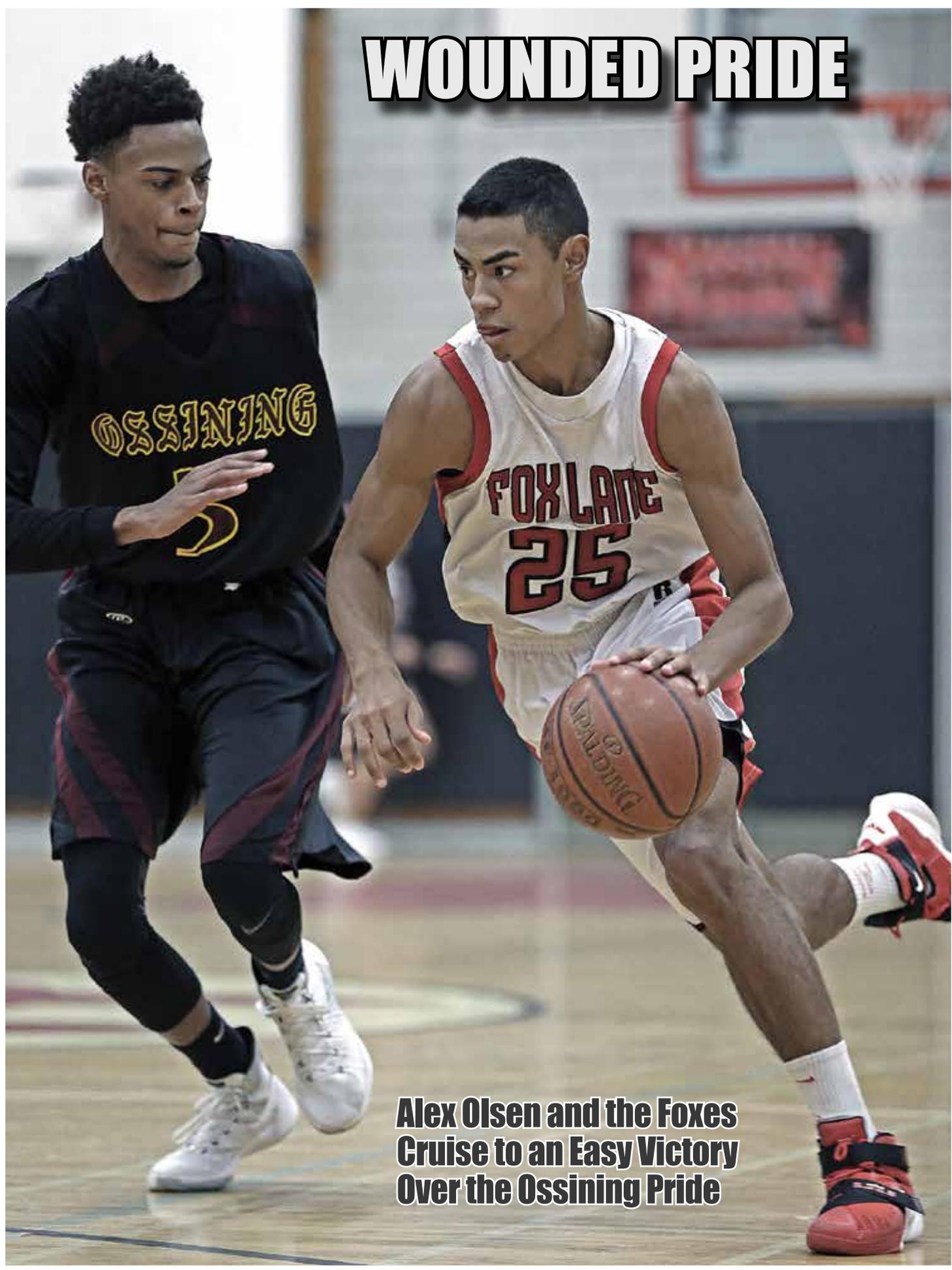


WOUNDED PRIDE



**Alex Olsen and the Foxes
Cruise to an Easy Victory
Over the Ossining Pride**

Guard's Return to the Lineup Lifts Beacon to a Win Over Fox Lane

By Andy Jacobs

The Fox Lane girls' basketball team learned the hard way on Friday afternoon that timing is everything.

Hosting a Beacon Bulldog squad that had star point guard Leandra Echi back in the lineup, the Foxes were forced to play without recently injured sophomore forward Maria Violante. Had the game been played as scheduled a week earlier, Echi would have been the one sidelined while Violante was on the court patrolling the paint.

The reversal of fortunes turned out to be too much for the Foxes to overcome. As Violante watched helplessly from the bench, Echi scored a game-high 28 points and reached the 1000 plateau for her career in the final minute as the Bulldogs defeated the Foxes 60-49.

"We knew what we were getting into and we prepared for it," said Fox Lane coach Kris Matts afterwards about the task of slowing down the Bulldogs' dynamic senior. "You know, you can talk about it all day. When you see it, it's another story. You can't prepare for that kind of athleticism."

Echi piled up 20 of her points in the opening half, helping Beacon build a 38-26 advantage at intermission. Her fast-break layup to beat the buzzer at the end of the first quarter gave the Bulldogs a three-point lead. When the Foxes' Sorvina Carr scored on a runner in the lane to begin the second period, it was Echi who answered with a 3-pointer from the top of the key that started a 15-3 Bulldog run that Fox Lane never recovered from.

Even though the game had begun with Fox Lane jumping out to a quick 5-0 lead on a baseline jumper from Tara Lombardi and a 3-pointer by Katie Morales, it quickly became apparent how much the Foxes were missing Violante as the Bulldogs' first two baskets of the day came on put-backs. After the early trey from Morales, Beacon scored the next nine points and never trailed again.

"Today we had to adjust to having our leading scorer not be there, and in spurts it looked like we were able to do it," said Matts. "But not over the long haul, unfortunately."

Violante had dislocated a pinky finger early in the second half of the Foxes' game at Ossining just two days earlier. Without her on the court, Beacon was able to win the battle for rebounds and also drive repeatedly to the basket. All seven of the Bulldogs' first-quarter buckets were scored from inside the paint.

"None of those things happen with Maria in the game," said Matts. "The boards don't happen with Maria in the game. She's taller than their tallest player, she's stronger than their strongest player, and she's a beast on the boards. So she changes everything. But even without her, we were good enough to beat this team and that goes down to coaching. Poor preparation on my part. I knew they only had two players, and we



Sorvina Carr of Fox Lane tries to drive past a pair of Beacon players in Friday's game, won by the visiting Bulldogs.



Fox Lane's Emily O'Mahoney drives the right baseline in Friday's home game vs. Beacon.

should've been able to adjust our game to stop them."

The second-half scoring began with Emily O'Mahoney, who led Fox Lane with 14 points, connecting on a jumper from the right corner 90 seconds in to move the Foxes within 10. But they then went scoreless for nearly four minutes until Carr made a free throw after Beacon had stretched its lead to 16 points. The Bulldogs' largest lead of the contest, 49-31, came with 1:38 left in the third quarter when Lauren Schetter provided a conventional three-point play.

Fox Lane trailed by 15 points heading to the fourth quarter and could never get closer than 10 the rest of the way. Echi made her final basket of the day with 1:31 remaining, and then a Morales 3-pointer nine seconds later narrowed the Beacon lead to 55-45. But it was too little and too late for the Foxes. With just 18 seconds to go, Echi stepped to the line and made two free throws to reach the 1000-point milestone.



Lucy Crerend fires up a 3-pointer in the first half of Friday's home game.



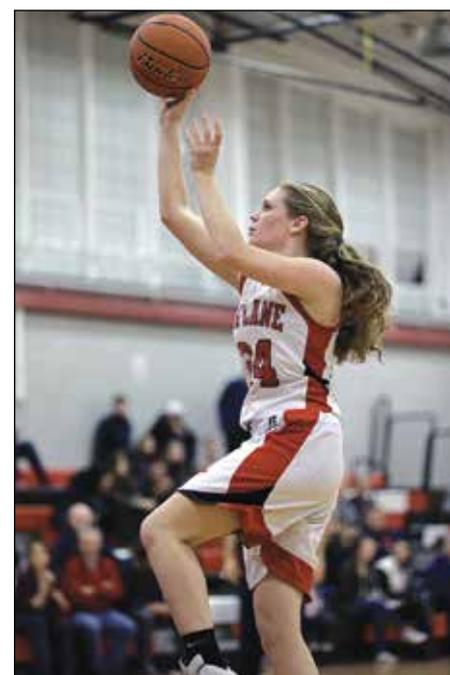
The Foxes' Tara Lombardi gets set to shoot the ball in the first half of Friday's game.

"Leandra's obviously a specimen," said Matts. "She played incredibly well against, in my opinion, the best defender in the section, which is Emily O'Mahoney. That was impressive. But the adjustments we did in the second half, I think if we did that the whole game we would've been fine. I think Emily did a great job in the second half containing her athleticism because she really was out of rhythm totally in the second half. First half, she killed us, though."

Echi scored eight baskets in the first half, including a pair of 3-pointers. But after icing her shins at halftime and then



Fox Lane guard Katie Morales, who scored 10 points, dribbles the ball past midcourt vs. Beacon.



Kate Muller sends up a runner in the lane during Fox Lane's home game against the Bulldogs.

facing what Matts called "a box-and-one, but cheating," she only managed two more buckets over the final 16 minutes.

Matts is convinced that if the two teams had met when they were supposed to, nine days earlier, "we win by quite a few." Instead the Foxes now find themselves in the midst of a three-game losing streak as they prepare for their final game before the holidays, on the road against Mahopac on Tuesday.

"They're a resilient group," he said of his players. "They're obviously upset. But I told em, 'We're all gonna learn from this one, but especially your coach. I take this loss on me.' I just wish I could've done a better job for them to put them in a position to be successful because that team in the second half was better than Beacon."

Foxes Cruise Past Ossining for Their Third Straight Victory

By Andy Jacobs

Even though his Fox Lane basketball team built a lead as large as 22 points in the first half Wednesday evening and even erupted for nine points in less than 40 seconds early in the second quarter, don't count head coach Mike Tomassi among those who were dazzled by what they saw.

"I think we can play a lot better, to be honest," he said afterwards. "We had eight turnovers and we gave up eight offensive rebounds, which isn't very good."

Nonetheless, the Foxes' huge first-half lead paved the way to a 71-53 victory over Ossining in front of a large and appreciative mid-week home crowd. Sean New scored 19 points, while forwards Matt Redhead and Alex Olsen added 18 apiece as Fox Lane won its third straight game since opening the season with a loss down on Long Island.

"You know, when we get three, four guys rolling like that, it's always gonna be a better game," said Tomassi. "We came out just how we wanted to. We're at home, and this is our court and we want to make sure we defend it."

The Foxes scored the game's first six points and never trailed. It took Ossining nearly three and a half minutes to get on the scoreboard, and when Redhead made a layup with 2:30 left in the opening quarter the Fox Lane lead grew to 13-2. Despite a steal and breakaway dunk by Ossining sophomore Alan Griffin that soon followed, the Pride never recovered.

They were already behind 15-6 after the first eight minutes when the Foxes put together their lightning-quick 9-0 burst that began 25 seconds into the second quarter with Olsen connecting on a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Just 17 seconds later, Redhead scored on a put-back. Moments after that, Redhead provided another layup while getting fouled. When he missed his free throw, Olsen was there for the rebound and put-back basket that gave the Foxes an 18-point advantage.

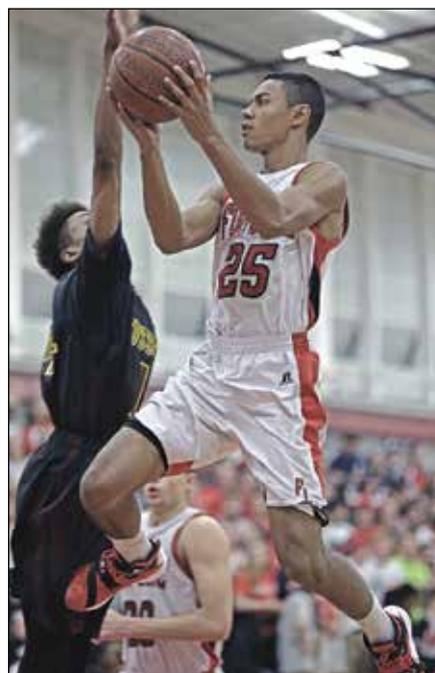
Griffin, son of former NBA player Adrian Griffin, scored eight of his game-high 20 points in the second quarter, but it hardly mattered. A pair of free throws by Jamal Jackson-Blake with 38 seconds remaining in the period gave Fox Lane its largest lead of the half at 38-16. Ossining did manage to close the quarter with put-back baskets by both Richard Bautista and Griffin to cut its deficit to 18 points at the break.

"Yeah, I think we did a good job keeping the pedal to the metal," said Tomassi. "We came out, we definitely shared the ball. We played our style of basketball. And that's the stuff we preach

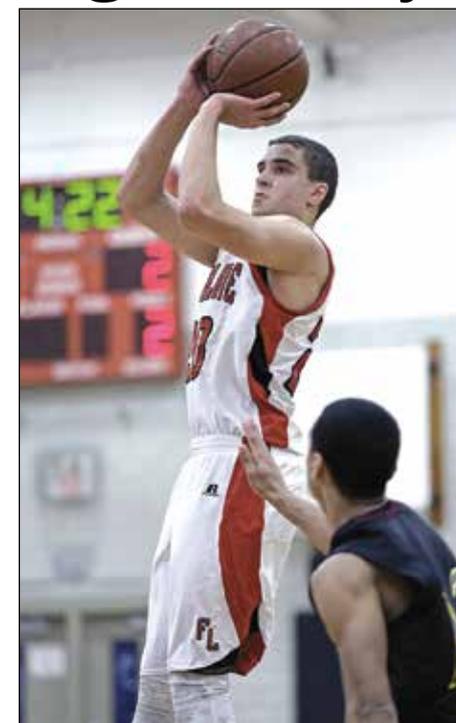


ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Fox Lane's Jamal Jackson-Blake tries to get to the rim from the right baseline in last Wednesday's game vs. Ossining.



Alex Olsen glides through the lane in the second half of last week's home win over Ossining.



The Foxes' Matt Redhead fires a jump shot in the first half of last Wednesday's game vs. the Pride.

and we want."

Fox Lane didn't get the opportunity to play its style of basketball when play resumed in the second half because Ossining turned to full-court pressure in an effort to narrow the Foxes' large lead. There were turnovers aplenty as the Foxes struggled against the Pride press, but Ossining never got closer than 14 points in the third quarter.

"We've got to definitely get better handling the press," said Tomassi. "This is the first time we really saw it. You know, you can practice all you want, but you can't replicate what you see in a game. Luckily, we were still able to score and they didn't really gain anything and we didn't really lose anything. But we do have to do a better job and we will. So I'm not worried about that."

Olsen, Jackson-Blake and New all made 3-pointers in the third quarter, which ended with Fox Lane leading 53-38. It was Jackson-Blake's trey, out of the right corner with 2:15 to go, that put an end to a 6-0 Ossining spurt and helped keep the Pride far behind. A 10-3 run to start the fourth quarter increased the Foxes' advantage to 22 points and enabled Tomassi to get his reserves some playing time.

"We've still got a lot of work to do," said Tomassi. "We've got to handle pressure a little better. But just keep playing together. There's no 'I' in team and

Sean New scored 19 points to help the Foxes defeat visiting Ossining last Wednesday evening.



Fox Lane point guard Emmett Robin pushes the ball up floor in the home victory over Ossining.



The Foxes' Julian Francisco takes the ball to the basket during last Wednesday's home game.

we've just got to keep playing. You know, I think they've really bought in to five guys playing together and they understand the power of that now."

The Foxes will be taking part in the Slam Dunk Tournament at the Westchester County Center next week and Tomassi can only hope their growing legion of fans join them for the two games down there.

"We've got a great crowd that comes in and supports like crazy," he said. "This is the best crowd in Section One. This is the best environment. It doesn't matter what night of the week, they come and support. And we just want to make them proud, you know, keep them coming. You keep them coming by winning games. Hopefully, we keep winning and the crowd keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger."



Coach Mike Tomassi watches his Fox Lane boys' basketball team in the second half of last week's win over Ossining.

Quakers' Comeback Bid Ends With a Loss at John

By Justin Thomas

The underdog Horace Greeley Quakers went on the road to take on the undefeated John Jay Indians on Friday night. After trailing by as many as 11 points, the Quakers mounted a second-half comeback that fell just short as they lost 43-39.

It wasn't pretty nor easy, but the Quakers provided the Indians with a challenge and head coach John Alkalay couldn't have been more pleased.

"The effort was 150 percent," Alkalay said. "The girls battled for the entire four quarters. We were down nine entering the fourth, and there was no quit. There were no downcast eyes in the huddle. Everybody was out saying, 'Let's go. Let's make a comeback. Let's take this.' So I'm proud of the effort."

For the first three quarters, it looked like turnovers, both forced and unforced, might doom the Quakers. But the Indians turned the ball over too, enabling Greeley to stay right in the game.

Greeley was trailing by just five points at halftime, but the Indians quickly got their game going in the third quarter and jumped out to a 24-13 lead by capitalizing on the turnovers and the rebounding advantage they had over the Quakers.

Greeley was able to close the gap thanks to some great defense and ball movement by Lauren Brown, and a huge 3-pointer in the corner by Brianna Gadaleta, who started to get more involved in the offense. But the hard work the Quakers had put in to move within six points was quickly snuffed by a buzzer-beating trey to end the third quarter by Hailey Spencer that gave John Jay a 29-20 lead.

With the start of the fourth quarter came a renewed drive and spirit from the Quakers as everyone on the court started to get involved. Suddenly it wasn't just Brown and Ashley Rosenberg, who chipped in with 11 points. It was the whole team getting together and seizing the momentum.

The quarter started with Brown finding Gwen Wright underneath for a basket, then Cari Himel got in the action in a big way by draining a 3-pointer. Gadaleta then capped off a 7-0 run by driving hard to the basket and scoring. Just like that, it was a 29-27 game with just over six minutes still to play.

"That's what we've been preaching all year," Alkalay said. "That it can't just be one or two players. It's got to be a team effort. You don't know which one of the players is going to have the hot hand. Today, Cari Himel hit a couple of shots, Ashley Rosenberg hit a couple of shots, Brianna Gadaleta...so that's great, and we just need contributions across the board because then that will put us over the top, I think."



The Quakers' Lauren Brown races up the court with the ball in the first half vs. John Jay.



Kelsey Genda brings the ball up the court in Horace Greeley's road game vs. John Jay.

After the Quaker spurt, the game went back and forth, never growing to more than a two-possession game. The teams were trading baskets or making strong defensive stops every possession. Hailey Spencer made one free throw and missed the next, but it was rebounded by teammate Elizabeth Jahn and put back for a three-point possession. But Greeley answered right back with a clutch 3-pointer from Gadaleta, who finished with a team-high 12 points, to make it 34-32.

Then it was déjà vu, as Tierney Spencer hit one free throw, followed by a layup by Hailey Spencer to extend the lead back to five. But the Quakers would again answer right back as Brown drove and dished over to Gadaleta for another corner three that brought Greeley back within two points again.

Despite their spirited effort, it was the rebounding that fell short, as the Indians would seal the game after Jahn hit her first free throw and missed the second. The missed shot was rebounded and put



Greeley's Gwen Wright shoots a short jumper during the Quakers' game in Cross River.



The Quakers' Ashley Rosenberg drives to the basket in Friday evening's game at John Jay.

in by Hailey Spencer, who finished with a game-high 16 points.

It was clear that the Quakers missed Meaghan Townsend's presence on the boards as she continues to be out indefinitely with a back injury. But despite the close loss, the Quakers came away with a lot to build on after throwing a scare at the unbeaten Indians.

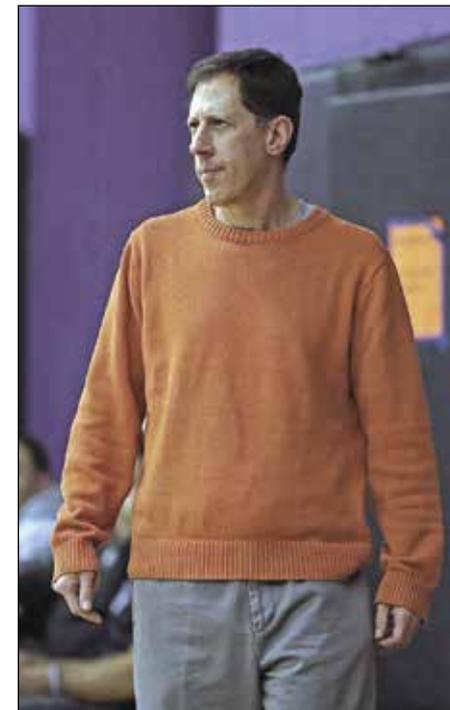
"We're going into break now," Alkalay said. "We come back and there's still 13 games left in the season. So there's a long season. We're just hoping to get better every single game, so that when we get in similar close games like this down the road they turn out in our favor."



Greeley's Brianna Gadaleta lines up a 3-pointer in Friday's game vs. the John Jay Indians.



Horace Greeley's Lucy Benack takes the ball into the lane in the fourth quarter of Friday's game against host John Jay.



Coach John Alkalay looks on from the sideline in the fourth quarter of Friday's game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Point guard Patrick McPhee searches for an open teammate in Pleasantville's loss to visiting Putnam Valley last week.



Greeley's Nick Sloan moves the puck up the ice during the Quakers' loss to Yorktown on Saturday.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Horace Greeley's Ryan Renzulli is thwarted in front of the Yorktown goal during Saturday's game at Brewster Ice Arena.

SPORTS SCENE



Pleasantville's Mike Manley sends up an off-balance shot during last Wednesday's home game vs. Putnam Valley.



Above: Mark Caracciolo has the upper hand as he wrestles vs. Carmel last week.



Ed Girardi blasts a shot on goal in Saturday evening's game vs. Yorktown at Brewster Ice Arena.



Quincy Downes is in control as he wrestles during a Fox Lane home match.

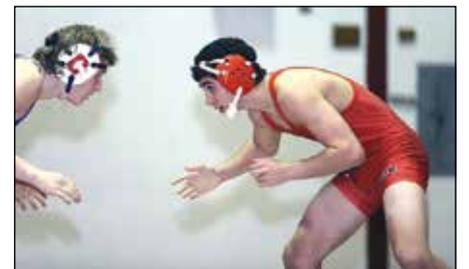


Matias Rivera was one of the Fox Lane winners in last week's home match vs. Carmel.

Below: Fox Lane's Amos Rivera wrestles during the Foxes' home match vs. Carmel that ended in a deadlock.



Fox Lane wrestler Tyler Thomas tries to gain an early advantage in the middle of the mat vs. Carmel.



Fox Lane's Josh Rauch looks for a takedown during his match vs. visiting Carmel.

A Slow Start Dooms the Setters in a Loss to Molloy College

By Andy Jacobs

It took just 20 minutes of basketball for the Molloy College Lions to spoil the holiday spirit of Pace head coach Matt Healing.

The hot-shooting Lions made 58 percent of their shots in the opening half and built a large lead that the Setters could not overcome on Sunday afternoon. With freshman guard Curtis Jenkins scoring a game-high 18 points, Molloy defeated host Pace 74-63 in a non-conference game played at the Goldstein Fitness Center.

"We've got to do a better job," said a disappointed Healing after his team dropped its final game before the Christmas break. "Our defensive effort and execution wasn't there to start the game and they put a hurtin' on us in the first half."

The Setters, who hadn't played since Southern Connecticut ended their three-game winning streak eight days earlier, fell victim to a 14-0 Molloy first-half blitz that left them playing from behind the rest of the day. By halftime, the Setters faced a 16-point deficit and were well on their way to their sixth loss in 11 games this season.

"We had a defensive game plan that didn't get executed and you've just got to credit them," said Healing. "They took advantage of it. They were attacking the basket, they were making outside shots. They were the aggressor today and we were not. They outplayed us."

Jenkins connected on a 3-pointer just 15 seconds after the opening tip to give the Lions a lead they held for all but a few seconds midway through the first half. Another 3-pointer by Brandon Williams nearly seven minutes in enabled Molloy to stretch its advantage to 20-12. But the Setters soon evened the score with a 10-2 run that began and ended with baskets by Bryan Rivers.

Just 20 seconds later, though, Jenkins made a fall-away 3-pointer from the top



Austin Mofunanya of Pace shoots the ball in traffic during the second half of Sunday's home game vs. the Tigers.



Pace freshman Luke McLaughlin tries to dribble past Molloy's Kevin Bowles in Sunday's home game.

of the key, and Pace trailed the rest of the game. Even worse for the Setters, the trey from Jenkins triggered the 14-0 run that proved to be decisive. The Setters were still within 39-28 late in the half following a Shelton Mickell 3-pointer before Molloy went on another 7-0 burst that included a lightning-quick burst by Jenkins from the right baseline for an easy bucket and a 3-pointer by Charlie Marquardt.

"Yeah, we've got to take care of the basketball, we've got to get better shots, we've got to run the offense better than we did today," said Healing about the disastrous first half. "Just a poor day of execution, offensively, defensively. A lot of careless basketball, so we've just got to go back to the drawing board when we come back in a week and just keep working."

The second half began with a 3-pointer by Pace freshman Ryan Peterson, who finished the day with the first double-double of his college career (10 points, 10 rebounds). But just 90 seconds in, the Setters' Kyle Pearson was whistled for his third foul and was forced to the bench.



The Setters' Shelton Mickell sends up a shot in the lane with his left hand late in Sunday afternoon's game at the Goldstein Fitness Center.



Pace's Kyle Pearson shoots the ball from the right baseline in Sunday afternoon's game vs. Molloy.



Pace point guard Bryan Rivers drives to the basket in the Setters' 74-63 loss to Molloy.

have to do that right from the start," said Healing. "It's definitely a sour taste over the holidays, for sure. But that's the ups and downs of the season. It's 28 games and we've had ups, we've had downs, and we're not even halfway through yet."

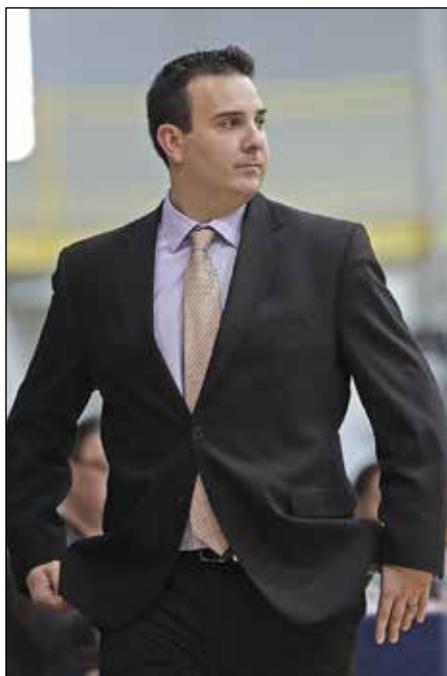
Until last year, the Setters had never lost to Molloy, winning 16 consecutive times. But the Tigers, now 3-7 this season, ended the long drought with a two-point victory 13 months ago and used their 18-of-31 shooting from the floor in the first half Sunday to beat Pace for a second straight time.

"I don't know what's happened in the past," said Healing about the all-time series between the two schools. "I know Molloy's a good team regardless of their record. They've played a lot of close games. They're a tough team. They beat us last year. They beat us this year. We've got to do a better job."

Despite his absence, Pace soon went on a 7-0 run, getting an inside basket from Austin Mofunanya, a two-handed stuff by Peterson at the end of a fast break and a conventional three-point play by Rivers, who led the team with 17 points. Suddenly the Setters were within 51-42 and there was still nearly 17 minutes remaining.

A 3-pointer by Mickell cut the Molloy lead to 53-45 with 14:45 to go, but that was as close as the Setters would get. An 11-3 Lion run built the Molloy advantage back up to 16 points with 9:38 left on the clock. The Setters got 3-pointers from Mickell and Evan Gordinier in the final two minutes, but by then the outcome had long since been decided.

"We scrambled to get back into it, but we



Pace head coach Matt Healing watches his team battle Molloy in the second half at the Goldstein Fitness Center.

Comeback Falls Short as Pace Women Lose to Assumption

The Pace University women's basketball team spent a good amount of time during Sunday afternoon's home game against Assumption College trying to catch up after falling behind by 13 points late in the second quarter.

But the Setters could never quite get over the hump and fell to the Greyhounds 57-47 in a non-conference game at the Goldstein Fitness Center. Despite a game-high 17 points by Gabby Rubin and 14 points and nine rebounds from center Kirsten Dodge, Pace dropped to 6-5 this season.

The two teams were tied 9-9 at the end of the first quarter, but Assumption scored the first eight points of the second period and never trailed again. A 3-pointer by Morgan



Pace's Gabby Rubin drives to the basket in Sunday's home game vs. Assumption College.

O'Brien with 2:25 to go before halftime gave the Greyhounds their largest lead of the game, 25-12. Pace closed the half with baskets by Shanice Maynard and Rubin, then got a pair of inside buckets from Dodge to start the third quarter, narrowing the Assumption lead to just five points.

A 3-pointer by Geena Rosalbo just before the shot clock was about to expire, followed by a trey from Rubin out of the left corner, brought the Setters to within a point midway through the third quarter. But Assumption, now 8-2, answered with a 3-pointer by Morgan O'Donnell and



Pace senior forward Yuni Sher tries to score in the paint during Sunday's game at the Goldstein Fitness Center.

layup by Jo Impellizeri. The third quarter ended with back-to-back layups from the Greyhounds' Jaelyn Storey, leaving Pace with a 40-33 deficit with 10 minutes to go.

Dodge collected two early baskets in the fourth quarter, then Rubin connected on a 3-pointer to cut the Assumption lead to 44-40 with 7:05 still remaining on the clock. A pullup 15-foot jumper by Rubin with 2:25 left moved the Setters back within four points again, but Assumption scored the game's next seven points to thwart the Pace



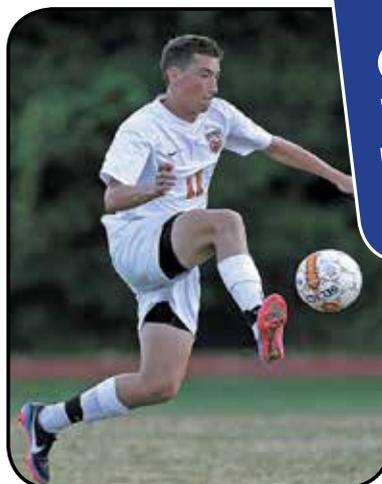
The Setters' Shanice Maynard shoots the ball in the first half of Sunday's game.

comeback bid.

The Setters, who only made three of their 13 attempts from the foul line against the Greyhounds, don't play again until December 31 when they host St. Thomas Aquinas in a non-conference game at noon. Their next Northeast-10 Conference home game will be against Saint Anselm on January 6.



Pace University point guard Geena Rosalbo pushes the ball up the court vs. the Assumption Greyhounds.



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Midair Magic



**Greeley's Lauren Brown Levitates
During a Drive Through the Lane
in Friday's Game vs. the Indians**

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO