en route to scoring a run in Friday night's game at Rockland's Clover Stadium.



Michael Lombardi of Fox Lane sends a drive toward right-center field for one of his two doubles in last week's victory over White Plains.



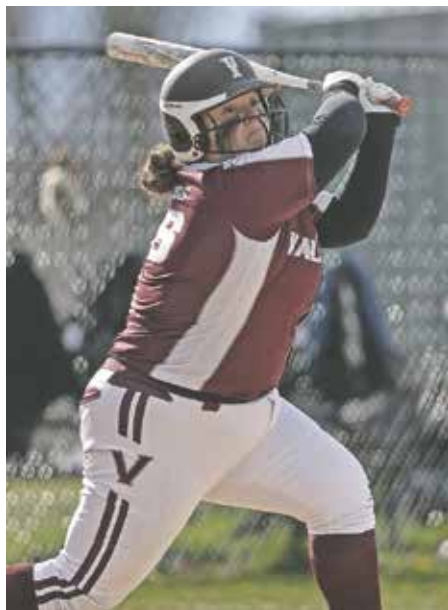
Dan DeVito of Westlake searches for an open teammate across the field in last week's easy win over the Hastings Yellow Jackets.



Jon Iwai of Briarcliff takes a big swing as he bats in the first inning of Friday night's game vs. the Croton Tigers at the home of the Boulders.



Byram Hills goalie Sam Gershuny is pressured by Fox Lane's Emma Greene while trying to clear the ball in the first half of the Foxes' 11-6 victory.

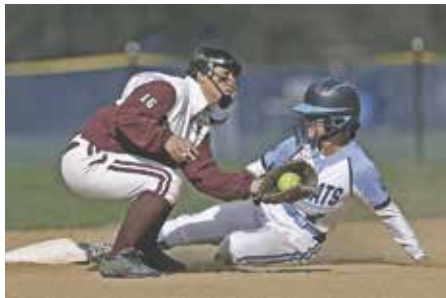


Valhalla's Rachel Parker drives a pitch toward right field in the Vikings' 8-7 loss at Westlake last week.



Megan Rukel of Fox Lane follows the flight of the ball off her bat in last week's home game vs. the Tigers of White Plains.

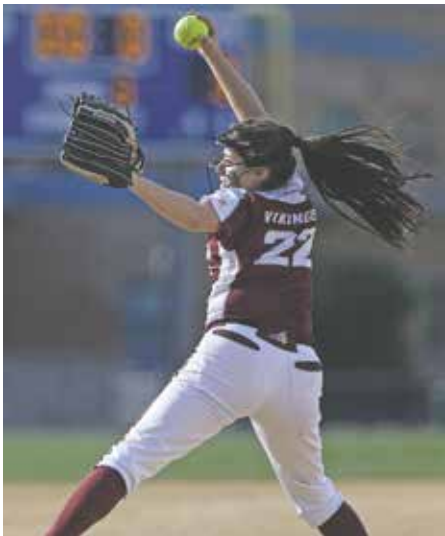
Sports



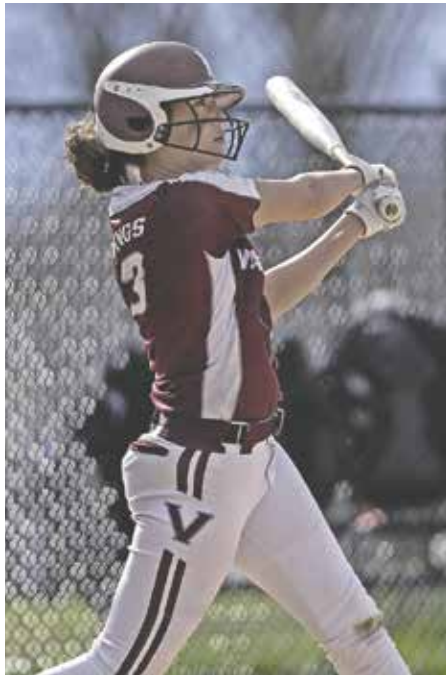
Valhalla shortstop Emma Levine applies a late tag to Westlake's ToniAnn Mastracchio on a first-inning steal attempt last Wednesday afternoon.



Starting pitcher Tyler Renz delivers to the plate in Fox Lane's home win over White Plains.



Tanner Smith of Valhalla pitches during the Vikings' game at Westlake last week. She recently tossed a pair of no-hitters.



Valhalla junior Kathryn Wolfthal smacks a pitch toward center field in the Vikings' game at Westlake.



Westlake's Kelly Andrews awaits a pitch as she bats in the Wildcats' home win over Valhalla last Wednesday.



Fox Lane senior Nicole Castaldo passes the ball in the first half of the Foxes' win over the Bobcats.



Westlake shortstop ToniAnn Mastracchio throws across the diamond for an out in last week's win over visiting Valhalla.



Fox Lane pitcher Hannah Getman tosses to first after fielding a comebacker during the Foxes' home loss to White Plains.



Fox Lane left fielder Gaby Naar tries to make a running catch during Thursday's home loss to White Plains.



Briarcliff second baseman James Mulligan fires to first trying for a double play as shortstop Luke Diamond looks on and Croton runner Harrison Kahn steps out of the way in Friday night's game.



Briarcliff’s Ben Raphael slides safely into second base in the first inning of the Bears’ 14-11 loss to Croton at Clover Stadium.



Freshman Zoe Stonecipher of Fox Lane controls the ball behind the cage in Thursday’s win over Byram Hills. She finished with four goals.



Fox Lane’s Logan Mammola scores a run in the Foxes’ 10-7 home win on Thursday.



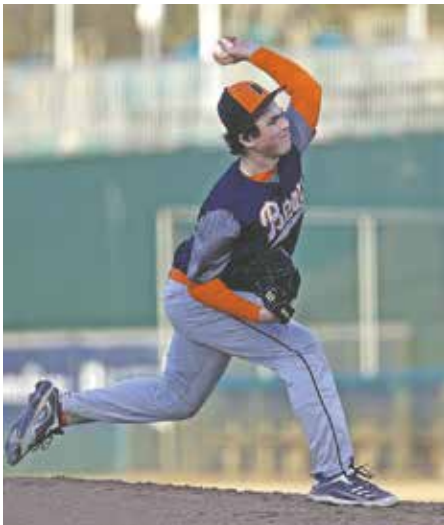
Westlake’s Chris Kalle takes the ball across midfield in the third quarter of the Wildcats’ rout of visiting Hastings last Wednesday.



Lily Feldman of Byram Hills, trailed by teammates Arielle Molina and Michaela Kaltsas, pursues a ground ball in last week’s game at Fox Lane.



Byram Hills’ Carmen Parrotta tries to run past Fox Lane’s Emma Greene during the first half of Thursday evening’s game hosted by the Foxes.



Briarcliff southpaw Dylan O’Malley pitches during Friday evening’s game against the Croton Tigers at Clover Stadium in Rockland County.



Fox Lane’s Katie Cristiano belts a pitch toward right field as she bats in the first inning of last Thursday’s home game.



Emma Greene tries to get to the cage in Fox Lane’s home victory over Byram Hills on Thursday. A day later, she scored her 100th career goal in a win over Irvington.



Erin Nebel of Westlake races home to score a run during the Wildcats’ win over Valhalla on Wednesday afternoon.

Sports



Renegades starting pitcher Blane Abeyta delivers to the plate in the 8-6 loss to the Wilmington Blue Rocks at Dutchess Stadium.



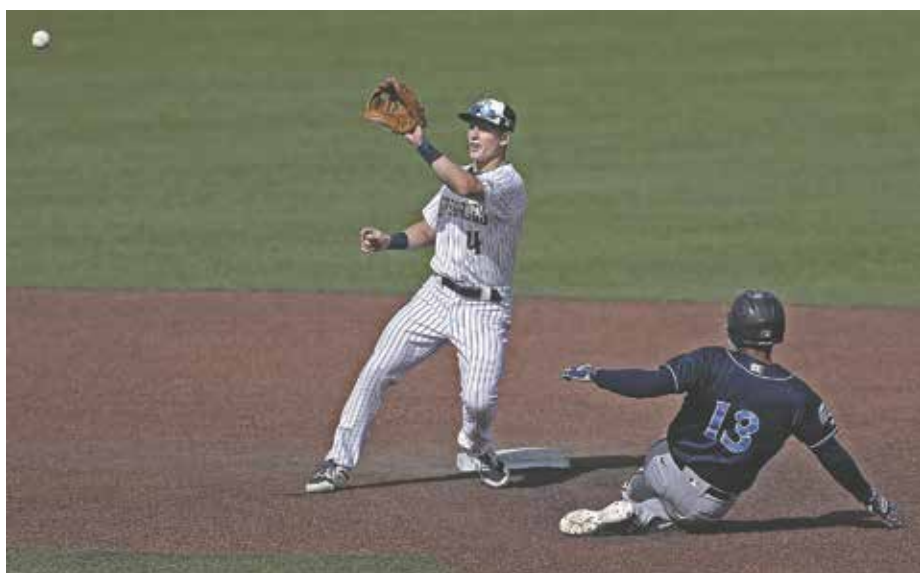
Everson Pereira races to third base during the Renegades' 8-6 loss to Wilmington on Sunday afternoon.



Eric Wagaman of the Renegades trots around the bases after belting a two-run homer in the second inning of Sunday's game.

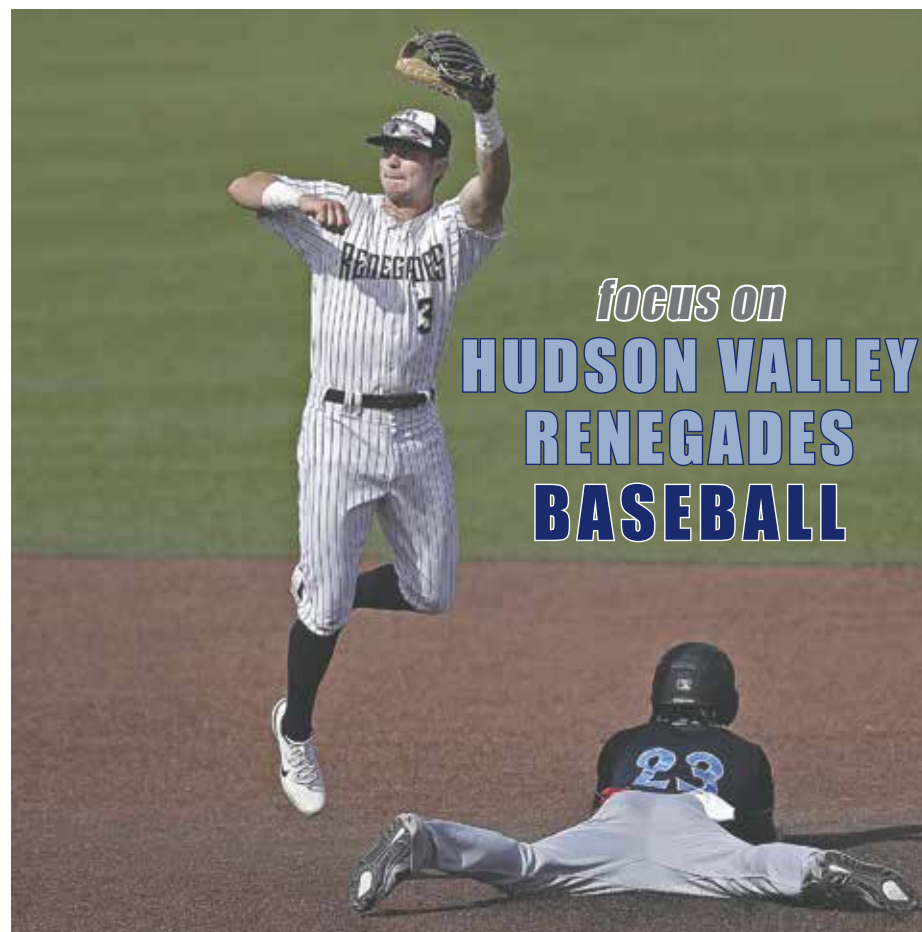


The Renegades' Aaron Palensky blasts a home run in the third inning of Sunday's game at Dutchess Stadium.



Hudson Valley second baseman Cooper Bowman awaits the arrival of the ball on a steal attempt by Wilmington's Israel Pineda in the seventh inning. Pineda was called out.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



focus on HUDSON VALLEY RENEGADES BASEBALL

Renegades shortstop Trey Sweeney goes airborne trying to field a high throw as Wilmington's Jordy Barley steals second in the seventh inning of the Blue Rocks' 8-6 victory.

Renegades' First Home Stand Concludes in Disappointment

The final day of the Hudson Valley Renegades' first home stand of the 2022 season turned into disappointment as a late-inning lead disappeared and the Wilmington Blue Rocks emerged with an 8-6 victory at Dutchess Stadium.

Bidding to defeat Wilmington for the fifth time in six games this week, the Renegades belted three home runs on Sunday afternoon, the final one coming off the bat of catcher Austin Wells in the bottom of the eighth inning and tying score at 5-5. Cooper Bowman soon followed with a two-out double, then scored the go-ahead run on a Tyler Hardman single.

But the Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, were unable to hold the lead in the ninth as the Blue Rocks' Drew Mendoza lined a one-out, two-run triple that turned out to be the difference in the game. Zach Brzykcy, Wilmington's sixth pitcher of the game, came on in the bottom of the inning and retired the side in order to end the game.

Hudson Valley had grabbed a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the second inning when first baseman Eric Wagaman launched a two-out, two-run homer to left. After the Blue Rocks tied the score the next inning, Renegades left fielder Aaron Palensky led off the bottom of the third with his first homer of the season. Shortstop Trey Sweeney, the Yankees' first-round pick in the 2021 MLB Draft, was then hit by a pitch. He moved to second on a wild pitch and scored when Everson Pereira singled to right.

Wilmington scored a run in the seventh to move within 4-3, then took the lead with a pair of runs in the eighth. But Wells, a Yankee first-round pick in the 2020 draft, evened the score with his third homer of the year and the Renegades regained the lead on the Hardman RBI single.

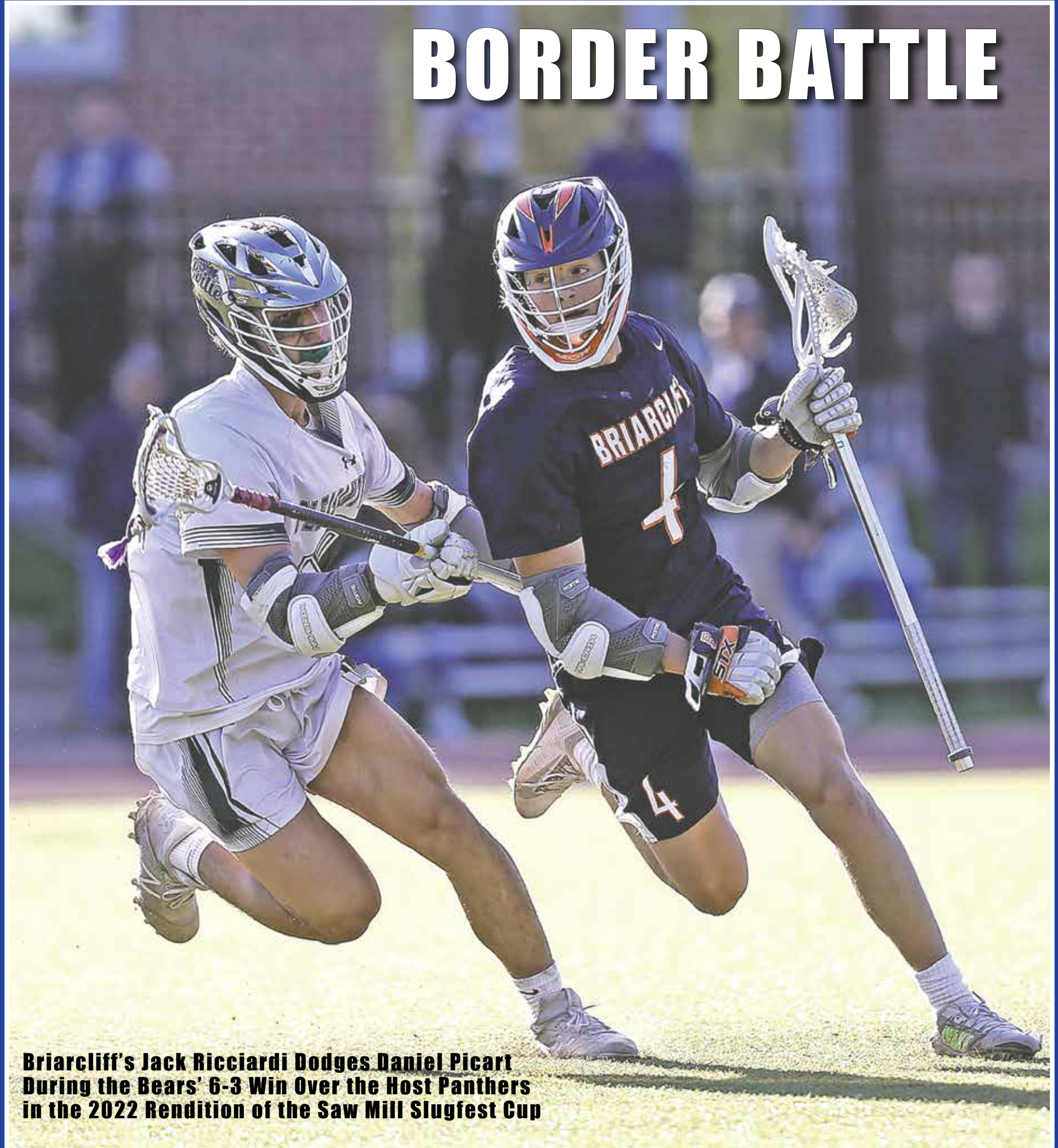
Sunday's loss to the Blue Rocks left Hudson Valley with an 8-4 record for its first two series at home. The Renegades had taken four of six games from the Brooklyn Cyclones a week earlier, including back-to-back shutouts to close the series. They play at Jersey Shore against the BlueClaws this week before returning to Dutchess on Tuesday evening, May 10 to start a six-game set vs. the Aberdeen IronBirds.

-Andy Jacobs



Catcher Austin Wells, the first-round draft pick of the New York Yankees in 2020, hit his team-leading third homer of the season for the Renegades on Sunday.

BORDER BATTLE



**Briarcliff's Jack Ricciardi Dodges Daniel Picart
During the Bears' 6-3 Win Over the Host Panthers
in the 2022 Rendition of the Saw Mill Slugfest Cup**