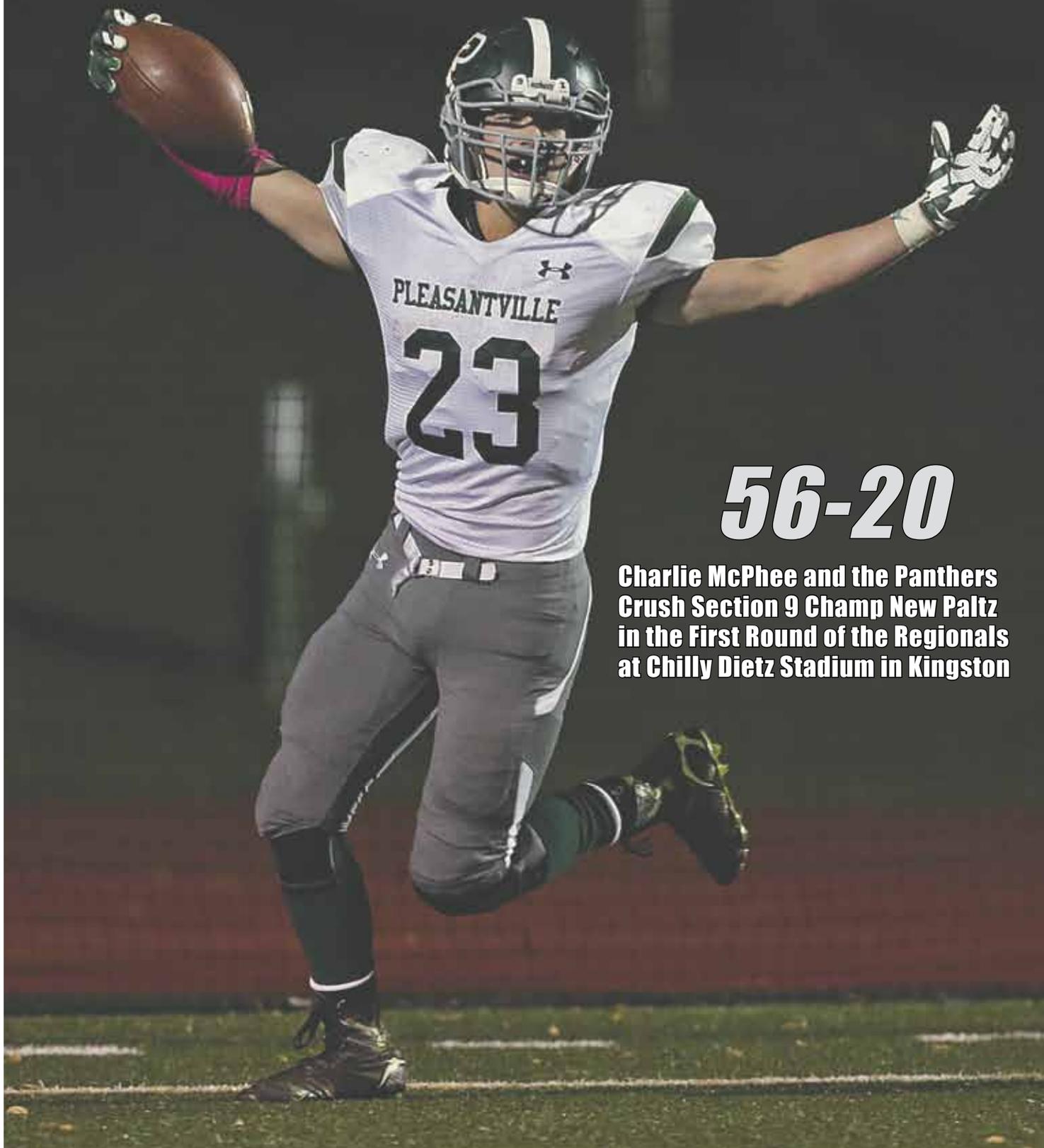


## No Contest



**56-20**

**Charlie McPhee and the Panthers  
Crush Section 9 Champ New Paltz  
in the First Round of the Regionals  
at Chilly Dietz Stadium in Kingston**

# Setters Start the New Season With a Pair of Victories

By Andy Jacobs

Just two games into a brand new season, the Pace University basketball team has already provided some hints that Setter fans could have much more to cheer about this year than they did in 2015-16.

“Yeah, last year there just wasn’t much margin for error for us,” conceded head coach Matt Healing. “You know, we had to be so perfect with the way we played because we were kind of ravaged by injury and we weren’t overly deep. And that’s what we are this year – we’re definitely deep. We have a lot of really solid players and guys that play the right way, guys that are unselfish.”

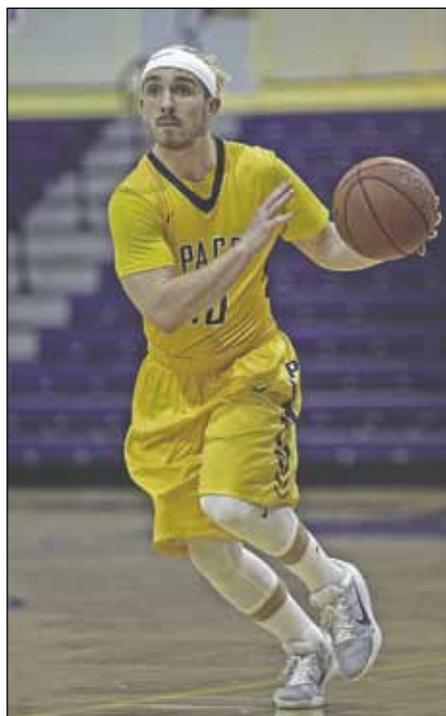
It’s been nearly a decade since the Setters finished a season above .500, but Healing, after a 9-19 record in his first year at the helm, is hoping what he saw this past weekend from his team in the annual NE-10/CACC Challenge can be a springboard to a big turnaround.

Junior center Victor Jusino scored a career-high 24 points and sophomore forward Ryan Peterson added 20 on Saturday evening as the host Setters overcame a nine-point first-half deficit and went on to defeat Felician University 85-76, their second victory at the Goldstein Fitness Center in 24 hours. A night earlier, Pace, leading start to finish, opened up a big early cushion en route to a 71-63 win over Georgian Court. Bryan Rivers finished with 16 points to top four Setters in double figures in the season opener.

“I’m just proud of the guys for the way they bounced back,” said Healing shortly after the Setters had turned up the defensive intensity on Saturday to outscore Felician 47-35 after intermission. “It was a total team effort, played their tails off and we defended. We were tough in the second half and that’s why we won the game.”



The Setters’ Austin Mofunanya finished with 15 points and nine rebounds in Saturday night’s game at the Goldstein Fitness Center.



Christian White, a transfer from Syracuse University, gets set to pass the ball in the 85-76 win on Saturday.

In a contest that had eight ties and 13 lead changes, the Setters used an 11-0 run midway through the second half to finally take control. Redshirt sophomore Mike Demello drained a pair of 3-pointers from the top of the key to highlight the big Pace spurt, and the Golden Falcons were left playing catchup the rest of the way.

Even though the 6-foot-8 Jusino erupted for 16 first-half points, making all seven of his shots from the field and both of his free throws, the Setters still found themselves trailing 41-38 as they headed back to the locker room. Hot-shooting Felician, which used a 10-0 run to build an early 23-14 advantage, finished the half 16 of 28 from the floor.

“They shot a high percentage, they got a ton of offensive rebounds in that first half,” said Healing about the Golden Falcons. “We just weren’t making plays. So we had to make a much more concerted effort to do that in the second half. It wasn’t just gonna be one or two guys under the boards. The whole team had to rebound. We did a lot more of that in the second half, just a gang-rebounding effort from the whole team. The guards were in there and we weren’t gonna be denied.”

Felician wound up making just 11 of its 35 shots in the second half, but still had a 59-56 lead before the first 3-pointer from Demello tied the game with 12:27 to go. A pair of free throws by Luke McLaughlin gave Pace the lead for good, then Demello followed with another trey from straight away.

The Golden Falcons were within 67-61 before Peterson rattled in his fourth 3-pointer of the night and Jusino turned toward the paint for a one-hander in the lane that gave Pace its first double-digit lead. Felician never got closer than seven



Pace center Victor Jusino made 10 of 11 shots from the field and scored a career-high 24 points in the win over Felician University.

points after that as the Setters iced the contest by scoring their final 11 points from the free-throw line, seven of them coming from Demello.

“It’s been a long time since he’s played meaningful games here at home and it’s great to see him out there,” said Healing about Demello, who missed last season following wrist surgery. “He’s tough and he’s scrappy. He makes shots. He handles the ball. I think he had five steals tonight. Just a great defender, a big part of what we do. So to have him back, it’s tremendous for us.”

It’s also a big lift for the Setters that Jusino is establishing himself as a go-to option down in the paint. Against the Golden Falcons, he made his first 10 shots from the field and his only miss, on a short jumper, came with less than two minutes remaining.

“A tremendous game from Vic,” said Healing. “He’s a very offensively skilled player and he does a great job for us. I’m happy he’s back. He battled injuries the last year or two. So he’s back, he’s healthy, he’s doing a great job. You know, he’s really a big part of what we do defensively, too. He anchors our defense the way we play. Just a great game from him, both ways.”

Healing also has to be encouraged by the kind of impact his talented backcourt figures to make this season. With Demello back from injury, joining Rivers, who emerged as a solid starter last year, and Christian White, a graduate student with one year of eligibility left after transferring from Syracuse, Pace should excel protecting late leads this season.

“We love our guards,” said Healing. “We can rotate them all pretty evenly, they can play together. They’re great ball handlers, they’re good decision makers, they make



Pace guard Mike Demello fires a jumper during Saturday’s win over Felician.

free throws. Teams that press us, we have good ball handlers, and smart players, too. It’s gonna be very hard for teams to kind of rattle them, all three of them, as the season goes on.”

The Setters begin their NE-10 Conference schedule on Saturday afternoon up at Le Moyne, then host the College of Saint Rose next Tuesday evening. Healing, for one, is looking forward to seeing even more progress from his team in the weeks ahead.

“In addition to being deep and tough and all these other things,” he said, “we can do a lot of different things. We’re not afraid to change defenses, we’re not afraid to change offenses. For me as a coach, it’s a great asset to be able to know that I have a bunch of things in my back pocket that we’ve practiced, that they’re smart enough to pick up. I have no doubt that as you watch us this season, you’ll see a team that’s constantly evolving.”

# Panthers Overwhelm New Paltz to Advance in the State Tourney

By Andy Jacobs

Pleasantville football coach Tony Becerra thought he had run out of ideas on things to tell his players to get them fired up for Friday night's state-regional clash with Section 9 champion New Paltz. Then his phone rang on the trip up north to Kingston's Dietz Stadium.

"I didn't know what to say to the kids before the game, thinking about it on the bus ride up," he admitted. "I got a call from my wife on the bus and she says, 'Ask your kids do they want to be a great team or an elite team.' I said, 'OK, I'll use that.' And I did. So I'm gonna credit my wife with that."

Wherever the inspiration came from, his Panthers responded by turning what had been a close game at halftime into a rout, outscoring the Huguenots 34-0 over the final two quarters to win 56-20. Declan McDermott scored a pair of touchdowns and threw for a third as Pleasantville, now 11-0, advanced to the regional final this Friday evening, again at Dietz Stadium.

"I reminded them about their mental toughness at halftime," said Becerra. "We made the necessary adjustments on both sides of the ball and I think when it got middle to late in the second half, we just wore 'em down."

For one half, anyway, there was plenty of drama. On a cold, windy evening, the Panthers began with a seven-play, 68-yard drive that was highlighted by Charlie McPhee's juggling over-the-shoulder catch for a 32-yard gain and capped by Ryan Drillock's three-yard touchdown run. The point-after kick by Jack Howe gave Pleasantville a 7-0 lead less than four minutes into the game.

But just 12 seconds later, the Huguenots,



Pleasantville's Charlie McPhee celebrates after scoring a touchdown during Friday's win over Section 9 champion New Paltz.

who had dethroned five-time defending champ Marlboro, evened the score with a 61-yard touchdown run on first down by Hunter McVea. New Paltz then forced the Panthers into a three-and-out before striking again with another big play as quarterback Jimmy Verney found Joe DiMarco wide open over the top for a 51-yard touchdown pass. The PAT was wide, but the Huguenots had a 13-7 lead and Becerra worried.

"Extremely concerned," he said. "It was just too easy."

The Huguenots threatened again late in the first quarter, advancing the ball to the Panther 18-yard line, but on the last play of the period Verney was sacked for a loss and Pleasantville took possession. A 31-yard pass play to Drillock on first down set the stage for an eight-play, 75-yard scoring drive. Two successive passes from Howe to McDermott, the first a 22-yard gain on third and 15 and the next a short toss to the flat that turned into a 13-yard touchdown, enabled the Panthers to take a 14-13 lead with 8:25 left in the half.

Pleasantville added to its slim lead after Ian Esliker recovered a Huguenot fumble that gave the Panthers the ball at the New Paltz 18-yard line. McPhee plowed his way to the 10 on first down, then scored from a yard out four plays later. When Howe tossed to Brian Reda for a two-point conversion, the P'ville lead stretched to 22-14 with 38 seconds left before halftime.

But the Huguenots' DiMarco fielded the ensuing short kickoff, spun away from a tackle and galloped 65 yards to the end zone. The point-after kick narrowed the Pleasantville lead to just 22-20 at intermission.

"I'm thinking we're going into halftime up by two scores," said Becerra. "That's a great situation, and then not only is it down to one score but the momentum shifted. And you saw that last week as well (against Westlake). That's why I said the guys can draw upon their experience from past games and it doesn't faze them."

Unfortunately for the Huguenots, they never got any closer after that. Both teams went three-and-out to start the third quarter before a key defensive play by the Panthers began the second-half tidal wave that buried New Paltz. McPhee tackled an unsuspecting Verney from behind on first down at the New Paltz 15, forcing a fumble that was scooped up by Cullen Dell for a touchdown. The PAT from Howe gave P'ville a 29-20 edge five minutes into the half.

"Oh, it was crucial," said McDermott about the defensive touchdown by Dell. "It sparked the entire bench to life and everyone was just going crazy. The crowd was into it. It was just an exciting environment."

A Huguenot drive soon stalled at the Panthers' 25-yard line. On first down, McDermott got to the right sideline and bolted 75 yards for another Pleasantville

touchdown.

With 2:38 left in the third quarter, the lead had suddenly ballooned to 16 points.

Just over a minute into the final period, McPhee, named the game's offensive MVP, ran up the middle 45 yards for a touchdown that concluded a six-play, 73-yard drive and all but ended the fading Huguenots' season.

With six and a half minutes left, McDermott threw an option pass to a wide open Reda that turned into a 47-yard touchdown.

"That's something we talked about," said Becerra about the trick play. "Coach (George) LaMar brought it to my attention at halftime. He said, 'Let's keep it in our pocket because it could be there.' And he was right."

Asked later if it was more of a thrill to throw the touchdown pass than score two touchdowns, McDermott said, "I'd have to say the halfback option. We've run it a couple times in practice and getting it to my boy, Brian Reda, growing up with him, you can't really ask for a better play than that. I've actually overthrown him about three times this year and he's been on me for it. I made sure I hit him."

There was a bit more indignity for



The Panthers' Declan McDermott runs with the football in Friday night's state regional vs. New Paltz.



Brian Reda (7) is greeted by teammates Ryan Drillock (left) and Declan McDermott after scoring a touchdown in the victory over the Huguenots.

New Paltz still to come. McVea lost the football after a big run past midfield and, moments later, Esliker raced 60 yards for the final Pleasantville touchdown.

"We found out right away how fast they can be," said Becerra about the vanquished Huguenots. "And if we weren't able to wear 'em down a little bit, it could've been ugly. The deeper we got into the second half, the kids started sensing that they were a little bit tired, on their heels. That's when our line stepped up."

So now, this Panther team that has advanced further than any other from the school, prepares for its state semifinal against unbeaten Glens Falls of Section 2, with a trip to Syracuse's Carrier Dome riding on the outcome.

"It's remarkable," said McDermott. "It's a great team to be a part of. Great coaches, great people, being part of the environment, the atmosphere. You can't really ask for anything better."



Pleasantville running back Ian Esliker is on his way to a 60-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter at Dietz Stadium.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Pleasantville goalie Kristie Guttridge makes a save during the Panthers' road game vs. Westlake.



Greeley's Samantha Forster takes the ball toward the goal in a game vs. the Arlington Admirals.



Fox Lane players, left to right, Nicole Haindl, Alexandra Stickler, Emilie Delannes-Molka and Tess Krensky form a defensive wall during a night game early in the season.

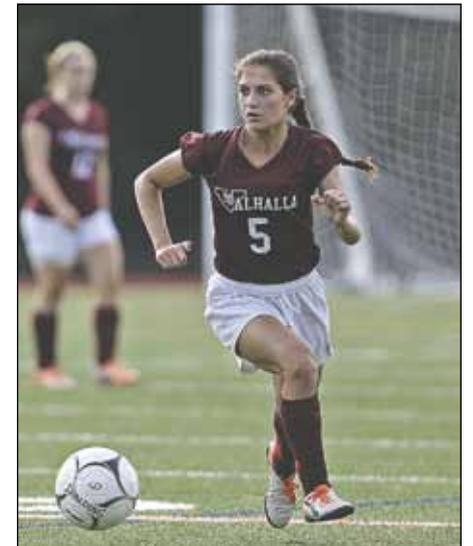


Julia Gontijo of Westlake chases after the ball in a Wildcat home game midway through the season.

# GIRLS' SOCCER 2016 A Look Back



Amelia Leahy of Briarcliff races up the field with the ball in the Bears' overtime win at Pleasantville.



Valhalla senior Melissa Giglio considers her options as she controls the ball near midfield.



Caroline Evnin, one of Fox Lane's three senior captains, boots the ball away.



Greeley's Haley Stein kicks the ball up the field during the sectional playoffs vs. visiting Mahopac.



Byram Hills freshman Kallie Hoffman is on her way to scoring one of her four goals in a home win over Ardsley.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Raphaela Dasilva kicks the ball up the field in Valhalla's road game vs. the Briarcliff Bears.



Briarcliff players, left to right, Amelia Leahy, Cynthia Constantinou, Sierra Celaj and Kelly O'Donnell lock arms as they form a wall during a Bear home game.



Byram Hills' Ali Brocato controls the ball in the Bobcats' playoff win over Beacon under the lights at Our Lady of Lourdes.



Westlake's Jesi Oswald keeps her eyes on the ball with the goal left unattended during a home game vs. North Salem.



Sam Mayers of Byram Hills sets her sights on the ball during a Bobcat home game.



Westlake's Keira Donnelly dribbles the ball up the field as she searches for a teammate.



Pleasantville senior Erin Egan sends a shot toward the goal.



Scout Schultz of Horace Greeley pursues the ball in the second half of the Quakers' recent playoff game vs. Mahopac.



Fox Lane's Victoria Surace moves the ball past midfield in a game vs. visiting Clarkstown North.



Kate Stargiotti of Pleasantville boots the ball up the field in a game against the Westlake Wildcats.

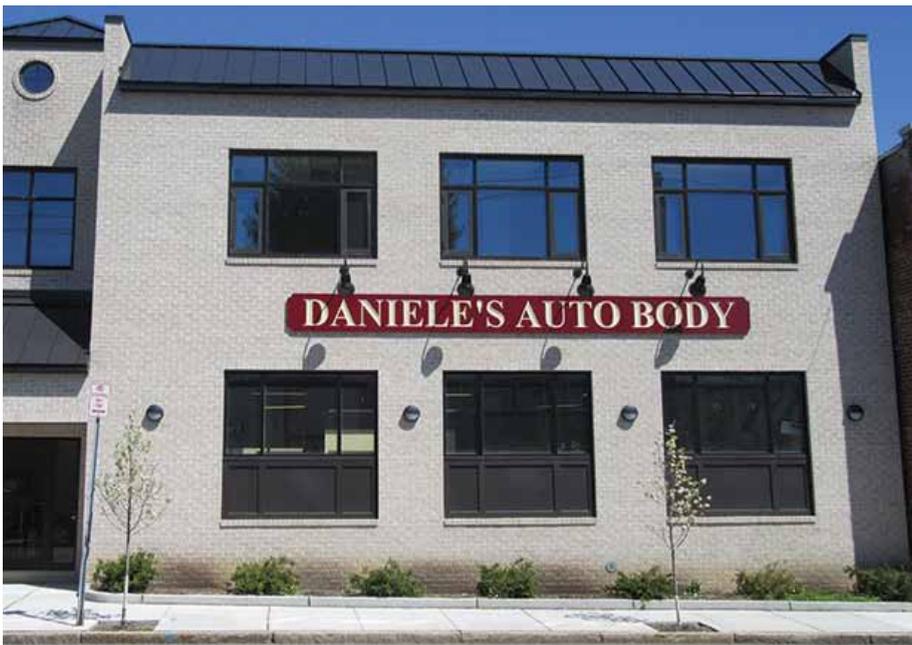


Briarcliff's Ava Greco runs full speed to catch up to the ball in the Bears' overtime win vs. host Pleasantville.

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# focus on WESTLAKE VOLLEYBALL State Regionals vs. Spackenkill November 9, 2016



Westlake's Kelli Kinlen bumps the ball in last Wednesday's state regional match vs. Spackenkill.



The Wildcats' Laine Peterson gets set to slam the ball over the net in last week's state playoff match.



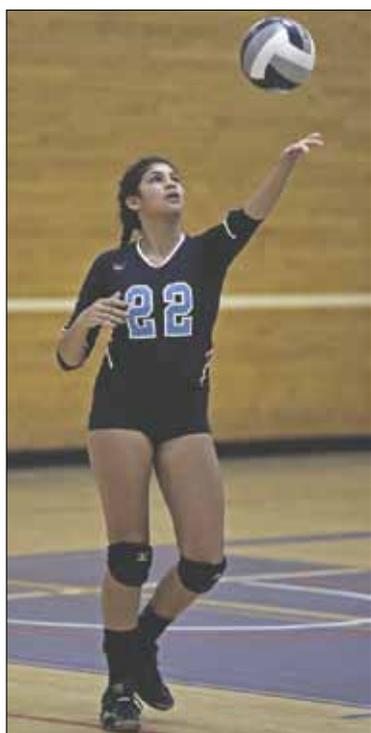
Westlake players, left to right, Caroline Murray, Nicole Dragonetti and Jessica Woods watch the final few points of the Wildcats' win over Spackenkill.



Allison Iannucci sends the ball over the net in Westlake's regional playoff win over Spackenkill at Ulster Community College.



Westlake's Antonia Perino (9) and Kelly Martin rise together trying to block the ball vs. Section 9 champion Spackenkill.



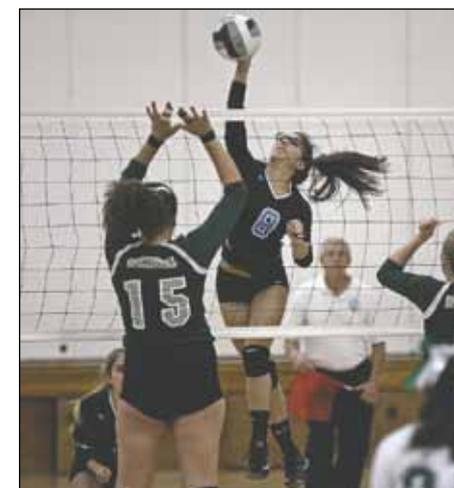
The Wildcats' Alina Acevedo serves the ball during the win over the Spartans in the opening round of the state playoffs.



Members of the victorious Westlake volleyball team celebrate, along with their lucky charm, held aloft by Kelly Martin, after defeating Spackenkill.



Kelly Martin, center, celebrates with teammates Caleigh Carr and Antonia Perino after the Wildcats won a points in their playoff match with Spackenkill.



High-flying Sydney Roell rises well over the net to put away the ball in Westlake's state playoff win last Wednesday afternoon.



Westlake assistant coach Gina Perino, filling in for the absent Carmen Bates, talks to her players between games last Wednesday afternoon.



Antonia Perino stays ready during Westlake's three-games-to-one victory over the Section 9 champion Spartans.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



# Setters' Strong Start

**Ryan Peterson Sails to the Hoop as the Pace Men's Basketball Team Opens the Season With Two Victories in the Annual NE-10/CACC Challenge**

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO