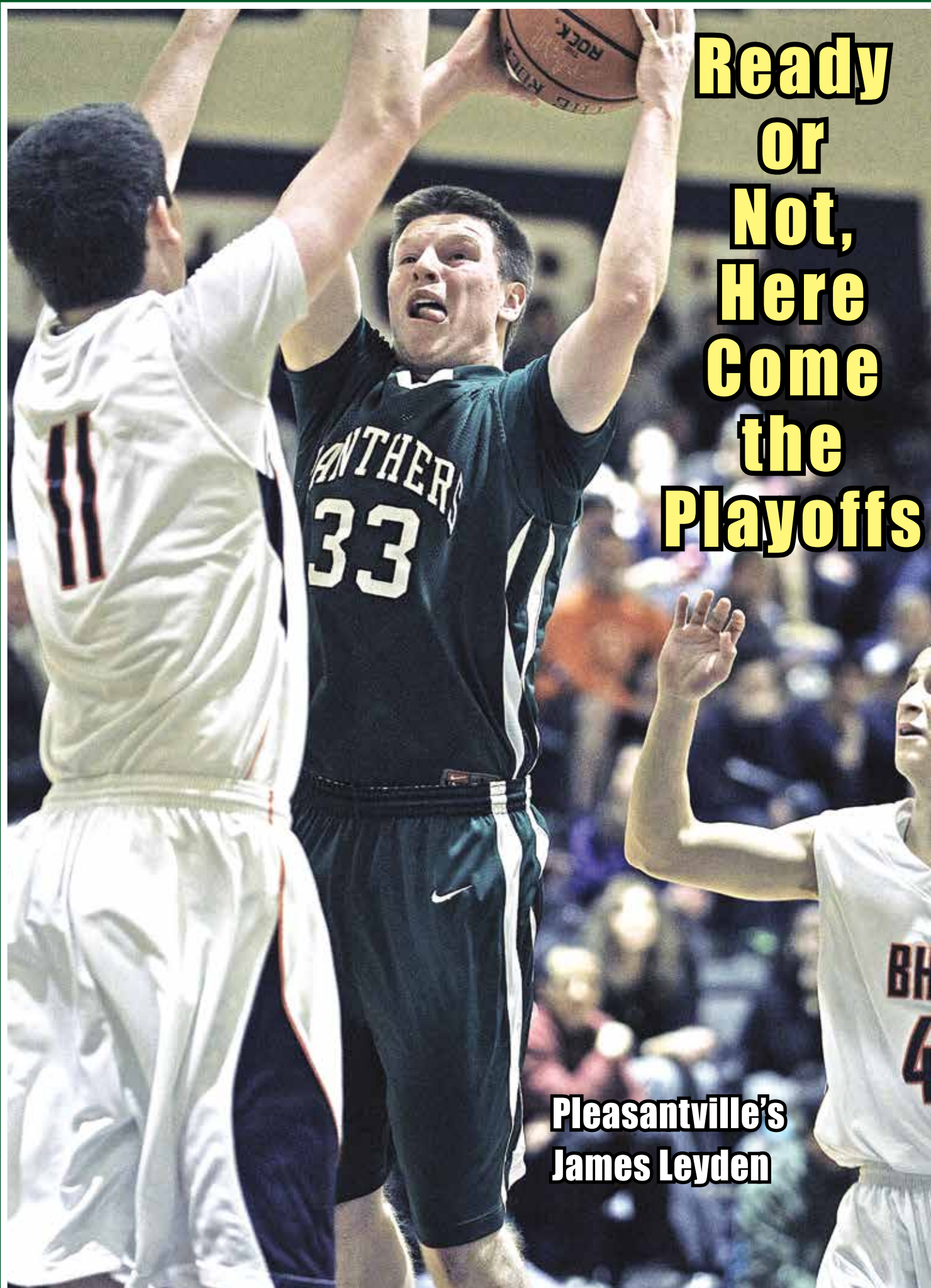


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**Ready
or
Not,
Here
Come
the
Playoffs**

**Pleasantville's
James Leyden**

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Byram Hills Earns Another Dramatic Win Against the Wildcats

By Andy Jacobs

It's been quite a season so far for the Westlake girls' basketball team. Just imagine how good it really could have been if the Wildcats didn't have Byram Hills on their schedule.

On Friday afternoon, the Bobcats emerged with their second drama-packed win over the Wildcats in seven days, overcoming a four-point deficit in the final minute by outscoring host Westlake 8-0 over the final 40 seconds. Lucy Bancone scored a game-high 16 points and her fast-break layup with 30 seconds left gave Byram Hills the lead for good in a 55-51 victory.

"We didn't quit," said Bobcats coach Mary Kate Burke shortly after the final buzzer. "I mean, the girls really wanted to win this and it's just nice to see when we really focus on playing together as a team we can win and we can play well no matter how small we are."

In a game that featured 10 lead changes, the Bobcats outscored Westlake 15-5 in the last five minutes to earn their 10th win of the season in 17 games. The Wildcats, who scored eight straight points early in the fourth quarter to grab a six-point lead, dropped to 13-4.

"It hurts a little bit to be on this end," said Wildcats coach Sean Mayer after his team had its annual Senior Day spoiled by the Bobcats. "But you've got to give Byram Hills credit. They made a couple big plays at the end."

The biggest of them all may have come with 40 seconds left on the clock, shortly after the Wildcats' Katie Cullen made two free throws to give Westlake a 51-47 advantage. That's when Raquel Gaudio received a pass from Taylor Verboys at the top of the key and nailed a 3-pointer to shrink the Bobcat deficit to just one point.

"We got a stop and it was a loose ball and it went to number 15 (Gaudio), who drained it," said the disappointed Mayer. "That was a big turning point in the game. I think we were one or two stops away from it possibly being four points in our favor."

Westlake freshman guard Natalie Alfieri, who finished with a team-high 11 points, missed the front end of a one-and-one with 37.4 seconds left and just six seconds later Byram Hills regained the lead as Bancone dashed down the floor and made her big layup. The Bobcats' junior shooting guard added a pair of free throws with 17 seconds to go and Westlake suddenly found itself trailing by three points.

"I'm always happy when the other team fouls her to put her on the free-throw line because my money's on Lucy," said Burke. "She usually does not miss from the free-throw line."

The Wildcats' Faith Lovett misfired on



Westlake's Natalie Alfieri rises in the lane to shoot the ball vs. Byram Hills on Friday afternoon.

a shot from the right wing and with three and a half seconds left Gaudio stepped to the line with a chance to clinch the game for the Bobcats. She missed badly on her first attempt, but calmly made the second to give Byram another nail-biter win over Westlake.

"I thought, down three, we could've had a better look," said Mayer about the shot eventually taken by Lovett. "We had a decent look, but we just didn't take the shot and we'll learn from that. So next time we're in a situation, we'll have confidence to take that shot and make it."

Byram Hills, which defeated the Wildcats 70-67 at home the previous weekend as Bancone scored 25 points and grabbed nine rebounds, got a left-corner 3-pointer from Ashley Polera with five seconds left in the opening quarter and took a 15-10 lead. But the Wildcats, who honored their two seniors, Samantha Kane and Tori Oswald, in a pregame ceremony, limited the Bobcats to nine points in the second period and the teams left the court at halftime tied at 24 apiece.

The lead changed hands four times in the third quarter, which closed with a bucket by Bancone that moved the Bobcats to within 38-37. Bancone then opened the scoring in the fourth with a 3-pointer from the right corner. Westlake's Lauren Holzer, who along with teammates Kane and Katie Schmid finished with eight points, had two baskets during the 8-0 run that opened up a six-point lead with 5:28 to go.

The Bobcats' late comeback began 25 seconds later with Polera scoring on a put-back. A free throw each by Kiera Ahern and Bancone narrowed the deficit to 46-44 before Alfieri scored three straight points to give Westlake a five-point edge



Katie Schmid of Westlake grabs a rebound in traffic during Friday's home game.



Ashley Polera (left) and Raquel Gaudio of Byram Hills battle for the ball with Westlake's Samantha Kane during Friday's Bobcat victory.

with just over three minutes left. Gaudio, who had seven of her 13 points in the last couple of minutes, then made a steal that led to her conventional three-point play, setting the stage for the tension-filled final moments.

"Even though we were tired," said the Bobcats' Burke, "we had people who were still pushing each other and wanted to win. A couple big baskets at the end there, a couple big free throws. This year, we're almost transitioning into a team that can actually finish and follow through when it matters and I'm really proud of that because that's hard to do, especially at the high school level."

"We've played in several close games and that's what makes you better," said Westlake's Mayer, looking ahead to the upcoming sectionals. "This one didn't go our way, but the more times you play in these the more confidence you'll have and the better off you'll be."



Tori Oswald of Westlake and Katie Ryan of Byram Hills await a rebound.



The Bobcats' Lucy Bancone takes the ball to the basket in the come-from-behind win at Westlake.



Westlake's Faith Lovett drives to the basket against visiting Byram Hills.

Briarcliff Hangs On to Defeat the Panthers Once Again

By Andy Jacobs

It's easy to overlook Briarcliff junior Rob Contento. The Bears' six-foot forward is often dwarfed in the paint by much taller players and he certainly isn't a primary scoring option on the offensive end of the court.

But last Tuesday afternoon, with the Bears' latest clash against archrival Pleasantville still up for grabs in the final minute, it was Contento who twice was front and center as he drew a pair of charging calls against the Panthers, enabling host Briarcliff to hang onto a slim lead and escape with a 49-45 victory.

"Rob was huge for us today," said Bears coach Cody Moffett afterwards. "We don't win this game without him."

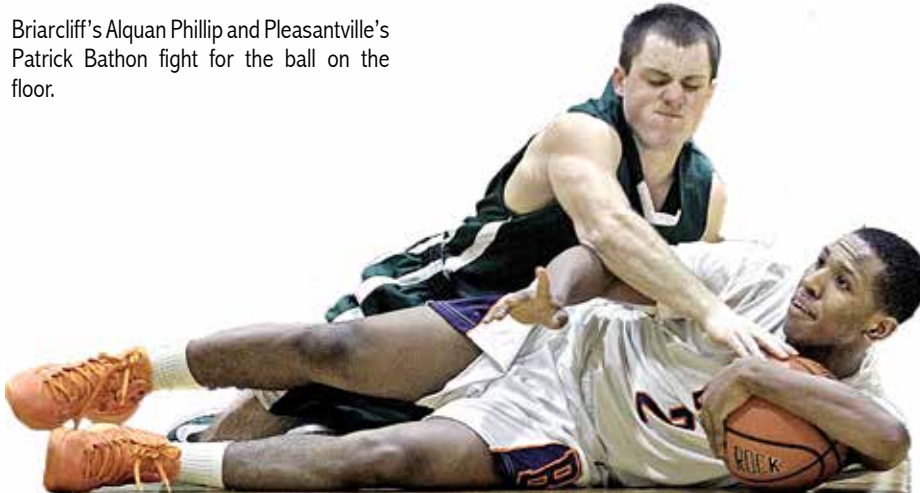
Contento only scored one point after halftime, but it was his two key defensive plays half a minute apart that probably decided the outcome. The first one came with 45 seconds remaining, the Bears clinging to a 42-40 lead and Pleasantville guard Chris Maloney determined to get to the basket.

Maloney dribbled between a pair of Briarcliff players on the right side of the floor and found his way into the lane. Waiting for him, though, was Contento, who collected a charging call that sent Panthers coach Chris Welsh into a rage.

"It's tough when a game ends on a play that is not in the control of the players," a frustrated Welsh said. "As coaches, as fans of basketball, everybody wants to see the game decided by the players and tonight we had a referee who decided the game himself. Chris jump-stopped. When you jump-stop in front of a player, you can't charge. That's the bottom line. I understand it's the toughest call in basketball. But he blew it."

The foul call against Maloney was his fifth and sent him to the bench after scoring a game-high 19 points. Just five seconds later, Briarcliff's Alquan Phillip, who had nine of his team-high 17 points in the fourth quarter, sank two free throws to increase the

Briarcliff's Alquan Phillip and Pleasantville's Patrick Bathon fight for the ball on the floor.



Pleasantville's James Leyden gets set to launch a buzzer-beating shot from midcourt as Briarcliff's Malik White defends.

Bears' lead to four.

With 20.3 seconds remaining, the Panthers' Austin Greto scored a put-back basket while getting fouled. But his missed the foul shot and the Bears' center, Sean Crowley, grabbed the rebound. Crowley wound up at the free-throw line at the other end with 18.3 seconds to go and converted on the second of his two foul shots, setting the stage for teammate Contento's second big defensive play.

Contento got in front of Pleasantville's James Leyden to draw another charge with 12 seconds left on the clock and the Bears leading 45-42. There would be more drama to come, but Contento's play all but thwarted the Panthers' comeback bid.

"Rob Contento has been huge for us as far as playing big minutes and playing down in the clutch," said Moffett. "I'm just happy that he was in that position. And, you know, the kid works hard, so he deserves all the credit for that."

Phillip, who made seven of the eight free-throw attempts he had in the final period, calmly hit four straight in the final 10 seconds to seal the Bears' win. The last two, with two seconds left, were needed because the Panthers' Patrick Bathon had

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Rob Contento of Briarcliff gets set to pass the ball around Pleasantville's James Leyden in last week's game, won by the host Bears.

dribbled into the left corner and made a 3-pointer with a hand in his face to slice the P'ville deficit to two points with 2.7 seconds remaining.

"Yeah, those four free throws were huge," said Moffett of the shots made by Phillip, his junior guard. "Al's been knocking down free throws ever since JV. So it was good to see him make free throws in a clutch situation at the varsity level. I've got 100 percent confidence in him making those free throws."

The free throws by Phillip, and the defense by Contento, allowed the Bears to squeak past a Pleasantville team they had routed three weeks earlier but was suddenly in the midst of a late-season turnaround. Moffett made sure his players were aware of the recent Panther progress.

"Today's game, I told 'em Pleasantville's been playing a lot better," he said. "So I tried to tell those guys, 'Hey, that team you saw at Pleasantville is not gonna be the same team that shows up today.' And they came in here and they took it to us in that first quarter."

The Panthers scored the game's first eight points and opened up an 11-2 advantage four and a half minutes in after Bathon connected on the second of his four 3-pointers in the contest. Their lead was 10 points before the Bears' Malik White hit a trey to narrow the gap to 16-9 at the end of the first quarter.

But Pleasantville only scored five points in the second quarter and walked off the



Briarcliff's Alquan Phillip and Jeff Blair box out Pleasantville's James Leyden during last week's narrow Bear victory.



Pleasantville guard Chris Maloney finished with a game-high 19 points in the road loss to Briarcliff.

court at halftime clinging to a 21-20 edge. Jeff Blair's jump shot early in the third quarter gave Briarcliff its first lead of the day before Maloney answered with a left-corner 3-pointer 12 seconds later to put the Panthers back in front.

Unfortunately for the Panthers, they then went scoreless for nearly six minutes. Briarcliff put together an 8-0 run, getting five points from Blair and a 3-pointer by Phillip to take the lead for good. The fourth quarter began with the Bears leading 30-25.

A pair of free throws by Greto with exactly two minutes to go moved the Panthers within one point, but the clutch play of Contento and Phillip saved the Bears.

The Panthers' Welsh didn't have to be reminded how damaging his team's anemic offense in the middle two quarters had been.

"Second and third quarters, we scored nine points, five and four, respectively," he said. "It is what it is. But in the end, I told the kids I'm proud of the way they played in that fourth quarter. Put up 20 points, came back, fought hard. Played winning basketball and it's never easy to swallow when a game comes down to a whistle."



Austin Greto of Pleasantville is met in the air by Briarcliff center Sean Crowley during last week's game.

Streaking Vikings Rout Alexander Hamilton on Senior Night

By Andy Jacobs

Valhalla girls' basketball coach Stephen Boyer didn't have to guess why his players started out so slowly last Thursday evening against visiting Alexander Hamilton.

After all, it was the Vikings' annual Senior Game and Rachele Beckley, Mary Kelly and Samantha Lanjewar were honored just moments before the opening tipoff.

"The girls were so focused on congratulating the seniors," Boyer would say later. "I don't think we came out with our intensity as we normally do."

The Lady Raiders took advantage, building a seven-point lead after one quarter and then stretching it to eight midway through the second. But the Vikings, with their attention suddenly turned to the task at hand, proceeded to score the game's next 12 points and closed the half on a 17-2 run, paving the way to a 65-43 victory.

Sophomore guard Kaylie Dymek finished with 18 points and Brandi Coon added 17 as the Vikings, now 11-5 this season, won their 10th consecutive game and continued to build momentum for the upcoming sectional playoffs.

"Give 'em a lot of credit because it was a slow start, but the girls hung in there and eventually they started to see the ball was going in the basket," said Boyer. "Once we started scoring, we could start pressing."

Coon had nine of her points in the game-changing second quarter when the Vikings outscored Hamilton 21-7 to take control of the contest. Twice she stepped into passing lanes to make steals and both times went coast to coast for layups. Her 3-pointer from the right corner with 2:20 remaining in the half gave Valhalla its first lead of the evening at 22-20.

"I think once we started playing a little bit harder and Brandi forced a few steals, it created the momentum that we needed



Brandi Coon of Valhalla lines up a shot from the right wing in last week's home win.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Francesca Guzzo searches for a teammate in Valhalla's home victory vs. Hamilton.



The Vikings' Kaylie Dymek drives to the basket vs. visiting Alexander Hamilton.

to continue what we're doing," said Boyer. "The game got sped up a little bit and our guards took over a little bit."

The Vikings, who led 29-22 at halftime, opened the third quarter on an 8-2 run that started and finished with driving layups from Dymek. But two straight put-back baskets by the Raiders' Kadidia Edwards late in the period sliced the Valhalla lead to 39-31 before Coon hit on an 18-footer from the left corner to restore the Vikings' double-digit margin heading to the final quarter.

Two free throws by Hamilton's Mikayla Brown moved the Raiders to within eight points again with exactly seven minutes left on the clock. But Dymek then nailed a 3-pointer out of the left corner and Coon followed with another steal and layup. Mary Kelly, who scored nine of her 10 points in the fourth quarter, provided two foul shots and then a layup 30 seconds later to cap the 9-0 Viking spurt that opened up a 52-35 cushion with 5:35 to go.

After Brown scored in the lane for Hamilton, the Vikings proceeded to go on another run, outscoring the Raiders 9-1 as Dymek drove for a layup, Coon made both ends of a one-and-one and Kelly provided back-to-back baskets, the first one turning into an old-fashioned three-point play when she was fouled after receiving a nice pass from Claudia Halbauer.

Consecutive baskets by Halbauer and Sofia Mazza, Valhalla's lone freshman, enabled the Vikings to build their largest lead of the game, 24 points, before Hamilton closed the game with a basket just before the final buzzer.

"Hamilton came out and took the ball right to us in the first quarter," said Boyer, whose own team missed its first eight shots from the floor and didn't get on the scoreboard until Kelly hit a free throw nearly three and a half minutes in.



Valhalla's Mary Kelly scores on a fast break in the second half of last week's game.



Claudia Halbauer of Valhalla tries to score inside during last week's win over Hamilton.



Valhalla guard Rachele Beckley gets fouled as she sails to the basket in last week's game.

"In the second quarter, with a few steals by Brandi, we hit a couple of shots from the outside. Kaylie Dymek had a great game. The lefty from the outside kept us going. She did a great job."

As a result, Valhalla easily overcame its early difficulties against the Raiders and took another step toward receiving a high seed in the rapidly approaching playoffs.

"The girls have been playing great and I'm really proud of them," Boyer said. "I believe we are league champs, which is a great feat after graduating nine kids. Right now, we're sitting in the third seed, which before the season I would never have thought. We've got two games left and then we'll see where we fall."



Valhalla coach Stephen Boyer watches his team in the second half vs. Alexander Hamilton.

Pace Defeats the Yellow Jackets for its Second Win in a Row

By Andy Jacobs

After a winless January, the Pace University men's basketball team seems to have found a recipe for success in February.

With Jonathan Merceus finishing with game-highs of 20 points and 15 rebounds, the Setters defeated visiting American International College 69-65 on Saturday afternoon before an appreciative home crowd on Senior Day at the Goldstein Fitness Center.

"I think the big thing is we've really settled into what we want to try to achieve defensively," said Setters coach Pat Kennedy after his team had used a 20-3 second-half run to overcome a nine-point deficit against the Yellow Jackets. "Tonight, we held them in the 20-point level in the second half. The first half, they shot 50 percent, we shot 40. In the second half, we changed that completely around."

Merceus, one of seven Pace seniors honored before the game, recorded his eighth double-double of the season and



Pace University guard Ahmad George passes the ball in Saturday's win over AIC.



Pace senior center Chris Frank sets his sights on the basket after grabbing an offensive rebound vs. AIC.

matched his career high in rebounds. He also became the 17th player in school history to reach 100 steals. Another senior, Kai Smith, ignited the big Setter spurt early in the second half when he tossed in a shot in the lane while getting fouled. He added the free throw, cutting the AIC lead to six points.

From there, senior guard Denzel Primus-Devonish took over, connecting on a 3-pointer from the top of the key and soon following with back-to-back baskets, including a 15-foot jumper with 14:32 remaining that gave Pace the lead for good.

Two free throws with 8:18 left on the



The Setters' Jamaal James tries to work his way inside during Saturday's home game vs. American International College.



Jonathan Merceus of Pace corraling the ball and heads up the floor on a fast break.

clock by Primus-Devonish, who wound up with 13 points and six assists, gave the Setters an eight-point cushion. But the Yellow Jackets sliced the Pace lead to just two on three occasions down the stretch. Smith made four straight free throws for the Setters in the final minute and then Primus-Devonish added two more with nine seconds remaining to seal the victory.

"Earlier in the year, when we were losing by like five, six, seven points, we were just two or three possessions away from winning a game," said Kennedy. "It really came down to percentages -- your field-goal percentage on defense, your field-goal percentage on offense. By getting a little bit out of the press and staying more with just our straight man to man, we've become a better stop team. We're getting more stops."

Kennedy also likes the fact his team, now 5-16 overall and 3-12 in the NE-10, has been doing a much better job protecting



Kai Smith of Pace fires a jump shot in the second half of the Setters' win on Saturday.



Pace center Kirsten Dodge works her way to the basket vs. the AIC Yellow Jackets.



Pace University's Lovisa Hagberg awaits a rebound in between AIC's Sarah Noble and Kamika Mason in Saturday's game.

Pace Women Lose to AIC by 16 Points



Pace's Rachel Dortch puts up a shot in the second half of Saturday's game.

Greeley Hockey Team Cruises Past Pawling

By Skip Pearlman

Sam Mishkind scored two goals and dished out a pair of assists Friday night to lead the Horace Greeley ice hockey team to an 8-1 victory over Pawling in a non-league game at the Brewster Ice Arena.

Dean Klein added two goals and an assist, Jake Frankel scored twice, Scott Jakubowicz had a goal and two assists, Henry Girardi had a goal and an assist, and Justin Ellick and Matt Vandi each had an assist for the Quakers, who improved to 9-7-2 overall.

Greeley netminder Nick Bright turned away 15 shots on goal, while Justin Virkus

had 16 saves for Pawling and Travis Barry had eight, playing the third period.

Quakers coach Zach Dargaty liked the performance he saw against a strong opponent on what was Greeley's Senior Night.

"We had our whole team, it was Senior Night, and our seniors got the majority of the ice time," Dargaty said. "Frankel led the seniors with two goals, and played well. Pawling had some success, but we did a great job limiting their opportunities, moving the puck and creating opportunities for ourselves."

More than the offensive outburst,



Greeley's Dean Klein (R) deposits one of his two goals against Pawling Friday night at Brewster.



Owen Gatto of Horace Greeley looks to shoot past Pawling defender.

Dargaty was impressed with his team's defense.

"I was pretty happy with the eight goals," the coach said, "but I was really happy with us only allowing one. We got good defense and goaltending. We had a great crowd come out, and we got out right away. We didn't give them much of an opportunity to get going."

Greeley controlled play from the start, and it was Girardi who got the scoring started, finishing a pass from Ellick just over six minutes into the game. Klein made it 2-0, off a pass from Vandi and Mishkind, with 3:48 remaining, and Mishkind found the back of the net with 1:24 left, converting a feed from Girardi.

Pawling, which fell to 10-6-1, got its only goal of the contest from Taylor Folchetti, who led off the second-period scoring with a power-play goal 54 seconds in.

But Greeley came back with four

unanswered goals to put the game away.

"I thought Frankel had a standout game," Dargaty said. "Klein played a strong game for us, he made some good defensive plays. And Bright wasn't tested very much, but when he was he made some really nice saves. He played steady. Owen Gatto and Girardi also both had a really good game on the defensive end – they really helped limit opportunities."

Entering the final week of regular-season play, Dargaty likes the position his team is in heading into the playoff tournament.

"We really want to generate some momentum," he said. "The kids know we're a good team, and this game was good for that. We built some confidence, gained some momentum. We still have some things to clean up, but this was a good win against a quality opponent. That's a good sign heading into the playoffs."

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PREMIER SPORTS PHYSICAL THERAPY & CHIROPRACTIC

Ciero's Layup Lifts Greeley Past the Bobcats in Overtime

By Andy Jacobs

Horace Greeley's high-scoring guard, Cameron Ciero, has had plenty of more productive games this season than last Friday night's encounter against nearby rival Byram Hills.

But the six-foot-one junior never scored a basket as big as the one he got against the Bobcats.

Ciero's old-fashioned three-point play with 4.3 seconds remaining in overtime lifted the host Quakers to an emotional 53-52 victory and sent several dozen giddy Greeley students spilling onto the court to celebrate the team's biggest win of the year.

"What a shot at the end," gushed Quakers coach Dave Fernandes soon afterwards about Ciero's drive through the Byram Hills defense for his game-deciding layup. "I told him take that ball right to the rack. As soon as you get it in your hand, go right to the rack. I mean, he's that type of player, he's that dynamic player that can come up with that big play."

Ciero finished the evening as the game's high scorer with 20 points, but he went scoreless in the fourth quarter and hadn't made a basket since midway through the third period before his big bucket in overtime doomed Byram Hills to its fourth loss in five games. The suddenly struggling Bobcats missed all four of their free-throw attempts in the extra session and got their only two points on a layup by Chad Friedberg with 1:49 to go.

"You throw out records in rivalry games," said Bobcats coach Ted Repa after his 10-5 team had fallen to a Quaker squad it beat by 15 points in early January. "This is a tough one to swallow because we had opportunities."

The Bobcats had forced overtime when senior guard Mike Giacomo made a pair of free throws with 28.8 seconds left in the fourth quarter following a technical foul on the Quakers' Fernandes, who protested to the officials about a five-second call against Jason Neff at the top of the key with Greeley trying to protect a precarious 50-48 lead.

"I thought that was crazy," said Fernandes about his technical, "because that official called that foul because Teddy (Repa) was on his case a little bit. He was able to talk the ref into one. But, hey, that's the way it goes."



Horace Greeley's Ethan Canner (left) and Jason Neff apply pressure to Byram Hills guard David Lachs in last week's game.



Chad Friedberg of Byram Hills is challenged by Greeley's Adam Quine as he shoots the ball in the first half of last Friday's game.



Greeley's Ethan Canner is pressured at midcourt by Joe Fromer (left) and David Lachs of Byram Hills.

Gotta keep my emotion. You can never lose sight of the game. So that taught me a lesson."

Just six seconds into the overtime, Greeley center Connor Schinderman fouled out. But in a hint of things to come, the Bobcats' Andrew Groll, who wound up with 19 points and 21 rebounds, misfired on the front end of a one-and-one opportunity. The two teams went scoreless for over two minutes before Friedberg finally made his go-ahead basket while getting fouled. He then proceeded to miss the free throw.

Neff, who, along with Jeffrey Merchant, finished with 10 points for the Quakers, missed on a jump shot that could have tied the game. With one minute left, Ciero's jumper from the left corner wouldn't drop either. The Bobcats' Joe Fromer had a chance to put the Quakers away with 15 seconds remaining, but couldn't connect on a pair of free throws, setting the stage for Ciero's last-second heroics.

On the Quakers' final possession of the night, he got the ball and quickly worked his way to the basket, drawing a foul and then dropping in the layup that tied the game.



Bobcat center Andrew Groll is sandwiched between Greeley's Jeff Merchant (right) and Ethan Canner during last week's game in Chappaqua.



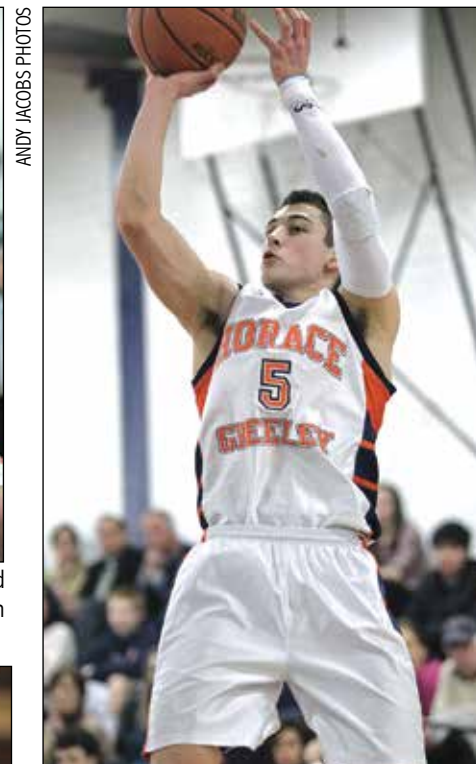
Andrew Groll of Byram Hills gets double-teamed as he heads for the basket in last week's game at Greeley High School.

He then calmly swished the free throw to provide Greeley with the lead. With just a few seconds left on the clock, Groll, who scores most of his baskets inside of five feet, tossed up a shot from beyond 50 that grazed the side of the rim as the buzzer sounded.

"It's pretty frustrating," said the Bobcats' Repa about watching his players let Ciero take the ball all the way to the basket. "This is a tough one for us going into playoffs. We had our chances."

Despite 14 first-half points from Groll and six by Fromer, the Quakers still managed to take a 30-27 lead at intermission. Greeley closed the half on a 9-2 run as Adam Quine, Ethan Canner, Neff and Ciero all hit jump shots in the last two minutes.

But Byram Hills tied the game 40 seconds into the third quarter on a 3-pointer by David Lachs and took the lead when Giacomo, who finished with 12 points, scored on a drive. A basket by eighth-grader Skylar Sinon late in the period gave the Bobcats a 40-37 advantage before the Quakers ended the third quarter on a 6-0 spurt, getting back-to-back 15-foot jumpers



Greeley guard Cameron Ciero rises for a jump shot along the left baseline in last week's home win vs. Byram Hills.



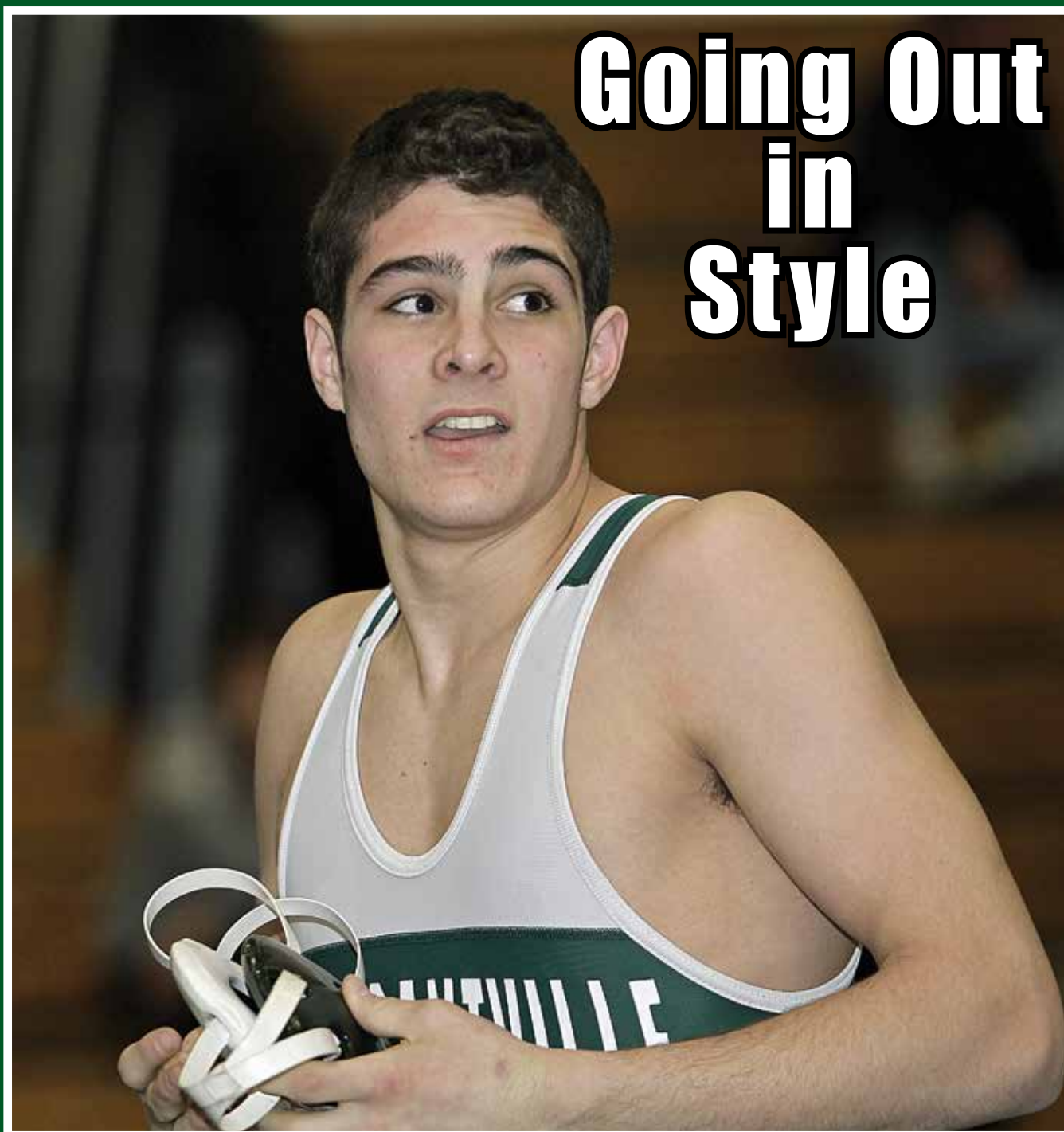
Byram Hills' David Lachs tries to score along the baseline as Greeley's Ethan Canner and Adam Quine defend.

from Merchant and then a top-of-the-key jump shot by Neff.

The Bobcats went on their own 6-0 run in the fourth quarter after falling behind 47-42 as Giacomo hit on a 3-pointer and Louis Filippelli followed with a layup off a feed from Lachs with five minutes remaining. A free throw by Groll with 4:15 left gave Byram a one-point edge, but nearly two minutes later the lead changed hands for the seventh time as Neff nailed a trey that put the Quakers in front until the late technical foul against Fernandes.

"You know, we're a 3 and 11 team playing against a team that's got a really good record and there was no quit," said Fernandes. "Our kids played their hearts out and I'm really proud of them. I'm really proud."

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Pleasantville High School standout wrestler Stephen Paternostro recently competed in his final home match as a Panther and finished with a flourish. He recorded a pair of pins in a double-dual matchup against Westlake and Ardsley. This past weekend, he captured the title at 128 pounds in the Division 2 sectional qualifying tourney up at Beacon High School with a dramatic third-period comeback that led to an overtime win.