

# Examiner Sports

# Put a 'Kap' on It!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

## Somers Stuns Sect. 9's Cornwall, 2-0, Falls 4-2 to Sect. 4 Champ Maine-Endwell in NYS Class A Regional Finals

Somers seniors Matt Kapica (6), who took the loss hard (inset), and hard-charging classmate Brandon Iorizzo (11) did all he could as he rounds 2B en route to scoring run in Tuskers' 4-2 loss to Maine-Endwell in NYSPHSAA Class A regional final Saturday at Dutchess Stadium where the upstart, 12th-seeded Section 1 champion Tuskers (16-11) advanced further than any previous Somers baseball team has... see Baseball Notebook



# Sports

## NWE/Putnam Baseball Notebook

### Somers Stuns Cornwall, Falls to Maine-Endwell in Regional Final



Somers C Evan Carway can't get tag down in time in Tuskers' 4-2 NYS Class A regional title loss to Maine-Endwell Saturday.

### Nappi's Tuskers Win 1st NYS Tourney Game in School History

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

FISHKILL – If, at the start of the 2022 varsity baseball campaign, you had the Somers baseball team as the last team standing – not just on the baseball circuit, but the lone survivor of all sports programs in the Northern Westchester/Putnam County area – then you win the soothsayer's award for top prognosticator. The odds of anyone having that were slim to none.

Somers Coach Anthony Nappi's 2022 Tusker squad, which was left for dead midway through the spring season at 3-6, eventually secured the No.12 seed in the Section 1 Class A tournament before

winning their fourth Section 1 Class A title since 2007, first since 2009. That, in and of itself, was particularly startling, given the fact Somers upset perennial powers No.2 Rye and No.3 Eastchester, en route to their first sectional title since 2009's unthinkable three-peat.

But then to go out there and knock off an 18-1 Section 9 champion Cornwall team, 2-0, in the opening round of the NYSPHSAA tournament, behind a freshman hurler, Andrew Kapica, was the stuff coaches/parents/players can only dream about. That dream, though, ended in Saturday's 4-2 regional title loss to Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell at Dutchess Stadium, where the Spartans (12-5) capitalized on a couple of



Somers 1B John Roublick is pulled off bag by wide throw in Tuskers' 4-2 loss to Maine-Endwell in NYS Class A regional finals Saturday at Dutchess Stadium.

fourth-inning Somers' miscues to erase a 1-0 deficit and advance to the NYS Final 4.

Still, Nappi's Tuskers (16-11) battled to the bitter end, plating a run in the bottom of the seventh and getting the tying run to the plate before fizzling out against the same Spartan program that ended Somers' 2009 season in the opening round of the state tournament.

"Regardless of the result, this is the furthest a Somers baseball team has ever made it," Nappi said. "I'm so freakin proud of these guys. They had an unforgettable season, and it's a credit to them. My seniors Connor Durso, Andrew Cameron, Jack Guardino, John Roublick, Brandon Iorizzo and Matt Kapica will be missed. They gave us everything and led by example. I wish we could've got them a ring on their way out, but at the end of the day we know we accomplished great things together."

M-E starter Bryant Carpenter allowed one earned run over six innings as the Spartans advanced to the state semifinals for the second time since losing in the 2019 state finals. The semis will be played on June 10 at Union-Endicott High School, some three miles from the M-E campus where the Spartans will face Section 2's Averill Park in

a state semifinal at 1 p.m.

Somers held a 1-0 lead when Evan Carway (2 for- 3, two doubles, run) doubled and was knocked home by a John Roublick single in the third inning, before two uncharacteristic defensive miscues, a pair of errors, led to a 2-1 Somers deficit in the fourth.

"Yeah, that inning was a tough one for us," Nappi admitted. "It started with the strikeout, but the throw down to first took our first baseman off the bag and then we mixed an error after that got them going a little bit."

Somers starter George Creighton did his best to battle through it, lasting 5-1/3rd innings before yielding to reliever Stefan Swee. Creighton allowed three earned runs and six hits while fanning six Spartans and added a seventh-inning RBI double to spark some late hope. Iorizzo was active on the base paths throughout, but Somers hit a bunch of 'at-em' balls on the screws that never found green.

"I thought our pitchers battled like they have all year," Nappi said. "We played some solid defense behind them other than those two errors as well. Offensively, we got back to our approach that makes us successful."

*continued on next page*



Somers players celebrate a big moment in the Tuskers' 4-2 NYSPHSAA Class A regional title loss to Maine-Endwell Saturday at Dutchess Stadium.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Somers C Evan Carway slides in safely at 3B before scoring Tuskers' first run in their 4-2 loss to Maine-Endwell in NYS Class A regional final.



# Sports

## NWE/Putnam Baseball Notebook

*continued from previous page*

We attacked fastballs and hit a lot of balls hard. Unfortunately, we hit these balls right at people. That's baseball for ya, we didn't get a bounce to go our way today."

Yet, their ways were answered against Cornwall when Andrew Kapica dangled a no-hitter well into the fifth frame, before surrendering a single to Cornwall's Griffen Zimmer, who Kapica eventually picked off second base, squashing the first of three major threats over the last three innings. Baby 'Kap' the kid brother of senior SS Matt Kapica, would strand runners on first and second again in both the sixth and seventh before slaying the Dragons with a mix of moxie and poise few Tuskers have shown at this stage of their career. The fresh-faced 15-year-old fired a complete-game, five-hitter, whiffing four Dragons along the way, somewhat avenging Somers' 2008 state playoff loss to Cornwall in the opening round of the tournament. Somers junior CF Ravi Dass singled and scored for a 2-0 lead after Carway stroked a base hit to left field. Sweet doubled home the Tuskers' first run, plating Eddie Baranowski, who reached on an error.

Former Coach Joe Wootten's Tuskers were defeated by Johnson City in the opening round of the 2007 state tournament as well, leaving the 2022 Tuskers as the only club with a state tourney win. Only the Tuskers themselves believed anything like this was possible after the 3-6 start to the season.

"If I'm not mistaken we played a lot of top competition right off the bat," Matt Kapica said. "While our record said that we



Somers senior SS Matt Kapica follows through in Tuskers' 4-2 loss to Maine-Endwell in the NYSPHSAA Class A regional title game Saturday at Dutchess Stadium.

were dead in the water, every game that we played in we competed and just fell short. We figured it out by playing for each other. We knew that nobody believed in us, so that really lit a fire under us and gave us the motivation to never fall short."



Somers junior spark plug Ravi Dass tracks flight of his liner to LF in Tuskers' 4-2 regional title loss to Maine-Endwell Saturday at Dutchess Stadium.



The Kapica bros. -- senior Matt (6) and freshman Drew (9) -- were instrumental in Somers' run to NYSPHSAA regional finals.



Somers senior Brandon Iorizzo is called out as he tries to swipe 2B on close play in Tuskers' 4-2 NYS regional title loss.

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# Sports

## One Giant Leap for Womankind

### Brewster Bounds Farthest in Inaugural Girls' Flag Football Campaign



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor @Directrays

Like most pilot programs, Section 1 wasn't certain the notion of girls' flag football would get off the cutting room floor when the inaugural 2022 began back in early April as Somers High hosted the kickoff party and several NY Giants were on hand to promote the event, including QB Daniel Jones and LB Blake Martinez. Heck, everyone doubted whether the substance could generate enough interest and whether or not nine teams from Section 1 could finish the season, much less get to a championship setting.

But girls rarely do anything half-assed when it comes to competition; girls are gonna girl #ThankGod! And that's exactly what they did at places like Somers, Peekskill, Lakeland, Panas, Mahopac and mighty Brewster, which recently capped an undefeated 11-0 season with a 12-2 sectional title win over Scarsdale at Mahopac High.

The young ladies of Northern Westchester and Putnam counties were trailblazers in this endeavor, literally taking the ball and running with it, much like they did in six other sections across NYS. To those of you that put the flags on, ran your

routes and slung the pigskin; our caps are off to you #Bravo!

Brewster's championship win over Scarsdale was a very tight defensive battle from start to finish, but Brewster was able to make a few more plays on both sides of the ball in order to make history. The Bears struck first when talented junior QB Bre Washington found senior TE Grace "Gronk" Galgano for a 20-yard TD strike to take an early 6-0 lead.

"Our team was led by our captain and QB, Bre Washington," Bears Coach Matt Cunningham said. "Bre is a dynamic athlete that was the catalyst to our success."

And Galgano, a two-time All-Section hooper by trade, came off the hardwood after setting new Brewster standards for both scoring and rebounding and played football like future Hall of Famer Rob Gronkowski, according to Assistant Coach Mike Castaldo.

"Grace was our Gronk," he said.

With about 12 minutes left in the game, Brewster senior Fiona Dodd made the first of her two interceptions to give the Bears great field position. Washington would then spot freshman Kiley Brooks on a 20-yard TD strike, giving the Bears some breathing room at 12-2. Dodd and fellow freshman Ava Fagin would provide a glimpse of the future with back-to-back interceptions to seal the deal and procure the first-ever girls' flag football Section 1 title.

**Direct  
Rays**



Brewster set a high bar for girls' flag football, going 11-0 and winning 1st sectional title in its inaugural season.

Coach Cunningham said the season was a huge success for all involved.

"The competitiveness was at a high level and really increased as the season went along," he said. "The credit for our tremendous season goes to the girls who committed themselves to learning the game and working hard each day."

That went on all across the section where skill sets were ramped up with each passing game and practice. Video clips began to emerge on Twitter, the ladies decked out in eye black, going for 50-yard touchdowns

like Mahopac WR Lauren Beberman – another All-Section hooper – did against Lakeland. Rivalries — like Somers vs. Mahopac – were born. Peekskill joined the party and the pilot program popped in Year 1.

Castaldo credits Brewster's success to its defense, which was unwavering in the face of new challenges. "The team bought into how important it was to grab flags and not give up big plays. This was an unbelievable season. I'm so happy for the girls for everything they accomplished."

"Seinfeld" was originally one of the lowest-testing pilots in NBC history, and how'd that turn out? Section 1's launch of flag football was one giant leap for womankind...

If you had 12th-seeded Section 1 Class A champion Somers going further in the NYSPHSAA baseball tournament than any Tuskers team previously, then perhaps you should be wagering more than the occasional stake. Yeah, most pundits jumped on top-seeded Walter Panas – with its five DI-bound studs – to make a move and win the first sectional title in school history #GuiltyAsCharged. Instead, the four-time Section 1 champion Tuskers emerged from a 3-6 start to go further than any Somers team before, knocking off once-beaten Section 9 champion Cornwall, 2-0, in the opening round of the state tourney before the Tusker trumpets were silenced at Dutchess Stadium by the same group of Maine-Endwell hardballers that won the national Little League World Series back in 2016, just the third team in state history to do so.

Point being: Somers didn't lose to a pack of slouches, and they were the last team standing from the Northern Westchester/Putnam County region in my 34th year of covering the locals #WhatARun.

I need a teeny-weeny bit of a break before I jump back in the pool again #Peace!



The 2022 Section 1 girls' flag football champion Brewster Bears were trailblazers for Section 1's pilot program that produced great results for all.





Briarcliff All-American Jack Ricciardi scored 10 goals in the Bears’ two regional playoff wins this past week.



The Bears’ Lucas Proctor finished with two goals in the 14-2 rout of Section 2 champ Schuylerville on Saturday.



Senior midfielder Brandon Rispoli, recently named an All-American, provided three goals in the Bears’ 14-2 victory over Section 2 champ Schuylerville.



Elliot Jones scored twice in the regional win over O’Neill and three times in the Bears’ victory over Schuylerville.



Briarcliff goalie Evan Van Camp figures to be a bit busier than he was recently when the Bears take on Cold Spring Harbor in the state semifinals on Wednesday afternoon.

## Briarcliff Breezes Its Way to the State Semifinals

The Briarcliff boys’ lacrosse team moved two steps closer to its ultimate goal of a Class D state championship, crushing a pair of overmatched sectional titlists in regional play this past week. On Wednesday afternoon, the Bears built a 14-1 halftime lead en route to a 17-7 victory over Section 9 champion James I. O’Neill. Jack Ricciardi, playing just the first half, scored six goals and assisted on three others as Briarcliff overwhelmed the Raiders at Mamaroneck High School. Elliot Jones added a pair of goals and three assists.

On Saturday morning, up at Shaker High School near Albany, the Bears dominated Section 2 champ Schuylerville just as thoroughly, winning 14-2. Ricciardi provided four goals and four assists, while Jones and Brandon Rispoli added three goals each. Lucas Proctor chipped in with two goals for the Bears, who now get set for a state semifinal showdown on Wednesday afternoon with Long Island champion Cold Spring Harbor at SUNY Albany. The winner of that game will play at Hofstra on Saturday morning for the state title.



Briarcliff head coach Al Meola has his Bears just two wins away from a state championship.



Senior Tim Isola helped lead the Bears’ suffocating defense in the easy wins last week over the champions from Sections 2 and 9.



Luca Meola and his Bear teammates hope to continue their dominant play in the postseason when they face Cold Spring Harbor in the state semifinals.



Alex Kirshenbaum keeps the ball moving for the high-powered Bears during the state playoffs.



# TRACK & FIELD

## 2022 State Qualifier Meet

Friday, June 3 • Arlington  
Saturday, June 4 • White Plains



Horace Greeley's Nicholas Wright rounds the turn en route to a fourth-place finish in the Division 1 200 race.



Briarcliff's Lillie Bianco races in the Division 2 800 race on Friday afternoon at Arlington High School.



Briarcliff sophomore Luke Dennis finished sixth in the Division 2 3200 run.



Fox Lane's Jack Travis clears a hurdle as he competes in the Division 1 pentathlon.



Fox Lane's Willie Cuono runs side by side with Carmel's Lauren O'Rourke in the 1500.



Valhalla junior sprinter Juliette Sullivan finished second in both the 100 and the 200.



Westlake sophomore Katie Vasta finished sixth in the 100 meter hurdles.



Greeley's Seamus Finn is on his way to third place in the Division 1 400 race.



Valhalla's Adonijah Powell sails over the bar as he competes in the Division 2 high jump.



Greeley senior Justin Ng clears the bar as he competes in the pole vault on Saturday afternoon at White Plains High School.



Valhalla's Jayden Tsoi finished fourth in the 110 meter hurdles at Arlington High School.



Sports



Briarcliff's Willie Hall tries to clear the bar in the high jump on Saturday afternoon.



Valhalla senior Tyler Drummond goes airborne in the Division 2 long jump.



Pleasantville's Ava Horigan took first place in the long jump, finishing over a foot better than her nearest competitor.



Byram Hills' Abigail Rondeau competes in the 800 on Friday afternoon.



Pleasantville's Lily Boes competes in the 100 meter hurdle preliminaries on Friday afternoon.



Valhalla's Chris Purchia finished second in the 400 on Saturday at White Plains High School.



Speedsters, left to right, Will McLay of Briarcliff, Chris Boston of Lourdes and Gabriel Franchi of Valhalla run stride for stride as they near the finish line in the Division 2 100 meter dash.



Pleasantville's Alex Searle runs to a second-place finish in the 3200 on Friday afternoon.



Fox Lane's Harry Griff (white shirt) and Noah Bender run together during the Division 1 3200 at Arlington late Friday afternoon.



Briarcliff junior Alex DiMartino clears a hurdle on his way to a third-place finish.



Pleasantville's Caleb Bronkema gets set to land on his way to finishing second in the long jump.



A full-page photograph of a female athlete, Ella Javorsky, running on a red track. She is wearing a dark blue singlet with "BYRAM HILLS" and "OBCA" printed on it, and black shorts. Her hair is dark and flowing, and she is wearing a headband. In the background, other runners are visible but out of focus. The entire image is framed by a thick blue border.

# ExaminerSports

## Finishing First

**Ella Javorsky of Byram Hills  
Takes the Title in the 1500  
at the State Qualifier Meet**