

## Bronco Busted



**Briarcliff's Brendan Krupa Unleashes One Last Shot Just Before Time Runs Out on the Top-Seeded Bears in a 5-3 Loss to Bronxville in the Class C Semifinals**

# Panthers Cruise Past Putnam Valley in the Class C Semifinals

By Andy Jacobs

Saturday afternoon's Section One, Class C semifinal playoff game wasn't even three minutes old by the time Pleasantville's Brian Reda scored his third goal of the contest.

The Panthers' sophomore sniper finished the day with five goals, all of them coming before halftime, helping lead the defending champions to a 17-5 rout of visiting Putnam Valley and a berth in the sectional final for a fourth consecutive year.

The opponent waiting for them late Wednesday afternoon at White Plains High School will be quite familiar – the Broncos of Bronxville, who put an end to Briarcliff's title hopes with a come-from-behind 5-3 win in the other semifinal contest. The Panthers captured their first-ever sectional title last year by dethroning the Broncos.

"Fourth year in a row we're playing them and it's becoming a real rivalry," said Pleasantville head coach Chris Kear shortly after his team had romped to victory in the semifinals. "I think we feel strongly about our chances, but we know they're a really good team and we have a lot of respect for them as a program. They've got a state title under their belt. We do not. So we look at it as we're still the underdog."

When the Panthers renew their rivalry with the Broncos, they'll be facing a foe far more formidable than any they've dealt with in the postseason so far. In reaching the championship round, Pleasantville has outscored Edgemont, Keio and Putnam Valley by a whopping 51-12 combined margin.

"I think it'll definitely be a challenge," said Kear about the big difference in talent that awaits them Wednesday. "But we have a pretty mentally strong group. So they know what lies ahead of them. And they're usually pretty prepared, so we're not too concerned about that. It would've been nice to have a couple of close games in the playoffs just to get that playoff



Brian Reda scored five first-half goals to lead Pleasantville to a lopsided playoff win over visiting Putnam Valley.

atmosphere solidified for the finals. But I think they're pretty strong mentally, so they'll be able to handle it."

In crushing 11th-seeded Putnam Valley, which had surprised third-seeded Westlake in the quarterfinals last Wednesday, the Panthers scored the game's first five goals and were never threatened. Reda, who also added a pair of first-half assists, started the scoring barely 90 seconds after the opening faceoff. Just 15 seconds later, Mike Hammond scored the first of his two goals.

A pair of goals by Reda 14 seconds apart increased the Pleasantville lead to 4-0 with 9:07 still remaining in the opening quarter. Midway through the period, Lucas Cohen provided the first of his four goals and it was apparent the Panthers were well on their way to another blowout victory. They opened up a 10-1 advantage with 5:45 remaining in the half, and walked off the field at intermission with an eight-goal lead.

In the third quarter, the Panthers scored five more times, getting two goals apiece from Declan McDermott and Cohen. Their lead had stretched to a dozen goals heading to the fourth period, and Kear was able to give plenty of rest to his starters as the time on the clock ticked away.

"Yeah, having a cushion at halftime makes it a little easier," he said. "You can breathe easier, you can get more guys into the game and



The Panthers' Nolan McAndrew tries to get to the cage in the second half of Saturday's Class C semifinal win over Putnam Valley.



Pleasantville's Tanner Bates controls the ball behind the cage in the second half of Saturday's playoff game.

rest the starters a little bit more, which makes it nice. That's on the plus side for us, being able to get some of the starters out, rest their legs a little bit. Keep them out of the injury report. Hopefully, that gives us enough momentum going into Wednesday to play well."

With the Panthers' game against Putnam Valley starting 90 minutes later than Bronxville's game at nearby Briarcliff, Kear was able to do a little bit of first-hand scouting.

"I saw almost the whole first half," he said about the Broncos' defensive battle with the Bears. "I think now they're getting healthy again, they're getting some guys back, they're back to their usual form. So we expect them to be at their best."

One thing Kear knows for sure – the one-sided playoff wins will be a distant memory for his players once they square off with a Bronxville team they defeated in overtime during the regular season.

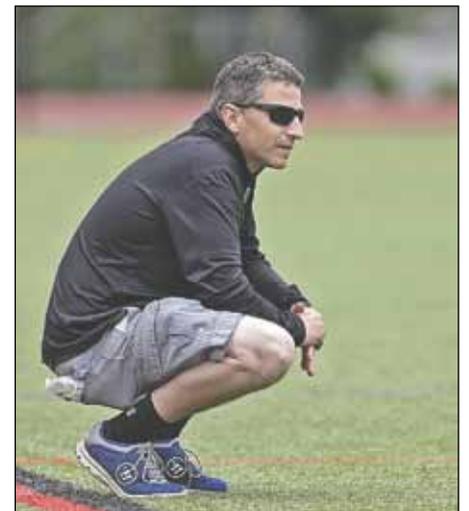
"A big emphasis for us at practice this week is to maintain possession and no sloppy turnovers, and make sure we get quality shots because it's probably gonna be a one-goal game," he said. "That's what we're anticipating."



James Daniele of Pleasantville gets set to fire a shot on goal in the third quarter of Saturday's sectional game.



Lucas Cohen, who scored four goals and assisted on two others, heads for the cage during Pleasantville's 17-5 sectional win over the visiting Tigers.



Pleasantville head coach Chris Kear has guided his Panthers to the Class C championship game for the fourth straight year.



Mike Hammond races the ball past midfield in Pleasantville's easy semifinal victory over the Putnam Valley Tigers.



Pleasantville's Declan McDermott, who scored three goals, puts pressure on the Putnam Valley defense in the Panthers' 17-5 playoff victory.



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Fox Lane's Ryder Beitzel celebrates a goal in last Wednesday's Class A playoff game vs. visiting Mahopac.

# Foxes Ousted by Mahopac Once Again

The Foxes' Matt Leader races up the ride sideline with the ball during last week's sectional game vs. Mahopac.



Fox Lane's Cullen Morgan tries to win possession of the ball near midfield in last Wednesday's quarterfinal playoff game at Memorial Stadium.



Matt Magnan fires a shot at the cage in Fox Lane's quarterfinal playoff game vs. the Mahopac Indians.



Sean New prepares to pass the ball in Fox Lane's disappointing 13-12 playoff loss to Mahopac last Wednesday evening.

## Briarcliff Stopped by the Broncos in Class C Semis



Keaton McCann is closely guarded as he heads for the cage in Saturday's Class C semifinal vs. visiting Bronville.



Cameron Fash of Briarcliff tries to dodge his way to the cage as Bronville's Nick O'Brien defends.



Briarcliff goalie Graham Goldheim tries to stop a shot by Bronville's Aya Atayan in Saturday's semifinal, won by the Broncos.



The Bears' Nick Cebel gets ready to fire a shot on goal in Saturday's 5-3 semifinal loss to Bronville.

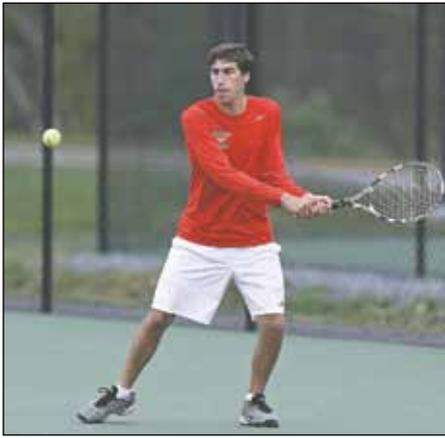


Briarcliff's Greg Kramer takes the ball past midfield during the Bears' sectional semifinal vs. Bronville.

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# SPORTS SCENE

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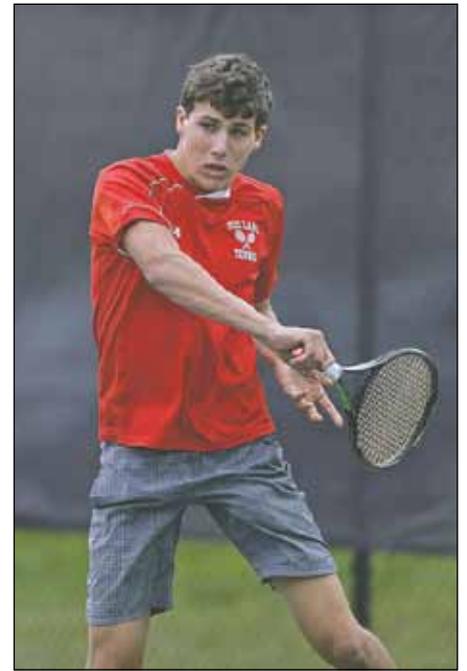
Max Root of Fox Lane prepares to hit a backhand return during a singles match last Tuesday at the conference tourney.



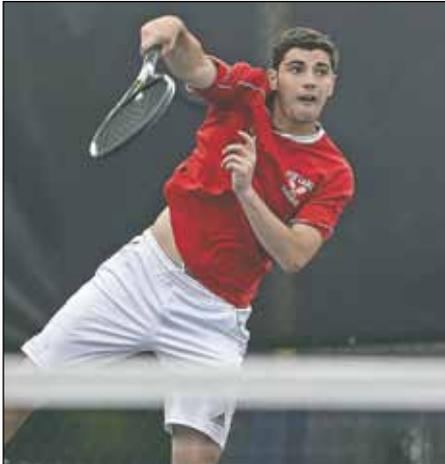
Horace Greeley's Davis Kim lines up a forehand return during the conference tourney last week.



Greeley's Tyler Keller concentrates on a backhand return at the conference tourney, played at John Jay High School.



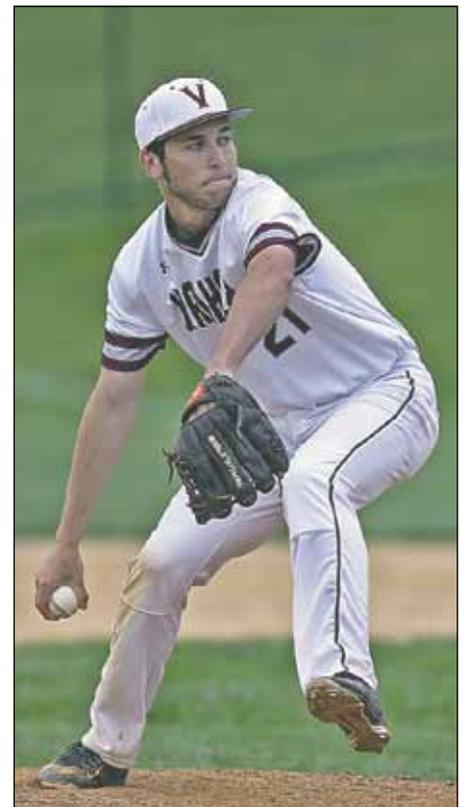
Fox Lane's Sam Turchetta hits a backhand en route to capturing the singles title at last week's conference tournament.



Fox Lane's Eric Greenstein serves the ball during doubles action at the conference tournament last Thursday afternoon.



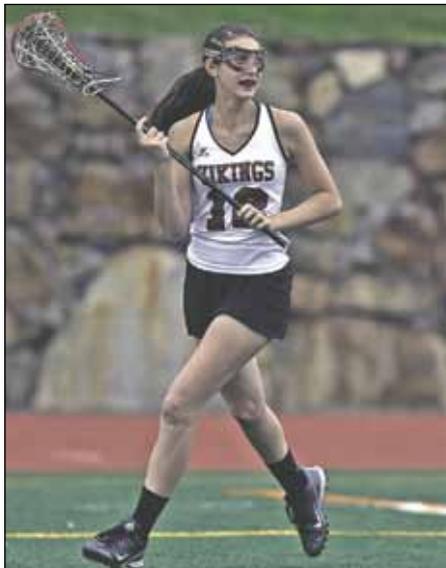
Phipps Lawrence of Fox Lane smacks a forehand in a doubles match last week at the conference tourney in Cross River.



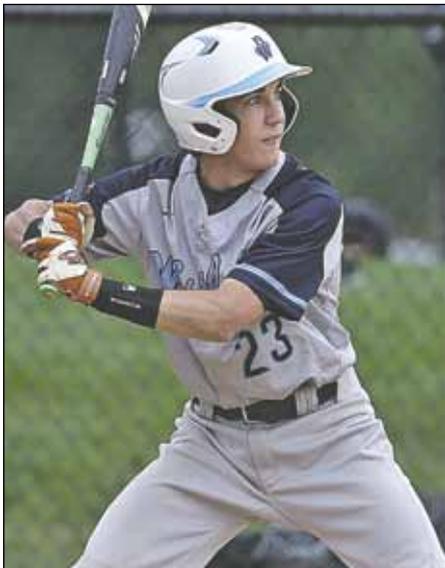
Valhalla's Jason Wolfthal pitches in last Tuesday's Viking victory over rival Westlake.



Gillon Gross of Greeley gets set to smack a forehand during his opening-round singles win in conference play last Tuesday.



Valhalla's Olivia Vlad controls the ball in the Vikings' playoff win vs. Hastings.



Westlake's Drew Kapica awaits a pitch during last Tuesday's game at Valhalla



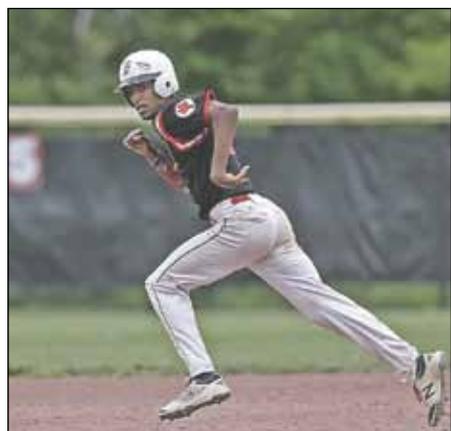
Valhalla's Rephaela Da Silva heads toward the cage for one of her 12 goals in the Vikings' come-from-behind playoff win over Hastings.



Maria Pezzolanti of Valhalla prepares to fire a shot on goal during last Wednesday's sectional game, won by the host Vikings.



Valhalla's Jeannie Yamazaki moves the ball up the field against visiting Hastings in the sectional playoffs last week.



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Fox Lane's Julian Francisco runs the bases in Saturday's playoff win over visiting Suffern.



Brian Mullen, who provided a home run, stays ready at first base in Fox Lane's sectional win over Suffern.



Fox Lane's Robert Lichtenberger fires a pitch to the plate in the Foxes' playoff victory over the visiting Mounties on Saturday.



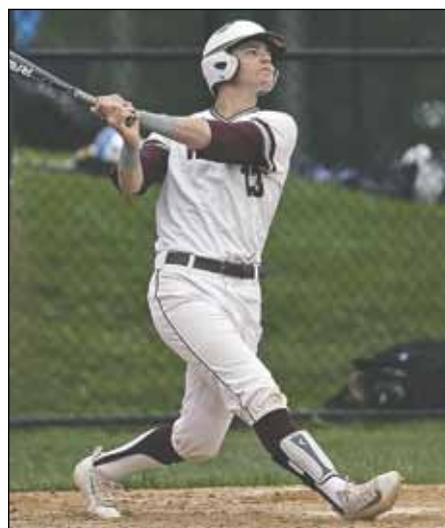
Fox Lane's Brooke Shepherd gets set to pass the ball in the Foxes' playoff win over Wappingers.



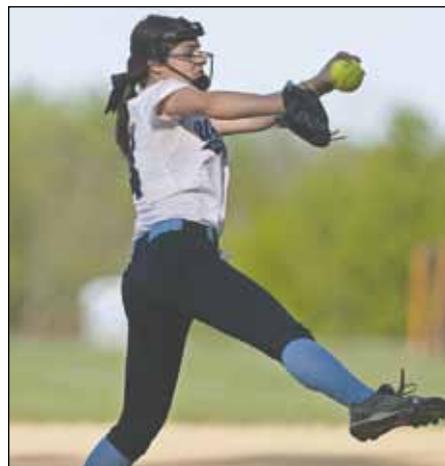
Antonia Perino of Westlake heads toward third base in the Wildcats' 16-1 playoff win over Blind Brook on Friday.



Westlake's Jamie Perfito swings the bat during the Wildcats' romp over Blind Brook in the sectional playoffs.



Valhalla's Brett Holtz blasts an extra-base hit in the Vikings' home win over Westlake last Tuesday afternoon.



Allison Brunetto of Westlake pitches in Friday afternoon's Class B playoff game vs. visiting Blind Brook.



Alison Moky moves the ball toward the cage in Fox Lane's Class A playoff win over visiting Wappingers.



Westlake shortstop Matt Latino rises high in the air to snag an errant throw as Valhalla's Jack Gorman steals second base.



Lindsay West of Fox Lane gets ready to shoot the ball during a free-position opportunity in last Wednesday's playoff win.



Fox Lane's Catharine Schreiber moves the ball up the right sideline in the Foxes' easy win over Wappingers in the sectional playoffs last week.

# Pleasantville Defeats the Vikings to Advance in Class B

By Arthur Cusano

Pleasantville defeated perennial power Valhalla 4-2 on Friday afternoon to advance to the second round of the Section 1, Class B softball playoffs Friday, thanks to some timely hits and good defense.

The sixth-seeded Panthers jumped out to an early lead that they never relinquished the rest of the way, scoring two runs in the third inning and then adding another pair in the sixth while pitcher Samantha Sicignano was limiting the visiting Vikings to just two runs.

Base hits by senior Isabella Godino and freshman Jackie Sicignano against Valhalla's Alyssa Dolan in the third inning put two runners aboard. That set the stage for a line drive by senior Katelyn Kwiat that brought them both home and gave the Panthers a two-run lead.

In the fifth inning, Samantha Sicignano scored from second on a hit to center field by Kwiat, while another hit by Kristie Guttridge plated fellow junior Seher Hussain with the Panthers' fourth run of the day.

According to Pleasantville head coach Gina Perino, all of the things the team had been working on paid off in Friday's victory.

"Some of our hitting struggles we worked on," she said. "My staff and I were really focused on doing our part to keep them in the game, and the kids took it the rest of the way. We made some adjustments and my kids came to play today against a very good team."

Perino was impressed by her team's defense, especially second baseman Sarah Whyntott.

"She had a couple of plays at second that really changed us, defensively," said Perino. "She's only a freshman, and she had to make some key plays. If she let that ball get by her and let those two kids on (base), they would have scored."

Perino also praised Kwiat, her catcher, for her work at bat.

"She didn't have the season she had last year, but I told her this is a new season. And she had two base hits today with runners in scoring position."

The 11th-seeded Vikings, whose dynasty was halted by Rye Neck in the Class B final a year ago, limped into the playoffs this season missing two of their starters due to injuries. Their starting center fielder had a torn labrum and their third baseman blew out her ACL. Eight of their nine position players were starters for the first time this year, including two eighth-graders.

Coach John Hayes said



Sam Sicignano of Pleasantville does some celebrating at second base during the Panthers' 4-2 playoff win over visiting Valhalla.

his team played well, but lacked timely hitting.

"They got the big hits up the middle with runners on second with two outs," he said about the victorious Panthers. "We didn't get those kinds of hits. I think we had four or five line drives right at people, and that's the difference in the game."

The Panthers were scheduled to play third-seeded Westlake on the road Monday after the Wildcats hammered Blind Brook 16-1 on Friday. The Panthers defeated the Wildcats twice in the regular season, but Perino knows her team cannot afford to look past them.

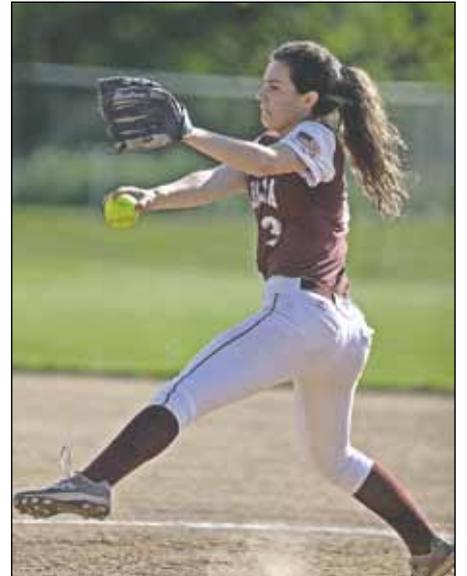
"It's hard to beat a team three times," she said, "and they're a really good team."



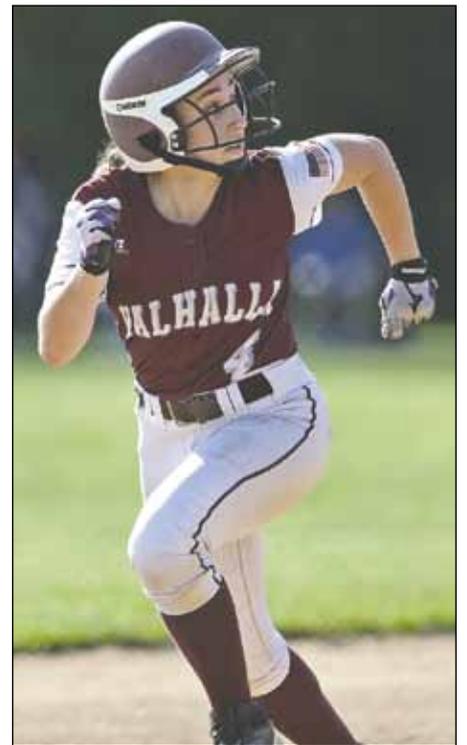
Bella Godino of Pleasantville stops on the base paths between second and third in the playoff win vs. Valhalla.



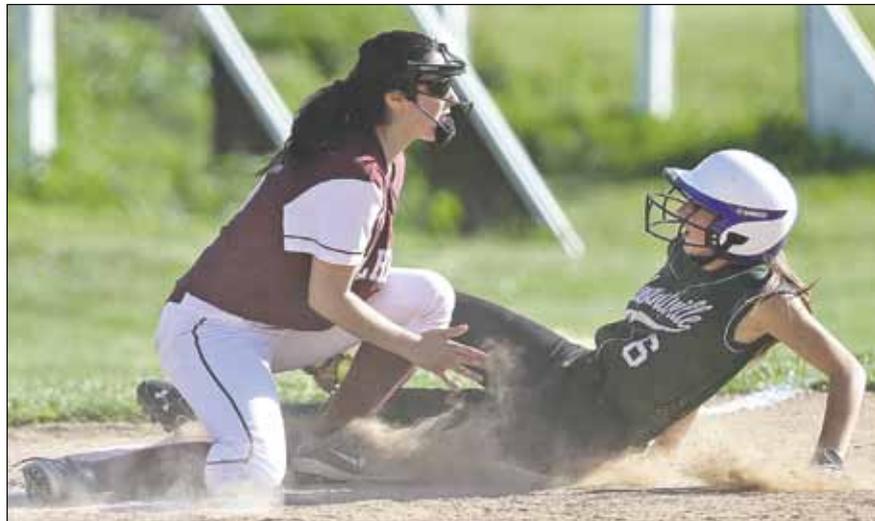
Pleasantville's Sarah Whyntott swings the bat in Friday's playoff game.



Valhalla's Alyssa Dolan delivers a pitch in the sectional playoffs vs. host Pleasantville.



Isabella Riguzzi of Valhalla runs toward third base in the Vikings' playoff game at Pleasantville on Friday.



Pleasantville's Jackie Sicignano is out at third base as Valhalla's Sophie Rizzutto applies the tag in the sectional playoff game won by the Panthers.



Pleasantville shortstop Kristie Guttridge picks up the ball after a bloop hit as teammate Kathleen Passabet looks on in Friday's playoff win.

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# SPORTS SCENE *EXTRA*

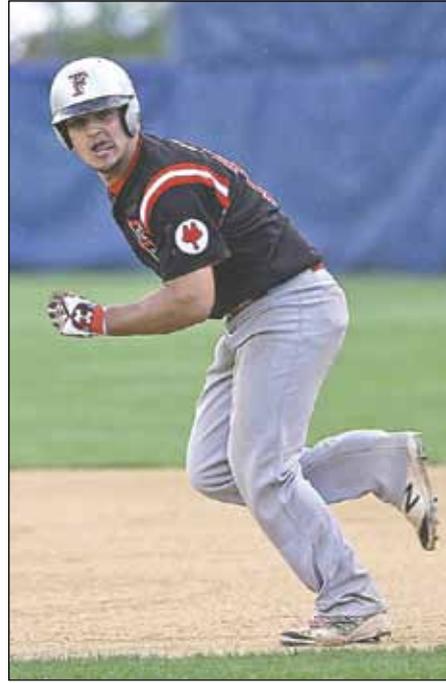
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Briarcliff's Joe Canonaco held Hastings to just one hit in Saturday's playoff victory.



First baseman Holden Kopec is about to catch the ball for the final putout of Saturday's Briarcliff playoff win over visiting Hastings.



Will Cohen of Fox Lane runs the bases in the Foxes' 2-1 playoff loss to Ketcham on Monday.



Fox Lane's Lucy Crend stays ready at shortstop in the sixth inning of Monday's sectional loss to the John Jay Patriots.



Fox Lane's Alexis Bazos stands on third base late in her final game in a Fox uniform on Monday afternoon vs. host John Jay.

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Fox Lane's Aaron Winkler fires a pitch in Monday afternoon's quarterfinal playoff game at Roy C. Ketcham.

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# Title Quest



**Lindsay West Leads Fox Lane to an Upset Win Over Suffern and into the Sectional Final**

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