

## TIPOFF TIME 2015



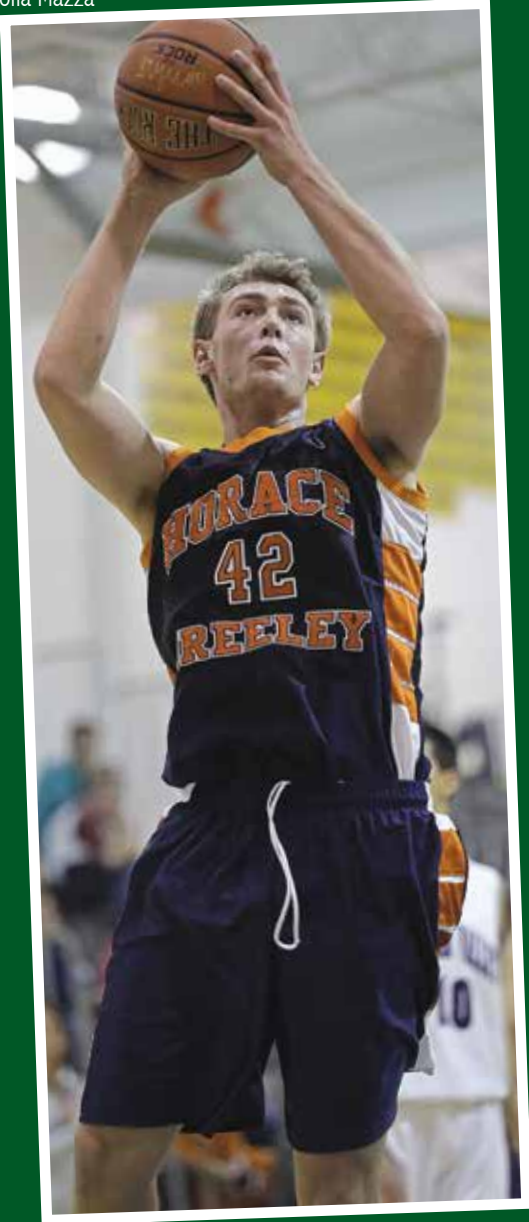
Westlake's Emily Sardo and Valhalla's Sofia Mazza



Pleasantville's Mike Manley



Greeley's Lauren Brown



Greeley's Jeff Merchant



Westlake's Jesse Boyce



# Valhalla Tops the Wildcats in a Defensive Battle

By Justin Thomas

With the holiday season making everyone feel neighborly love, Valhalla and Westlake renewed their neighborly rivalry on Friday night at Westlake High School. The Vikings earned the bragging rights this time, beating the Wildcats 52-44 in a game in which defense reigned supreme.

Although both head coaches are new to their positions, they knew how important this rivalry was for their student bodies, as the Westlake gymnasium was filled to the brim, and then some.

It was all about defense in this low-scoring affair, with both teams forcing plenty of turnovers throughout the contest. Westlake was definitely winning the physical battle, with players like senior Will Snyder crashing the boards. But the Vikings played some scrappy ball, grabbing a number of steals from the Wildcats to limit their possessions.

"I'm really impressed," Valhalla head coach Mike Auerbach said. "They had a big physical advantage on us. I mean, if you look at their guys compared to our guys, their guys have men's shoulders and triceps and stuff, and we have to battle on the boards. They hurt us on the boards...but we got some big rebounds down the stretch. I have a competitive group. They work hard, they compete, and if we make shots we can put some points up."

The hot hand for the Vikings all night was junior Kevin Kelly, who led all scorers with 17 points. It wasn't until Ricky Thomas, Ethan Bartlett and Orlando Clarke got heavily involved in the offense that Valhalla was able to make its move to pull away from the



Valhalla guard Kevin Kelly rises for a shot in the lane in the Vikings' win over Westlake on Friday night.



Orlando Clarke of Valhalla shoots a 3-pointer in the Vikings' victory at Westlake.

Wildcats, building a 10-point lead with just about one minute left to play.

"We're trying to be balanced," Auerbach said. "My starters, I have confidence in them to score the basketball. Kevin Kelly is our returning guy who got all the accolades last season, but we need balance. We need the other guys to step up. We need the guys inside to give us something, and they did tonight."

Westlake wasn't about to quit on the game, and was able to draw to within six points with just under 20 seconds left to play. But the game fittingly ended with a key turnover.

On a Westlake inbound pass with 15



Valhalla's Terrance Hart attempts to score in the paint after driving the left baseline vs. host Westlake.



Ricky Thomas of Valhalla is watched by Westlake's Owen Peterson (left) and Ryan Power during Friday evening's game, won by the Vikings.



Nick Sirena of Westlake tries to score inside as Valhalla's Ethan Bartlett defends in Friday night's game.



Westlake guard Jesse Boyce shoots the ball in Friday's game.

seconds left in a six-point game, Kelly flew in and stole the ball before drawing a foul. He went to the foul line, where he sealed the game with two clutch free throws..

"That's the type of player he is," Auerbach said. "That's the type of kid he is. He does strange things sometimes, but sometimes it's coming up with a steal when no one's paying attention to him."

The season is still just starting for both of these teams, which both opened up with victories earlier in the week. The Wildcats' physicality will serve them well throughout the season, but Friday night belonged to the Vikings.



Will Snyder of Westlake takes the ball to the basket during Friday's home game vs. the Vikings.



# Panthers Defeat Dobbs Ferry to Begin a New Season

By Andy Jacobs

As the 2015-16 season tipped off last Wednesday for his Pleasantville boys' basketball team, coach Chris Welsh knew he could count on some reliable scoring from his backcourt duo of Patrick McPhee and Mike Manley.

Then he got an unexpected, but welcome, surprise.

Junior forward Jeremy Stone erupted for 11 points in the second half to help lead the Panthers to a 60-43 victory over visiting Dobbs Ferry. Five of his points came in the midst of a 10-0 Pleasantville spurt over the final four minutes that sealed the outcome.

"The big thing tonight is we had a third guy step up and score a little bit," said Welsh, moments after the final buzzer had sounded in the season opener. "And that's Jeremy Stone. I thought Jeremy had a really good game, especially in the second half. Played within himself. He's very fundamentally sound. I think sometimes he doesn't know how good he can be. We need him to be more aggressive, to really step up there and be that third scorer for us. And tonight he did."

Stone, who wound up with 15 points, was still scoreless at the end of the first quarter, which ended with the Eagles leading 15-11. But he scored the Panthers' first four points of the second period and soon had plenty of help from his teammates. Pleasantville closed the half on a 13-4 run, getting the initial five points from Manley, who finished with a game-high 17 points.

The Panthers' 28-23 halftime lead grew to nine points as Manley opened the third quarter with a 3-pointer and soon added a free throw. Dobbs Ferry closed to within 35-29 with 3:19 to go in the period, but McPhee, who had earlier bumped his knee, answered with a 3-pointer just moments after returning to the game.

Pleasantville built an 11-point lead, but the third quarter ended with the Eagles' Victor Roca hitting a pair of free throws with no time left on the



Pleasantville's Jon Carlo Angiolillo searches for an open teammate in last week's win over the Eagles.

clock to slice the Panther advantage to 42-35. The final quarter began with a quick 6-0 burst by the Panthers as Jon Carlo Angiolillo scored on a layup, Manley made both ends of a one-and-one opportunity and Stone drove the left baseline for another layup.

But Dobbs Ferry got a pair of 3-pointers from Tion Holness, and when he added two free throws with 4:28 left in the game the P'ville lead was down to 50-43. That's when Stone stepped up and ignited the 10-0 Panther blitz that thwarted the Eagles' comeback bid.

With just over four minutes to go, he came running in from the right baseline to grab an offensive rebound and score on a put-back. Manley soon followed with an 18-foot jumper from the left corner, then Stone added a 3-pointer from the right elbow that gave Pleasantville an insurmountable 57-43 lead with 1:42 on the clock.

Though his team never trailed again once Jack Minerva connected on a 3-pointer late in the second quarter to erase a 21-20 Dobbs Ferry lead, Welsh was unable to relax until the final few moments.

"At the end there," he said, "with the last three minutes. But up until then, Dobbs, they had a timeout at 50-41 and that's still very much a ballgame. They're not a bad team. I think they've got some size, they've got a couple of good guards. I think they might surprise a few people this year."

The Panthers made eight of their 20 shots from beyond the 3-point arc, but Welsh knows that their success as the season progresses will depend more on



Panther guard Mike Manley sends up a runner in the lane during the first half against Dobbs Ferry.



Pleasantville point guard Patrick McPhee dribbles the ball up the court in the Panthers' season-opening win.

their ability to play defense and grab rebounds. They limited the Eagles to just eight points in the second quarter and only 18 more in the second half.

"You know, 26 points in the last three quarters, yeah, it was pretty good," said Welsh. "All year we're gonna have to work real hard on that end. We're gonna have to cause turnovers. We're gonna have to, more than anything, rebound the basketball. And even today, I think we could've done a better job there. When we do rebound, we can get out in



Jack Minerva fires a jump shot in the first half vs. visiting Dobbs Ferry.



The Panthers' Jeremy Stone tries to get to the basket from the right baseline in last Wednesday's game.

transition. And for us, that's the key."

One thing for certain is the Panthers won't be reveling in their opening-game win for very long. Asked what he was planning to say to his players after their successful start to the new season, Welsh answered, "First thing I'm gonna tell 'em is 'good job, feel good about it, and put it out of your head because you've got 19 more games to go.'"



Pleasantville head coach Chris Welsh directs his team during last Wednesday's season-opening victory.

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# Greeley Falls to the Indians in Tournament Final at Lakeland

By Andy Jacobs

Just about the last thing the Horace Greeley girls' basketball team needed on Saturday evening became the first thing to happen.

Do-it-all senior Lauren Brown got into early foul trouble.

With Brown off the court for a good portion of the first half, the Mahopac Indians were able to dominate the first two quarters, opening up a double-digit lead the Quakers could not overcome. Led by tournament MVP Carly Pease, who finished with a game-high 17 points, the Indians defeated Greeley 46-29 in the championship game of the seventh annual Carolyn Conroy Memorial Basketball Tournament, hosted by Lakeland High School.

"Well, that made all the difference, Lauren getting two quick fouls," said Quakers coach John Alkalay afterwards. "It takes us out of our game because she's our primary weapon. When we have her on the bench, guys have to step up and do a little bit more than what they're used to. And I think we had a little bit of trouble with that, especially when they were pressing us."

Even with Brown on the floor, the Quakers got off to an ice-cold start. Mahopac scored the game's first five points, and Greeley's first basket, on an Ashley Rosenberg 15-foot jumper, didn't come until more than three minutes had elapsed. The Indians then proceeded to score the next nine points, building a 14-2 lead.

By then, Brown had already collected a pair of fouls and was watching helplessly from the bench. With the Quaker deficit continuing to grow, Alkalay was forced to send her back in the game. But with just under two minutes left in the quarter, Brown made one of her patented coast-to-coast forays to the basket, collided in the lane and was whistled for her third foul.

"We couldn't let the game get totally away," said Alkalay. "It's a risk putting her back in, so we were just keeping our fingers crossed she wouldn't pick up the third foul and she'd let us have a little run to get back in the game. It just didn't work out that way."

A 3-pointer by Cari Himel with 1:25 remaining in the opening quarter narrowed the Mahopac lead to 17-9 heading to the second period. But playing without Brown, the Quakers only managed two points, on a runner in the lane by Brianna Gadaleta, in the second quarter and went to halftime trailing 24-11.

The second half began with Greeley getting a put-back basket from Rosenberg, who led the Quakers with 11 points and was named to the all-



Greeley's Brianna Gadaleta delivers a pass from the foul line in Saturday's tournament game vs. Mahopac.

tournament team. A minute into the third quarter, Gadaleta connected on a 3-pointer from the left corner to cut the Indians' lead to eight points.

But Mahopac soon got back-to-back treys from Kim Schiera and Pease, so by the time Brown finally collected her first bucket of the night with 2:45 to go in the period, the Indians had built their advantage back up to 16 points. After a pair of free throws from both Himel and Rosenberg, Greeley was within 33-23. The quarter ended, though, with Mahopac's Amanda Geyer hitting a long 3-point shot from the right side that splashed through the net as the buzzer was sounding.

"It was hard because we had fought all quarter to try to get to single digits," said Alkalay. "We wanted to end the quarter with a little positive momentum and then they hit that last-second three. That does take the wind out of your sails because now we have to fight back all over again."

A short jump shot by Lucy Benack early in the fourth quarter moved the Quakers within 11 points, but then five straight points by Mahopac, starting with another trey from Geyer, all but clinched the victory for the Indians. Brown never picked up another foul in the second half, but she wound up with just four points and watched the game's final minutes from the bench, along with the other Quaker starters.

"We're gonna be a gritty team this year, and the girls hung in the game," said Alkalay, who is anxiously awaiting the much-needed return of standout junior Meaghan Townsend in a few weeks. "They didn't put their heads



The Quakers' Lauren Brown sails to the basket in the second half of Saturday's tournament game at Lakeland High School.



The Quakers' Kelsey Genda pushes the ball up the floor in Saturday night's game vs. the Indians.

down, they kept fighting. We had a run in the third quarter where we cut it to eight, had a chance even to get a little closer. We missed, they hit a three and then they just kept extending. Couldn't make another run."

Only 24 hours earlier, Greeley had used a sparkling performance from Brown to defeat Lakeland 47-42 in the tournament's opening round. She scored 20 points, grabbed 14 rebounds, blocked eight shots and added five assists as the Quakers opened their season with a win over the host Hornets.

"That was a game where Lauren just dominated," said Alkalay. "Lakeland was a tough competitor, so it was nip and tuck the entire way. We just made a bunch of big fourth-quarter stops, really shut them down the last five minutes of the game. And our role players actually came up with three or four baskets in the fourth quarter to help us pull ahead."



Horace Greeley's Julia Canner shoots the ball from under the basket in the second half of Saturday's tournament game.



Ashley Rosenberg, who was named to the all-tournament team, tries to score inside vs. Mahopac in Saturday's title game.



Cari Himel of Greeley tries to get through the lane in the Quakers' loss to Mahopac in the title game of the annual Lakeland tourney.



# Vikings Take Command in the Second Half to Defeat Westlake

By Andy Jacobs

The interior presence of Valhalla sophomore Sam Morillo proved to be too much for the Westlake Wildcats on Friday afternoon.

Morillo scored a game-high 21 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and blocked a half dozen shots, leading the visiting Vikings to a 66-57 victory over their neighboring rival. She had 16 of her points in the second half as Valhalla overcame a five-point halftime deficit and evened its record this season at 1-1.

"It's a big step for her," said Vikings coach Stephen Boyer after the dominant performance by his young center. "I think her confidence gets better each time she steps on the floor. She's improved her footwork, her stamina has improved a lot. And when she blocks shots, they kind of stay on the floor."

Morillo had only three of her points in the opening quarter when the Vikings were trying to withstand an offensive onslaught by Westlake star guard Natalie Alfieri, who erupted for 13 of her team-high 16 points as the Wildcats built a 21-16 lead after the first eight minutes. The second quarter began with Alfieri making a steal under her own basket, then scoring on an acrobatic layup. But she wound up collecting only one more point the rest of the way.

"Natalie had a great first half and she is one of the top guards in the section," said Westlake coach Sean Mayer. "We wanted to keep feeding her the ball. She came out and scored 16 points in the first half and then Valhalla did a great job of shutting her down. For us to be competitive this year, we're gonna need her contribution four quarters."

"Basically, we kind of got out of man-to-man," said Boyer. "We couldn't stop her, so we went to a zone. And I think it just slowed 'em down a little bit."

Still, a 3-pointer by Angela Mangione, followed by a 17-foot jumper from the right baseline by Lauren Holzer, extended the Westlake lead to 28-18 early in the second quarter. The half ended with the Vikings slicing the double-digit deficit in half with a 10-5 run during which Francesca Guzzo and eighth grader Shelby Sekinski provided five points apiece.

"I told the girls eventually they're gonna miss shots," said Boyer about the hot shooting by Westlake in the opening half. "But maybe extend out a little bit more on our zone, get a little hand in the face. So we closed the gap to four or five at halftime. And we came out of the halftime, I think Shelby hit a big three and it got us rolling. And defense just kind of kept picking up and we limited them to one shot. I think that was big."

The second half actually began with Morillo scoring back-to-back buckets before Sekinski, who finished with 19 points, provided her 3-pointer from the right corner that gave Valhalla a 35-33 edge. Just nine seconds later, though, Mangione answered with another trey to give the



Westlake point guard Natalie Alfieri dribbles past midcourt in Friday's home game vs. Valhalla.



The Vikings' Kaylie Dymek is pressured by Westlake's Angela Mangione (left) and Jesi Oswald.

Wildcats their last lead of the day.

Valhalla scored the game's next seven points to seize the lead for good. When Sierra Lockhart connected on a 3-pointer from the left corner, the Vikings suddenly had a 45-39 advantage. But the Wildcats then got a 3-pointer from Jesi Oswald, followed by one free throw by Ariela Abreu, and trailed by only two points as the game headed to the fourth quarter.

Sekinski made a 3-pointer from the top of the key to open the final period, then Morillo scored inside. Two free throws by Sekinski with 6:39 to go capped the 7-0 burst and gave Valhalla a 52-43 cushion. But a pair of baseline jumpers by Holzer, who scored 10 of her 16 points in the quarter despite playing with four fouls, helped Westlake close to within four points.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, that was as close as they would get. Two straight inside baskets by Morillo doubled the lead for the Vikings and they all but clinched the win when Sofia Mazza intercepted a crosscourt pass with a minute to go and went coast to coast for a layup that gave Valhalla a nine-point lead.

"Sam was just too tough," said the Wildcats' Mayer after seeing Morillo make five shots in the fourth quarter. "We fronted her, they lobbed it over. We didn't front her,



Westlake's Angelina Guarneri is pressured in the backcourt by Valhalla eighth grader Shelby Sekinski.



Sierra Lockhart of Valhalla hauls in a rebound vs. host Westlake.



Valhalla's Francesca Guzzo drives through the lane in Friday's victory over Westlake.

they got it into her. My post players, they worked hard. She earned those baskets. She did a nice job. When she was younger, a couple of years ago, she would go over the back a lot and she'd have early foul troubles,



Emily Sardo of Westlake has her shot deflected by Valhalla's Sam Morillo, who picked up a foul on the play.



Lauren Holzer of Westlake finished with 16 points on Friday, despite serious foul trouble.

which was huge for the opposing team."

Boyer, too, has been impressed with the improvement he's seen from Morillo, who is now reaping the benefits of voluntary training sessions with the track team.

"I think it's helped a little bit," he said. "She's gotten a little stronger, bigger, and her stamina has picked up. Volleyball was very helpful for her because she really dominated on the volleyball floors. And she's jumping. That's one thing, last year she didn't jump. This year, she's starting to jump."

As a result, the Vikings were able to gain a measure of revenge against the Wildcats, who beat them all three times they played a year ago, a fact Boyer brought up with his players in the days before Friday's matchup.

"I reminded our girls, but they didn't have to be reminded," he said. "They knew and they said, 'Coach, don't worry. We will be ready. We will take care of business.'"

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS





The Quakers' Justin Abrams dribbles the ball at the top of the key in last Thursday's tourney game vs. Putnam Valley.



Brandon Spiegel of Greeley rises in the lane for a jump shot during the annual tournament at Lakeland High School.



Horace Greeley's Jeff Merchant shoots the ball vs. Putnam Valley last Thursday.



Greeley point guard Ben Wolfensohn dribbles past the midcourt line in the Quakers' tournament game vs. Putnam Valley.



Pleasantville's Sebastian Sanande tries to get the upper hand in the Panthers' semifinal match vs. Putnam Valley in the Dual Meet Championships.



Above: Victor Perllashi of Pleasantville wrestles in last Thursday's Dual Meet Championships semifinal match vs. visiting Putnam Valley.  
Upper right: Lou Quintanilla of Pleasantville wins with a pin during last Thursday's quarterfinal match vs. Edgemont in the Section 1 Dual Meet Championships.  
Right: Pleasantville's Luke Pregiato (right) gets a handshake after winning his match vs. Edgemont in the Dual Meet Championships on Thursday.



Fox Lane goalie Abbie Ives makes a point-blank save during the Foxes' 5-0 win on Saturday night at Brewster Ice Arena.

# SPORTS SCENE



Ryder Beitzel of Fox Lane fires a shot on goal during Saturday night's game vs. the Rebels.



Fox Lane's Thomas Tenney moves the puck up the ice in Saturday's 5-0 win over Lakeland/Panas at Brewster Ice Arena.



Fox Lane's Jared Goldstein gets set to shoot the puck in the second period of Saturday's game vs. Lakeland/Panas.



# Setters Dazzle Beyond the Arc to Defeat New Haven

Defense and intensity may be the ingredients the Pace University men's basketball team needs to win its share of games this season, but on Saturday afternoon the Setters used the long ball to collect a big victory.

Connecting on all 10 of their shots

from behind the 3-point arc, the Setters defeated visiting New Haven 70-59 in a Northeast-10 Conference game at the Goldstein Fitness Center. Senior guard Shelton Mickell provided three of the treys and matched his career-high with 27 points as Pace evened its record at

4-4, while improving to 3-1 in the NE-10.

The Setters never trailed again once Kyle Pearson gave them a 3-2 lead with a jump shot nearly three minutes in. Consecutive 3-pointers by Ryan Peterson, Bryan Rivers and then Mickell opened up a double-digit lead less than six minutes after the opening tip. A 10-0 burst late in the first half, highlighted by a Pearson dunk on a feed from Peterson, enabled the Setters to extend their margin to 31-13.

New Haven closed its deficit to 12 points, but the first half ended with Mickell making a 3-pointer and then Rivers connecting on a fallaway 17-foot jumper at the buzzer.

The two teams traded baskets for most of the second half before the Chargers went on a 9-3 run to close within 59-52 with two and a half minutes to play. A pair of free throws by Jemal Mosley with exactly two minutes remaining cut the Pace lead to just six points, but the Setters scored the next six points, getting a Pearson jump shot and four free throws by Mickell, to end the New Haven comeback.

Pearson finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, while Peterson, a freshman, added 13 points and four assists, along with a basket-saving



Shelton Mickell scored 27 points in the Pace win over New Haven on Saturday.

## Impressive Debut

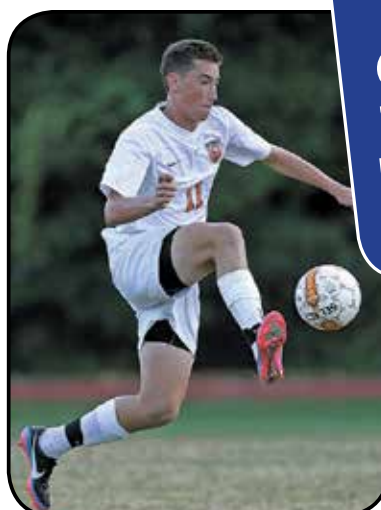
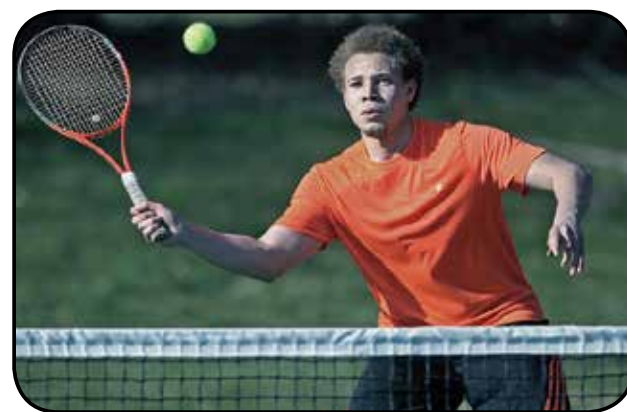
Former NBA guard Jimmer Fredette, one of the all-time leading scorers in New York State high school history, made his slightly delayed debut with the Westchester Knicks last week at the County Center. He poured in 37 points in his first game with the team, then added 22 points, nine assists and five steals two days later in a one-point loss to the Fort Wayne Mad Ants.

The one-time NCAA player of the year, who was a lottery pick of the Sacramento Kings before getting stints with the Chicago Bulls and New Orleans Pelicans, will be back at the County Center this week for a Thursday night game and then on Saturday afternoon (1:00) against Delaware.



blocked shot in the final minute.

The Setters go on the road to face Georgian Court on Thursday evening and then Southern Connecticut State University on Saturday afternoon. Their next home is on Sunday, December 20 against Molloy College at 1:30.



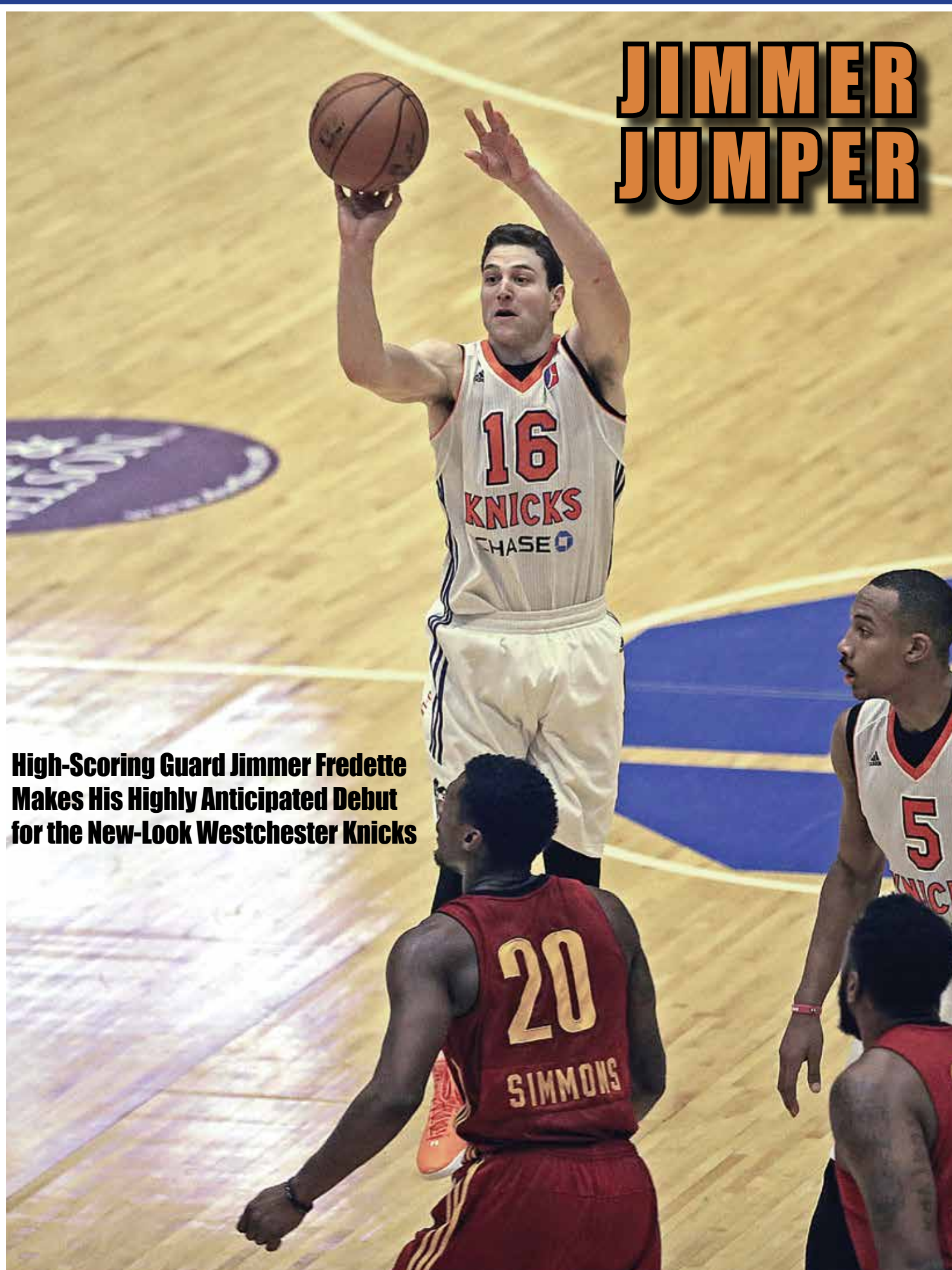
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Makes His Highly Anticipated Debut  
for the New-Look Westchester Knicks**