



A Run in the Rain

**Mike Sardo of Byram Hills
Finds Plenty of Room to Run
Against Visiting Walter Panas
on a Wet and Dismal Saturday**

An Early Lead Disappears as Bobcats Fall to Panas

By Andy Jacobs

Byram Hills football coach Scott Saunders knelt near midfield late Saturday afternoon, staring down at the turf and slowly shaking his head as he tried to come to grips with what had just happened to his Bobcats.

Just moments earlier, visiting Walter Panas had capped off an unlikely comeback from a first-half, two-touchdown deficit by scoring in the final seconds for a 20-14 victory over a Bobcat team playing its home opener and seeking its first win of the 2014 season.

"Yeah, we knew Panas was resilient and they showed it," said Saunders after watching the Panthers come through with their backs against the wall numerous times throughout the rainy, dismal day. "We saw it on film, and they showed it today. And our hat's off to them."

Displaying a Houdini-like ability to extricate themselves from trouble over and over again, the Panthers managed to outlast the Bobcats, finally taking the lead for the first time all game when quarterback Justin Lee powered his way into the end zone from a yard out with only eight seconds remaining on the clock.

Lee's decisive touchdown completed an 11-play, 80-yard drive by Panas over the final four minutes that left Byram Hills still winless two games into the new season. For much of the soggy afternoon, it had seemed the Bobcats were well on their way to victory as quarterback Lou Fillipelli connected on a pair of first-half touchdown passes to Kellen Hatheway that staked the hosts to a 14-point lead.

"Unfortunately, we weren't able to put more on the board," said Saunders, acknowledging his team should have built an even bigger lead in the first half. "But the boys fought hard. We're right there. We've just gotta punch through. You know, we've gotta punch through. We've gotta fight back and come back next week."

Byram Hills gained early control once Ryan Lynch fell on a Panas fumble at the Panther 20-yard line nearly three minutes into the contest. But a chance to get on the board first was soon squandered by the Bobcats when a fumbled snap in the heavy rain on a 34-yard field-goal attempt led to a desperation pass that fell incomplete.

But Panas immediately fumbled the ball



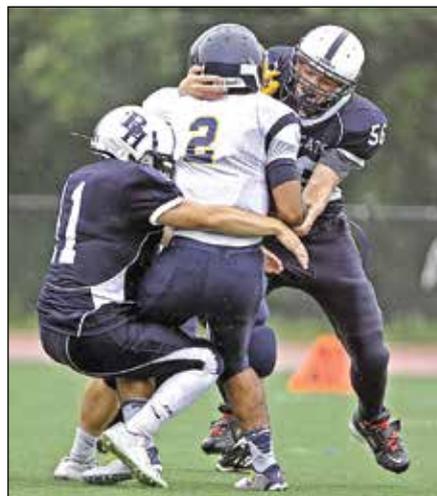
Bobcats head coach Scott Saunders watches intently from the sidelines in the fourth quarter of Saturday's 20-14 loss to Panas.



Byram Hills quarterback Lou Fillipelli picks up big yardage as he carries the ball on Saturday afternoon.



The Bobcats' Mike Sardo tries to break a tackle as he runs in the pouring rain during Saturday's game vs. Panas.



Byram Hills defensive players Mike Brienza (left) and Connor Ahern sack Panas QB Justin Lee during Saturday's home game.

away once again, enabling the Bobcats to take over at the Panther 25. Two plays later, Fillipelli hit Hatheway on a 25-yard pass play. Jerry Friedman added the extra point and with 6:16 left in the opening quarter, Byram had a 7-0 lead.

The Bobcats' Andrew Zaccagnino recovered another Panas fumble to put an end to a promising Panther drive early in the second quarter. Later in the period, the Bobcats struck again, quickly marching 58 yards in six plays and scoring when Fillipelli found Hatheway in the right side of the end zone for a 12-yard touchdown. Friedman's PAT gave Byram Hills a 14-0 lead with 2:50 remaining in the half.

Unfortunately for the Bobcats, Panas converted on a third-and-five with just under two minutes to go. Just three plays later, Lee, who threw three TD passes in the Panther come-from-behind win at Harrison a week earlier, found Jared Reyes open down the left sideline and hit him in stride for a 46-yard touchdown that got Panas right back in the game.

The Bobcats, leading 14-7 at halftime, got a 32-yard run from Fillipelli on their first play from scrimmage in the third quarter. But they were forced to punt on both of their possessions in the period, which ended with Panas in control of the ball and facing third-and-long. The fourth quarter began with Lee somehow escaping from the grasp of

Kyle Vacco and tossing a pass high into the air that fullback Joey DeLuca caught for a first down just shy of midfield.

Three plays later, Tyreek Jackson, breaking tackles, scampered down the left sideline for a 29-yard gain. Scott Hylka followed by running the last nine yards for a touchdown. The extra point tied the game at 14-all with 10:09 remaining.

Byram threatened to take the lead back on its next possession, thanks to a third-down catch by Karl Samsen and, one play later, a perfectly thrown 31-yard pass by Fillipelli into the outstretched hands of Hatheway. But the drive stalled when a third-and-17 pass to Hatheway was overthrown. With 7:07 to go, Friedman lined up to try a 32-yard field goal but his attempt was blocked.

Panas took over with seven minutes left at its own 27. Soon facing fourth-and-one, the Panthers gambled and lost when Lee, on a keeper, was stopped an inch short. The Bobcats had the ball at the Panther 36 with 5:10 still on the clock.

On first down, Mike Sardo, who had success running the ball all game for the Bobcats, went around the left end for 12 yards before getting pushed while out of bounds into the nearby Gatorade jug. The late hit moved the ball all the way to the 12-yard line, but the Panas defense then rose to



Ryan Lynch walks dejectedly off the field following the Bobcats' last-second loss to visiting Walter Panas.



Kellen Hatheway of Byram Hills runs with the ball after making a reception vs. Walter Panas.

the occasion, forcing a Friedman field-goal try from 36 yards that wound up short and wide left with 3:58 left.

That set the stage for the Panthers' game-winning drive that was twice sustained when they converted first downs on third-and-long. A Lee-to-Nayquan Harris pass play to the Byram 3-yard line with 37 seconds to go all but sealed the Bobcats' fate. Lee scored his winning touchdown two plays later with less than 10 seconds remaining. A desperation play by the Bobcats with just two seconds on the clock ended with Samsen catching a Fillipelli pass for a 28-yard gain but getting tackled at the Panther 31 as time expired.

"We bounce back," predicted Saunders, whose team hosts unbeaten Westlake next Saturday afternoon on Homecoming. "We get some rest this weekend and come ready to go to practice and ready to work on Monday."

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Kalle's Late TD Lifts Westlake to a Win Over Croton

By Skip Pearlman

It was the Wildcats of Westlake who pulled out a wild, 14-7 victory Saturday at Croton-Harmon High School's Spencer Field. But this one went right down to the wire - the outcome was up for grabs right up to the game's last play.

With the score tied at 7-7, Croton was driving the field for the go-ahead touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, when Tigers quarterback Larry Chiulli was picked off by Westlake's Ryan Duffy, giving the Wildcats the ball at their own 37.

Moments later, it was Jay Kalle running for a three-yard Westlake TD that turned out to be the game-winner, giving the Wildcats a 14-7 lead with 5:05 left in the game after Anthony Sardo's kick.

Croton had an opportunity go awry with about two minutes to play, when backup QB Jordan Blumenthal, in for a shaken up Chiulli, was intercepted at the Westlake 31 by Will Snyder.

But Westlake gave the Tigers another golden opportunity as Sardo fumbled the ball right back to Croton, which took over on the Wildcat 35 with 1:45 to play.

Croton then marched all the way to the Westlake 6-yard line, and appeared poised to tie the game. But the Wildcats' defense came up with a huge play on fourth-and-two, as Sardo gained



Westlake's Jay Kalle (33) ran for 87 yards and a TD for the Wildcats.

redemption by sacking Chiulli for a big loss - and forcing a fumble - which was recovered by Duffy as time expired, preserving the Westlake win.

"That was a typical Westlake-Croton game," Wildcat coach Rich Hennessy said. "It's always a good game, and always down to the wire. This was a whole team effort. We were down 7-0, and they could have gotten down. But they came back, they were resilient to the end, and we were able to hold on for the victory."

The game was scoreless until the



Matt Zefi of Westlake picks up yardage Saturday at Croton, as he drags defender with him.

final minute of the third quarter, when another turnover impacted the game. Wildcat QB Tom Castro was picked off by Croton's TJ Searight, who returned the ball for a touchdown, which was erased by a flag, putting the ball instead at midfield.

But Croton's Blumenthal broke loose on the next play and carried the ball to the Westlake 18, and shortly after it was Michael Harris running for a three-yard TD and a 7-0 Croton lead.

The Wildcats didn't wait long to respond. Duffy returned the ensuing kickoff all the way to the Croton 13, setting up a one-yard TD run by Castro, who then kicked the PAT to even the score at 7-7.

"A lot of our guys are juniors," Hennessy said. "They got some good experience. They understood what they needed to do at the end of the game, and they stepped up... Snyder, Sardo, Duffy on the kickoff return, converting the extra points. So many kids did all the little things to get us there."

"There' is 2-0, where the Wildcats currently sit. "That's great," Hennessy said, "2-0 is fantastic. But we know it will get tougher. So we'll work hard to try to get a victory, and if we do we'll savor it."

Castro finished 3-for-5 for 42 yards and one interception, and ran for 42 yards and a TD on 10 carries. Kalle led the team on the ground with 87 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries. Zefi ran for 71 yards on eight attempts, while Sardo had 40 yards on nine rushes.

Westlake visits 0-2 Byram Hills Saturday at 3 p.m. Croton hosts Hen Hud Saturday at 1:30 p.m.



Westlake's Ryan Duffy finds open lane during kickoff return to Croton 13, setting up a Tom Castro TD run.



Westlake quarterback Tom Castro picks up yardage on the ground Saturday at Croton. Castro ran for 42 yards and a TD in the win.



Will Snyder (5) of Westlake is mobbed by teammates Saturday after his interception with 2:00 to play in win over Croton.

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SPORTS SCENE



Greeley first-singles player Alexandra Kung moves in to hit a volley in her win vs. John Jay (Cross River) on Friday.



Pleasantville's Olivia Ashton moves forward to hit a backhand in her 6-1, 6-0 win at second singles vs. Hastings on Thursday.



Horace Greeley's Gwen Rauch smacks a backhand in her win at second singles on Friday vs. John Jay.



Above: Zoe Arditi, playing third singles, concentrates on a backhand during a Greeley home match on Friday afternoon.
Left: Elaina Bruck of Fox Lane hits a forehand return en route to a 6-0, 6-3 win at second singles in last Wednesday's home match.



Above: Amanda Posa of Pleasantville hits a forehand in her straight-sets win vs. Hastings at first singles on Thursday.
Right: Fox Lane's Taylor Cutroneo follows through on a serve during her 6-0, 6-0 victory at first singles last week vs. Hen Hud.



Above: Kelsey Goldring of Byram Hills gets set to send a shot on goal in the Bobcats' home game vs. Pelham.
Above right: Rachel Pollack of Byram Hills goes sprawling after colliding with the Pelham goalkeeper in Friday afternoon's home game vs. Pelham, won by the Bobcats 3-0.



Above: Byram Hills' Raquel Gaudio takes the ball up the field during Friday's victory over visiting Pelham.
Left: Taylor Verboys of Byram Hills (left) battles for possession in Friday's 3-0 Bobcat win vs. Pelham.

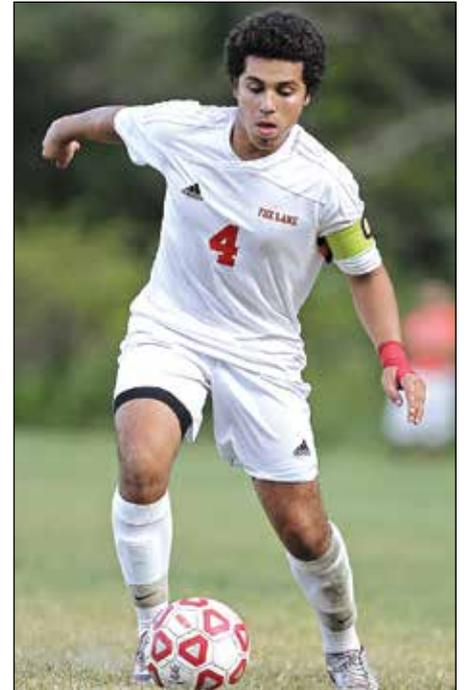
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Julianna Ursillo of Valhalla chases the ball in Thursday's road game vs. Pleasantville.



Maya Katritos of Fox Lane (center) keeps her eyes on the ball in last Wednesday's 3-0 victory over John Jay.



Fox Lane's Isaac Sanabria controls the ball near midfield against the Indians of John Jay.



Fox Lane's Tara Lombardi moves the ball up the field in last week's win vs. John Jay.



Pleasantville's Remi Manna controls the ball at midfield vs. visiting Valhalla last Thursday.



Valhalla goalkeeper Francesca Guzzo tries to get possession of the ball in front of the crowded net during last Thursday's game at Pleasantville.



Fox Lane's Javier Lopez chases the ball in last Wednesday's game vs. visiting John Jay.



Pleasantville's Ann Marie DiCarlo controls the ball in last week's home game vs. Valhalla.



Above: Juan Rivera of Fox Lane boots the ball late in last week's game, won by visiting John Jay.



Emmett Robin moves the ball up the field in Fox Lane's home loss to John Jay last week.



Lia Golden of Fox Lane takes the ball along the right sideline against the visiting John Jay Indians.

Right: Fox Lane's Katie Freeman controls the ball in last Wednesday's 3-0 home win over John Jay.



Janna McPartland of Pleasantville attempts to get past Valhalla's Kaylie Dymek last Thursday afternoon.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



GOOOOOOAAALLLLLLLLLL!!!!

Valhalla's Ricky Thomas sends the game-tying goal past diving Rye Neck keeper Richie Barrios in the second half of Friday evening's home game and then celebrates when he sees the ball in the back of the net. The two teams finished in a 1-1 tie, but the Vikings prevailed by outscoring Rye Neck 4-1 in penalty kicks.

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Above: Briarcliff's Stefano Paone returns a kick during the Bears' home game against Ardsley on Saturday afternoon.

FOOTBALL 2014 Week Two Ardsley is Too Much for the Bears



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Right: Sam Hahn of Briarcliff carries the football in the first quarter of Saturday's game vs. visiting Ardsley.



Quarterback Matt Heyda of Briarcliff/Hamilton runs away from Ardsley's Dan Heavey in Saturday's lopsided loss to the visiting Panthers that evened the Bears' record at 1-1 this season.

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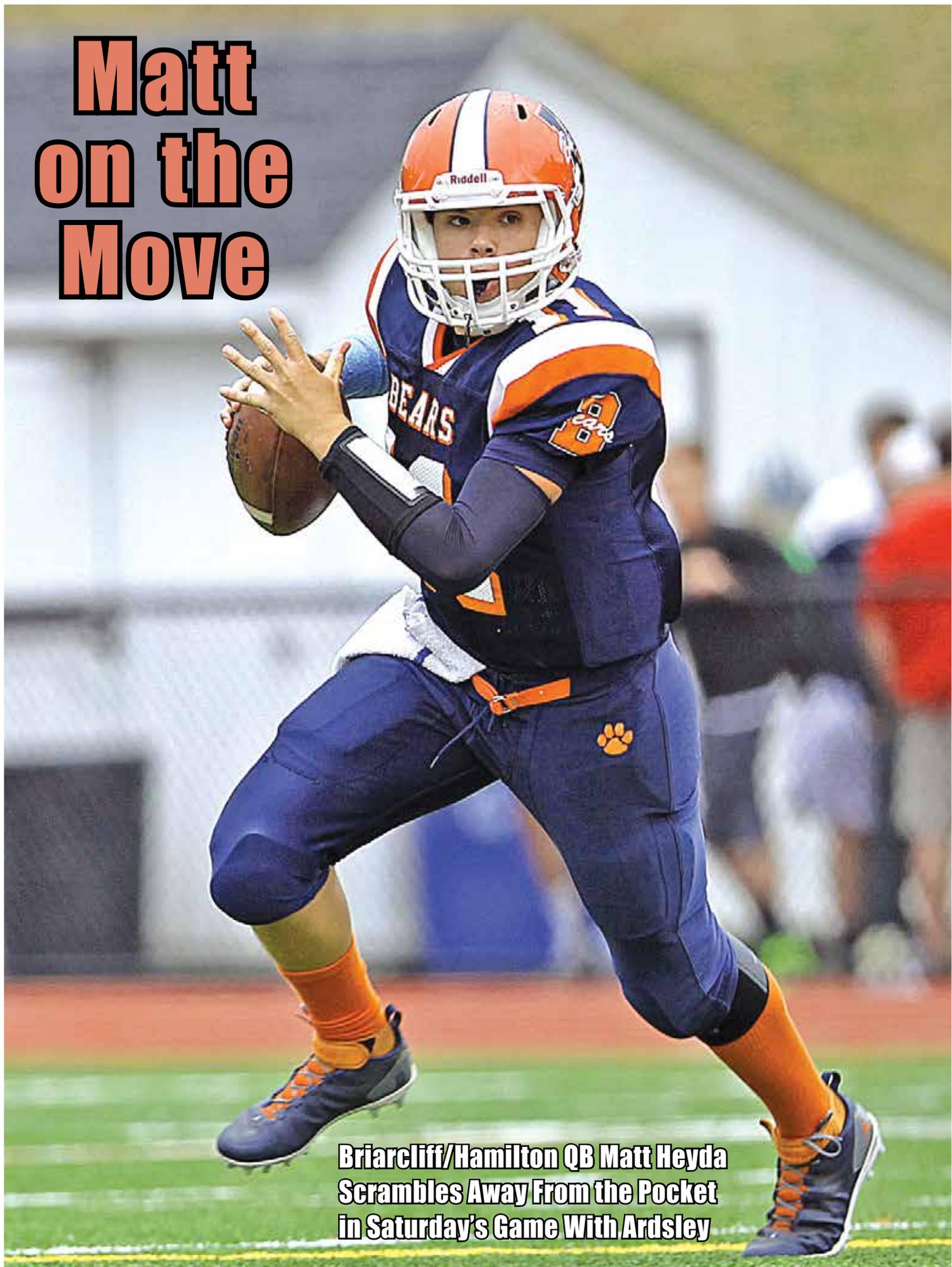


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Matt on the Move



**Briarcliff/Hamilton QB Matt Heyda
Scrambles Away From the Pocket
in Saturday's Game With Ardsley**

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