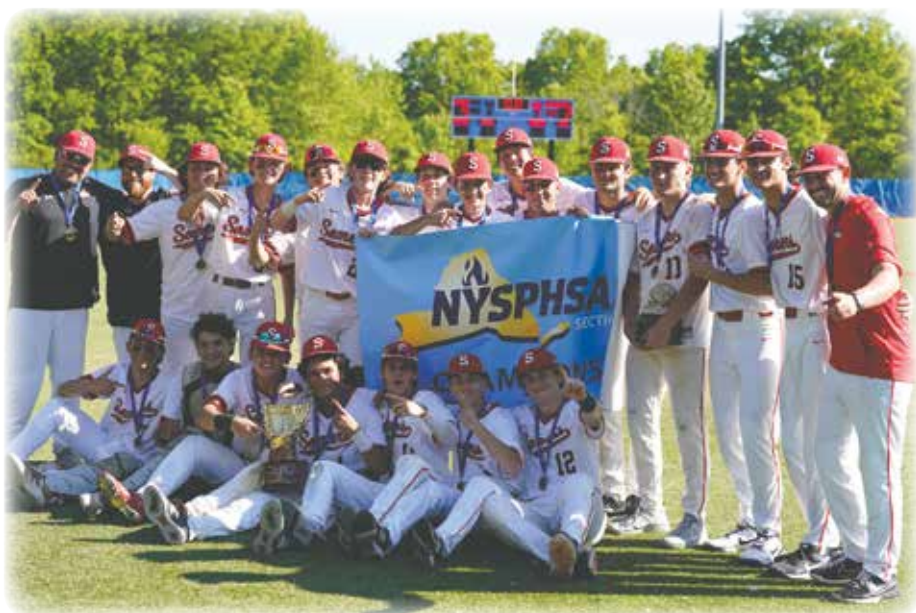


Examiner Sports

How 'Swee' It Is!



ART NELSON PHOTOS



Somers Junior RHP Fires Gem, Tuskers Crowned Section 1 Class A Champs for 1st Time Since 2009

Behind a sterling pitching performance from junior RHP Stefan Swee (inset), 12th-seeded Somers completed an improbable burn of the Section 1 Class A field with a 4-2 win over No.3 Eastchester Sunday at Purchase College en route to the celebratory Tuskers' first Section 1 title since 2009, the conclusion of their fabled three-peat. Somers captains Matt Kapica and Ravi Dass hoist the Class A hardware before the Tuskers posed off with medals and trophies... see Baseball Notebook

Somers Stuns, Runs Away with Section 1 Class A Crown



Everyone gets to touch the hardware after No.12 Somers upset No.3 Eastchester in Class A finals Sunday at Purchase.

12th-Seeded Tuskers Upset No.3 Eastchester, Advance to 1st NYSPHSAA Tourney Since 2009

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

Before Sunday, the history of Somers baseball could be summed up in two distinct eras; the sectional three-peat dynasty between 2007-09 under former Coach Joe Wootten and everything else. Then, along came Coach Anthony Nappi's 2022 squad, which was left for dead midway through the spring before securing the No.12 seed in the Section 1 Class A tournament.

That bracket was busted up early on, when the Tuskers upset No.4 Byram Hills and No.9 Nanuet sent No.1 Panas packing. Somers then plowed through Nanuet in the first game of the "Double-Elimination" semis before defeating No.2 host Rye, 3-1, setting the Tuskers' up for their first championship berth since 2009.

Rye was eventually eliminated by Nanuet, who was then knocked off by No.3 Eastchester, after the Eagles had lost to Rye. Hard to follow? Sure, but Somers stayed in its lane throughout. That left Somers (15-10) as the only team without a loss, in a one-win situation against the Eagles (18-5-1) last Sunday at SUNY Purchase. The Tuskers shook off Saturday's postponement due to heavy downpours, lost a 4-1 decision in Game 1 of the double elimination setting, and eventually recovered behind a complete game pitching performance from



Tuskers enter dogpile stage for 1st time since 2009 after knocking off Eastchester in the Section 1 Class A finals Sunday at Purchase College.



Tuskers Eddie Baranowski and Connor Durso share memorable moment after Tuskers knocked off Eastchester in Class A finals Sunday at Purchase.

junior MVP Stefan Swee, who delivered to a 4-2 complete-game victory in Game 2 of the Section 1 Class A championship round.

The Tuskers will now face Section 9 champ Cornwall at 4 p.m. Thursday at Catrine Field in Saugerties in the opening round of the NYSPHSAA Class A Tournament.

"Swee's an absolute stud," Somers Manager Anthony Nappi said of his ace, who whiffed a season-high 12 batters, allowed just four hits, and sent Eastchester's No.2 and 3 hitters packing to strand the tying runs in the seventh. "Stefan was a DUDE today. Eastchester's lineup has been a terror all year. The first two innings he battled, couldn't command pitches but in the third inning he found his breaking ball and struck out the side. We knew in the dugout we were gonna be just fine after that. He really stepped up for us. He doesn't get enough credit and flies under the radar a little bit. The night before on the broadcast they said



Somers C Evan Carway called a pair of great games and played a superb 14 innings behind the dish.

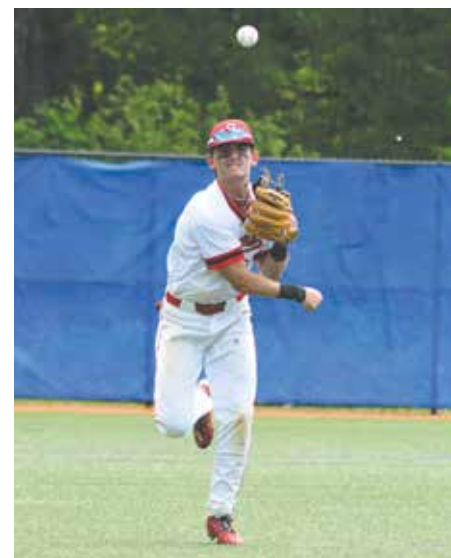
the second game for us would be a bullpen game. He heard that and used it as fuel to remind everyone who he has been all year."

Swee's Game 2 effort foiled the complete game by Eastchester senior Chris Howard, who was almost unhittable in Game 1, keeping the Tuskers off stride throughout. The Tuskers' approach at the plate improved dramatically in Game 2.

After a rough Game 1, though, Somers senior SS Matt Kapica went 3 for 3 with a double and triple in Game 2, driving in the go-ahead run in the third, before scoring a key run in a two-run fifth frame. Somers, which was left for dead after a preposterous 3-6 start, had some championship pedigree in guys like Swee, Kapica and Ravi Dass, who helped get Somers to the NYS football finals last fall.

"To be a section champ once again means a lot to me," said Kapica, a key member of the 2021 NYS Class A football runners-up. "We have worked so hard, and to finally be rewarded like this is a dream come true. We had a goal at the beginning of the season to win the league and section title. We knew it

continued on next page



Somers SS Matt Kapica makes putout in Tuskers' 4-1 loss to Eastchester in 1st round of Section 1 Class A finals Sunday at Purchase College.



Somers CF Ravi Dass swipes bag in Tuskers' 4-1 loss to Eastchester in 1st round of Class A finals Sunday.



Somers Tuskers went bonkers after winning first Section 1 title since 2009 Sunday at Purchase College.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Baseball Notebook



Somers 2B Andrew Kapica slips late tag on Eastchester runner in Tuskers' 4-1 loss in 1st round of Class A finals.

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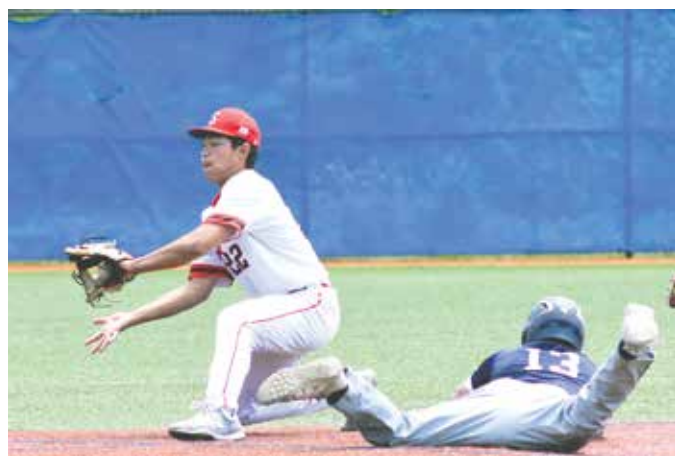
would take each and every player to make it happen. Through the ups and downs, we were able to rise against the odds and come out on top. I couldn't be more proud of this team."

When Swee did dabble with some trouble, his defense picked him up, including the sure-handed Kapica.

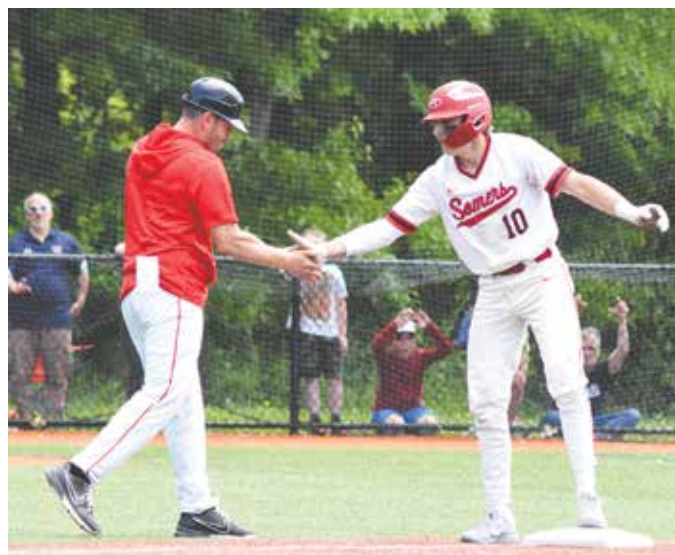
"Matt has been one of our most important players all year long," Coach Nappi said. "The kid's a winner. He willed us to that yesterday, offensively he got us going in that inning with the triple, but he also made a play with runners on first and second that went unnoticed to probably a lot of people. The slow roller was trouble and he went after it hard and made a great throw on the run. There was no way he would allow us to lose that game."

Somers IF Tommy Tan and DH Eddie Baranowski each drove home a run to eradicate a 1-0 first-inning deficit.

The surging Tuskers are now 12-4 in their last 16 games and were stoked to put yet another sectional title chip in the Roman Empire, as longtime A.D. Roman Catalino is set to retire upon the conclusion of the school year. "I'll say it again: We were left for dead after a 3-6 start but this



Somers 2B Tommy Tan can't get tag down in time in Tuskers' 4-1 loss to Eastchester in 1st round of Class A finals Sunday.



Somers 3B-P Stefan Swee shakes it off with Coach Anthony Nappi after cracking triple in Tuskers' 4-1 loss to Eastchester in 1st round of finals Sunday at Purchase.

team took that adversity and never quit on themselves," Coach Nappi said. "That was the message in between games. I told them that this whole day would be difficult but we're in familiar territory. When this team was 3-6 backs against the wall, we found a way to play our best. We were built to withstand a tough loss."

Somers advanced to the title tilt after knocking off host Rye, 3-1 at Disbrow Park behind a sterling effort from P George Creighton, who went the distance to

secure the win. Creighton whiffed eight Garnets and pitched in and out of trouble, leaving the bases loaded in the sixth before stranding the tying and go-ahead run in the bottom of the seventh. Carway had a two-run double and Matt Kapica stroked an RBI single during the



Somers CF Ravi Dass tracks flight of his shot to CF in Tuskers' 4-1 loss to Eastchester Sunday.



Somers P George Creighton fires pitch in Tuskers' 4-1 loss to Eastchester in 1st round of Class A finals Sunday.

pivotal three-run frame off Rye's Derek Woods, who went 3 for 3, including a solo homer in the sixth. In typical fashion, Dass singled, stole a base and scored a run.



Somers bench is into it big-time during Tuskers' 4-1 loss to Eastchester in 1st round of Class A finals Sunday.



Somers SS Matt Kapica had a monster game in Section 1 Class A final win over Eastchester and gets some love from teammate Brandon Iorizzo after clinching Sunday.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Softball Notebook

Hen Hud Loses Extra-Inning Heartbreaker in Class A Final

By Tony Pinciario

Hen Hud had established itself as the giant-slayers through the first three rounds of the Section 1 Class A Softball Championship. The eighth-seeded Sailors, behind pitcher Alana Espinoza, shut out top-seeded host Yorktown (1-0) in the quarterfinal round and sent fourth-seeded host Harrison home in the semis.

Hen Hud was on the precipice of completing its memorable run to the Section 1 Class A title before seventh-seeded Tappan Zee staged a furious rally in the bottom of the seventh, erasing a two-deficit to force extra innings. Tappan Zee then capped its improbable rally with a run in the bottom of the ninth for a 3-2 Section Class A title victory.

These same teams played for the 2007 Section 1 Class A title with Hen Hud, led by pitcher Nicole Tamburri and Coach John Glashoff, beating Tappan Zee.

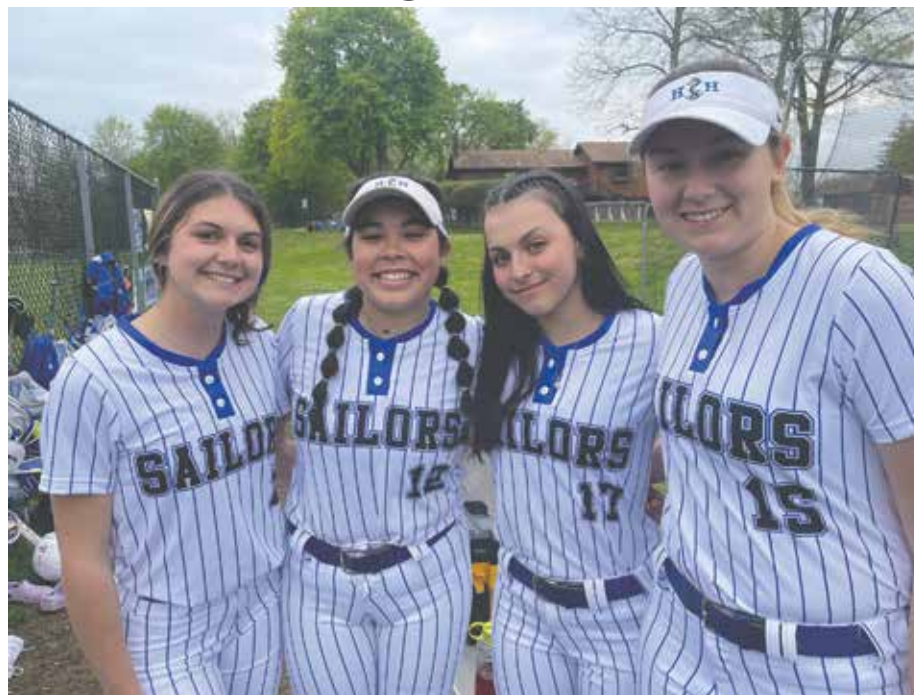
Tappan Zee scored in the ninth on a two-out infield hit in the shortstop hole by Gianna Cilenti, plating Savannah Nordstrom. Nordstrom doubled with one out and moved to third on a fly ball.

"This was a great, hard-fought game by both teams," said Hen Hud senior and centerfielder Taeghan Dapson. "It just didn't work out in our favor."

Hen Hud put itself in position to win with a run in the top of the seventh inning on a Lisa Pasquale one-out double, followed by a run-scoring double by Emma Johannsen. This gave Hen Hud a 2-0 lead. Unfortunately for Hen Hud, Johannsen was thrown out at third, trying for a triple, for the second out. Sydney Muranaka followed with a line-drive triple to left field, but she was stranded there as Tappan Zee pitcher Keira Meyers got the third out.

Tappan Zee opened the seventh with a lead-off walk. Nordstrom laced a triple down the right-field line that just evaded right fielder Emma Johannsen's reach, allowing Brianna Santilli to score. After Jill Hennessy lined out to Dapson, Cilenti hit a hard grounder just out of second baseman Muranaka's diving attempt to score pinch runner Olivia Pagels with the equalizer.

The three runs Tappan Zee scored were more than Espinoza allowed in three prior



Hen Hud seniors Taeghan Dapson, Sydney Muranaka, Alana Espinoza and LisaMarie Pasquale were vital contributors to Sailors' success all season.

sectional games – two shutouts and two runs to Harrison.

Despite the loss, Espinoza was economical, throwing just 105 pitches as she consistently registered a first-pitch strike allowing her to work ahead.

Espinoza retired the first 11 hitters she faced before Tappan Zee had its first hit – an infield single – in the fourth inning. Espinoza finished with one strikeout and one walk and she also had three assists. She fielded two bunts cleanly along the first-base line and threw out the fast Tappan Zee hitters in addition to turning a key double play in the seventh.

"They're a great group," said Hen Hud Coach Will Mauro of his team. "It really stings to lose here in the ninth inning. We probably played six and two-thirds innings of perfect ball and it was one inning. There's always next year."

Both pitchers, Espinoza and Meyers, asserted themselves early as the game was scoreless through three without a hit.

Hen Hud broke through in the top of the fourth as Paige Johannsen doubled to deep center. Johannsen fell behind 0-2, then 1-2. She fouled off three pitches before drilling the double. Ja'Nae Walker executed a perfect sacrifice bunt resulting in a throwing error allowing Johannsen to score for a 1-0 lead. Walker went to second on the error. Meyers was not rattled, though, as she rang up two strikeouts and a flyball to strand Walker.

Tappan Zee

was putting the bat on the ball, but Hen Hud's defense was air-tight, especially by Dapson, a recent Con Ed Award winner that recognizes excellence on the field and in the classroom. The fleet-footed center fielder had seven putouts, many of which appeared to be hits off the bat.

Even though the final result was not what Hen Hud wanted, the Sailors will be remembered for what they accomplished in the 2022 sectionals and for the lasting impact of the seniors – Espinoza, Muranaka, Pasquale and Dapson.

"We just picked up the momentum at the right time," said Dapson, who will attend the University of Alabama. "Everything just worked out great when we decided to put the ball in play and play our game. And it just so happened at the end of the season. I couldn't be more proud of these girls for the past five years. It's been great. It's a great program and I've met some great people. I will be friends with these girls for the rest of my life, especially her fellow seniors. I've been playing with Sydney, Lisa and Alana close to 10 years, since we all started together in the Town of Cortlandt and it's built a bond between us," Dapson said.

Dapson knows the future of her younger



Carmel junior Mandy Fernandez, Amelia Rosario and Riley Youngman lead the bench cheers as they have all season for the 14-4 Class AA semifinalist Rams.



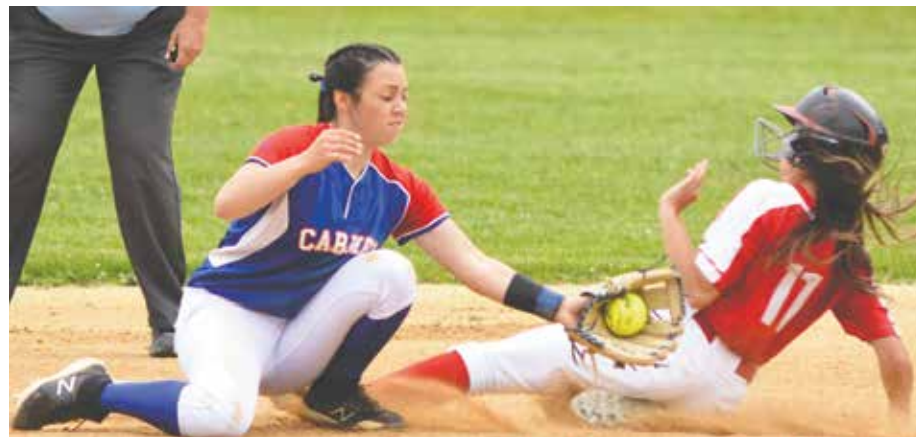
Carmel P Alyssa Zangrilli, who had a banner season, fires pitch in No.2-seeded Rams' 2-0 semifinal loss to North Rockland.

teammates is very promising

"This is just the trailer of what's to come for Hen Hud softball and I'm looking forward to seeing these ladies play next year," Dapson said.



Carmel 1B Sadie Zion makes diving catch in Rams' 2-0 Section 1 Class AA semifinal loss to visiting North Rockland Tuesday.



Carmel junior SS Mandy Fernandez (2B) was one of few Rams to reach base in 2-0 Class AA semifinal loss to visiting North Rockland last Tuesday.

Somers' Run to Section Finals Falls Short of Class B Title



Members of the Somers girls' lacrosse team celebrate the Tuskers' 12-11 bracket-breaking upset win over top-seeded Greeley in Section 1 Class B semifinals last week.

By Tony Pinciario

Somers was still coming together as a team early in the 2022 varsity girls' lacrosse season when it received a confidence boost. The 2021 Section 1 Class B runner-up defeated 2021 Class C champion Hen Hud, 13-12, in overtime on a Julie Sirchia goal.

That was the launching point as the Tuskers continued to raise their level of play with each ensuing game. Even though the final regular-season record was misleading, at 9-7, because of the ridiculously difficult schedule Somers played, it would be a tough opponent come sectional time.

Somers earned the fifth seed in the Section 1 Class B Girls Lacrosse Championship. The Tuskers immediately showed they were better than their seed.

The Tuskers beat No. 4 Rye, 19-12, after losing to the Garnets in the regular season. Lauren McCartin scored her 100th varsity goal in the win. Somers followed it up with a 12-11 victory over top-seed and previously undefeated Horace Greeley as Teagan Ryan registered her 100th varsity goal.

Somers faced second-seeded John Jay-Cross River for the second consecutive year in the Class B final where the Wolves prevailed, 18-10. Somers concluded with an 11-8 record knowing that it has established itself among the Section 1 elite.

"This was a great season, overall," said junior Maddie Lyle, who began playing with the Somers' Youth Program in second grade. "We were always there supporting each other, always ready for practice and to get those last reps in. We have six commitments (to play collegiately). We have a strong youth program and we have more players picking up travel, which is improving our youth program."

Lyle has verbally committed to attend Wofford College (South Carolina) in September 2023 and also play lacrosse. McCartin will be going to Yale, also in September, 2023, and continue with lacrosse, as will Ryan at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Three of the four graduating seniors will

play in college – Nikki Cassara (University of Rochester), Gaby Parisi (Stonehill) and Julie Sirchia (George Washington University). Sam Fabry will attend South Carolina, which has a club lacrosse team.

Somers came into the season looking to build off an impressive 2021. The nucleus was in place, led by the current seniors. However, Lyle and her classmates knew what they needed to do.

"The juniors had to step up this year and have more of a leadership role on the team, which we did," said Lyle, a three-year varsity starter on defense. "With our team having so much experience, especially from playing together and playing club, we all came together and used our talents together to make it such a successful season."

Somers added three freshmen to varsity and they became immediate contributors. As preseason progressed, Lyle said the team bonded on and off the field, which enabled



Somers M Lauren McCartin had three goals and an assist in Tuskers' shocking 12-11 Class B semifinal win over No.1 Greeley.



Fifth-seeded Somers players gather for memorable team photo after knocking off top-seeded host Horace Greeley last Tuesday.

the team to gel quicker.

Somers faced a regular-season schedule that would give any team nightmares. The Tuskers played the following Section 1 powers – John Jay-Cross River, Yorktown, Mahopac, Brewster, Suffern, North Rockland, Rye and Hen Hud. While Somers went 9-7, the Tuskers gained valuable experience which benefitted them for sectionals.

"I think that the bunch of tough games we had and being a new team with a bunch of underclassmen, it helped us to find that team mentality and find out what we could do best and what we needed to work on," Lyle said.

While the win over Hen Hud thrust Somers forward, the semifinal win over top-seeded Horace Greeley was memorable because the Tuskers were not intimidated going into the game.

"We were prepared for the game," Lyle said. "We had a bunch of energy going in and knew what we needed to do to get the job done. It started in warmups as we were all

pumping each other up, cheering each other on and supporting each other. We also had a big crowd at the game as the community came out to support us and that meant a lot to us."

Even though the season came to a premature close, Lyle is looking forward to a promising 2023 and also supporting her former teammates in college by attending games when the schedule allows.

"Our seniors have been a huge part of our program and our success," Lyle said. "They are fantastic players who have always supported the underclassmen. I know they will be great in college and we will support them. I'm so excited to play travel for Prime Time, which will prepare me to be ready for the 2023 season. Our Somers' team is such a family. We had a second consecutive strong season with each other. We are hoping to have another great season next year, especially after we all play this summer, work on improving our game and bring new aspects to the team next year."



Tusker keeper Nicole Cassara came up with several huge, late-game saves in Somers' Class B semifinal upset of Horace Greeley.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys Lax Notebook

Rye's 3rdQ Barrage Sends Yorktown Packing in Class B Title Tilt

40-Time Champion Huskers Fall in 4th-Straight Sectional Tourney, Lose for Just 10th Time Since 1972

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports editor @Directrays

A lot of lacrosse coaches and lax insiders often liken their sport to basketball, given the transitional aspects, the offensive and defensive schema and the idea behind putting the ball in the net. Given that thinking, Rye's 5-0 third-quarter explosion against Yorktown in Thursday's Section 1 Class B title game was akin to a 12-time NYS champion Mount Vernon basketball run; complete with easy layups and slam-jam eruptions.

Leading 7-6 at the half, top-seeded Rye ripped off seven unanswered second-half tallies for a 14-6 title triumph, its second in a row over second-seeded Yorktown, the 40-time Section 1 champ who have now played second fiddle in four-straight tournaments.

En route to the title tilt, state-ranked (No.7) Yorktown (10-9) knocked off rival John Jay CR, 10-9, in a wild, come-from-behind win in the sectional semis while state-ranked (No.3) Rye (16-3) eliminated Mahopac, 11-3. Seven-time sectional champion Rye advanced to the NYSPHSAA tournament for the sixth time in school history (no states in 2021 due to pandemic).

Yorktown was in it to win it throughout the first half, taking several leads throughout the first half, including a 3-2 lead after good-looking Husker sophomore Ryan Vogel tickled twine at 10:59 of the second quarter. It was Vogel who also set up Yorktown All-American Harry Griff, who went behind the back, just before the half, ending a three-goal Rye run while sending Coach Tim Schurr's Huskers into the break brimming with short-lived momentum.

That's when Rye turned into Mt. Vernon, breaking the halftime huddle with conviction, assuming control of the X, dominating possession and putting Yorktown on its heels. Caden Whaling, Owen Kovacs (4G), Tyler McDermott (3G) and company

went on, perhaps, the greatest run in Rye lax history, doing so on the back of Colgate-bound Garnet FOGO Johnny Hartzell, who had an epic performance at the X, taking 20 of 22 draws.

Yorktown senior G Vito DeBellis (16 saves), who carried the Huskers at times throughout the first half, was under siege throughout the second half, in which there was five minutes of balanced, scoreless action to open the third quarter before Rye issued the five gut shots in under seven minutes to take a 12-6 lead into the fourth.

Kovacs dumped two goals in 40 seconds and the blitz was on. McDermott followed. Kian McCarthy (3G) then sniped from 15 yards out before Whaling (1G, 1A) concluded the dizzying display.

"Yorktown is really well coached, they are gritty, Vito DeBellis is a great goalie, and Harry Griff can ball out," Rye Coach Steve Lennon said. "I think we came in with some anxious energy, but we were able to ride the waves. Having Johnny Hartzell adjust at halftime was huge. When he is winning face-offs, and Jack Garnet and the defense are making stops, it allows us to go on runs. That's what this game was all about. With so many injuries to some of our top players this year, it allowed us to learn how to share the ball and play within the offense. With our rangy shooters, and solid inside guys it makes it hard to stop if we are going to take it at the X. We're excited to be able to go practice together again this weekend. This is the best time of the year."

Griff finished his All-American career with a hat trick, but the Huskers were prone to carelessness with the ball throughout the fourth as they tried to mount a comeback. Yorktown junior A Jack Duncan and sophomore M Vogel each had one goal and an assist. Senior Sava Makarenko scored Yorktown's first goal.

Against John Jay, Vogel provided a glimpse



Yorktown's Ryan Vogel (C) and Harry Griff (R) celebrate Huskers' final goal in Huskers' 14-6 title loss to Rye.

of his promising future, finishing with three goals and three assists, including the game-tying goal with 1:15 remaining in the fourth and the game-winning assist 39 seconds into overtime to set up the biggest goal of senior James Solazzo's career, saving the Huskers from semifinal elimination.

Yorktown senior FOGO Jay Fastiggi won 19 draws to establish possession. Duncan scored twice while Griff had a goal and an

assist. Budding sophomore Drew Weisman hit a crucial late third-quarter goal and Makarnko had a goal.

It was John Jay who started this skid of four-straight championship setbacks, beating Yorktown in Section 1 Class B championship games in 2018 and 2019. Rye, which will drop down to Class C next year,

continued on next page



Yorktown soph Ryan Vogel cranks first-half goal in Huskers' 14-6 Section 1 Class B title loss to Rye Thursday.



Yorktown soph D Chris Constantine puts a stick in Rye's Caden Whaling in Huskers' 14-6 Section 1 Class B title loss to Garnets Thursday at Lakeland.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys Lax Notebook



Yorktown G Vito DeBellis makes sweet save on behind-the-back attempt in Huskers' 14-6 Section 1 Class B title loss to Rye Thursday.

continued from previous page

has done so consecutively now as well, sending Yorktown home without a title for just the 10th time since 1972. Seven-time NYS champion Yorktown has appeared in all 42 championship games since 1980 (no tournament in 2020 due to COVID), going 35-7, including 17 in a row from 1980-1996, but the four-year span without a title is perpetuity for anyone and everyone associated with the green and white and founder Charlie Murphy's legacy.

No doubt, the Huskers will do everything in their power to reclaim the title in 2023, but they will have to be much better than

they were down the stretch against Rye, who will be joined by John Jay CR in Class C next year.

"I think we really need to go to work in the off season and I think we all know we can get back on top," Duncan said. "We just need to put the work in."

Semifinalists Mahopac, which will lose the services of All-Section seniors Mike Harney and D Sean Massett, plus FOGO Chris Evans, will return a slew of its skill players, along with G Tommy Jacobellis, and will be among several Class B teams to take a strong run at the Huskers, who do lose quite a few key seniors to graduation. A healthy



Huskers celebrate their last hurrah, a buzzer-beating, first-half tally by Harry Griff in 14-6 Section 1 Class B title loss to Rye.

Lakeland/Panas outfit will also pose a threat to Yorktown, which faces an uphill battle without a bonafide FOGO in the pipeline, the loss of its top scoring threat in Fairfield-bound Griff and the need to replace Siena-bound DeBellis between the pipes. Nothing is given, but Mahopac, which many will dub the favorites in 2023, will be taking aim at its first sectional title since 2011 while Somers, a well coached and budding unit, should continue its ascent among the upper crust in Class B if the youthful Tuskers' top players remain on board. "For sure, we'll be one of the favorites next year," Massett said of his Indians. "This team has the talent to contend for sure. Defense for next year will be a little rocky, but the offense, besides Harney, is all returning. I cannot wait to watch those guys compete for a championship..."

The four classifications (Class A, B, C & D) lacked any sort of drama or suspense last week, the margin of victory being five or more goals in all four championship games...

Apologies to repeat Class A champion Scarsdale for looking past them all season. Didn't see the unranked Raiders knocking off No.8 Mamaroneck, 12-7, probably because we didn't see them play all year and just looked at box scores #MyBad... Hats off to top-seeded, state-ranked (No.5) Briarcliff on its sectional title three-peat after routing second-seeded, state-ranked (No.4) Bronxville, 14-4. Not sure who informs the state pollsters about Section 1 teams, but there's no way any Section 1 club should be ranked ahead of Coach Al Meola's Bears. That goes for every classification. It would be shocking if the Bears don't get past Section 9's O'Neill and the Section 2 champ (either Schuylerville or Stillwater/Mechanicville) and aren't playing in the state semis on June 8 at SUNY Albany against the Long Island survivor – perhaps state-ranked (No.1) Cold Spring Harbor – with the winner moving on to the state finals on June 11 at Hofstra U. #GoodLuck!



Yorktown senior All-American Harry Griff cranks shot in Huskers' 14-6 Section 1 Class B title loss to Rye Thursday at Lakeland.



Yorktown's Jack Carlin, Vincent Cappelli and G Vito DeBellis converge on Rye's Owen Kovacs in Huskers' 14-6 Section 1 Class B title loss to Garnets Thursday.

Sports

Mahopac 4x400 Relay Sets School Record, Finishes 2nd in Section



Mahopac girls 4x400pm relay team ran a school record 4:11.12 to take a hard-fought 2nd place finish at Section 1 meet, due to personal best efforts by Cece Haberling, Kaylie Ann Hammond, Brett Bergerson and Piper Klammer.



Kennedy Crowned Class A City Champs for 7th Straight Year

Behind 5 points from Fin McConnell, No.1 seeded Kennedy celebrated the Gaels' 7-straight CHSAA Class A NYC title over No.2 Monsignor Farrell, 8-7, last Tuesday.

Brewster Snags 1st Ever Girls Flag Football Sectional Title



Brewster Bears celebrate a Kiley Brooks TD in their sectional title win in first-ever girls flag football championship last week, capping a perfect 11-0 season.

TONY HUMBERTO PHOTOS



Brewster QB Madison Dakin fires pass in Bears' 12-2 sectional title win over Scarsdale Thursday.



Brewster RB Bre Washington chugs for hard-earned yards in Bears 12-2 win over Scarsdale in first-ever Section 1 girls' flag football championship.

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Sports

Tigers Lose a Heartbreaker to North Rockland in Class AA Final

By Andy Jacobs

Shortstop Alexa Galligani lay face down, sprawled on the infield, tears coming to her eyes. Just moments earlier, a line drive off the bat of North Rockland's Olivia Leon had just eluded her glove as she tried to make a diving catch to save the season for the White Plains Tigers.

The hit by Leon brought home the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning, lifting the third-seeded Red Raiders to a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over White Plains in Sunday's Section 1, Class AA championship game and bringing a sudden end to the Tigers' quest for a first-ever softball title.

"It's heartbreaking, we were right there. We had a shot," said Tigers head coach Ted O'Donnell shortly after his fifth-seeded team had come within two outs of earning the coveted Golden Glove trophy awarded to the champion. "The ones I feel the worst for are the players, especially the four seniors who have been starting since ninth grade. The girls played well. They really did. They played a gutsy game."

Facing a North Rockland team on its own home field and that was riding a 13-game winning streak, the Tigers broke a scoreless tie in the top of the sixth inning on pinch-hitter Kaitlin Weigand's RBI single to center and were poised to capture the elusive crown before the Raiders rallied to even the score again in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Up until the fateful final two innings, Tiger freshman pitcher Serena Gillen had limited North Rockland to just two hits while striking out eight batters. But in the bottom of the seventh, Raider leadoff hitter Kiera Costin reached on a full-count walk and then Desirae Hernandez beat the throw to first after bunting in front of the plate. Both runners moved up on a sacrifice by Kacey Herlihy and the tying run scored when Delaney McGovern grounded to short.

When the game moved to extra innings, White Plains was retired in order and Gillen soon found herself in more trouble as the Raiders' Jenna Sluta led off with a walk. Another sacrifice bunt, this time by Allison Murphy, turned into an infield hit before Kristen Luzon drew a walk to load the bases

with no outs.

Leon, the North Rockland catcher batting third in the lineup, then drilled her line-drive single to left field just beyond the diving Galligani that brought a crushing end to a Tiger season in which they won 20 of 24 games and was highlighted by an upset win at top-seeded Arlington in the sectional semifinals.

"I'm gonna remember most the chemistry on this team was the best chemistry I've ever had in my 26 years," said O'Donnell. "We lost some players during the season and other kids stepped up. Our four losses were all by one run. So this was a gutsy team, a competitive team, and I cannot tell you how well they got along and supported one another. But it just didn't go our way today."

White Plains, the last team to beat the Red Raiders this season, all the way back in late April, was held hitless by McGovern over the first three innings. But in the top of the fourth, leadoff batter Keisten Hardy beat out a bunt down the third-base line. One out later, Gillen, first-pitch swinging, lined a single to center, moving Hardy into scoring position.

But McGovern got out of trouble by retiring Isabella Cummings on a fly to right and Sasha Persaud on a called third strike. In the top of the fifth, Galligani reached with two outs on a perfect bunt single down the line at third before McGovern stranded her at first with another strikeout.

The Tigers finally broke through an inning later when Hardy led off with a first-pitch line-drive single to center and freshman second baseman Ava Galligani followed by smacking a hit just fair over third base. After Gillen fouled out to third and Cummings was retired on a soft liner to short, Weigand came through as a pinch-hitter by dumping a single into center to score Hardy with the game's first run.

Unfortunately for the Tigers, who have



White Plains freshman Serena Gillen pitches in Sunday's Section 1, Class AA championship game at North Rockland High School.



The Tigers' Ava Galligani swings the bat during Sunday's Class AA title game vs. North Rockland.

been forced to play without slugging catcher Natasha Mendez, who tore her ACL crossing home plate after homering against Scarsdale in the first round of sectionals, their one-run lead wasn't enough as North Rockland took advantage of a couple walks and well-placed bunts to seize the championship.

"I'm gonna tell 'em I proud of them," said O'Donnell, asked what he would soon be saying to his crestfallen players. "It's heartbreaking. But I told them before we left the high school, 'Listen, ladies, I don't want you to think that if you don't win this game you're not winners. You're winners.'"

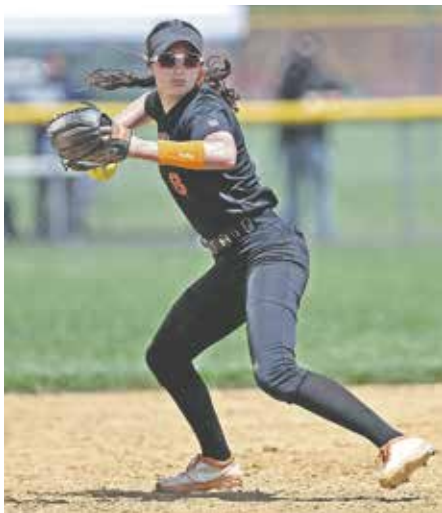
O'Donnell has no doubt about that, no matter how Sunday's title game ended.

"The fact that we were even in the finals, where we lost our starting catcher in the Scarsdale game and then we come back and beat RC Ketcham ON THE ROAD after they

had put nine runs on us the week before, and then we go all the way up to Arlington, the team that had beaten us, knocked us out of the sectionals the previous year, and come back twice and beat them, I mean, those were amazing games ON THE ROAD."

And in the days ahead, O'Donnell is convinced his players will start to appreciate what they accomplished, even without the sectional title.

"They're gonna be upset for a while," he said. "Then they'll look back and realize what a special season this was."



White Plains senior shortstop Alexa Galligani fires to first for an out as the tying run scores for North Rockland in the bottom of the seventh inning.



Keisten Hardy runs the bases in Sunday's 2-1 extra-inning loss by the Tigers in the sectional final.



White Plains players Sasha Persaud (5) and Ryleigh Falvey share an embrace following the Tigers' 2-1 loss in the Section 1 title game.



Injured White Plains star Natasha Mendez receives the team's runner-up plaque after Sunday's extra-inning loss to North Rockland in the Class AA final.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Sports

NWE/Putnam Boys Lax Notebook

Briarcliff Crushes the Broncos in the Class D Sectional Final

By Andy Jacobs

The Briarcliff boys' lacrosse team only had to wait two and a half weeks to completely erase the bitter memory of its most disappointing game of the 2022 season — an overtime loss to Bronxville near the end of the schedule when a four-goal halftime lead disappeared on the Bears' own home turf.

On Friday afternoon, under a menacing sky and with much more at stake, the Bears got a full measure of redemption against the Broncos, dominating from the second quarter on and cruising to an impressive 14-5 rout in the Section 1, Class D championship game at Lakeland High School. Senior midfielder Brandon Rispoli fired in six goals and assisted on two others as Briarcliff earned a trip back to the state tournament.

"We really wanted to play them again," said Rispoli shortly after he and his teammates had been handed their latest championship plaque. "We felt we matched up well against them and we really did want another crack at them to prove what we did today. The thing that was different this time was we were better prepared and our season was on the line. So we really just took charge."

Rispoli's first goal of the day, with just over four minutes remaining in the opening quarter, tied the game at 2-2. The Bears never looked back once Lucas Proctor scored with 20 seconds to go in the period to give them a 3-2 edge. Just as they had during the regular season, the Bears managed to open up a 6-2 advantage at halftime.

But this time, Briarcliff outscored the Broncos 6-2 in the third quarter, too, to take complete command. By the time thunder and lightning brought a 90-minute halt to the contest with 8:23 remaining to be played, the Bears' lead had grown to 13-4 and it was obvious the Broncos' season was soon to end.

"Last time, they crept up on us," said Bears head coach Al Meola about the way the Broncos had fought back to win 10-9 in early May. "So we wanted to make sure we closed the door this time. We fixed a lot of things from the last game. We watched a lot of film. We wanted to make sure we were ready for them."

After dispatching their first two playoff opponents, Croton and Irvington, by a combined 30-6 margin, the top-seeded Bears wasted little time getting on the scoreboard

against second-seeded Bronxville. Defenseman Tim Isola scooped up a loose ball and raced almost the length of the field before sending a shot into the back of the net just 63 seconds into the game.

But goals by Chris Patterson and Preston Maze nearly two minutes apart gave the Broncos a 2-1 lead and their fans hope that they could topple Briarcliff once again. Unfortunately for Bronxville, its next goal against the Bears' pesky zone would have to wait nearly 19 minutes of playing time.

A key save by goalie Evan Van Camp on a shot from Luke Sheehan three minutes into the second quarter maintained the one-goal lead the Bears had taken. Almost a minute later, a hard-charging Rispoli found Nico Santucci open near the left crease and he deposited the ball into the cage for a 4-2 margin. Jones' first of three goals came four minutes later as he finished left of the cage while falling to the turf.

Jack Ricciardi, who wound up with a pair of goals and three assists, gave Briarcliff a 6-2 lead when he scored with 48 seconds remaining in the half. If the Bears glanced at the scoreboard as they left the field at the break, they all would have certainly had flashbacks to what happened the last time the two teams had met.

"Yeah, you can imagine that was a very vivid conversation, for sure," said Meola about what was discussed at halftime. "There was a constant reminder. It was said by everybody. Our whole thing coming into this game was just play to the whistle, quarter to quarter. Don't look ahead."

Less than two minutes into the second half, the Broncos' Patterson scored his second goal of the game to move Bronxville within 6-3. But Meola assured his players everything was fine and they should keep doing what had worked in the first two quarters. Santucci continued to dominate on faceoffs and back-to-back goals 83 seconds apart from Jones on the left side of the cage,



The Bears' Brandon Rispoli dodges his way to the cage during Friday's Class D championship game vs. Bronxville.



Jack Ricciardi of Briarcliff tries to run past Bronxville's Chris Kelty in the first half of Friday afternoon's championship game at Lakeland High School.

assisted by Proctor, then Ricciardi, opened up an 8-3 lead.

Rispoli would add three more goals and Ricciardi one before the third quarter ended as the Bears, who will face Section 9 champion O'Neill in a state regional at Mamaroneck High School on Wednesday afternoon, extended their big advantage to 12-4.

Rispoli's fifth goal of the afternoon came nearly three minutes into the fourth quarter, but just 56 seconds later the sound of thunder brought a lengthy halt to the game. But all the delay did was slow down the inevitable. When the teams finally stepped out of the gym and back onto the soggy turf, Rispoli added one final goal that gave the Bears a double-digit lead.

To Meola, the late-season collapse against Bronxville was not the worst thing that could have happened to his team.

"That loss was a win in my book," he said. "Losing that game the way we did in that fashion, having a four-goal lead or so in the fourth quarter and then giving up a goal in overtime and losing, it made us hungry, way hungrier. That loss made them super hungry."

For the Bears, their third straight sectional title came despite the absence of star midfielder Matt Waterhouse, whose senior season came to an early and disappointing end when he was injured against Rye back in early April.

"It's so frustrating for me because he's my best



Nico Santucci runs with the ball after winning another faceoff during the Bears' 14-5 rout of Bronxville in the Class D title game.

friend," said Rispoli. "I'd do anything for him. I know how hard it is for him to sit out, but it's great knowing that he's there. He's an All-American. Every day during practice, he'll give me advice to help me. He's just a great team guy. Yeah, this definitely was for him because we know how great of a player he is and we know what he means to this team. So that's why we gave him the plaque right after we won because this win was for him."



The Bears' Lucas Proctor makes his move to the cage in the fourth quarter of Friday's title game vs. the Broncos.



Briarcliff senior defenseman Tim Isola is about to score the first goal of the Class D championship game in Friday's lopsided victory over Bronxville.



Lucas Meola chases after a ground ball during Briarcliff's win over the Bronxville Broncos in the Class D championship game.



Briarcliff senior Brandon Rispoli proudly displays the Bears’ championship plaque after they defeated Bronxville on Friday.

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Briarcliff goalie Evan Van Camp looks to clear the ball after making a save early in the third quarter of the Bears’ 14-5 title win over Bronxville.



Elliot Jones turns on the speed as he controls the ball behind the cage vs. Bronxville.

Byram Hills Loses to Tappan Zee in Class C Final



Scoring chances were few and far between for Sydni Shamus and the Bobcats in Friday night’s loss to Tappan Zee in the sectional championship game.



The Bobcats’ Irene Byrnes races toward the cage in the first half of Friday night’s Class C title game vs. Tappan Zee.



Irene Byrnes has her sights set on the back of the cage as she gets set to fire a shot in the sectional final at Torne Valley Sports Complex.



Byram Hills’ Chloe Siegle tries to get into scoring position in the Bobcats’ loss to Tappan Zee in the Section 1, Class C championship game.



Byram Hills goalie Sam Gershuny made a dozen saves in Friday night’s Class C championship game at Torne Valley.

Sports

Wild Finish Brings Frustration for Westlake in the Class B Title Game

By Andy Jacobs

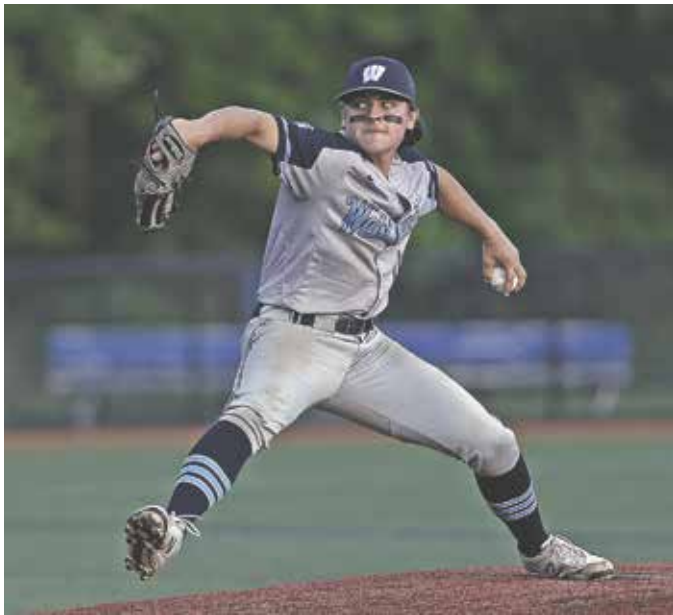
A surprising late-season run brought the Westlake baseball team to the brink of a Section One championship.

But something even more unexpected in the sectional finals brought a crushing end to the Wildcats' title quest.

A catcher's interference call with the bases loaded in the bottom of the eighth inning produced the winning run, lifting the Rye Neck Panthers to a 3-2 victory in the Class B championship game and sending the upstart Wildcats home from Purchase College on Saturday night frustrated and dejected.

"We just didn't do enough and we gave away a little too much," said Wildcats head coach John Consorti following the disappointing finish for his team. "These are close games and you can't do that in close games. Unfortunately, we didn't do enough to win."

The Wildcats, seeded seventh in the tournament, had finished the regular season with six losses in their last nine games. But they ousted second-seeded North Salem and third-seeded Albertus Magnus en route to a finals matchup with the fifth-seeded Panthers. And for four innings Saturday, they were poised to force a decisive third game



Westlake southpaw Anthony Arrichiello fires to the plate during Saturday evening's Class B championship game vs. Rye Neck at Purchase College.

between the teams in the double-elimination event.

A triple off the bat of Robbie Ciliberti in the top of the second inning brought home the game's first run and then Westlake built a 2-0 edge an inning later on Tommy Giaccone's run-scoring double. Wildcat starting pitcher Anthony Arrichiello escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the third inning and was still working on a shutout until the Panthers scored an unearned run in the fifth to cut their deficit in half.

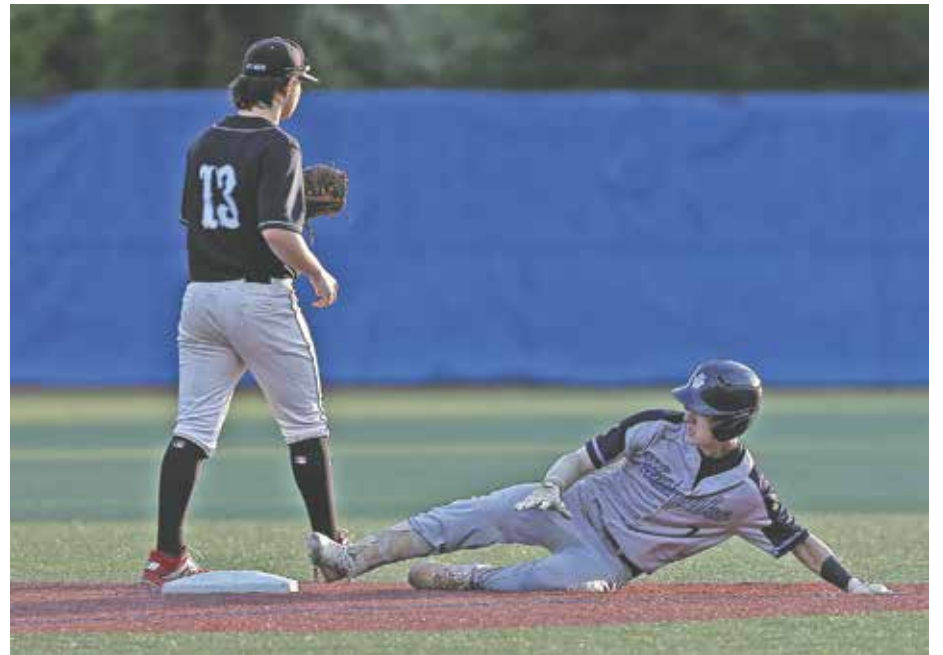
A one-out RBI single by Rye Neck's Luke Murphy in the bottom of the sixth inning tied the score and set the stage for the bizarre drama yet to unfold. Arrichiello's mound duties ended with one out in the seventh after he walked Evan Janowitz, who wound up getting all the way to third after stealing a base and then a wild pitch. But Ciliberti, the Wildcat relief pitcher, sent the game into



The Wildcats' Tommy Giaccone swings the bat in the Class B final at Purchase.



The Wildcats' JJ Jackette runs toward third base in the Class B title game.



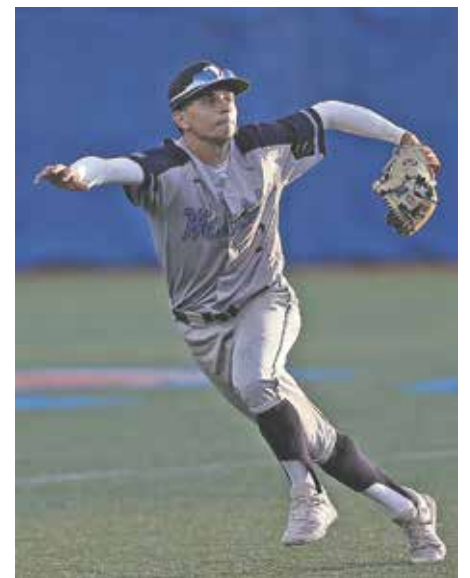
Westlake's Tommy Giaccone slides safely into second base with a third-inning RBI double as Rye Neck's Evan Janowitz waits for the late throw.

extra innings by retiring Jake LeDonne on a called third strike.

In the top of the eighth inning, facing eighth-grader Davey Ryan in relief, the Wildcats put two runners aboard via walks before a pair of strikeouts ended the threat. The bottom of the eighth couldn't have started any better for Westlake as Ciliberti struck out Jack Edwards and Jack DiMaggio.

But then Murphy reached on a hit to left and Ryan was hit by a pitch that frighteningly caromed off his head. A wild pitch moved both runners up a base and then a catcher's interference call loaded the bases. The count went to 2-2 on Eli Goldman when disaster struck for Westlake. Another interference call on catcher Josh Gelman as Goldman fouled off a pitch sent home the game-winning run, leaving the Wildcats looking on in anger and astonishment at the call.

"It's disappointing. I've never seen anything like that," said Consorti. "It's kind of stunning to end a game like that."



Westlake shortstop Justin Silva chases after a pop fly during Saturday evening's Class B title game.



Westlake relief pitcher Robbie Ciliberti sits dejectedly in front of the mound after catcher's interference was called in the bottom of the eighth inning, scoring the game-winning run.

Sports



Pleasantville's Lily Boes clears the last hurdle at Thursday's Section 1, Class C track championships.



Valhalla's Jeremy Coleman sprints to the finish in the 800.



Westlake's Owen Hegarty rounds the corner in the 200.



Pleasantville's Camila Broward runs in the 1500 at last week's Section 1, Class C championships.



Pleasantville's Ava Horigan heads for the finish line in the 100.

TRACK & FIELD

Section 1, Class C Championships

Valhalla High School

Thursday, May 26, 2022



Briarcliff's Giovanni Culotta and Pleasantville's Theo Lynch run together midway through the 3200.



Briarcliff junior Alex DiMartino took second place in the 110 hurdles.



Westlake's Zana Vulaj tries to clear the bar in the high jump as she competes in the pentathlon.



Pleasantville eighth-grader Clara Shingler runs to a second-place finish in the 3000.



Valhalla's Gabriel Franchi, who won the 100 dash, has a slight lead on teammate Jecaryous Poteat.



The Quakers' Molly Byrne, who scored four goals, searches for an open teammate from behind the cage vs. the Tuskers.



Greeley's Bae Bounds scores one of her four goals in last Tuesday's 12-11 loss to visiting Somers in the Class B semifinals that ended the season for the previously unbeaten Quakers.



A determined Erica Rosendorf tries to make her way to the front of the cage in the second half of last week's sectional semifinal.



Greeley players share an emotional moment after their season came to an end with a semifinal loss to visiting Somers.

focus on
**GREELEY
Girls'
Lacrosse**



The Quakers' Bae Bounds shares a smile with teammates Taylor Rice and Logan Skuro after scoring a goal in last week's semifinal playoff game.



Rowan Edson gets set to fire a shot on goal in the Quakers' season-ending 12-11 playoff loss to Somers last Tuesday afternoon.



Top-seeded Horace Greeley's Logan Skuro works her way free near midfield during the second half of last Tuesday's sectional semifinal against the Somers Tuskers.

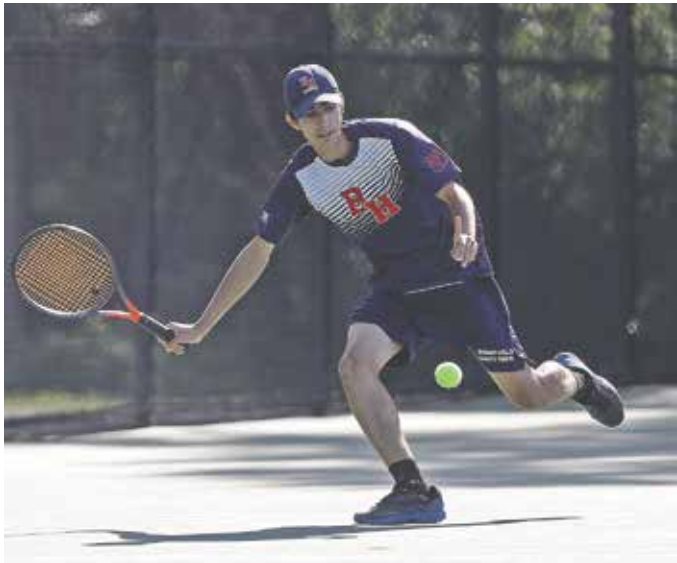


Finley Pollard of Greeley has control of the ball in the second half of the Class B semifinal playoff game.

Sports



The Bobcats’ Aidan Berkman serves during his match at first singles in Wednesday’s final of the Section 1 team tournament.



Arel Rivera of Byram Hills concentrates on a forehand return in third singles against Edgemont at the finals of the team tournament at Harrison High School.



Mihir Kumar, playing second doubles for Byram Hills, lines up a backhand during last week’s team championship against Edgemont. The Bobcats prevailed 3-2 to win the sectional title.



Aaron Lepofsky hits a backhand return during his win at second singles in last week’s championship match of the sectional team tournament.

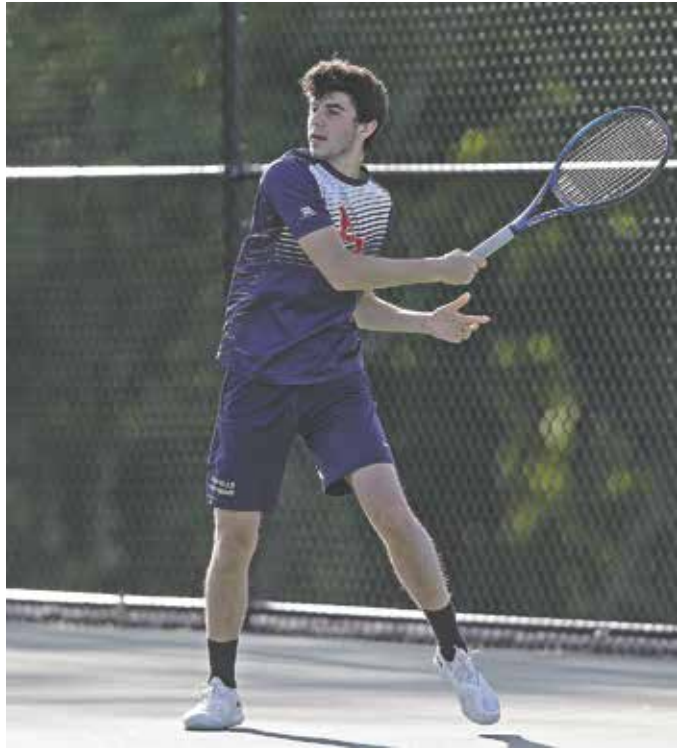


Doubles partners Ryan Bernstein (left) and Mihir Kumar get together for a quick strategy session during their three-set victory that helped the Bobcats to the Section 1 team title.

BYRAM HILLS
2022
Section 1, Division 2
Team Champion



Byram Hills first-doubles players Ethan Wolland (left) and Jesse Goldstein pose with the championship plaque after the Bobcats defeated Edgemont for the Section 1 team title last Wednesday afternoon.

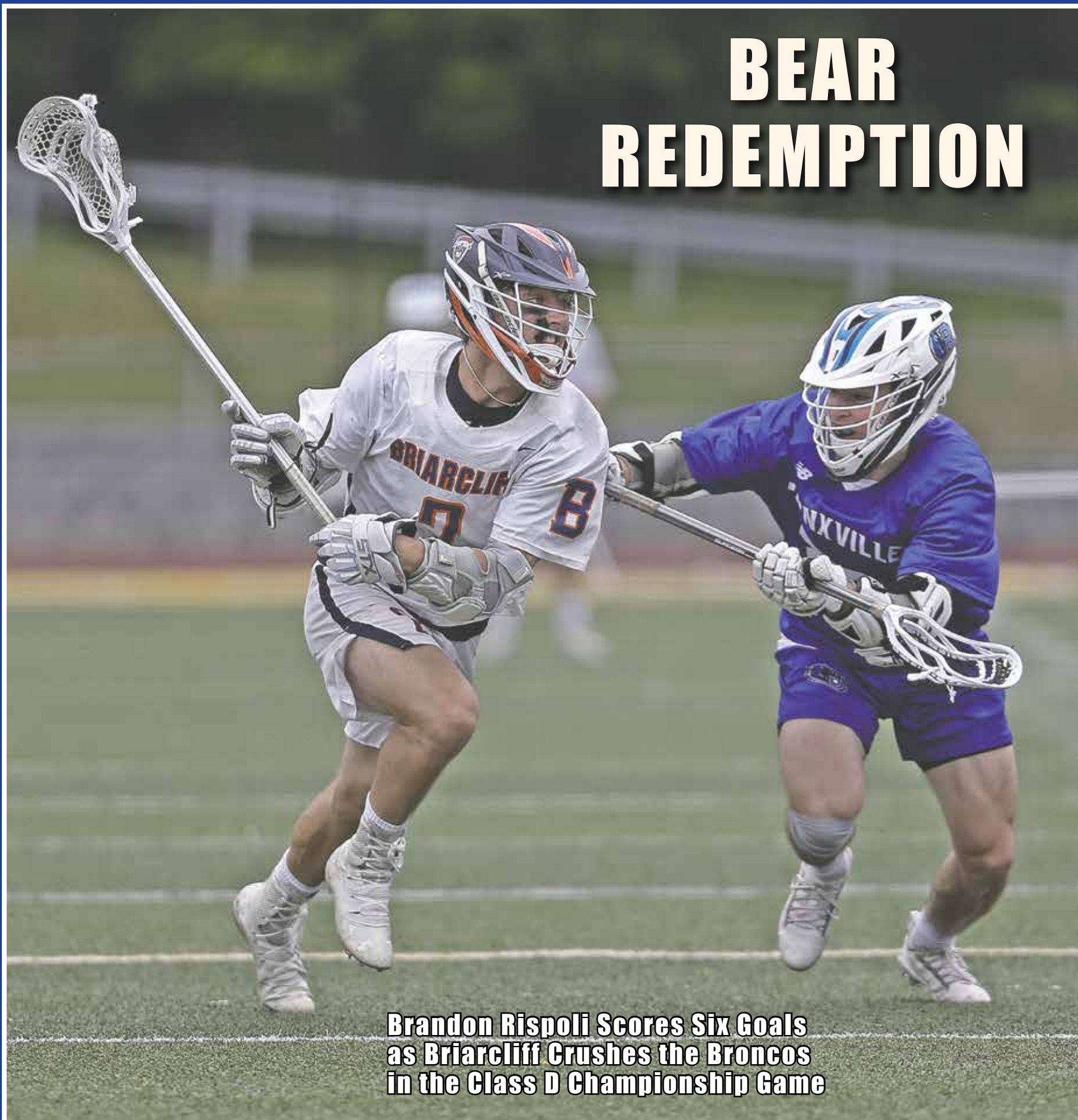


Byram Hills’ Ryan Bernstein follows through on a big forehand from well behind the baseline during second doubles at last Wednesday’s Division 2 team-championship showdown with Edgemont.



The Bobcats’ Aaron Lepofsky races over for a forehand on the run in last Wednesday’s title match of the Section 1 team tournament.

BEAR REDEMPTION



**Brandon Rispoli Scores Six Goals
as Briarcliff Crushes the Broncos
in the Class D Championship Game**