

Examiner Sports

2022
Pigskin
Preview

Run for the Roses!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Carmel, Somers, Pleasantville Take Aim at Repeats

Reigning NYS Class AA champion Carmel and senior RB Nick Rosaforte (33) hope to blaze a trail to an encore performance behind the blocks of mighty Owen Boland (60) and the strategies of Coach Todd Cayea (inset). Similarly, NYS Class A finalists Somers and NYS Class B runner-up Pleasantville are in it to win it all this fall... see Grid Previews

Sports



2022 GRID Preview Edition



Carmel, Pleasantville, Somers Set to Defend Section Titles

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

Section 1 football was all the rave in 2021 as three Examiner-area teams – Class AA Carmel, Class A Somers and Class B Pleasantville – packed the buses for Syracuse to play in the NYSPHSAA championships at the Carrier Dome, and all three have similar aspirations as we head into the 2022 campaign. All three clubs return first team All-NYS stardom, including Carmel RB/DB Nick Rosaforte, Somers OL/DL Jake Polito and Pleasantville RB/DB Daniel Picart, so the fans of these communities are chomping at the bit, as we are at the Examiner.

“We are all locked in and wired at Somers, getting ready to make another run at it,” the Navy-bound Polito said. “Energy has been through the roof during camp and preseason, especially as a senior knowing it’s my last shot at this ring. I am ready to go and looking forward to this season.”

The Road to Mahopac – home of the Section 1 championships (Nov. 11-12) – is the first stop along the map to places like Middletown (regionals) and Syracuse, home of the NYSPHSAA finals.

And the mindset at Carmel is right on target. “The team and I are very excited for the season, but the section title and even states are far in the future,” the 6’4” 240-pound Boland said. “Even though they are our ultimate goals, we are focusing more on the day-to-day operations. You know, the little things in practice and trying to get better every day.”

Similarly, Picart’s Panthers are ready to roll, and set to pay the necessary toll, and do whatever it takes. “I am looking forward to working hard with my brothers this year and finishing what we started last year,” Picart said.

Fantasy football, check! High school football, check! NCAA football, check! NFL football, check! You just can’t get enough football. Let’s hit the grid, shall we!



Carmel is, once again, poised for big doings in 2022.

CLASS AA

CARMEL RAMS

2021 record and result: 13-0, Sectional/Regional/NYS Champion

Coach: Todd Cayea, 29th overall (170-81-1)

Top Returning Players: Owen Boland Sr. OT/DE (All-Section); Nick Rosaforte Sr. RB/FS (All Section, Defensive Player of Game in NYS championship); Thomas Keating Sr. RB/SS; Matt Risley Jr. LB/RB; PJ McGrory Sr. TE/DE; Jake Storen Sr. CB/WR; Anthony Briante Sr. C/DT

Key Returners/Newcomers: Ryan Abel Jr. CB/WR; Michael Andricosky Sr. OG/DT; Chris Macina Sr. OT/DT; Liam Forester Jr. OG/DT; Damien Santiago Jr. WR/R; Jayden Robles Jr. OT/DT; Tristian Werlau Soph. RB/LB; Jeremey Smith Jr. LB/FB; Matt Gay Sr. QB; Shaun George Sr. TE/R; Chris Nerys Sr. WR/CB; Troy Weber Sr. WR/DB; Brandon Carty Sr. WR/DB

League Favorite: Arlington

Section Favorite: Arlington

Goals: To make a deep run in the playoffs

Coach’s Comments: We have a great group of student-athletes. We have a core of players back from the state championship team and we are going to rely on their leadership and experience. Captains Boland, Briante and Rosaforte are all three-year starters. We also have some really talented juniors that have to step up and get adjusted to the physicality and speed of the game. That will take time but the potential is solid. As always, it starts on the defensive side of the ball. We have to create a mindset to run and tackle, create turnovers and play great team defense. Offensively, we have three solid capable running backs in Werlau, Keating and Rosaforte. Gay will take over at QB and has some big targets in Santiago and Storen. Slots are up for grabs with Carty, Nerys, Abel and Weber in the mix. The OL features a mix of experience and youth with some pretty good size. Kicking game is a



All 6-5 and 250 pounds of Carmel senior OL Owen Boland (No.60) will lead the way for bullish senior RB Nick Rosaforte (33) in 2022.



Carmel junior RB-LB Matt Risley will take on a much larger role for defending NYS champion Rams in 2022.

Sports



Navy-bound Somers senior OL-DL Jake Polito is a man on a mission.



Speedy Somers senior RB Ravi Davis knows his way to the end zone better than most in Section 1.



Somers senior RB-LB Luke Kennedy will provide Tuskers with a two-way force and a strong presence in the huddle.

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work in progress. Still trying to sort through who will handle those chores.

Outlook: We'll know after Week 1 if the Rams are up for an encore performance as they open up against perennial Section 1 powerhouse New Rochelle, which may or may not rebound from a down season (by New Ro' standards) in 2021. The two powers that be will square off in Week 1, which should provide an indication of what to expect in 2022. Chances are pretty good the Rams have enough in the tank, despite massive losses to graduation, to remain among the Final 4 in AA. It won't be nearly as easy as it was last year (the Rams won each game by at least 24 points), but there's nothing telling us the Rams can't repeat as Section 1 champs in 2022 with a grinding Rosaforte chugging at fullback behind 'Big Bo' Boland while Risley and Keating provide more of the off-tackle attack. We fully expect to see the Rams, who swarmed on defense last year, to be playing on Saturday, Nov. 12 at Mahopac with the Class AA crown on the line.

WHITE PLAINS TIGERS

2021 Record & Playoff Result: 5-4, lost first round playoffs

Coach: Michael Lindberg, 7th season

Top Returning Players: Isiah Graham, Sr. WR/DB; Jacob Le, Sr. WR/DB; Jacob Oglesbee, Sr. OL/DL

Key Newcomers: Trey Fee, Sr. OL/DL, Nick Sexton, So. RB/LB

League Favorite: New Rochelle

Section Favorite: Arlington

Goals: Very young team just want to get better every week, playing our best football in October.

Outlook: After two big wins in the 2021 regular season against Fox Lane and John Jay EF, the Tigers were bounced out of the playoffs by a strong Arlington club. The Tigers lost a lot to graduation and are building for the future in 2022.

Social Media: @wptigersfb

CLASS A

SOMERS TUSKERS

2021 Record & Playoff Result: 12-1 NYSPHSAA runner-up

Coach: Anthony DeMatteo (2nd season)

Top Returning Players: Luke Kennedy, Sr. RB/DB; Jake Polito, Sr. OL/DL; Ravi Dass Jr., (All-Section) Sr. RB/DB; Luke Savino, Sr. RB/K/P; Matt Fitzsimons, Sr. QB; Ryan Cole, Jr. TE/OL/DL; Nick Crecco, Anthony Carino, Sr. OL/DL

Key Adds/Newcomers: Matt Klee, Jr. OL/DL; George Forbes, Sr. OL/DL; Stefan Swee, Sr. LB/FB; Mac Sullivan, Jr. QB; Tyler Ostrander, Sr. WR/DB; Miguel Inglesias, Nick Conti, Jr.; Peter McIntyre, Luca Ploger, Mike Aqualino, Sr. DB/RB; Andrew Violante, Jr. DB/RB; Adian Coolican, SO. WR/DB

League Favorite: yes

Section Favorite: yes

Goals: Section 1 Championship and beyond

Coach's Comments: We are very excited about the core group of guys we bring back as well as the young talent coming up that will be competing to play. A lot to be excited for in Tusker Nation.

Outlook: The proof is in the pudding. Somers is cream of the crop, the upper crust of Section 1 football. DeMatteo inherited a gold mine from his dad, legendary Coach Tony DeMatteo, and didn't skip a beat in 2021. We suspect 2022 will be much the same, as the Tuskers simply reload and shoot for the moon once again with a battle-tested coaching staff and a core of solid returnees. They were one two-point conversion away from winning their second NYS title since 2016 last year, and while Somers has lost a ton of talent to graduation, they are being touted as the favorites to win its fifth sectional title since 2012 and sixth title overall (Covid-shortened 2020 N.West/Putnam Crown). This is a well-coached, well-oiled juggernaut, make no mistake, and

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we'll be shocked if they're not playing on Nov. 12 at Mahopac in the Class A finals.

Twitter/Social Media

Twitter: @SomersFootball Instagram: @somersfootball_

YORKTOWN HUSKERS

2021 record & Playoff Result: 5-4 (did not qualify)

Coach: Pantelis Ypsilantis (3rd season)

Top Returning Players: Justin Meyreles QB/DB; Dion Brucaj OL/DL; Justin Price SE/DB; Chris Constantine RB/DB; Cristian Di Canio OL/LB; Thomas Costello SE/DB; Jack Ferone RB/DB

Key Adds/Newcomers: Dylan DelVecchio RB/LB; Ryan Cane SE/DE; Ronan Forde OL/DL; Conor Duncan RB/LB; Adrian Haxhij OL/DL

League Favorite: Rye

Section Favorite: Somers

Goals: Just Grind!

Coach's Comments: We need to continue to build our program and build off the success we have had the last two years despite a string of bad luck. We want to grind. We want to be difficult to play against and we want to make other teams and coaches uncomfortable. We want to continue to raise the level of play and those desired results come from hard work and dedication to our craft as players and coaches. We continue to strive for and chase excellence playing our brand of football.

Outlook: The QB, Meyreles, is a legit stud and the OT, Brucaj, is, when healthy, a legit D-I prospect with size and stature that translates to the next level. Remember the name Brucaj. He won't sneak up on anyone, that's for sure, but he does like pancakes. What remains to be seen, though, is whether or not the Huskers have the kind of depth that had them challenging for the state title back in 2017 in a 14-6 loss to West Seneca. It's unlikely they have the dogs to run with Rye for a league title, but given the current landscape in Class A there's no reason they



Yorktown senior QB Justin Meyreles will be key to Huskers' success in 2022.

can't push for a Final 4 berth.

Twitter/Social Media Acct: @YtownHuskers

MAHOPAC INDIANS

2021 Record & Playoff Result: 6-3, lost to Rye in OT of semis

Coach: Dominick A. DeMatteo (6th year at Mahopac)

Top Returning Players: Joey Koch (SR / Captain / RB / LB) 2021 All-Conference; Anthony Porco (SR / Captain / OL / DL); Liam Dodd (SR / Captain / OL / DL); Tommy Jacobellis (SR / Captain / OL / DL); John Kearney (JR / WR / DB)



Mahopac senior RB Joey Koch is going to tear up Class A grids this fall.

Key Newcomers: William Brann (SR / OL / DL); Liam Scanlon (JR / OL / DL); Ryan Ahler (SR / OL / DL); DJ DeMatteo (JR / QB / LB); Danny Koch (JR / QB / DB); Quentin Bally (JR / WR / DB); Joey Grassia (SR / WR / DB); Nolan Keenan (SR / WR / DB); Nate Mascoll (FR / WR / LB); Owen Ryan (JR / RB / LB)

League/Section Favorite: Somers

Goals: Attain the highest possible seed for the Section One Playoffs.

Coach's Comments: Last year we finished the season ranked #6 in the LoHud Top 10 Poll, #3 in the LoHud Class A Poll. We also finished #25 in the NYS Sportswriters

Association Poll for Class A - NYS. We won our first playoff game in eleven years and were undefeated at home (5-0). However, we also graduated 27 seniors, including 17 starters on offense, 11 starters on defense, as well as our kicker, punter and long snapper. This year we have a unique combination of core student-athletes in our senior and junior class that have bought into our program since day one as freshmen. They will serve as our leaders on and off the field this year. We also have a significant group of student-athletes that have returned to our program either from private schools and/or after taking a season off. Finally, we have four sophomores and one freshman who will all contribute in various roles with our varsity this year.

Outlook: The 2021 Indians pushed both state finalist Somers and state semifinalist Rye to the limit last year. HB Joey Koch is a strong, punishing runner, who doesn't have quite the breakaway speed of a Ravi Davis at Somers, but does have workhorse potential, the ability to shed tackles and a nose for the goal. He is an All-Section-type, two-way stud and should produce double-digit TDs this season, which will keep the Indians in more games than not. That said, with so much turnover within the lineup, Mahopac could be third in the pecking order in League A behind perennial powers Somers and John Jay CR. The turnover includes the QB position where juniors D.J. DeMatteo and Danny Koch were awaiting word on who would get the initial starting nod as the Indians prepare for a Week Zero game against visiting Goshen (Sect. 9). Coach D can't go wrong with either QB, but will find



Brewster junior two-way lineman Derek Karlsson is an emerging force for 2022 Bears.



Fox Lane Coach Drew Guliano's Foxes open this Friday against a solid Class B Byram Hills team before a tough Class A slate.

Sports



Lakeland senior captain Andrew Mendel is a punishing two-way player for the 2022 Hornets.



Pleasantville junior Daniel Picart - a hybrid WR-RB-DB - might be the most versatile player in Section 1 in 2022.



Pleasantville OLB senior Owen Mooney (L) should be a harrowing force for the 2022 Panthers.

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ways to utilize both irregardless. Can't think of many (if any) freshmen off the top of my head to make the varsity squad at Mahopac, so I'll be sure to keep eyes on Nate 'The Great' Mascoll, a 5'11" 165-pounder who can do a little bit of everything and then some #Stud.

Twitter/Social Media Acct: @MahopacFB

BREWSTER BEARS

2021 Record & Playoff Result: 5-4 (OT loss in quarterfinal to Pelham)

Coach: Ed Mulvihill (11th season)

Top Returning Players: Massimo Parrello - Sr. QB All-League; Luke Sanchez; Sr. WR/DB All-League; Joe Anfuso - Sr. LB/RB; Logan Simon - Sr OL/DL; Alex Rienzi - Sr. DB/WR; Derek Karlsson - Jr. DL/OL; Marco Accurso - Jr. DL/OL; AJ Pieragostini - Sr. DL/OL; Julius Walters - DB/WR; Kevin Perez - Jr. K

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WEEK 0 GRID SCHEDULE

Friday 9/2

Yorktown at John Jay (6 pm)

Byram Hills at Fox Lane (7 pm)

Ossining at Horace Greeley (7 pm)

Goshen at Mahopac (7pm)

Saturday 9/3

Haldane at Hen Hud (10 am)

Lakeland at Panas (1 pm)

Sports



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Pleasantville senior OL-DL Joseph Alesawy will present major problems for opposing trenches hoping to contain him in 2022.

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Key Adds/Newcomers: Colin LaMoreaux - Jr. LB/WR; Matt Thompson - Jr. DL/WR; Mohammed Barrie - Jr. LB/RB; Kevin Fox - Jr. DB/QB; Leo Thomas - Sr. LB/WR; Nick Howell - Jr. DB/WR; Ryan Brace - So. LB/RB

League Favorite: Rye

Section Favorite: Somers

Goals: Make a deep playoff run

Coach's Comments: With a lot of new faces in the fold, I believe it will take us some time to find our feet but we do have some talent throughout the roster and come playoff time we will be looking to make some noise. Depth is a concern as the younger players will need to "grow up" fast to help out and join the rotations for playing time. Our offense will have a different look as we move from a three-year pocket passer to a 1st year mobile QB and a more run oriented scheme. It will take us some time to master the nuances of the offense but the team has been working hard during the summer workouts and the coaching staff is optimistic. Defensively, we should be more active with a faster, more athletic defense and some good strength up front.

Outlook: Brewster was inches away from a first-round playoff win last year, and if Parrello and Sanchez can make a connection that would open things up for the run game, which will be key to the Bears success. The league is formidable with Rye and Clarkstown South serving as perennial Section 1 powers, but when Brewster is Brewster the Bears, oftentimes, fill the den and provide the community with a great version of Friday Night Lights. It'll be a different look this year with Parrello, who filled in admirably at times last year, under center, but the O-line looks solid with Simon, Morelli, Mejia, Cosentino, Peirogastini and

Karlsson in the trenches.

LAKELAND HORNETS

2021 record & Playoff Result: (2-6)

Coach: Ryan Shilling (1st season as HC/ 6th season coaching at LHS)

Top Returning Players: Captain - Andrew Mendel, Sr. (DE, OL); Captain - Stephen Carroll, Sr. (LB, FB); Captain - Ian Wisker, Sr. (OL, DT) - started as a sophomore,

injured last year; Robert Nugent, Sr. (LB/TE); Vincent Scaglione, Sr. (TB, S)

Key Adds/Newcomers: Captain - Michael Lendener, Sr. (RB, LB) - Injured last year - did not play; Captain - Anthony Jennings, Sr. (WR, FS) - Medically out last year - did not play; Sean Perry, Jr. (WR) - Last game call up - 100 yards, 1TD against Nyack; Grady Leonard (QB) - JV last year

League Favorite: Rye, Clarkstown South

Section Favorite: Somers

Goals: Our goal as a program is to make the playoffs and compete for a league title.

Coach's Comments: Every week in Class A is a challenge. We open at our district rival, Walter Panas, who has one of the top players in the section playing quarterback. We then have a very tough seven-game league schedule. But, as a program, I believe we are excited to compete. We are ready for the challenge because of the work that we put in during the off-season. We don't have a ton of varsity experience, but we do have a lot of players, and coaches, that have a lot to prove.

Outlook: Staying healthy has been an issue at Lakeland the last few years, but should they do so, the Hornets can take a positive step in Coach Shilling's first year. Mendel is a monster on both sides of the ball and should provide the on-field leadership that could see the Hornets double their win production from a year ago: 3-4 or 4-3 and a playoff win should be the goal.

Twitter/Social Media Acct: Twitter: @LakehornetsFB & @CoachRShilling / Instagram: lakelandhornetsfb

FOX LANE FOXES

2021 Record & Playoff Result: Class AA 5-4, first round loss to Carmel

Coach: Andrew Giuliano (2nd season)

Top Returning Players: James Minotti, Jr. H/LB (All League), does everything right, works hard in everything; Brian Bailey, Jr. OL/DL (All League), he'll be a force at DE; Roan Guyder, Sr. OL/DL, force on the line on both sides; Charlie Hoyt, Sr. FB/LB, showed some promise late in the season and vs. Carmel, expecting big things; Max Guyder, Sr. RB/S (All League), big play potential and good balance and vision in the backfield

Key Adds/Newcomers: Declan Connors, So. RB/S, fast, great lacrosse player, will play a big role; Max Travis, Jr. QB/DB, an athlete; Logan Mammola, So. WR/DB, 3-sport athlete, can be a game changer. Another big role guy. He'll be all over the field, including many specials; Cameron Bahari, So. TE/LB, workhorse player, does everything you ask of him and more

League Favorite: Rye

Section Favorite: Somers

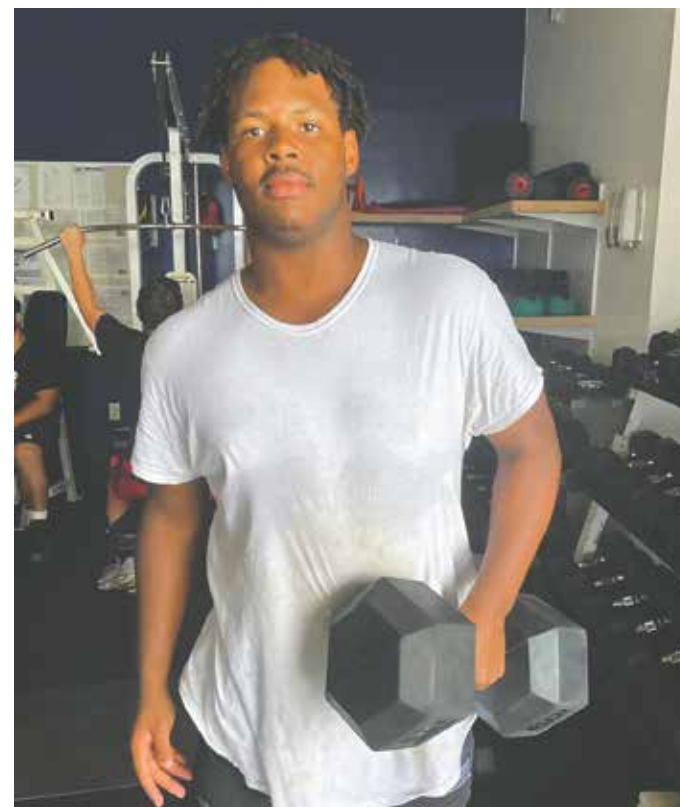
Goals: Playoffs. Winning season. Get our young kids playing confident.

Coach's Comments: We are a young team. Both age-wise and experience-wise. Despite our youth, we are more well rounded top to bottom than we have been, and more athletic. Our depth is strong and young guys are poised and ready for action. We have been making changes left and right to build a new culture and in my second year at the helm we are starting to see some of the off-season expectations showing in the program. We have made some huge additions to our

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Lean and mean Hen Hud OL's Connor Harbolic (5-11 225) and Doug Travis (6-5, 275) have put the work in to anchor a stout O-Line.



At 5-10 and 215 pounds Hen Hud senior RB-LB Chris Parkes will do some downhill sledding for the Sailors.

Sports



Valhalla's Basaika Butcher and Devan Cooper combined to score 27 TDs last year and expect more in 2022.



Haldane sophomore QB Ryan Van Tassel hopes to get the better of Tuckahoe in his second season under center.



Byram Hills senior RB Gavin Javorsky will serve as a huge weapon for the 2022 Bobcats.



Haldane sophomore RB Evan Giachinta will carry the load for the 2022 Class D Blue Devils.

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staff that are going to immediately improve our team and gameplan tremendously. Overall the program is in a good state and we only plan to keep building to be relevant in Section 1 whether in A or AA.

Outlook: Class A is absolutely loaded and the Foxes have bounced around between Class A and AA the last handful of seasons, but they were tested by Carmel – the best team in NYS last season – and should be ready for the rigors of Class A this season. The Foxes might be a year or two away from serious contention, but they are on the come.

Twitter/Social Media Acct: Twitter @FoxLaneFB; IG @foxlane_football

CLASS B

PLEASANTVILLE PANTHERS

2021 Record, Playoff Result: 12-1, Section 1 champs, NYS regional champs, NYS finalists

Coach: Tony Becerra (19th season)

Top Returning Players: Daniel Picart, Jr, WR/DB (All-Section, Class B Player of the Year); Ryan Horigan, Jr, RB/LB (All-League); Cooper Kittsley, Sr, OL/DL (All-League); Owen Mooney, Sr, TE/OLB (All-League); Joe Reich, Sr, OL/DL (All-League); Joe Alesawy, Sr, OL/DL (All-League)

Key Adds/Newcomers: Erik Coleman, Jr, WR/DB; Thomas Cahill, Sr, C/DL; Michael Hundzyski, Jr, WR/DB; Emmet McDermott, Jr, WR/DB; Aidan Picart, Jr, QB/DB; Stepinac transfer Chad Saragganonda, Sr, OL/DL

League/Section Favorite: Hen Hud

Goals: Try to build the same team cohesion we had last year. Staying healthy and trying to find depth at key positions is always a goal.

Coach's Comments: We have over 45 kids on our varsity roster, so we have quantity, we just need to find quality in those numbers. Since there's just one league in Class B with eight teams it's important we stay healthy and hit our stride come postseason. Class B is extremely competitive and anyone can come out on top.

Outlook: Daniel Picart was uncontainable as a sophomore, totaling 2,404 all-purpose yards while scoring 22 touchdowns and Horigan is a future beast. Like last year when the Panthers won seven games by 10 or fewer points, they should find themselves in several close contests this season where Picart will once again flourish, establishing a legacy on par with the very best in P'ville history. Picart will be his brother's top target behind a stout O-line, including Reich, Cahill, Kittsley, Mooney and Alesawy. Getting the No.1 seed will be pivotal for the postseason as nobody wants to draw Hen Hud, Byram or a Naunet in the semis, including the Panthers, who have an astounding 45 players on a Class B varsity roster, who we see winning the Panthers' fifth sectional crown since 2013 and 11th since 1973.

Social Media: twitter @pville_football, IG @pvillefb

BYRAM HILLS BOBCATS

2021 record & Playoff Result: 5-4, lost in sectional semis to Nanuet

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Sports

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Coach: Simon Berk (2nd season)
Top Returning Players & postseason accolades (All-Section, etc.):
George Gjellaj - Sr. OL/DE, 6'5" 235 (All-NYS); Gavin Javorsky - Sr. RB/DB, 5'11" 185 (All Conference); Sean Siegel - Sr. WR/LB 6'3" 185 (All League); Jack Quinn - Jr. OL/LB 5'10 195 (All League)
Key Adds/Newcomers: Rick Rosenthal - Sr. OL/LB 5'9" 190; Luke Weiler - Jr. RB/DB/K 5'9" 170; Dylan Benz - Sr. TE/DE 6'0" 195; Ben Leshner - Sr. TE/LB 6'0" 195
League/Section Favorite: Pleasantville
Goals: Win the section.
Coach's Comments: The 2021 season ended bitterly in the final moments of the semifinals. The Bobcats are coming into the season more experienced and hungry for success. We start with a challenging litmus test in Week 0 vs. Fox Lane and Class B is packed with highly competitive teams.
Outlook: The Bobcats are in it to win it, but the main obstacle is just south of them in Pleasantville. There's good reason to believe that Byram Hills can be a forceful challenger, along with Hen Hud for a Final 4 berth and a good shot to reach the finals after falling in last year's semis. With a year under his belt now, second-year Coach Berk is more familiar with his players and vice versa, as 11 starters in all return, including Gjellaj, the 2021 Class B Defensive Linemen of the Year.
Twitter/Social Media: @ByramFB

CLASS C

VALHALLA VIKINGS

2021 Record & Playoff Result: 6-4, eliminated by Dobbs Ferry in finals
Coach: Art Troilo Jr., 3rd year Valhalla
Top Returning Players: Sr. WR Basiaka Butcher; Sr. WR Devan Cooper
Outlook: Coach Troilo Jr.'s Vikings graduated four-year starting QB Michael Dawson, but he has to figure out a way to get the ball to wideouts Butcher and Cooper, who combined to score 27 touchdowns a year ago in one of Class C's most explosive offenses. But everyone in Class C will have to figure out a way to stop Dobbs Ferry RB Brian Dann.

WESTLAKE WILDCATS

2021 Record & Playoff Result:
Coach: John Castellano, 7th season at Westlake
Top Returning Players: Sr. RB/OLB Christian Knapp; Jr. RB/DB Stephen DiNapoli; Soph. FB/DB Jake Zaino; Sr. RB/DB Christian Occhipinti; QB Michael Pagan, Jr.
Outlook: Before a down 2021 season, the program had grown to new heights under Coach C, winning a sectional title, reaching four sectional finals and getting to the semifinals twice in his first six years. After a down year in 2021 and a subpar defensive effort, Westlake returns a ton of varsity experience, which has plenty of experience and drops down to Class C where they are an immediate issue with four starters at offensive line and tight end return, and seven other defenders started last year. If rookie QB Pagan, can figure things out quickly, and the incoming transfers are what we think they are, Westlake could challenge

Dobbs Ferry and/or Valhalla for a title berth.

PUTNAM VALLEY

2021 record & Playoff Result: 0-7 (no playoffs)
Coach: Ryan Elsasser
Top Returners: Alexander Gacaj OL/DL - Alex has been an anchor to both sides of the line for us since he was a freshman. Each year he continues to get better and better. It is amazing to watch him grow as an athlete. We are trusting him to control both sides of the line and be a big time playmaker for us; Hudson Sperrazza OL/LB - Hudson has also been an anchor for us since his freshman year. His athleticism can be seen through his ability to be a standout center as well as a quick athlete linebacker. His play in the middle of the defense will be an important part of our success this season; Marcos Olivera WR/DB - Marcos will be filling a big role for us out wide on the offensive side of the ball as well as controlling our defense over the top. He is a true student of the game who holds himself at a high standard. He has shown us a great deal of leadership qualities and should be a great role model for his teammates this year.
Key Newcomers: Thomas Cunningham QB - Cunningham has been an interesting story for Putnam Valley thus far. He started out as a varsity backup as a freshman due to there being no JV team. He learned a lot during that time and took that role on without complaint. As a sophomore, Cunningham was a hybrid type quarterback working with both the Varsity and JV. Once again he took this complex situation in stride; Ricky Mesiter HB - Ricky Meister was a standout running back for us at the junior varsity level. He has quick feet and can make a defender miss in traffic. Between his athleticism and his muscular build, we are excited to see him getting a significant amount of snaps this year. Between him and returning RBs Albert McDonald and Michael Leone we should have a solid rotation in the backfield; Caden Glenn SL/LB - Caden Glenn had a fantastic year as a freshman on JV. It was hard to keep him down and let him grow but boy did it pay off. He is a confident player with the physical stature to defend that confidence.
League Favorite: Being new to Class C I have only seen most of our league on film, but knowing the Westlake program I can see them battling for the league coming down to Class C with us. That will be a big game for us this year.
Section Favorite: Dobbs Ferry looks pretty crisp on film and seems to be the team to beat in Class C.
Goals: We are excited to be in Class C and competing against the teams in this class again. Our focus is week to week this year. We would like to finish the season above .500 and be competing in every game in the fourth quarter.
Coach's Comments: Both myself and my coaches are excited for the group that we have this year. We have had many of these kids on varsity since their freshman year and have watched them grow and develop. This is the culmination of all of their work the last few years as a young team. We have some new athletes coming out for the team this year that have the potential to greatly impact our play. We have been able to fill some of the gaps that have been missing in the past few seasons. This is a great group

SECTION 1 LEAGUE BREAKDOWNS

**CLASS AA
League A**
Arlington
Carmel
Mt. Vernon
No. Rockland
RCK
Suffern
Yonkers Force

**CLASS A
League A**
Clarkstown No.
Eastchester
John Jay CR
Mahopac
Pelham
Sleepy Hollow
Somers

**CLASS B
League A**
Ardsley
Briarcliff/Hamilton
Bronxville
Byram Hills
Hen Hud
Nanuet
Pearl River
Pleasantville

**CLASS C/D
League A**
Blind Brook
Dobbs Ferry
Irvington
Rye Neck
Tuckahoe
Woodlands

**CLASS C/D
League B**
Albertus Magnus
Croton-Harmon
Haldane
Putnam Valley
Valhalla
Westlake

**CLASS AA
League B**
John Jay EF
Mamaroneck
New Rochelle
Ossining
Scarsdale
White Plains
Yonkers Brave

**CLASS A
League B**
Brewster
Clarkstown So.
Fox Lane
Harrison
Lakeland
Nyack
Rye
Yorktown

of student athletes that appear to mesh very well together. In that, we will need to get this group caught up to speed as soon as we can and move as one unit by Week 1. There is a lot of talent in Class C and we plan to see a lot of competition every week. We will have a good look at what we can do during our Week 0 contest against a very good Pearl River.
Outlook: It's been a few years since the Darnel Shillingford/John Listwan-led Tigers reached the Class B finals for the first time in program history, and it'll be a struggle to get anywhere near that plateau again in 2022. Rumor has it the Tigers were more than competitive against Haldane and Croton in a recent three-way, so, perhaps, they can challenge for third place in the league, but even that will be a struggle, given what they are up against.
CLASS D
HALDANE
2021 record & Playoff Result: 6-4 Lost in Regional Final
Coach: Ryan McConville (9th Year)
Top Returning Players: Evan Giachinta, So. RB/LB (All-Conf.); Ryan Van Tassel So. QB (All-League); Thomas Tucker, Jr.; Jake Mason Jr. (All-League); Dylan Tucker,

So. (All-League); Jack Hartman, So. (All-League)
Key Adds/Newcomers: Dylan Horan WR/DB, Brody Corless RB/FS, Anatoliy Aholv OL/DL, Jake Thomas WR/LB
League Favorite: Westlake
Section Favorite: Tuckahoe (reigning champs)
Goals: Compete and win a sectional championship.
Coach's Comments: We graduated some core players and big time playmakers, but we feel we have some guys who are ready to step up and make their own name. Offensively, led by Van Tassel and Giachinta, we will look to the OL led by Jake Mason to create some running lanes and give Van Tassel some time to throw. The defensive line will be anchored by Dylan Rucker and Jack Hartman who had plenty of snaps as sophomores, looking to take big steps forward. The defensive backs have some guys who are ready to step in with Mike Murraray and Thomas Tucker looking to shut down opposing passing games.
Outlook: Giachinta and Van Tassel are a year better than they were in 2021 when they were quite impressive in the sectional title loss to Tuckahoe. The Blue Devils will be battle-tested in the end having gone against Westlake and Valhalla, but it's all about beating Tuckahoe when it comes to reppin'

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Sports

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at states and the Tigers have had the Blue Devils' number in recent seasons. Still, Haldane continues to produce a solid, competitive program, despite being one of the smallest schools in Section 1.

Twitter/Social Media Acct: @CoachMcConville

HUDSON VALLEY INDEPENDENT LEAGUE

HORACE GREELEY

2021 7-1, league champs

Coach: Joe Kearns, 5th season

Top Returning Players: Kyle McKenny (RB) Owen Schoonmaker (OL/DL) Erik Forester (LB) CJ Hessert (Slot) Carter Meehan (WR/DB)

Key Adds/Newcomers: Julian Asch QB Jameson Blakeslee (WR) Chris Butler (OL) Beckett Bloomgarten (OL)

League Favorite: Spring Valley

Section Favorite: Somers

Goals: To win the League

Coach's Comments: If we are the hardest working team in the league we can win it. That has to be our goal. Be the hammer, not the nail.

Twitter/Social Media Acct: @greeleyfootball

WALTER PANAS

2021 record & Playoff Result: 1-8

Coach: Bill Castro (3rd season)

Top Returning Players & postseason accolades (All Section, etc.): Travis Carlucci (Jr) QB/DB (All-League), Paul Ronga (Sr) ATH/DB (All-League), TJ Surace (Sr) OL/DL, Cooper Schmidt (Sr) OL/LB, Chris Romano (Sr) OL/DL, Brandon DiGregorio WR/ DB

Key Adds/Newcomers: Randy Wiesner (JR) TE/LB (transfer back from Stepinac), Jed Chisolm (JR) WR/DB (Missed last season due to injury)

League Favorite: Horace Greeley

Goals: Win the HVFL

Coach's Comments: I am very excited for this group. Although our Senior class is smaller with eight it is a very strong group. We had a productive summer and competed well in our 7v7s and team camps we attended. We have two game breakers in Travis Carlucci and Paul Ronga who are set to have huge years in all three phases of the game. The addition of former Coach Anthony Fata to our staff as offensive coordinator was a huge pick up for us and our players have loved working with him.

Outlook: In Carlucci, Panas might have the best QB in the independent league, and it's entirely possible they don't belong there, so expect a big season and a push for the Independence Day title and a return to Class A in the near future.

Twitter/Social Media Acct: Twitter: Coach_Castro; Instagram walter_panas_football

PEEKSKILL

2021 record & Playoff Result: 0-5

Coach: Demetric Gardner (1st season)

Top Returning Players: Naseer Johnson, Zaiden Smith, Andre Gonzales, Amir Thames, D'Perrion Cobblah, Jaden Chavis, Xavier Jacobs

Key Adds/Newcomers: Lex Pacururo, Daruis Smythe, Nathan Velez

Goals: Compete for League Title

Coach's Comments: Compete in every game... on every play!

Twitter/Social Media Acct: Instagram Handle: devilsnation_fb

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Sports

Field Hockey Preview

Lakeland Still Team to Beat in Class B, Carmel Strong in Class A

By Tony Pinciario

LAKELAND had its annual dominant success last year, winning the Section 1 Class B field hockey title for the 13th consecutive year.

However, the Hornets experienced something they have not done since 1999 – a loss in a regional game. Section 9 champion Rondout Valley upset Lakeland, 1-0, in double overtime. This snapped Lakeland's state-final-four run at 11 consecutive years. (There was no fall state championship in 2020 because of the pandemic.)

"We were definitely unsatisfied with how we ended last season, but we knew if we put in the work it will show this year," said senior All-NYS captain G Celeste Pagliaroli.

Lakeland begins each field hockey season aiming to add another sectional and state championship to its tradition-rich program. The Hornets will have additional motivation this year to show that the premature conclusion to its 2021 season was an aberration.

The preparation began once the 2021 season concluded. And, it was evident from day one of preseason.

"During the offseason, after losing a lot of seniors, we knew we needed to put in the work, which we did," said Pagliaroli, who will attend Long Island University next year and also play field hockey. "Most of us went to clinics and camps and we played summer league three times a week.

"I sense that we come to practice to work



Lakeland junior Emily Yazzetti will take on a significant role for the 2022 Hornets.

hard every single day. We are determined to show everyone what we can accomplish this season."

Pagliaroli (All-Section last year, allowed only eight goals in 20 games, 90.5 save percentage) and classmate Alyssa Petrilli (forward/midfield) headline the returning core for legendary Coach Sharon Sarsen. In her 41st year, Sarsen sports a career record



Lakeland senior G Celeste Pagliaroli is about as good as it gets between the Section 1 pipes.

of 689-75-42, following a 17-1-2 mark in '21.

The junior trio, who were All-League selections last year, of Bella Basulto (defense, captain), Emily Yazzetti (forward,

nine goals, 10 assists last year, captain) and Emma Numme (midfield/defense, captain) return as do sophomores Gabby Santini (midfield, All-League, 11 goals, four assists last year) and Keira Gallagher (midfield).

Sarsen cited sophomores Emily Daniel (midfield) and Anna Lemma (defense) as two newcomers who can step into the lineup.

"Our players are committed to the process and program," Sarsen said.

It would be natural for opponents to underestimate Lakeland this year based on its 2021 finish and the graduation of nine seniors. If opponents do so, it will be a mistake.

"If teams want to view us differently from our outcome from last season, they could do so," Pagliaroli said. "We will just have to show everyone how hard we worked for this upcoming season to accomplish everything we want to."

Lakeland opens the season, today, against Putnam Valley.

CARMEL RAMS

Coach: Aislinn Breslin (10th year)

2021 record and sectional results: 10-5, 1st in Section 1 A semifinal to Scarsdale, 2-0.

No. of seniors who graduated in June: Five.

League: Mahopac, John Jay-East Fishkill, Arlington, R.C. Ketcham.

Top returnees: Laila Rosenquest, Sr., F (All-League, All-Section, All-Elite and All-State); Brynn Connolly, Sr., D (All League); Olivia Trupia, Sr., D; McKenzie Hayes, Sr., G; Abby Glassman, Sr., F; Ashley McGough, Jr., F (All-League Honorable Mention); Kelsey Blair, Jr., MF; Aubrey



Lakeland sophomore Gabriella Santini is an up-and-coming force in Section 1.



Carmel's Laila Rosenquest and Mahopac's Marie Camastro are two of the top two-way players in Section 1 this season.

Sports

Field Hockey Preview

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Dall, Jr., F/MF

Key newcomers: Claire Missoum, Sr.; Fiona Donelan, Jr.; Maev Donelan, Jr.; Sasha Zory, Jr.; Ella Kucuk, Jr.; Leah Storminger, Jr.; Taylor Lotz, So.; Liana Miele, So.; Addison Rosenquest, Fr.

Top scoring threat: Laila Rosenquest.

Lockdown defenders: Brynn Connolly, Olivia Trupia.

Strengths: Our strengths continue to be our speed. We have several very fast, skilled girls that are very good at moving the ball. Also our defense has great communication skills and field vision.

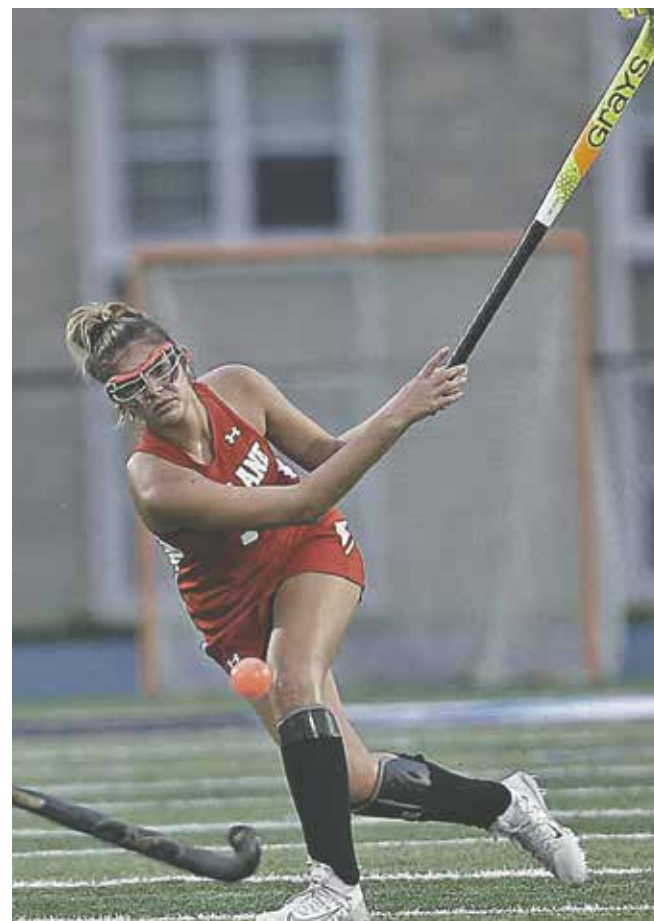
Goals: During the 2020 season we were runner up for Putnam and Westchester Large School and in 2021 we were sectional semifinalists. This year it is a goal of the team to make it the same distance or further than last year.

Coach's comment/outlook: I am very excited to be working with this group of girls. They have been working incredibly hard during the offseason and are ready to see what we can accomplish. We have a great mix of veterans and newcomers which is going to make this season very fun.

Noteworthy: Carmel will play 2021 Section 1 Class B runner-up John Jay-Cross River to begin 2021. ... Carmel began this century by winning the Section 1 Class A title and playing for a state title for then coach Collette Brenneman.



Mahopac senior Maya O'Keefe is poised for major role this fall.



Fox Lane's Zoe Stonecipher is a big part of the Foxes' superb sophomore class. Check out future editions for more Fox Lane field hockey coverage.

HEN HUD SAILORS

Coach: Alyssa Picariello (first year)

2021 record and sectional result: 9-5, beat Nanuet, 2-0, in the first round then lost to Lakeland in the second round.

No. of seniors who graduated in June: Four

League: Hen Hud, Brewster, Yorktown.

Top returnees: Rowan Dapson, MF;

Emily Hunt, G; Paige Johansen, F; Ally McManus, D; Caitlin Pignataro, D.

Key newcomers: Gianna Gagliardi, Madison Little, Eva Facciolo, Carligh Ortiz, 8th-grader.

Top scoring threats: Rowan Dapson, Paige Johansen.

Lockdown defenders: Ally McManus, Caitlin Pignataro.

Strengths: We have a strong offense and determination, with a great push from captain Rowan Dapson.

Goals: To continue the success of last season, with the drive and determination to go a step further.

Coach's comment/outlook: We lost a core group of seniors, but our team right now is young, strong and determined. We are working hard in preseason to come together and find our groove. It's amazing to see how far the girls have come in just one week of practice.

Noteworthy: Picariello played for Hen Hud (goalie) and has been coaching in the program for seven years. ... Hen Hud opens the season against Sleepy Hollow.

MAHOPAC INDIANS

Coach: Dona DiMaggio (27 years)

No. of seniors who graduated in June: Six.

League: Mahopac, Carmel, John Jay-East Fishkill, Arlington, and R.C. Ketcham.

Top returnees: Marie Camastro, Sr., MF; Maddie Orsini, Sr., G; Maya O'Keefe, Sr.; Emma Rooney, Sr.; Katrina Levitz, Sr.; Riley Massett, Sr.; Toni DiCioccio, Sr.; Kistina Rush, Sr.; Nola Roberts, Sr.; Grace Witt, Sr.; Giuliana Bartholdi, Sr.; Shaylah Fennessey, Sr.; Hannah Harney, Sr.

Key newcomers: Caroline Maloney, Erin Harney, Camila Vallejo, Dani Albanese,

Bella Cornacchio, and Maria Cuomo.

Top scoring threat: Marie Camastro.

Lockdown defender: Maddie Orsini.

Strengths: Team chemistry and comradery. The girls are passionate, dedicated and driven toward success!

Goals: To set up more scoring opportunities than last year and score more goals.

Coach's comment/outlook: It is a new year. We are finally getting back into the full swing of things after COVID restrictions. We are hoping to be competitive both academically and athletically. I want my girls to be happy, healthy, and striving to be the best student-athletes that they can be!

Noteworthy: Mahopac will travel to Ossining, 9/10, for its season-opener. ... DiMaggio coached Mahopac to the 2001 New York State Class A title.

PANAS PANTHERS

Coach: Leah DiSisto (second year)

2021 record and sectional result: 2-14.

No. of seniors who graduated in June: Two.

League: II-B.

Top returnees: Makenzie Schmidt, Sr., MF; Julie Fatato, Sr., D; Olivia Weinbaum, Sr., MF; Kate Astrab, Jr., G.

Top scoring threats: MaKenzie Schmidt, Olivia Weinbaum.

Lockdown defender: Julie Fatato.

Strengths: We have a good core of returning players after graduating only two seniors. The girls have been working hard all summer to come together and become more fluid with their play. We have a strong defensive unit, including returning junior captain, goalie, Kate Astrab. We also have great enthusiasm and team spirit.

Goals: To make every game a competitive one. We want to rise up to the challenge of more established teams. We want to finish when we get the ball in the circle.

Coach's comment/outlook: The Walter Panas coaching staff is looking forward to seeing the result of a hard working summer for our team. Players showed up big for summer league, attended camps, and got together to improve their play. A majority of returning players should make for a competitive season of field hockey.

Noteworthy: DiSisto will be assisted by former Lakeland teammate Cassie (O'Mara) Lian. The two played on the 2006 Lakeland Class A State Championship team. Rebecca DiSisto (Leslie), Leah's older sister, was a starter on defense on the '06 state-title team. Marissa DiSisto, Leah's younger sister, will also be assisting. ... Panas opens 2021 against Harrison.

PUTNAM VALLEY TIGERS

Coach: Tracy Parchen (ninth year, 2001-06, 2020-present)

2021 record and sectional result: 7-7-4, won their first-round game, in double overtime, over Rye Neck, but lost to eventual Class C champion North Salem in the next round.

No. of seniors who graduated in June: 11.

Top returnees: Ava Harman, Jr., CF (All-Section Honorable Mention, All-League, 12 goals, 3 assists last year); Isabella Cerrato, Jr.; Sierra Gabriel, Jr.; Adrienne Jenness, Jr.

Key newcomers: Julia Toth, So.; Maggie Caputo, Fr.

Top scoring threat: Ava Hartman.

Coach's comments/outlook: We are back to being a younger team with only
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Fox Lane hotshot Samantha Reder is poised for big sophomore season after young Foxes finished 7-8-2 last year.

Sports

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two seniors. They are a great group of girls that are very coachable. The team has been working really hard and they are all looking to get better and better every practice. That is all I can ask for as a coach.

Noteworthy: Putnam Valley begins 2021 with Lakeland. The Tigers were the last team to beat Lakeland in a Section 1 Class B title game (2008)... Parchen guided Putnam Valley to the 2005 Section 1 Class B state title. During that postseason, the Tigers and goalie Kim Kastuk did not allow a goal... Kastuk teaches and coaches field hockey at The Kinkaid School (Houston, Tx)... Putnam Valley graduate Kayte Kinsley is the head field hockey coach at Pace University.

SOMERS TUSKERS

Coach: Amy Magaletti (fourth year)

No. of seniors who graduated in June: Six.

League: II-B.

Top returnees: Teagan Ryan, Sr., F (All-League Honorable Mention); Lauren McCartin, Sr., MF (All-League), Emily Esposito, Sr., D (All-Section Honorable Mention, All-League); Lyla Mancini, So., F/MF; Caitlin Janecka, Jr., F.

Key newcomers: Gianna Guaragna, So., MF; Jessica Bowden, Fr., MF.

Top scoring threats: Teagan Ryan, Lauren McCartin.

Lockdown defender: Emily Esposito.

Coach's comment/outlook: We are excited to see the girls develop and come



Horace Greeley junior Abigail Dolan will be counted on as a primary scoring threat after Quakers finished 8-7-3 and advanced to Class B semis.

together as a strong team.

Noteworthy: Somers will play Fox Lane, 9/1, in its season-opener.

YORKTOWN CORNHUSKERS

Coach: Courtney Hyndman (third year)

2021 record and sectional result:

5-8-4. Lost in the first round of the Class B Sectionals to Pearl River.

No. of seniors who graduated in June: Two.

League: Hen Hud, Panas, JJCR, Somers, Brewster

Top returnees: Kaitlin Regan, Sr., MF (All-Section Honorable Mention, All-League); Gianna Altamari, Sr., MF; Maeve Ryan, Sr., G; Adrianna Albano, Sr., D (All-League); Georgia Christensen, Sr., D; Katie Taormina, Jr. D; Brienna Gaccino, So., F; Dana DeCoursey, So., MF.

Key newcomers: Ellie Glicksman, Jr., F; Olivia Flaim, So., MF; Katie Keaveney, So., MF.

Top scoring threats: Kaitlin Regan, Gianna Altamari.

Lockdown defender: Adrianna Albano.

Strengths: We have great leadership this year and will have five leaders with various roles this season. Maeve Ryan is our anchor in goal and has been working hard in the offseason to prepare for her senior season. We know that she will lead the defense and be vocal in the cage. Our midfielders have strength with leadership from Kaitlin Regan, who we will look to in the transition.

Goals: We want to always be better than we were and never get complacent. We are striving to compete with the high-level teams.

Coach's comment/outlook on the season: Coach (Jessica) Esteves and I are excited for the upcoming season. Since we are returning the majority of players we feel we have good cohesion right now.

Field Hockey Preview

While there are always aspects we can work on and new roles to fill, we feel confident in the team we have. Our numbers were great this year with almost 50 girls trying out, which has allowed us to have some depth on each team.

Noteworthy: Yorktown is at Byram Hills, 9/6, to open the season. Assistant coach Jessica Esteves played on a sectional-winning team for legendary coach Rosemary Sotherden at Pleasantville.

PLEASANTVILLE

2021 Record & Playoff Result: 8-6-3 & Semifinal loss to North Salem

Coach: Kristen M. Coffey

League & League Favorite: Conference III, League C

Top Returning Players: Natalie O'Malley (12th), Elizabeth Hoadley (12th), Hailey Praslick (12th), Cynthia O'Brien (12th), Mackenzie Ennis (11th)

Key Newcomers: Abbey Gordon (10th), Lily Boes (10th)

Top Scoring Threats: O'Malley

Lockdown Defenders: Praslick, Lily Anderman (11th), Ennis

Goals: Our goal is to go out every day, practice or game, and give 110% for each other.

BRIARCLIFF

2021 Record & Playoff Result: Briarcliff lost to John Jay in first round of sectionals and Sleepy lost to Rye in the second round of sectionals, Briarcliff's record was 1-10-1

Goals: One of our biggest goals for the season is focusing on getting better everyday. We are striving to challenge ourselves during practices and games so that we can be the best version of ourselves.

Coach's Comments: We are thankful for Sleepy Hollow for merging and we are really looking forward to being a cohesive unit that competes. Every practice we focus on the little things and what we can control. This team is made up of strong and positive student athletes and we are excited to see what the season has in store for us.



Pleasantville's Mackenzie Ennis will have a big role this season.



Valhalla senior Ava De Natale has put in the work this off-season to thrive this fall.



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