

## 2014 SECTIONALS



**Suspense  
in  
Somers**

**Lindsay West and the Foxes  
Nearly Shock the Host Tuskers  
in a Quarterfinal Thriller Saturday**

# Top-seeded Panthers Escape with a Narrow Victory

By Skip Pearlman

It sure didn't look like No. 1 vs. No. 8.

The top-seeded Pleasantville Panthers breathed a heavy sigh of relief Saturday, after barely hanging on for a 5-4 victory against eighth-seeded Irvington in a Class C boys' lacrosse quarterfinal in Pleasantville.

The Panthers, who improved to 13-4 with the win, had clobbered the Bulldogs 17-4 during the regular season, explaining why just about everyone – including spectators, players and coaches – were stunned to see the Panthers trailing 2-1 at halftime and still down 4-3 in the fourth quarter.

Irvington's Dillon Morley broke a 3-3 tie with a shot from the goalie's right side 4:20 into the fourth quarter and gave the Bulldogs the lead. The Bulldogs won the ensuing faceoff, but turned the ball over. Just over a minute later, it was Brendan Halloran tying the game in transition, off a nice feed on the crease from Baylor Rosenbaum.

James Finnegan then came up with the team's biggest goal of the season by far – scoring the game-winner with 2:20 remaining, beating Irvington goalie Josh Schultz with a shot from close range, off a pass from Halloran.

Irvington again won the faceoff, and gave the Panthers a scare with a point-blank shot, but keeper Chris Doerr came up with a terrific save to prevent the game from being tied. And the Bulldogs had a 30-second man-up opportunity with seconds to play, but turned the ball over before getting a chance to shoot.

Finnegan was thrilled to have a chance to score the winner, and that his team escaped what would have been a heartbreaking loss.



Josh Dellapuca of Pleasantville looks for space to shoot in win over Irvington.



Top-seeded Pleasantville breathes a little easier after walking off with a 5-4 win over No. 8 Irvington Saturday.

SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS



Pleasantville's Jack Drillock moves ball out of defensive zone in win over Irvington Saturday.

"We got a fast break, Brendan (Halloran) made the extra pass, and I buried it," Finnegan said moments after the game. "We shouldn't have underestimated them. We came out a little flat. They came out strong, and we're lucky to come out with the win. But from Day 1 our goal has been to get to the sectional final, so now we have Putnam Valley and we just have to concentrate on that."

Panthers senior captain Greg Drillock agreed that the Panthers may have overlooked Irvington after the regular-season drubbing. "I think we underestimated them, obviously, because it was a blowout in the first game," Drillock said. "But they played with a lot of heart today, and I think they've really improved. We played well, but we didn't finish, that's the bottom line. Our defense played amazing, but offense-wise, even me – we were missing open nets, missing the cage. We've got to pick it up if we want to win the next game."

Drillock and Finnegan each finished with two goals, Halloran had a goal



James Finnegan (5) gets congratulations from Austin Tomaseth after Finnegan scored what turned out to be the game-winner.

and an assist, and Josh Della Puca and Rosenbaum each finished with an assist.

Morley scored twice for Irvington (10-8), and Adrian Valdes and Luke Hargraves each had a goal.

"Irvington has improved from earlier in the season, and their zone is tough to break, especially when you don't get shots from where your normal shooters should be getting shots," Panthers assistant coach Bob Kear said. "If you don't hit a few shots early, it's always a dog race. Their faceoff guy was winning faceoffs (Irvington won 7 of 10), and we don't have much depth at midfield."

Pleasantville was also playing without starting attackman Owen Reda, who is expected to return for Tuesday's semifinal matchup vs. No. 4 Putnam Valley.



## Byram Hills Wins Team Tennis Title

Jacob Eisenberg of Byram Hills hits a backhand return during last week's championship matches vs. Scarsdale for the sectional team title. The Bobcats prevailed four matches to three.



The Bobcats' Alex Nick concentrates on a forehand in last week's showdown with visiting Scarsdale for the team championship.

## Panthers Cruise to the Semifinals



Pleasantville senior Maria Howe had five goals and four assists on Saturday as the third-seeded Panthers defeated sixth-seeded Irvington 18-10 in the quarterfinals of the sectional playoffs. The Panthers earned a Tuesday trip to Pearl River, where they'll face the second-seeded Pirates.

# Foxes' Upset Bid Falls Just Short in the Sectionals

By Andy Jacobs

As the final seconds ticked off the clock in Saturday's Section 1, Class B quarterfinal playoff game, the Fox Lane girls' lacrosse team could not have asked for a better scenario.

The ball was firmly in the grasp of a hard-charging Lindsay West, the talented sophomore who had just tied the contest moments earlier with her fourth goal of the game. Surely she would find a way to score once again and bring an abrupt end to the undefeated season of top-seeded Somers.

But, in an instant, everything changed. Tusker star Nicole DeMase stepped up and made the kind of defensive play that rescues teams on the brink of defeat. She caught West from behind, dislodged the ball from her stick and started a length-of-the-field sprint with it in the other direction.

With just 15 seconds left, DeMase fired home the shot from the right doorstep that lifted host Somers to a dramatic 11-10 victory over the ninth-seeded, upset-minded Foxes and a berth in Tuesday's semifinals against Nyack.

"When it comes down to a one-goal game, you've gotta maintain possession," said Fox Lane coach Bill Broggy shortly after time had run out on his team. "We had 40 seconds left, our best player has the ball, and their best player made a great play checking it out of her stick. So what can you do?"

West had scored six goals in last Thursday's 19-5 rout of eighth-seeded Eastchester in the opening round of the playoffs. Her final one against the Tuskers came with only 40 seconds remaining in a game that, remarkably, was tied on nine different occasions. Once the Foxes rebounded from an early 2-0 deficit, getting even on goals by Catharine Schrieber and West just over a minute apart, neither team was able to build a lead larger than one goal the rest of the way.

"We played well," said Broggy. "We've got 15 freshmen and sophomores, so I'm extremely proud of them the way they played today."

A goal by the Hopkins-bound DeMase 43 seconds after the opening draw had staked Somers to a 1-0 lead. Just 90 seconds later, the Tuskers struck again as they took advantage of a charging call against the Foxes to grab the only two-goal advantage of the entire day. Despite the slow start, Broggy still had plenty of confidence in his team.

"I wasn't concerned," he said. "They got easy shots on goal, but we settled in. We played well the other day and we've been getting better every day. So they weren't nervous, even when we were down 2-0. I said, 'Alright, let's go. Let's just get back.' And we did. I didn't need to call a



Lindsay West goes on the attack in Fox Lane's sectional game at top-seeded Somers on Saturday.



Fox Lane's Catharine Schrieber attempts to get to the goal vs. Somers on Saturday.

timeout."

Sure enough, the Foxes responded with the goals from Schrieber and West that knotted the score for the first, but certainly not last, time. A goal by Livy Rosenzweig, her first of five, a minute after West's gave the Tuskers a 3-2 edge. The teams traded goals before West and Keely Connors scored two minutes apart to close the first-half scoring and give Fox Lane a 5-4 advantage.

The final six minutes of the opening half had been scoreless, but it took Somers only 51 seconds to get on the board when play resumed after intermission as Rosenzweig tallied on a free-position opportunity. Just over two minutes into the half, another goal by Rosenzweig gave the Tuskers a 6-5 lead.

Connors tied the game with 21:36 to go, scooting to her left on an 8-meter chance and putting the ball past Tusker goalie Aly Martone. Unfortunately for the Foxes, they never quite managed to get ahead in the second half as Somers built a one-goal edge four more times leading up to the dramatic final minute.

Somers held a 9-8 lead for over 10

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Alison Moky of Fox Lane controls the ball as she glides across the field in the first half of Saturday's quarterfinal playoff game.



Fox Lane players celebrate after Lindsay West (center) tied the game with a goal in the final minute of Saturday's playoff game.



Fox Lane's Keely Connors surveys the field as she controls the ball during the Foxes' 11-10 playoff loss at Somers.

minutes before Alison Moky tied the game on an 8-meter shot with 4:29 remaining. A costly Fox Lane turnover on a high pass out of bounds enabled Somers to go ahead again with 1:58 on the clock. West wound up gathering up a ground ball with under a minute to go, setting the stage for her free-position shot that tied the game for the final time with 40 seconds left.

The Foxes won the ensuing draw and seemed on the verge of knocking off the Tuskers when DeMase made her sparkling defensive play and then flipped the game-winning shot in traffic past Fox Lane goalie Halle Vernon. With only 15 seconds before the final buzzer, the Tuskers won the final draw and soon it was Schurr lofting the ball high into the air in jubilation as time expired and Fox



Fox Lane's Cesily Wheeler prepares to send a shot on goal in the first half vs. Somers.



The Foxes' Bridget Connors tries to work her way past the Somers defense in the sectional playoffs.

Lane's season came to an end.

"You know, the thing with such a young team, our goal was to get better," said Broggy. "And we said early on in the year, we're gonna be a tough out at the end of the season and we were. And that's what I'm proud of."

Despite the heartbreaking loss, Broggy has plenty to look forward to from a team that will only lose one player, Jenny Greco, to graduation.

"The future," he said, "looks pretty good."

He won't get an argument from the Tuskers.

# SPORTS SCENE



Westlake's Anthony Rotunno awaits a pitch in last Wednesday's victory over visiting Pleasantville.



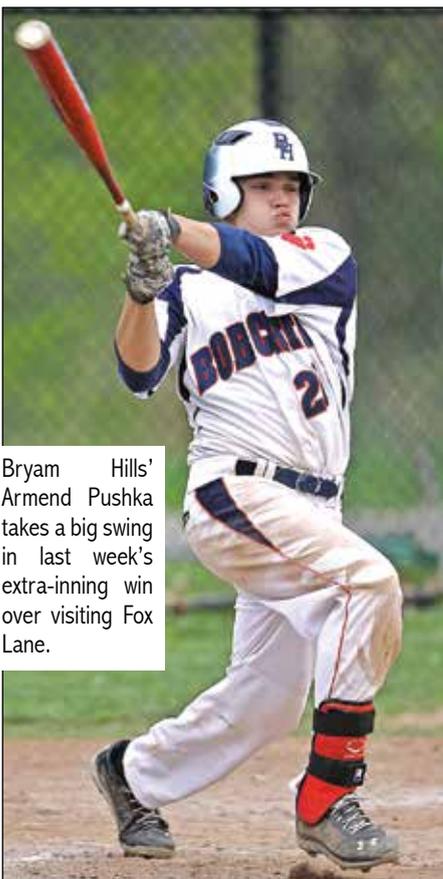
Michale Poggioreale of Westlake pitches in the Wildcats' game vs. Pleasantville last Wednesday afternoon.



Pleasantville's Sam Sicignano delivers to the plate en route to tossing a no-hitter in Saturday's win over Rye.



Briarcliff pitcher Teresa Marinaccio pitches in the Bears' game vs. Ossining on Saturday afternoon.



Bryam Hills' Armend Pushka takes a big swing in last week's extra-inning win over visiting Fox Lane.



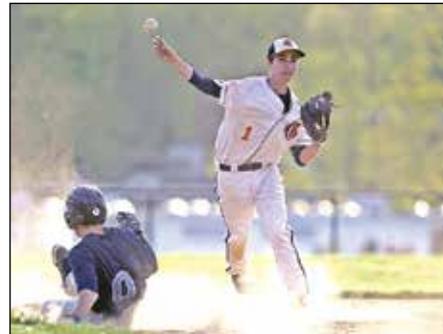
Briarcliff third baseman Rachel Julie stays ready in the infield this past weekend. She homered in both of the Bears' games on Saturday, vs. Westlake and Ossining.



Frankie Vesuvio of Byram Hills slides under the late tag of Fox Lane's Nick Nemeth to score the winning run in the host Bobcats' 2-1 win in eight innings last Wednesday.



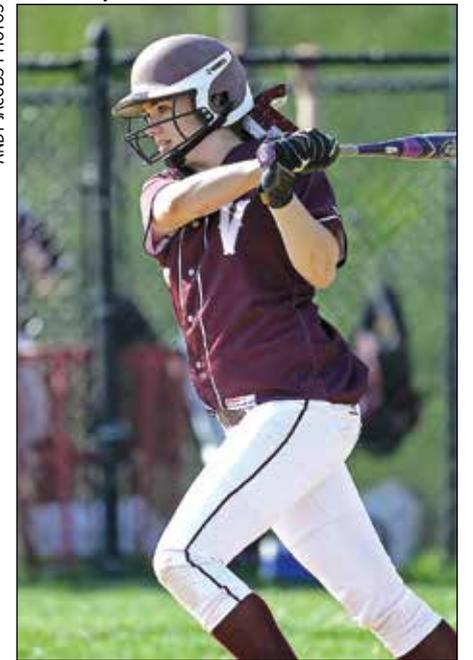
Peter Buseck of Greeley fields a throw at second base in the Quakers' game vs. John Jay last week.



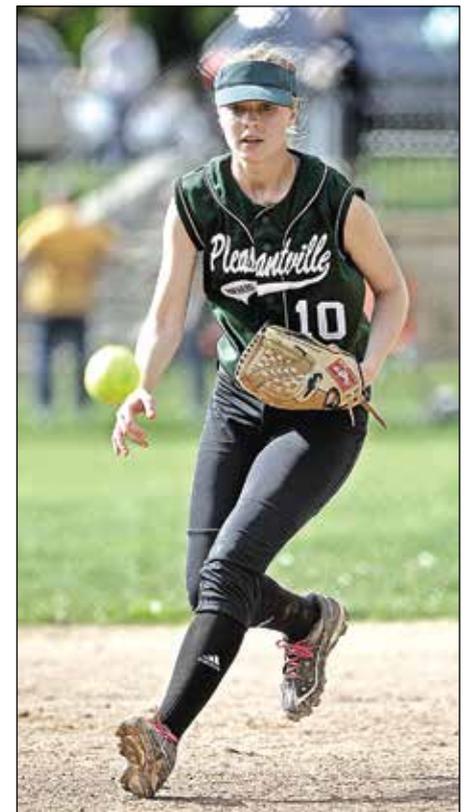
Greeley infielder Josh Small tries to turn a double play in last Tuesday's home game vs. the John Jay Patriots.



Above: Tyler Preizler of Fox Lane gets a hit in the seventh inning of last Wednesday's game at Byram Hills.



Ihalla's Jenna Saldi smacks a pitch in the Vikings' home win vs. Harrison last Tuesday.



Right: Pleasantville first baseman Anne Horton fields the ball in Saturday's 13-0 rout of visiting Rye.

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Byram Hills' Rebecca Cawkwell



Fox Lane's Vicky Martinez



Valhalla's Eva Jean Charles



Greeley's Alexis Hoane



Briarcliff's Michael Jones

**TRACK & FIELD**  
Westchester County  
Championships  
Byram Hills High School  
Sunday, May 18, 2014



Pleasantville's Eli Waxler



Greeley's Gwen Rauch



Westlake's Umair Azhar



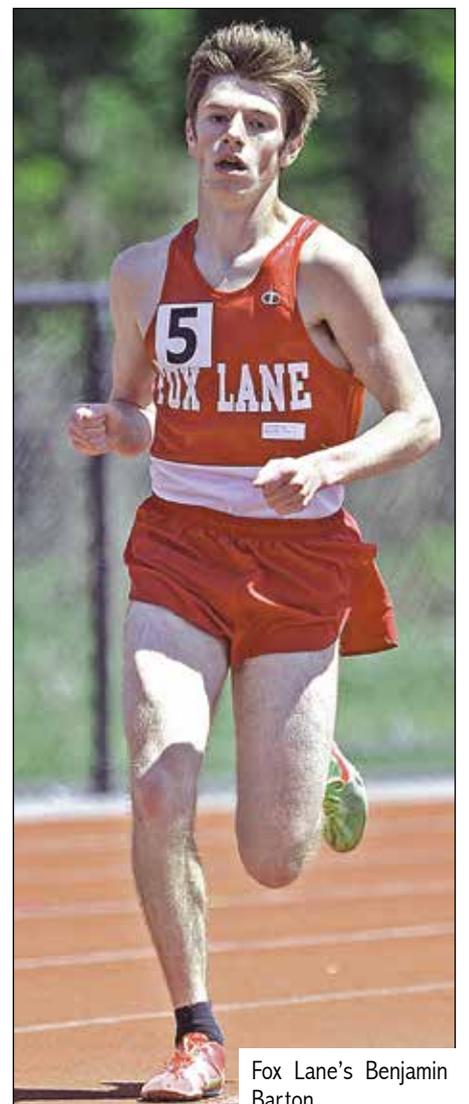
Greeley's Billy Marino



Byram Hills' Carly Schwartz



Pleasantville's Kevin Proctor



Fox Lane's Benjamin Barton

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

# A Big Second Half Lifts Fox Lane Past the Mounties

By Jake Elman

This past winter, Fox Lane High School fell in love with the "Foxtape." This spring, it may be the "Laxtape" that's taking the school by storm.

Led by four goals from senior Adam Markhoff, seven combined points from eighth grader Matt Magnan and sophomore Cullen Morgan, and a stout second-half on defense, the Fox Lane boys' lacrosse team advanced to the semifinals of the sectional playoffs with a 14-9 victory over Suffern on Saturday morning.

For a team that went 8-9 during the regular season, the Foxes have resembled a much different squad in the first two postseason rounds, outscoring their opponents 28-10. According to Morgan, however, that's no coincidence.

"The key to our [recent] success has been playing as one unit and keeping high intensity and emotion throughout the game," Morgan said after Saturday's victory, a game in which he scored two goals and had an assist for the Foxes.

After jumping out to a 5-0 lead early in the first quarter, with four of those goals coming in the first 3:50, the Foxes seemed in control of the game; it seemed almost as if it'd be a repeat of their first-round, 14-1 rout of New Rochelle.

But Suffern wouldn't give up so easily. A six-goal run that started with 1:22 left in the first quarter and continued well into the second gave the Mounties a 6-5 lead, much to the dismay of the Foxes and their fans.

"We didn't see it coming, but we fought



Fox Lane players celebrate after scoring a first-half goal in Saturday's playoff game vs. Suffern.



Fox Lane's Cullen Morgan shoots in Saturday's playoff victory over Suffern.

back against it and played as strong as we could," Magnan, still in middle school, said after the game. As Suffern entered halftime with a 7-6 lead over the Foxes, the optimism so evident in the first quarter of the game was seemingly vanishing.

Too many early leads had been lost over the years by the team, but luckily for Fox Lane, this time there would be a big second half. The Foxes outscored their opponents 8-2 over the final two quarters.

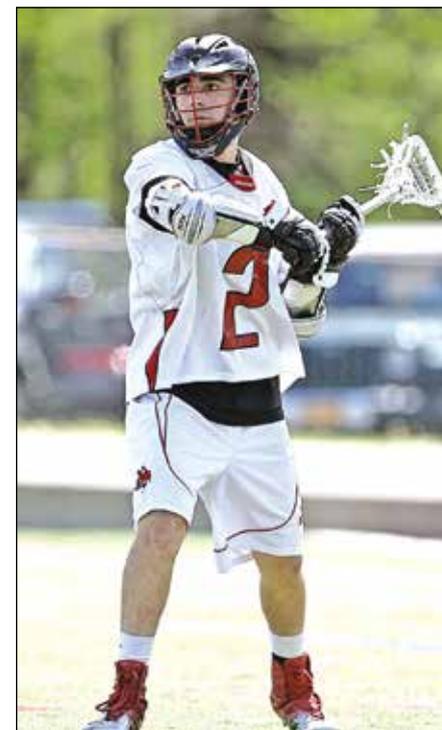


The Foxes' Lennon Jobin takes the ball past midfield in the win over visiting Suffern.

Clutch plays were made, the right calls were made by the coaching staff and soon disappointed Suffern players were packing up their gear for a quiet, sorrow-filled, hour-long ride home.

Next up for the Foxes is a matchup against top-seeded Lakeland/Panas in the semifinal round. The Foxes will have to produce four good quarters against a Rebel team that won big in the quarterfinals, defeating Scarsdale by a score of 9-2.

With the optimism and confidence that was present when the Suffern game started back again, the Foxes are eager to show they can reach the sectional final later this week. According to Morgan,



Adam Markhoff of Fox Lane passes the ball in the Foxes' quarterfinal playoff game Saturday morning.

a win over Lakeland/Panas will require attention to detail on both ends of the field.

"We will need to have a poised offensive with long, smart, possessions and lockdown defenses," Morgan remarked as he began preparation for the next big game, already showing signs of leadership. "As long as everyone comes ready to win, and everyone can leave everything on the field, I believe we will come out successful and have a chance to win."



## Byram Hills Beats Pelham

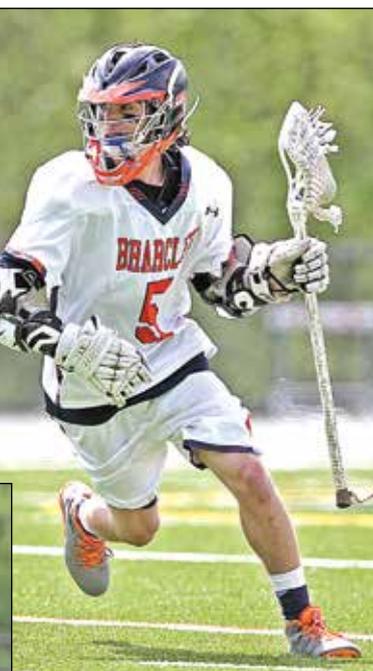
The Bobcats' Austin Raichelson searches for an open teammate during Saturday's quarterfinal playoff victory against Pelham.



Dillon Carlin of Byram Hills heads for the goal in Saturday's Bobcat win over visiting Pelham in the Section 1 lacrosse playoffs.

## Bears Roll Past North Salem

Below: Briarcliff's Brendan Krupa protects the ball in the final moments of Saturday's quarterfinal playoff win over North Salem.



Dan Milner of Briarcliff controls the ball in the Bears' 10-0 playoff rout of visiting North Salem on Saturday afternoon.



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Fox Lane's Andrew Harrison gets ready to shoot in last week's easy win over New Rochelle in the sectional playoffs.



Leaving a trail of destruction in the rain, Briarcliff's Lexi Grasso heads for the goal in the Bears' playoff game vs. Hen Hud.



Jordana Cohen of Briarcliff scored five goals in the Bears' 17-13 loss to Hen Hud in Thursday's first-round playoff game.

# Focus on LACROSSE

## 2014 Section One Playoffs



Briarcliff's Megan O'Donnell turns on the speed as she crosses midfield during last Thursday's playoff game against visiting Hen Hud. Above left: Matthew Harrison of Fox Lane unleashes a shot during the Foxes' 15-1 romp over New Rochelle in the opening round of sectionals.



Greeley's Julia Arrese controls the ball during last Thursday's sectional playoff game.



Horace Greeley's Emma Lowrey has possession of the ball in last Thursday's Quaker playoff win vs. Brewster.



Greeley's Alex Hartman passes the ball during Thursday's opening-round playoff win over Hen Hud.



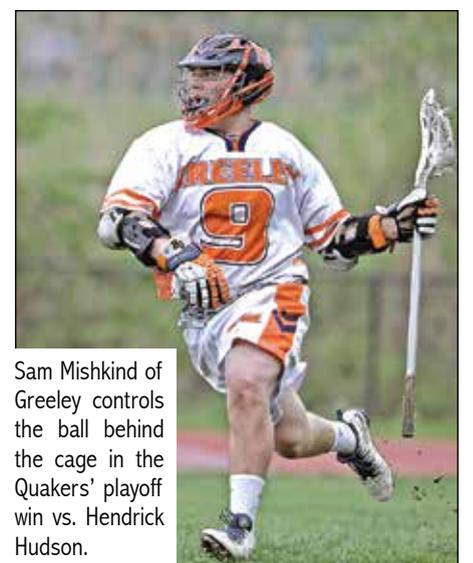
Anna Waterhouse of Greeley heads for the goal in last week's playoff victory over visiting Brewster.



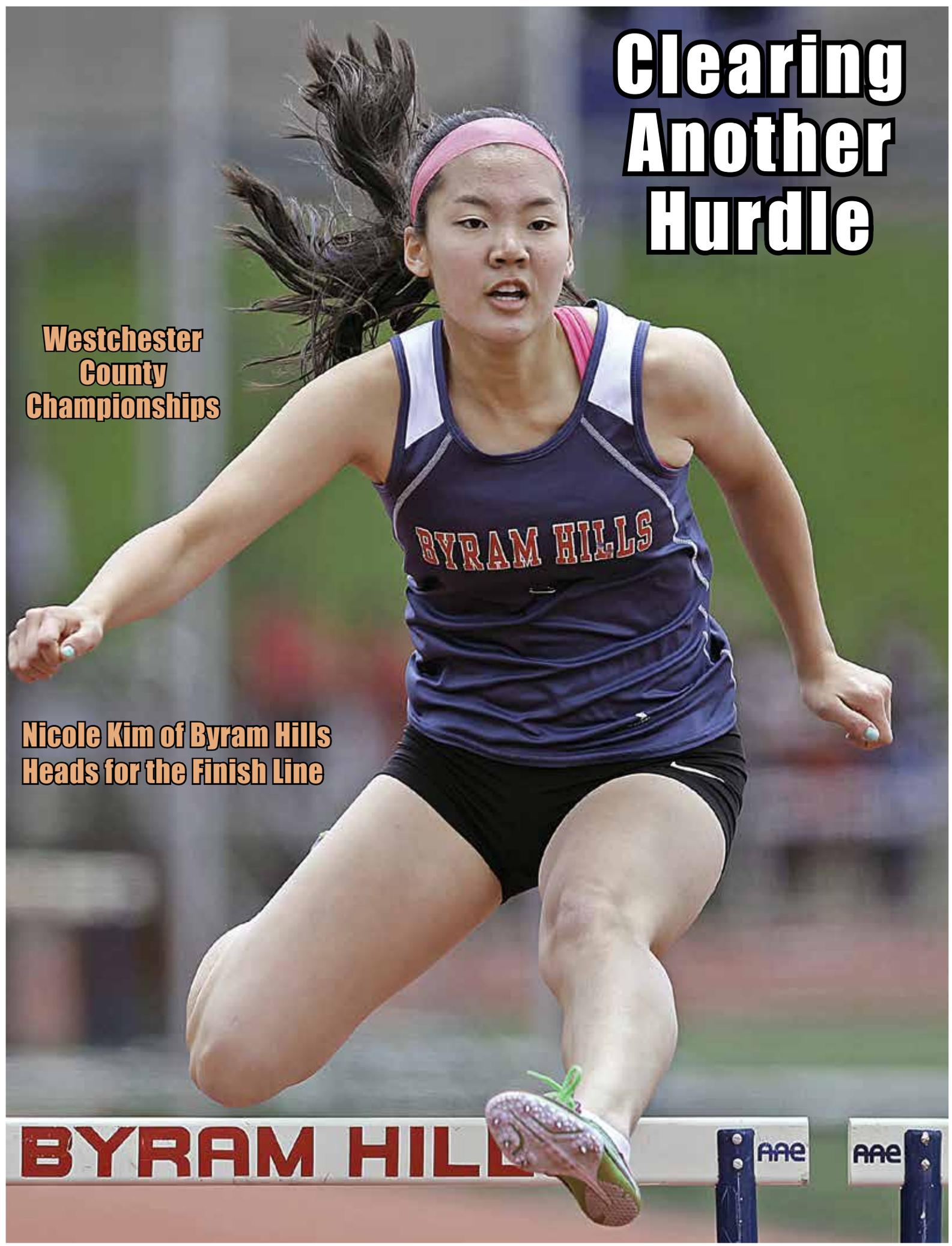
Briarcliff's Annie Barrett controls the ball in the Bears' season-ending playoff loss last Thursday.



Horace Greeley goalie Noah Weissman gets to the ball just in time during the second half of Thursday's playoff victory over the Hen Hud Sailors.



Sam Mishkind of Greeley controls the ball behind the cage in the Quakers' playoff win vs. Hendrick Hudson.



# Clearing Another Hurdle

**Westchester  
County  
Championships**

**Nicole Kim of Byram Hills  
Heads for the Finish Line**

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