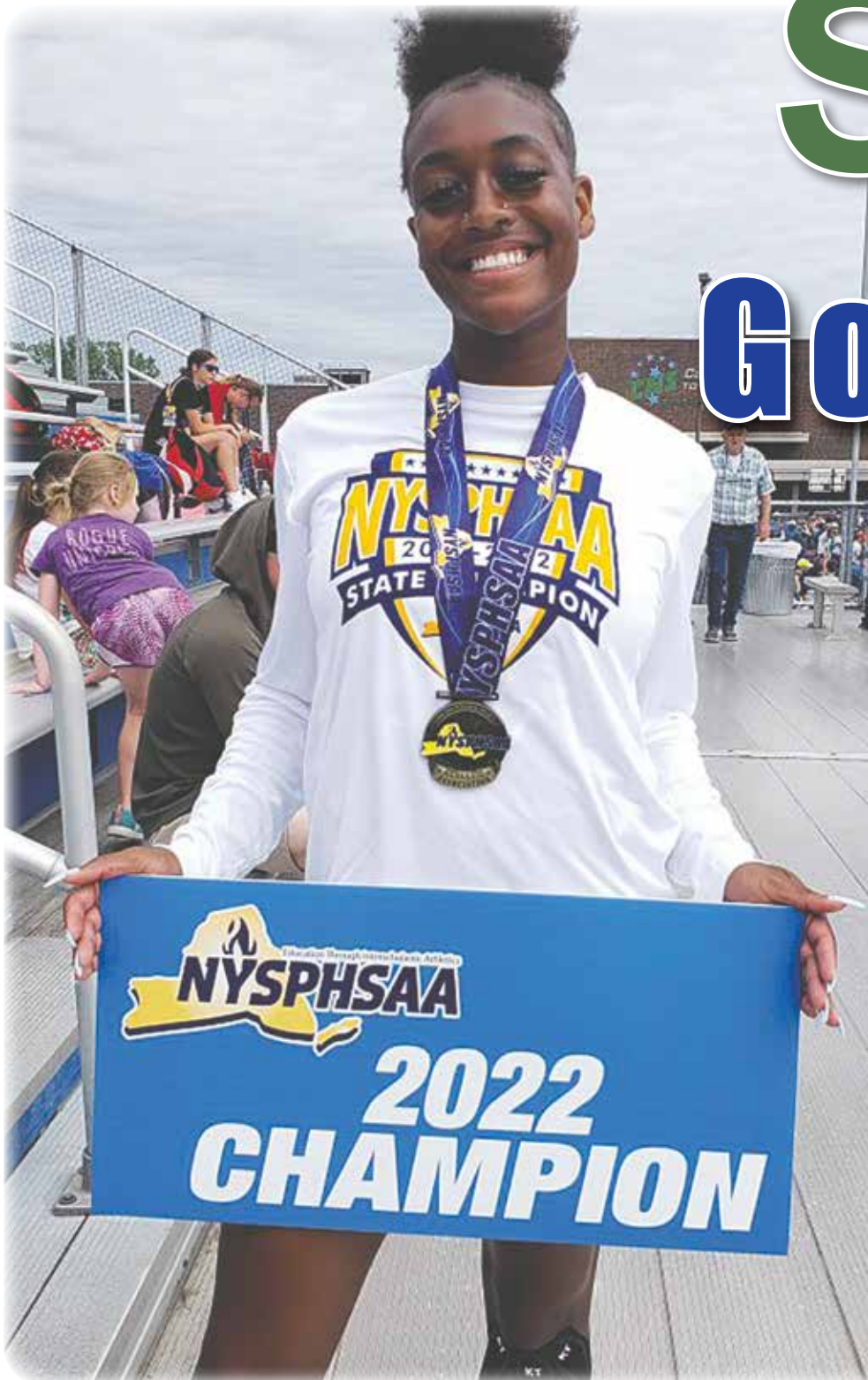


Examiner Sports God- 'Givan' Gifts!



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Putnam Valley Senior Crowned 100-Meter NYS Champ, 3rd in 200

Putnam Valley senior Nia Givan was quick to thank God in post-race interviews after winning gold in the 100-meter dash and also medaling in the 200 at the NYSPHSAA outdoor track and field championships at Cicero-North Syracuse High School last Saturday when the Spellman College-bound Givan etched her legacy as a top-five Putnam Valley female athlete in stone, joining the likes of PV grads Christine Kemp, Kim Kastuk and Kristi Dini, along with current junior Eva DeChent. Givan, who will cheer competitively at Spellman, won the Division 2 (small-school) girls 100 title with a sprint of 12.34 and took third in the D2 girls' public school 200 in 25.3.

-- by Ray Gallagher

Sports

Somers, Carmel, Putnam Valley Had Major Moments in 2021-22



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

It was yet another year of mayhem in the United States of America, where she's still the greatest country on Earth while quickly morphing into an unrecognizable state of divisiveness #PleaseComeTogether.

The great #MeltingPot is in peril as we speak, so I thank God for the outlets we still have – like the

somewhat pure, unadulterated innocence of high school sports – to escape the insanity.

We in northern Westchester and Putnam County had so many great moments to revel in from last fall to this spring, so many memories to cherish, and a fair share of blood, sweat and tears our student athletes put into the cause while cycling out of the COVID-19 freefall.

Going back to the fall of 2021, we had **SOMERS**

HIGH SCHOOL – the Examiner's School of the Year – leading the way, putting a pair of boys' teams in the state finals, including its NYSPHSAA Class A championship soccer team and its Class A runner-up football team. In my 34 years along the local sports circuit, I can't recall a time when that's happened in this neck of the woods, other than that magical 2016 campaign when Somers won state jewels in football and boys' soccer #AllHailTheTuskers.

Somers soccer Coach Brian Lanzetta and All-American Daniel D'Ippolito (29G, 35A)

blitzed the field and guided the Tuskers to their second state title in six years while rookie grid Coach Anthony DeMatteo fell just short of the Tuskers' second state title since 2016, despite the Plays of the Year from WR "Big Play" Trey Mancuso, who willed Somers past Rye with highlight reel grabs and zig-zagging darts to the end zone.

And if that wasn't enough for one school, Somers popped our eyes open again this spring when Coach Anthony Nappi's baseball team reached the NYSPHSAA Class A regional finals for the first time in school history while Somers won its first-ever Section 1 Class A track and field team championship (they had won many in Class B previously) and its girls' lax team lost in the sectional finals. What a way for Somers' 19-year Athletic Director Roman Catalino to go out #RomanEmpire.

So, yeah, Somers was the envy of all this school year. Now, if they could just find a way to win a

boys' basketball league title for the first time since 1989 in Coach Chris DiCintio's upcoming swan song. (They did win the school's only boys' hoops sectional title in 1992.)

Nothing had ever ignited the Town of **CARMEL** like its 2021 NYSPHSAA Class AA championship football team did last November. Led by the Examiner-area Coach of the Year Todd Cayea, the undefeated Rams – the Examiner's Team of the Year – capped the finest season in school history with, perhaps, the most dominant large-school



Members of the Somers soccer team posed last fall with 2nd NYSPHSAA title plaque (2016) after running through tourney with a combined 17-2 edge.

run in the history of the state playoffs, which dates back to 1993.

Sweet justice was served by longtime Cayea, who had his ties to the program severed when the Carmel Board of Education got involved in a 2019 off-field incident that hadn't the merits of a plum nickel.

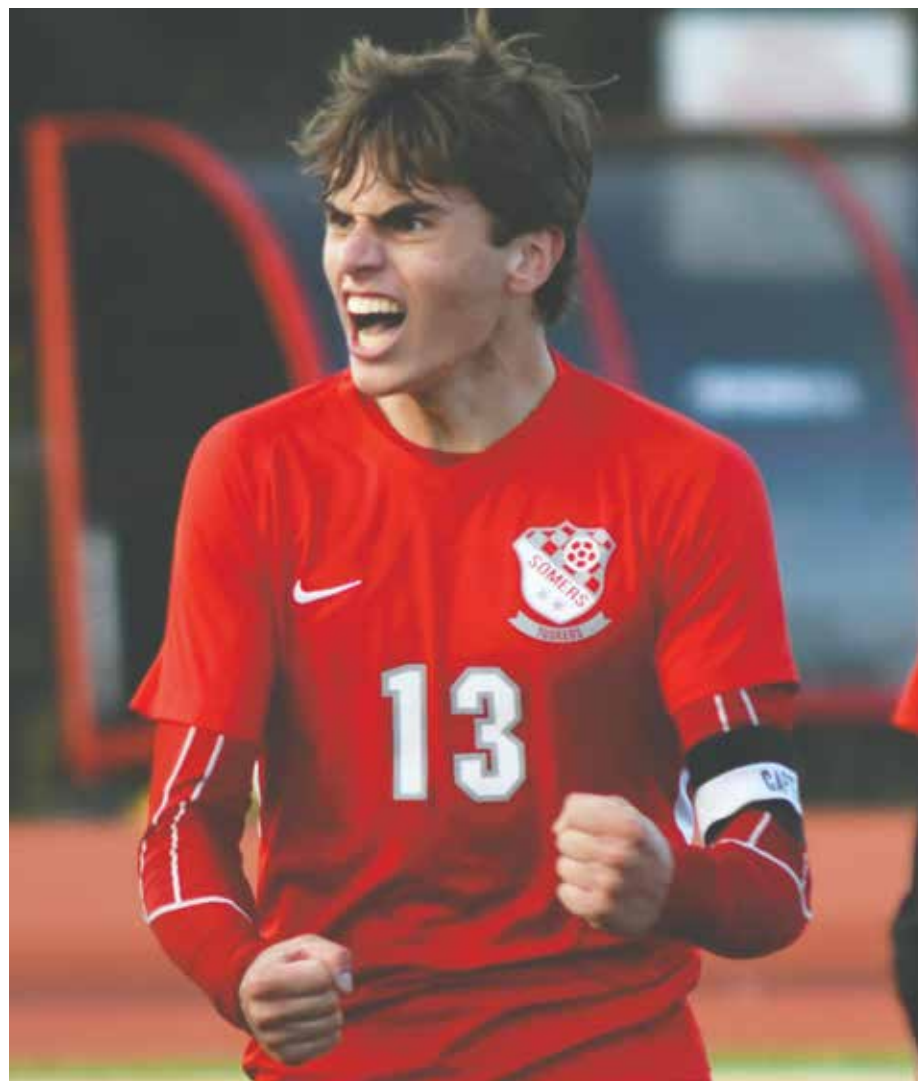
The situation turned on a dime, though, when Cayea supporters, thankfully, turned out in droves to get the band back together and restore the coach's reputation before he took Carmel to the peak of its sporting heights. It was a remarkable turn of events

continued on next page



Plays of the Year by Somers WR Trey Mancuso vs. Rye, sending Tuskers to NYSPHSAA Class A finals before he was named Section 1's Player of the Year by SOFCA.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Somers All-American Daniel D'Ippolito was among the finest soccer players in Section 1 history.

Sports



Putnam Valley junior MVP Eva DeChent led Tigers to NYS semis and garnered NYS Class B Player of Year honors.

continued from previous page

for the red, white and blue patriots of Carmel, a once-in-a-lifetime event spurred by, perhaps, the finest senior class in Rams history. Fresh off the heels of the COVID-19 hysteria, Putnam County witnessed, without question, its finest sporting moment, ensuring its lone state football title.

But that wasn't where it ended for Putnam County, which saw **PUTNAM VALLEY's** NYS Class B Player of the Year Eva DeChent lead her then-two-time reigning Section 1 champion Tigers to their first NYSPHSAA Class B girls' basketball Final 4. State runner-up Waterloo stopped the Tigers dead in their tracks.

In team sports, nothing matters more than T-E-A-M, but nobody meant more to her team this school year than DeChent. In her junior year, she was the definition of MVP, leading the Tigers in scoring, assists and rebounding while guiding Putnam Valley as far as any sports program (other than their fabulous cheerleading program) had gone since the 2009 boys' lax team lost to Manhasset in the state semis. That was after the Tigers won their only team state title in school history in field hockey in 2005.

Yeah, I'm getting older each year, but the green grass and high tides are forever when it comes to local prep sports. So much fun to watch them all in action, and many more moments we could have mentioned. Well done, my friends, well done.

SIDENOTES: The game of lacrosse is growing by leaps and bounds. Local heroes – like former Yorktown two-time All-American Brett Makar – are emerging on the national scene as his Maryland Terps were crowned national champions on Memorial Day weekend. Makar will be paying back the game this summer at hometown camps and clinics for sure, but there's plenty more lacrosse on the local circuit this summer/

As we broke on Twitter late last week: Congrats to my guy Ric Beardsley #UncleRicky – the former Lakeland High and Syracuse University lacrosse All-American and national champion – on being tabbed head coach of the Bergen Catholic Crusaders late last week. Quite the coup for my man Brian Mahoney (of Mahopac High and Siena College fame), the B.C. el presidente.

BOX LAX: Featuring some of the area's elite talents, the Hudson Valley Box Lacrosse League kicked off its inaugural



The 2021-22 Team of the Year, the NYSPHSAA Class AA champion Carmel Rams were all business during historic season.



Carmel's Coach of the Year Todd Cayea takes in hug from his daughter, Breleigh, after winning NYS Class AA title last fall.

season on June 11 at EJ Murray Rink in Yonkers from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The 845 Box Lacrosse Club, New York City Lacrosse Club, Dark Side Box Lacrosse Club and the Mahopac Water Panthers challenged one another in a round-robin style tournament in the first of four such outings. Players 18 and up will have at it in family-friendly venues that includes food vendors, music and much more. Subsequent outings are scheduled for June 25, July 9 and July 23. Follow the league on Instagram @HVBLL2022.

The Mahopac Water Panthers will also play at 7 p.m. this Wednesday, June 15 in Mahopac at the Michael Geary Memorial Rink on Route 6, across the street from the firehouse.

RIP Steve "Iggy" Aguado. If you've ever been at a primetime Section 1 basketball event, chances are the loveable "Igster" strolled past you with his perpetual smile that may have been encrusted with a bit of mustard from his last hot dog. But we all loved us some Iggy.



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Sports

Briarcliff's State Title Quest Thwarted by Cold Spring Harbor

By Andy Jacobs

They arrived up in Albany last Wednesday afternoon full of confidence, determined to cement their lacrosse legacy and bring a fitting end to their years-in-the-making quest for an elusive state championship.

They departed a few hours later disappointed, dismayed and dejected, with tears in their eyes and dreams shattered.

For the Briarcliff Bears, the Class D semifinal showdown in the state playoffs against Long Island champion Cold Spring Harbor turned into one final addition to a frustrating sequence of events that destroyed their potential dynasty and sent them back home to ponder forever the what-ifs and how their lofty ambition was betrayed.

Fourth-quarter goals by CJ Reilly and Jake Rogers erased a one-goal Briarcliff lead and lifted the Seahawks to a dramatic 8-7 victory in a seesaw contest that wasn't decided until a close-range shot by the Bears' Lucas Proctor was stopped with six seconds remaining on the campus of SUNY Albany.

Despite leading at halftime and again after three quarters, Briarcliff wound up walking off the turf at John Fallon Field on the losing end of what was, despite being a semifinal, the de facto state title game.

"A tough one, what're you gonna do?" asked Bears coach Al Meola shortly after time had run out on his players. "I knew it was gonna come down to be a total dogfight with these guys. A one-goal game or OT, I was expecting that. And, you know what, it was a one-goal game. We made some bad mistakes and they capitalized on them."

For Briarcliff, a senior-laden team with a roster filled with players who were freshmen when the Bears lost the 2019 state final in overtime and then had two years of possible payback taken away from them by the pandemic, the clash with Cold Spring Harbor provided one last chance to fulfil what once seemed like destiny.

The Bears had crushed Section 9's O'Neill and then Section 2's Schuylerville in the state regionals, but Section 8's Seahawks presented them with a far bigger challenge. Briarcliff had scored at will in capturing the regional championship, but against Cold



In a battle of All-Americans, the Bears' Jack Ricciardi gets a step on Cold Spring Harbor's Pat Pisano in the third quarter of the Class D state semifinal game.



Briarcliff's Brandon Rispoli, who scored two goals in his Bear farewell, tries to get to the cage in the first half of last Wednesday's showdown vs. Cold Spring Harbor.

Spring Harbor goals were going to be much more difficult to come by.

After the Bears came up empty on their first two possessions of the day, the Seahawks grabbed the lead nearly five minutes into the game on a goal by Luke Giarraputo. Proctor was stopped by Cold Spring Harbor goalie Spencer Will at the left doorstep with 5:15 to go in the opening quarter, Nico Santucci narrowly missed on a scoring chance almost two minutes later and Briarcliff found itself trailing 1-0 at the end of the first period.

"First quarter, my god," said Meola. "But I was OK with it. We held them to 1-0. The first quarter was nerves. You could see the nerves. Our offensive guys were gripping their sticks very tight today for some reason. Finally started feeling it a little bit, but never really got their mojo going all game."

Almost three and a half minutes into the second quarter, Jack Ricciardi finally put the Bears on the board when he ended a lengthy possession by making a long run to his left and then sending a one-hopper past Will to tie the score. Less than a minute later, with 7:49 left before halftime, Elliot Jones spotted a wide-open Alex Kirshenbaum in front of the cage and the junior attackman easily scored to give Briarcliff its first lead of the game.

But the lead changed hands six different

times and the Seahawks answered with two consecutive goals exactly two minutes apart. The first came from Reilly, who finished with three, as he used a hesitation move to slip through the Bears' defense. Rogers, who also had three goals, then gave Cold Spring Harbor a 3-2 edge with a point-blank shot from right of the cage.

A goal by the Bears' Proctor just 40 seconds later tied the score again, then Briarcliff seized a 4-3 advantage with 19.1 seconds left in the half after Proctor got the ball to Brandon Rispoli, who quickly turned and fired a shot past Will.

Unfortunately for Briarcliff, its one-goal halftime lead didn't last very long. The Seahawks tied the score for the fourth time just 15 seconds into the third quarter on Rogers' second goal of the day. CSH grabbed the upper hand again almost five minutes into the third quarter when the bouncing ball was gathered by Hayden Calabretta in front and he deposited it past Evan Van Camp.

Cold Spring Harbor's lead grew to 6-4 just past the midway point of the third quarter when Reilly scooped up a loose ball and fired a high shot over the left shoulder of Van Camp. But with their state title hopes suddenly on the brink, the Bears responded with a flurry of goals that set the stage for the suspenseful final quarter.

The first one came from Ricciardi with

4:08 remaining in the third period after he came around the side of the cage on a restart, using a screen from Proctor to create space, before beating Will with a shot from the right. Just 59 seconds later, the Bears tied the score again as Rispoli deked to his left,

continued on next page



Briarcliff goalie Evan Van Camp guards the cage late in the first half of last week's state semifinal up in Albany.



Briarcliff senior attackman Elliot Jones lines up a shot in the second quarter of last Wednesday afternoon's 8-7 loss to Cold Spring Harbor in the state semifinal at SUNY Albany.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



The Bears' Alex Kirshenbaum has plenty to shout about with Jack Ricciardi after scoring a first-half goal vs. the Seahawks in the state semifinal.



Nico Santucci controls the ball during the first quarter vs. Long Island champion Cold Spring Harbor.

Sports



Luke McCann gets set to fire a shot toward the cage in Briarcliff's one-goal loss to Cold Spring Harbor in the state semifinal on the campus of SUNY Albany last week.

continued from previous page

then stepped to his right to unleash a high shot into the far side of the cage.

Jones, from the right doorstep after a cut to the cage and a feed from Ricciardi, gave Briarcliff a 7-6 lead with 1:54 to go in the third quarter. Van Camp came up big 25 seconds later when he stopped a missile of a shot from Giaraputo, and the period ended with the Bears in possession of a one-goal edge and also a one-man advantage due to a Seahawk penalty.

But the first hint that the fourth quarter was going to bring nothing but heartbreak for the Bears came when a lengthy shot from Rispoli 17 seconds in was gobbled up by Will, spoiling Briarcliff's extra-man opportunity. The Bears barely touched the ball over the game's next half dozen minutes and by then their lead was gone for good.

"We could've really used an extra goal there," said Meola about the squandered

opportunity at the start of the fourth quarter. "If we were able to go two up, it would've been a different story. But then they got the ball, came down, scored and tied it up. They got a lot of momentum off that."

With 9:34 left in the game, Reilly moved past Rispoli, then split two more defenders to score from straight on, ending a lengthy Seahawk possession. An even longer possession, almost four minutes, concluded with Rogers getting a pass from Ryan Spielberger and sending a lefty shot past Van Camp for what turned out to be the decisive goal.

"It's what they do. That's their whole game plan," said Meola of the Seahawks' deliberate attack that chewed up valuable fourth-quarter minutes. "Slow it down, lull you to sleep and then attack you. They did a great job. And they capitalized on a lot of dumb mistakes we made today that good teams do. They're gonna make you pay for



Lucas Proctor makes his move toward the cage in Briarcliff's state semifinal vs. Cold Spring Harbor on SUNY Albany's John Fallon Field.



Briarcliff senior Tim Isola battles for the bouncing ball with Cold Spring Harbor's Jesse Phelan during last Wednesday's state semifinal game.

it."

But the Bears still had their chances in the game's final moments. With just under two minutes left, Rispoli charged in from the right, shifted his stick to his left hand and fired a shot that was stopped. With 90 seconds to go, defenseman Luca Meola gave the Bears another chance by knocking the ball away from Seahawk star Pat Pisano.

After a Briarcliff timeout, Rispoli sent a shot from left of the cage high and wide right, then 10 seconds later Proctor was thwarted as he tried to work his way around the left side of the crease. A Seahawk turnover with 40 seconds left gave Briarcliff one last chance, but with six seconds on the clock Proctor was denied again on another try from the side of the cage.

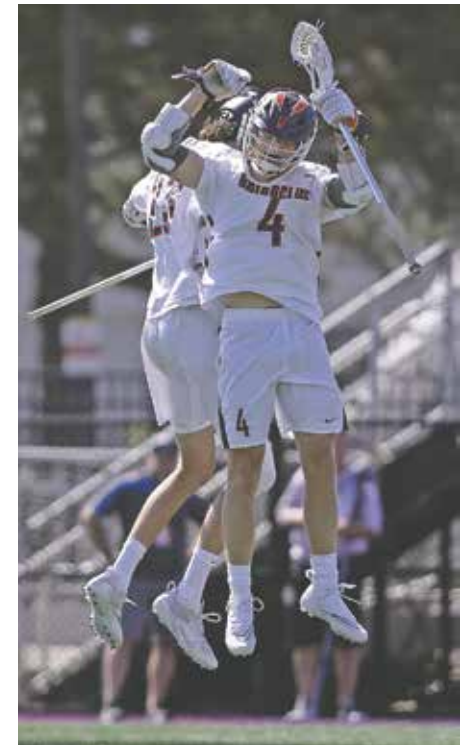
Will secured the loose ball and fired it the length of the field, setting off a Seahawk celebration as devastated Briarcliff players fell to the turf in disappointment. After waiting three years for another shot at a state title, their bid to finally reign supreme in New York had come to a crushing end.

"It's gonna be tough," said Meola, asked about trying to replace so many talented seniors. "They're the heartbeat of the program. Those guys were great leaders, obviously highly talented, IQs through the roof. So replacing those guys is gonna be tough. It's gonna be a long haul. We've got to build this back up."

With Cold Spring Harbor crushing Chenango Forks 17-1 in the Class D final at Hofstra University just three days later,



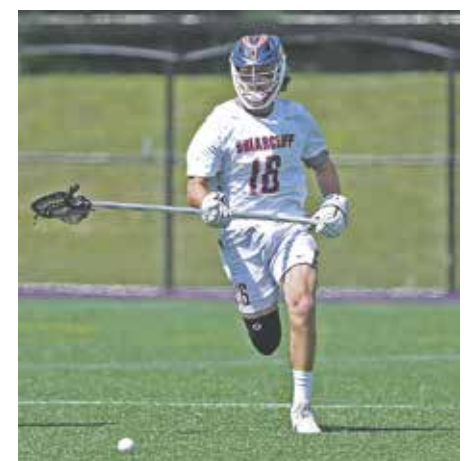
Briarcliff's Luca Meola (left) and Lucas Proctor look on dejectedly during the postgame ceremony after the Bears fell to eventual champion Cold Spring Harbor 8-7 in the state semifinal.



The Bears' Jack Ricciardi and Elliot Jones go airborne to celebrate a goal in the state semifinal.

no one has to tell Meola just how close his team came to finally realizing its state title dream, even with All-American midfielder Matt Waterhouse sidelined by injury since the third game of the season.

"I'm proud of these guys," he said. "They hung it out there and left everything out there on the field for the program, and I'm really proud of every one of them. I'm gonna thank them for wearing the blue and orange and let them know how much they're appreciated and what they've done for this program."



The Bears' Jarred Sturman chases after a ground ball in the opening quarter of last Wednesday's class D state semifinal game.



A dejected Brandon Rispoli ponders the end of the Bears' quest for a state title after his last-gasp shots in the fourth quarter failed to tie the game.

Sports



Briarcliff All-American Brandon Rispoli gets set to fire a shot on goal in the Bears' lopsided home win over Yorktown back in early May.



Elliot Jones helped fuel the high-powered Briarcliff offense and scored their final goal of the season, in the state semifinal.



Alex Kirshenbaum, one of the few Briarcliff key contributors who will be back next season, looks for a scoring opportunity in the win over Stepinac.



Briarcliff seniors pose with the championship plaque shortly after the Bears routed Bronxville 14-5 in the Class D final at Lakeland High School.

BRIARCLIFF BEARS 2022 Section 1 Champion New York State Semifinalist



The Bears' Nico Santucci sends a shot on goal in the road win over Lakeland-Panas early in the season.



The Bears' Luke McCann takes the ball up the field in the home win over Yorktown.



Briarcliff senior goalie Even Van Camp stays ready in front of the cage during the 6-3 win at Pleasantville.



The Bears' Jarred Sturman moves the ball past midfield in the road win over rival Pleasantville.



Senior attackman Jack Ricciardi earned All-American recognition this season as he helped lead the Bears to their third straight sectional title.



Junior attackman Lucas Proctor winds up to shoot from right of the cage during a Briarcliff home victory.



Junior defenseman Luca Meola controls the ball in the Bears' 9-7 victory over Stepinac at the end of the regular season.

Sports

focus on HUDSON VALLEY RENEGADES BASEBALL



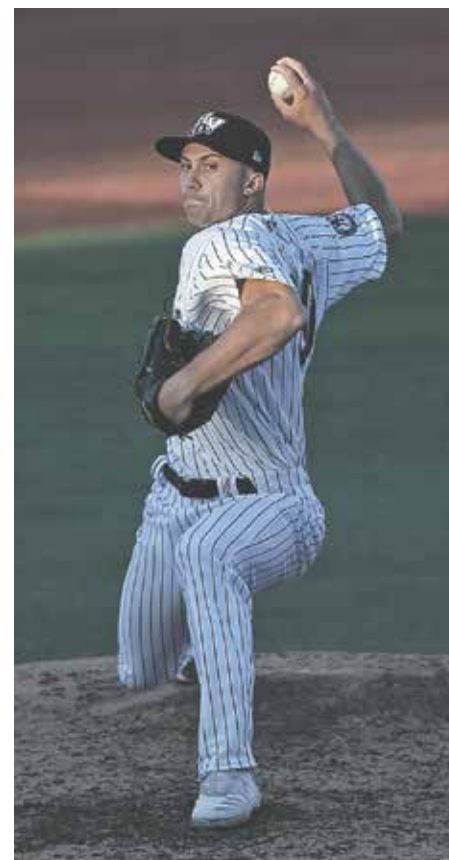
Hudson Valley's Joseu Panacual pitches in Saturday evening's 1-0 win over the Jersey Shore BlueClaws. He struck out nine and yielded just six hits in his seven shutout innings.



Renegades players, left to right, Eduardo Torrealba, Aaron Palensky, Pat DeMarco and Trey Sweeney celebrate Saturday's 1-0 win over the Jersey Shore BlueClaws. Hudson Valley, now 28-29 this season, goes on the road for two weeks and returns to face Brooklyn on Tuesday evening, June 28, for the start of a six-game series.



The Renegades' Anthony Seigler watches the flight of his fourth-inning home run to the opposite field that provided the only run in Saturday's 1-0 victory over Jersey Shore.



Relief pitcher Ryan Miller delivers to the plate in the eighth inning of Hudson Valley's 1-0 win over Jersey Shore.



Hudson Valley shortstop Trey Sweeney tags out Jersey Shore's Ethan Wilson on a sixth-inning steal attempt Saturday evening. The Renegades won 1-0 in a game that lasted just 1:51, the shortest of the season so far.



Renegades shortstop Trey Sweeney fires to first base to complete a double play in the fourth inning of the win over the BlueClaws on Saturday evening.



Renegades third baseman Tyler Hardman rises in the air before a pitch while waiting for a chance to make a play during Saturday's win.



Hudson Valley catcher Carlos Narvaez hustles down the first-base line during Saturday's game at Dutchess Stadium.



The Renegades' Eric Wagaman takes a lead off first base in Saturday's game. On Sunday, he belted a homer as Hudson Valley won 10-7 over Jersey Shore in the series finale.



Aaron Palensky lines a leadoff single in the bottom of the third inning, just one of two hits the Renegades managed despite winning 1-0 on Saturday night.

CLASH FOR THE CROWN

**Elliot Jones Looks to Score
as Briarcliff Fights to the End
Against Cold Spring Harbor
in the Class D State Semifinal**

