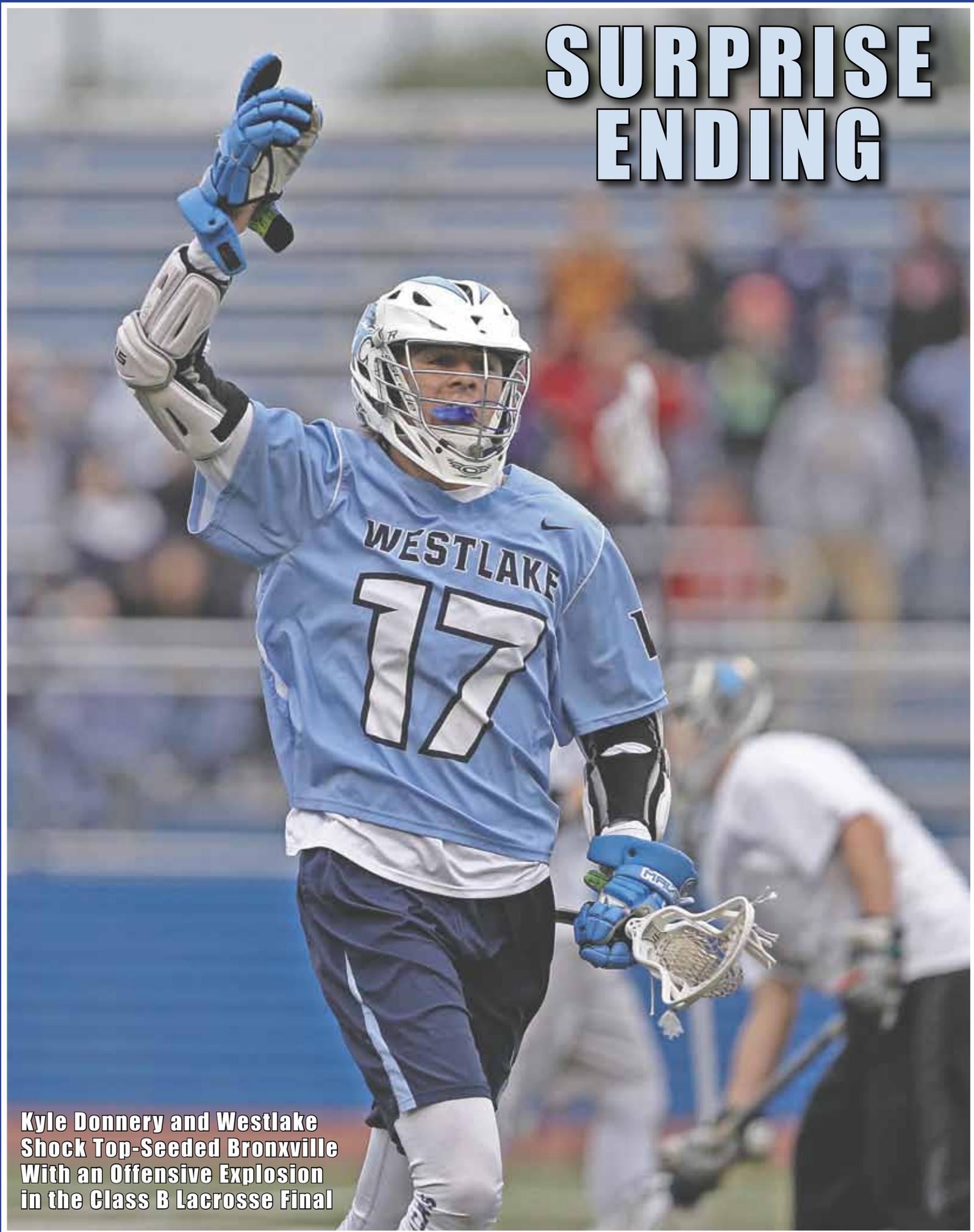


SURPRISE ENDING



Kyle Donnery and Westlake Shock Top-Seeded Bronxville With an Offensive Explosion in the Class B Lacrosse Final

Westlake Surprises Broncos in the Class D Title Game

By Andy Jacobs

The Westlake boys' lacrosse program was just getting off the ground right about the time Bronxville started making its annual appearances in Section One championship games.

So when the two schools met last Thursday evening to battle for the first-ever Class D crown, it seemed the Wildcats had about as much chance of winning as, say, David versus Goliath or, a bit more recently, the Jets in Super Bowl III or Villanova when facing mighty Georgetown in 1985 or Buster Douglas in his heavyweight fight with Mike Tyson.

But Westlake was undaunted by the seemingly tall task at hand on the turf at Mahopac High School. The Wildcats exploded for four lightning-quick goals shortly after halftime and turned what had been a surprisingly close contest into a rout. With Michael Leva scoring six goals, Dylan Donnery five more and all-everything junior middle Rob DiNota dominating on face-offs, Westlake rolled to a shockingly one-sided 20-12 victory over the top-seeded, but besieged Broncos.



The Westlake lacrosse team poses with its new championship plaque after beating top-seeded Bronxville on Thursday evening.



Westlake's James Gorman fires a shot toward the cage in Thursday's Class D title game.

"I knew we were capable of winning the game," said Westlake head coach Hunter Burnard shortly after witnessing a second-half eruption from his team. "But I wouldn't have predicted that we put up 20 goals. You know, we're a little under the radar, but I think the guys in our huddle knew what we were capable of. We've been talking about playing Bronxville in the section championship since December. So we knew this was coming and we were ready for it."

The Broncos, playing in their seventh consecutive sectional final, jumped ahead 90 seconds into the contest on the first of Alston Tarry's five goals. But three minutes later, Leva got the second-seeded Wildcats even. When Bronxville grabbed

the lead again, it was Leva who answered with another goal half a minute later.

The lead changed hands three times in the first two quarters, but DiNota, who finished with three goals, three assists and two dozen face-off wins, scored with 30 seconds left in the half, providing the Wildcats with a 7-6 advantage they would never lose. As the teams walked off the field at intermission, Bronxville was sullen, the Wildcats giddy.

"We were confident because we had the lead that we could do this, that it was possible and we were in the place we wanted to be," said Burnard. "So we just came out with a lot of energy in the second half."

Just 51 seconds into the third quarter, the Wildcats gave Bronxville a quick hint of things to come as Donnery, who along with twin brother Ryan and older brother



The Wildcats' Nicholas Ryan guards the goal during the Class D championship game at Mahopac High School.

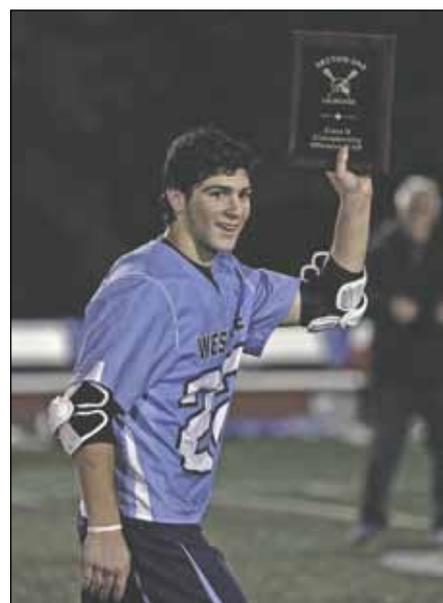
Kyle wound up combining for nine goals, took a pass from James Gorman and beat goalie James Swartz with a lefty shot. Just 15 seconds later, Ryan Donnery scored to increase the Westlake lead to 9-6.

continued on next page



Kyle Donnery tries to run past Bronxville's Logan Glick in Westlake's 20-12 victory in the Class D sectional final.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Westlake's Rob DiNota holds up his plaque after being named the offensive MVP in the Class D title game.



Westlake sophomore Dylan Donnery moves the ball up the field in the second half of Thursday's title game.

continued from previous page

The Wildcats had a man-up opportunity when Ryan Donnery scored again, getting a pass from Gorman and converting on the right doorstep with 9:17 to go in the quarter. A Gorman goal 42 seconds later stretched the Westlake lead to 11-6 and forced a timeout from the shell-shocked Broncos. Tarry did answer with a pair of third-quarter goals, but as the teams headed to the final 12 minutes Westlake still had a four-goal cushion.

DiNota, named the game's offensive most valuable player, pointed to the Wildcats' mindset at halftime as the biggest reason the third quarter changed the course of the evening.

"To us, it wasn't 7-6," he said of the Wildcats' halftime lead. "It was zero to zero. We played like we were down the whole game. We just kept pouring in goals and that's the reason we won."

Dylan Donnery scored again early in the fourth quarter before Tarry answered right back for the Broncos two minutes into the period, cutting the Bronxville deficit to 13-9. But the Broncos would get no closer as the Wildcats, winning virtually every face-off, erupted for another four-goal blitz over a five-minute stretch that all but assured they would be the ones facing Section 9 champion James I. O'Neill in the opening round of the state playoffs at Dietz Stadium in Kingston on Wednesday evening.

The first of the four goals came just moments after Westlake goalie Nicholas Ryan, named the game's defensive most valuable player, made a sparkling save on a shot by Dylan James, then delivered a long outlet pass to DiNota, who raced in and found Leva free on the left doorstep for an easy score.

By the final minutes of the fourth quarter, it seemed the Wildcats were scoring at will against the dejected and fatigued Bronco defense. Leva's final goal



Rob DiNota gets set to send a shot toward the cage in the first half of Thursday's Class D championship game.

of the night came even as he tumbled to the turf and it gave Westlake an astounding 20-10 advantage with 1:26 left. Bronxville managed to score two window-dressing goals in the waning moments, but soon the Wildcats were sprinting toward Ryan to start the celebration of the team's first lacrosse championship.

"They've been to seven straight championships and people thought it was an advantage," said Burnard about the vanquished Broncos, who have now had to settle for the runner-up plaque three straight times. "But, to us, I mean, we had the advantage. We were hungry. This is our first time here. We wanted this. We were ready for this."

DiNota, for one, was not ready to leave Mahopac without a title. He still has no trouble remembering what happened on the same turf as he and his Wildcat football teammates came up short in their bid to repeat as champions back in the fall.

"You know, November 4th, we came off



Michael Leva, who scored six goals in Westlake's 20-12 victory, runs past Bronxville's Kevin Formato.

this field crying and we knew we didn't want that to happen again," he said.

"So we came out as hard as we can and we gave everything we have. We have no energy left after this game. We just put everything we had into it. And we wanted to bring the first section title ever to our school. It was an amazing feeling and we couldn't have done it without every single kid on this team, even the JV kids who came up for the playoffs."

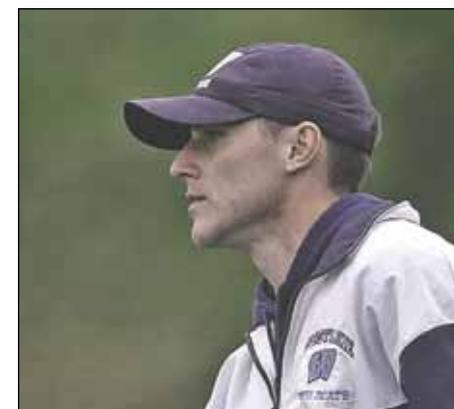
Burnard has been coaching DiNota long enough to know he was going to see the kind of dazzling performance he did against the Broncos.

"Rob DiNota has dominated almost every single game that we've played this year," he said. "He's very special. He's the most special athlete I've had the opportunity to coach and he always rises up and plays his best in the biggest moments. So kudos to him."

The Westlake victory may have come as a big shock all around the section, but the Wildcats actually defeated Bronxville in

overtime on the road last year and gained quite a bit of confidence from the win.

"There wasn't much mention of that coming into the game," said Burnard. "I know we were predicted to lose by six goals. That was just motivation for us. We knew we could do it. I think our victory against them last year at Bronxville was huge for us coming into this game, knowing we'd done it before and we could do it again."



Westlake head coach Hunter Burnard watches his team in the second half of the Class D title game.



Westlake goalie Nicholas Ryan was named the defensive most valuable player in the Section 1, Class D championship game.



The Wildcats' Ryan Donnery controls the ball in the second half vs. Bronxville.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Westlake players celebrate after scoring one of their 13 second-half goals vs. top-seeded Bronxville in the Class D sectional final.

Panthers Overcome Slow Start to Beat Briarcliff in Class C Final

By Andy Jacobs

Pleasantville boys' lacrosse coach Chris Kear isn't used to having to call a timeout early in a game to calm his players down. But on Friday night at Mahopac High School, with the Section One, Class C championship up for grabs, he had no choice.

His top-seeded Panthers were reeling from an unexpected three-goal offensive blitz from archrival Briarcliff and Kear was not about to let the pursuit of a third straight sectional title go up in smoke in the opening quarter.

"Yeah, I didn't want it to get out of hand," he would concede later. "I didn't want them to get a four- or five-goal lead, which would really put us in the hole. Everybody started questioning themselves, so I felt like three goals was the time. My assistant was saying one more goal. 'Eh, let's call it now.' I think it was the right time. Just calmed 'em down, got the crowd out of it a little bit and settled us down."

As it turned out, the early timeout did provide immediate dividends as

the Panthers quickly overcame their 3-0 deficit and took command of the contest. Lucas Cohen scored four goals and assisted on five others, earning offensive most valuable player honors as Pleasantville defeated the third-seeded Bears 11-7.

"The message was to relax, calm down, remember what the game plan is, stick to your matchups," said Kear, whose team earned a berth in Wednesday afternoon's state regional against Section 9 champ Highland at Kingston's Dietz Stadium. "Trust in the game plan and just go out there and execute. And just take a deep breath. It seemed like they calmed down a little bit after that."

Before the momentum-changing timeout, Briarcliff, which had trailed the Panthers 10-1 at one point during the teams' regular-season contest on the way to an 18-11 loss, had left the Panther fans in the bleachers stunned and silent, scoring three goals in just under two minutes starting midway through the opening quarter.

The Bears' blitz began with a goal from Zach Vincent on



The Panthers begin their postgame celebration after winning the Section 1, Class C title for the third straight year.

a pass from Camron Fash to break the scoreless deadlock with 6:26 left in the first period. Fash doubled the Briarcliff lead with a howitzer of a shot 58 seconds later and Jack Reish, running to his left,

got to the front of the cage to beat goalie Jack Fitzgerald a minute later.

"I think it's a credit to our kids," said

continued on next page



Pleasantville's Declan McDermott prepares to send a shot on goal during Friday's championship game at Mahopac High School.



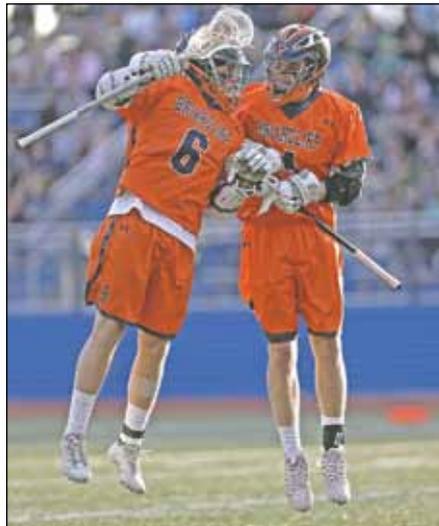
Ian McAndrew of Pleasantville tries to protect the ball from Briarcliff's Lucas Benson during the Class C title game.



Briarcliff's Michael Donoghue corrals the ball after winning a face-off in the sectional final vs. Pleasantville.



Briarcliff's Nicholas Cebel is watched by Pleasantville's Charlie McPhee as he controls the ball in the fourth quarter of Friday's title game.



Briarcliff's Zach Vincent (left) and Jack Reish go airborne after the Bears scored a goal in the first quarter.



Pleasantville's Lucas Cohen tries to run past Briarcliff's Kevin O'Donnell during Friday's Class C title game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

continued from previous page

Briarcliff coach Rob Anderson about the Bears' torrid start. "It's a credit to their preparation, the thought process, their mindset, their motivation and a great couple of days of work and practice. They certainly came out the right way. Their hard work and preparation really showed at the beginning of the game."

"We weren't really too rattled," said Pleasantville junior Brian Reda, who finished with four goals and two assists, becoming the Panthers' all-time leading scorer. "I think we just knew if we didn't play our ball that we could get upset by anybody. And we kind of said that in the huddle during the timeout, and we just started playing Pleasantville lacrosse and we started rolling from that point on."

Just over a half minute after the Panthers returned to the field after their talk, Reda, cutting in front of the crease, took a pass from Cohen behind the cage and easily deposited his first goal of the game. Only 16 seconds later, Cohen netted his first goal, spinning his way free left of the cage and beating Bears goalie Henry Anderson, who was later voted the game's defensive most valuable player. A big save by Anderson on Reda with just over a minute left in the period enabled Briarcliff to take a 3-2 lead into the second quarter.

But 30 seconds into the new period, Reda got free right of the cage and tied the game, much to the dismay of Bears assistant Al Meiola, who was waiting for a slide that never came.

"C'mon," he yelled at his players, "we know he's the best shooter in the section. Are you serious?"

The Panthers gained the lead for good with 7:36 left in the half, on a goal by Nolan McAndrew moments after goalie Jack Fitzgerald turned aside a Briarcliff shot on a man-up situation. Another Fitzgerald save led to a fast-break score by Ryan Drillock that increased the Pleasantville lead to 5-3 with 6:30 remaining before halftime.

A long Panther possession ended with a goal from freshman Jake Coleman



Pleasantville junior Brian Reda controls the ball behind the cage as Briarcliff's Kevin O'Donnell defends in the Section 1, Class C title game.

and then Cohen scored again with the Bears down a man 32 seconds before intermission. The Bears, once leading by three goals, walked off the field at halftime facing a 7-3 deficit.

"I think the second quarter for us was the biggest part of the game," said Reda. "That gave us a comfortable lead, so we didn't have to worry so much about coming from behind in the second half. It was more building the lead and maintaining it. So that was definitely a bit of a relief."

The Bears, scoreless for over 20 minutes, finally got on the board when Fash dodged his way inside with 9:30 left in the third quarter. But Briarcliff was blanked the rest of the period, while the Panthers got two more goals from Reda, sandwiched around one by Cohen. Pleasantville, forced to win in double overtime in last year's low-scoring final against Bronxville, went to the fourth quarter ahead 10-4.

The Bears, though, got a goal from Vincent nearly four minutes into the period and another from Keaton McCann two minutes later to close within 10-6. But that was as close as they would get. With 1:09 left on the clock, Coleman



Pleasantville's Greg Driscoll (left) and Charlie McPhee knock the ball away from Briarcliff's Keaton McCann in the Panthers' 11-7 victory.

capped the Pleasantville victory by scoring his second goal with the Bears two men down. Nicholas Cebel tallied his second goal of the game for Briarcliff with 45 seconds to go, but moments later the Panthers started celebrating their third straight sectional title.

"This year, the kids have had big goals," said Kear. "They sort of thought they would win the section championship this year. Briarcliff played great. Hats off to them. But the kids want to win more. They don't want to just get to the state semis and get knocked off. They want to go to state semis and beyond."

The victory over Briarcliff was just the latest in an impressive streak by the Panthers following a midseason slide during which they lost four times in just over a week.

"Once we lost to Mamaroneck," said Reda, "we had a little team meeting. We said we're not losing anymore, and from that point on we've won 10 in a row. So



Pleasantville players celebrate after receiving their championship plaque on Friday night.

something we said must've clicked and we've been doing a great job."



Dillon Knight of Briarcliff takes the ball toward the cage where Pleasantville goalie Jack Fitzgerald waits in the Class C championship game.



The Panthers' Lucas Cohen is defended by the Bears' Lucas Benson behind the cage in the second half of Friday's championship game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Sam Mayers of Byram Hills is on her way to winning the 100 at Saturday's Class B championships.



Adrian Rippstein of Pleasantville competes in the 110 hurdles at the Class B sectional championships.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Briarcliff's Julia Duffy prepares for her landing as she competes in the long jump on Saturday afternoon.

SPORTS SCENE



Ally Steffen of Byram Hills drives the ball in last Wednesday's second round of sectionals at Whippoorwill Club. She qualified for the state tourney.



Grace Scavone of Byram Hills controls the ball during the top-seeded Bobcats' loss to Hendrick Hudson in the sectional playoffs last week.



Westlake's Alexandra Leitch runs in the 100 at the Class B championships this past weekend.



Westlake's Dylan Ahern competes in the high jump at Saturday's Class B track and field championships at Byram Hills High School.



Briarcliff's Jacob Fridakis and Pleasantville's Samuel Anderson finish together in the 100 at Saturday's Class B championships.



Jack Varsames of Byram Hills moves the ball in the Bobcats' Class C semifinal game at Pleasantville last Tuesday.



Byram Hills' Kallie Hoffman tries to get to the goal in the second half of last Tuesday's playoff game vs. visiting Hen Hud.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Alden Iaconis of Pleasantville clears a hurdle during Saturday's Class B meet.

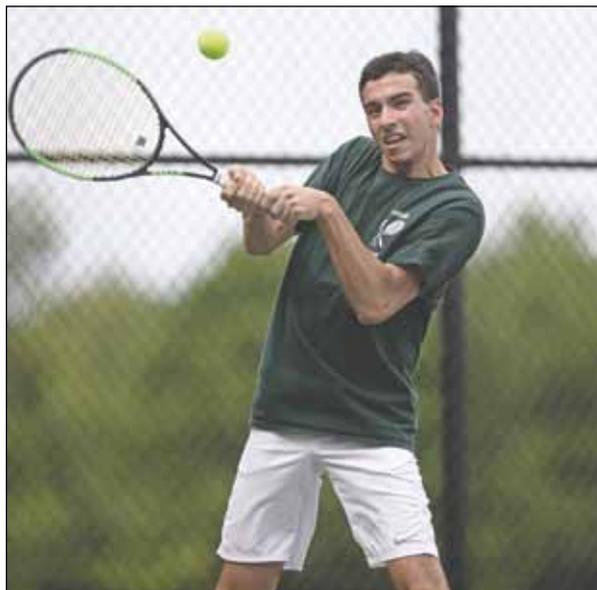


Emily Resnik of Byram Hills won two events at the Class B championships on Saturday.

Westlake's Joelle El Hamouche runs in the 1500 at the Section 1, Class B championships.



Arjun Goyal of Byram Hills smacks a forehand in his opening-round match at the Section One tennis championships.



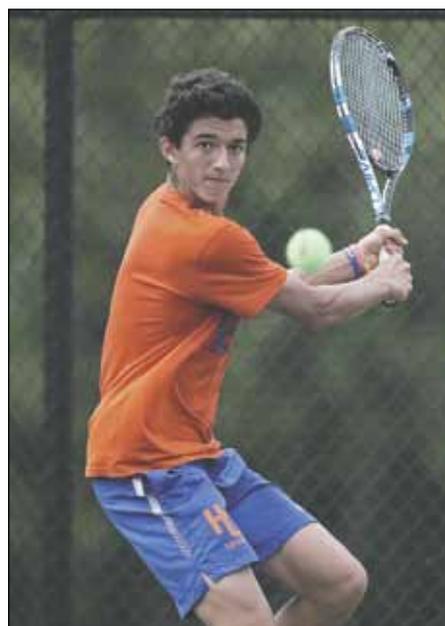
Pleasantville's Mark Indriolo hits a backhand return during a singles match at the sectional tournament last Tuesday afternoon.



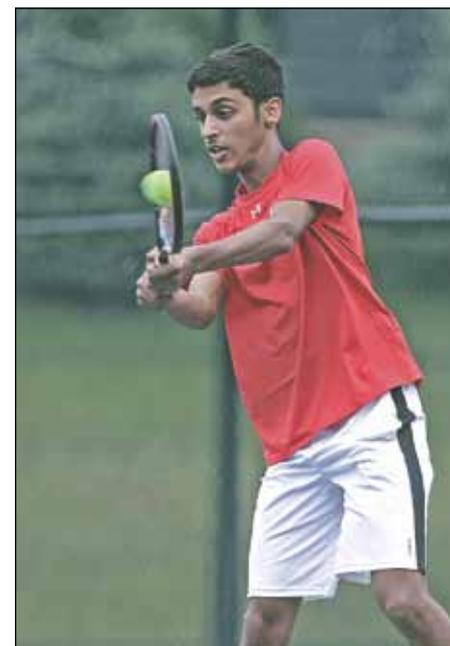
Greeley's James Wei prepares to hit a backhand volley during his opening match at Harrison High School. He and doubles partner Dylan Glickman qualified for the state tournament later this week.



Phipps Lawrence of Fox Lane concentrates on a backhand return in his opening-round doubles match last Tuesday afternoon at the sectional tournament.



Horace Greeley's Luke Queiroz lines up a backhand return during a singles match at the sectional tourney.



Fox Lane's Sachin Ganesh hits a backhand during doubles action at the sectional tennis tournament last Tuesday.

Vikings Crush Rye Neck in Class B Championship Game

By Andy Jacobs

Anyone looking for drama, suspense and intrigue probably should have avoided a visit to North Rockland High School for the Section One, Class B championship game on Saturday afternoon.

That's where the Valhalla Vikings jumped on top-seeded Rye Neck for three runs in the first inning and four more in the second, then spent the rest of the overcast day pouring salt into the Panthers' wounds on the way to a lopsided 11-0 victory. Jillian Caldarola pitched her third successive playoff shutout and Giana Bencivengo drove in five runs as the Vikings ended their two-year title drought with a commanding performance reminiscent of some of the others by the school in the not-too-distant past.

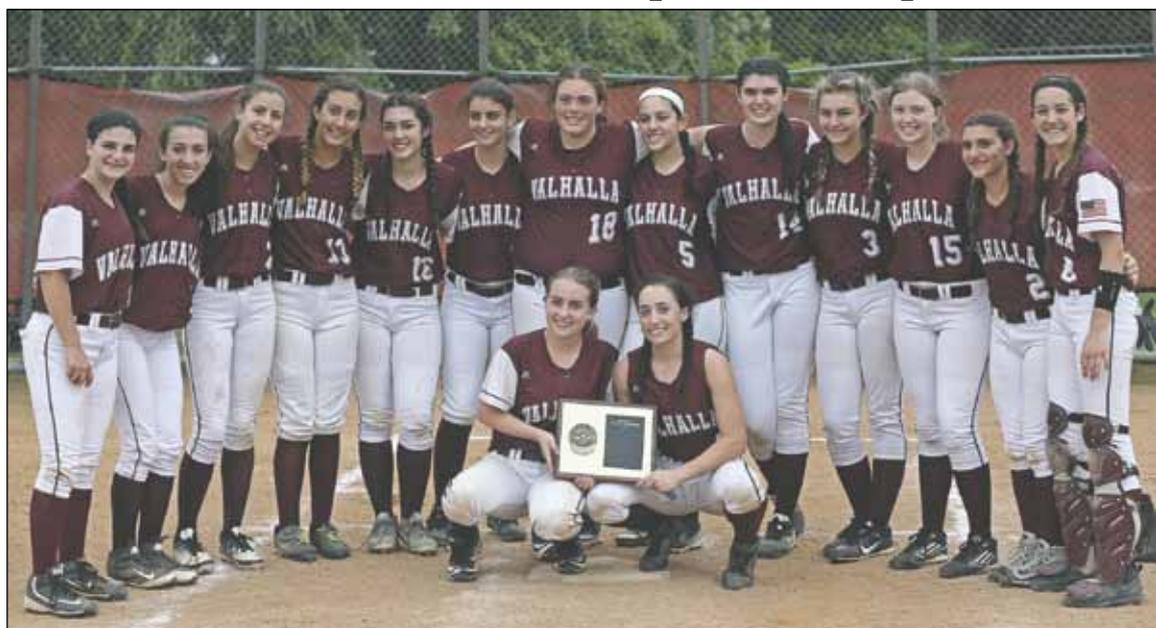
"Very rewarding, but more rewarding just because this is a brand new group," said Vikings coach John Hayes amid his team's postgame celebration on the infield. "They're all young. If they're not freshmen and sophomores, then it's their first year on the varsity."

The third-seeded Vikings, with just two seniors on their roster, wasted no time getting on the scoreboard against a Panther team they had edged midway through the regular season. Bella Riguzzi led off with a walk and Caldarola followed with a single to left field. Bencivengo then

smacked a single to center to drive in her first run of the game and provide Caldarola with all the support she would need.

Both runners had advanced a base on the throw to the plate and Caldarola soon scored when a short fly to right field by Deanna Yurus was dropped. One out later, a grounder to third by Juliana Abbondola brought home the Vikings' third run. In the bottom of the first, Caldarola, who wound up with five strikeouts on the way to pitching a two-hit shutout, retired Rye Neck in order.

The Vikings' Breanna Ciardullo singled to the opposite field with one out in the second inning and Caldarola did exactly the same thing with two outs. That set the stage for Bencivengo's biggest hit of the day. The slugging first baseman sent an Olivia Dunn pitch high and far over the fence in right-center field for a three-run homer that doubled the Valhalla lead and



The 2017 Section 1, Class B champion Valhalla Vikings pose with their latest hardware.

broke the game open.

"Ah, it was a little bit of a relief, no doubt about it," said Hayes about the long blast by Bencivengo. "Olivia Dunn's one of the best pitchers and getting three runs is great. But if the other team gets a momentum swing, you know, it's right back to 3-3. To put that shot up, Gianna, can't say enough about her. She zoned in, let the ball get in on her and then drove it over the right-center gap."

The Vikings didn't let up one bit after Bencivengo's home run. Yurus immediately followed with a single to left and then scored when Kaitlyn Doherty slammed a double over the head of the left fielder, stretching the Valhalla lead to 7-0.

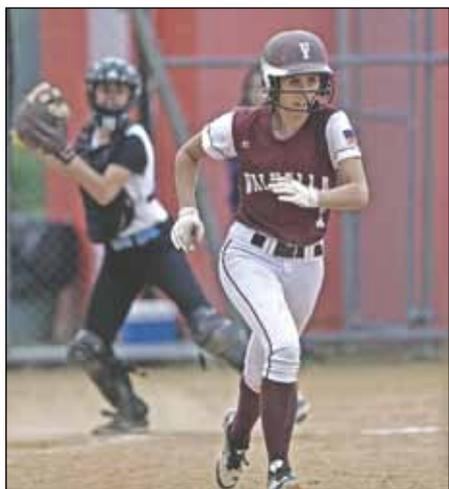
Caldarola yielded her first hit of the game, a double down the line in left, to Alexa Garcia with two outs in the bottom of the second, but got out of trouble when second baseman Abbondola made a sparkling play on a grounder up the middle by Jamie Strazza. In the third

inning, Caldarola struck out the first two Panthers, then surrendered Rye Neck's final hit, a bloop single by Dunn. The inning ended when center fielder Riguzzi ran down Jessica Santoli's long drive to the gap in right-center field.

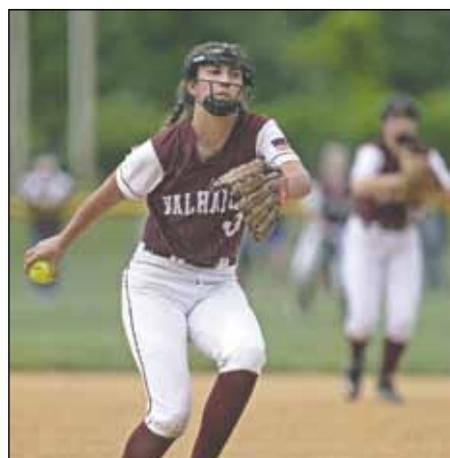
Caldarola wound up retiring the last 13 Rye Neck batters she faced, and the outcome, if it wasn't already decided, certainly became a foregone conclusion when Valhalla added two more runs in the fifth inning. Bencivengo had another run-scoring hit in the frame, and the overwhelmed Panthers made two of their six errors on the afternoon as they fell behind 9-0.

The Vikings wound up with 14 hits against Dunn and reliever Alicia Rodriguez and scored their final two runs in the sixth as freshman Christina Ferrara ripped a two-out single, Emily Strupinsky reached on an error and then Ciardullo drilled a double to the gap in right-center

continued on next page



Valhalla's Emily Strupinsky tries to beat the throw to first base after bunting vs. Rye Neck.



The Vikings' Jillian Caldarola pitches in Saturday's Class B championship game.



Valhalla players celebrate after the final out in their 11-0 title victory over top-seeded Rye Neck.



Valhalla right fielder Breanna Ciardullo flashes a winning smile after making a catch for the final out in the Class B title game Saturday.



Valhalla first baseman Giana Bencivengo watches her second-inning three-run homer clear the fence in the Class B title game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

continued from previous page

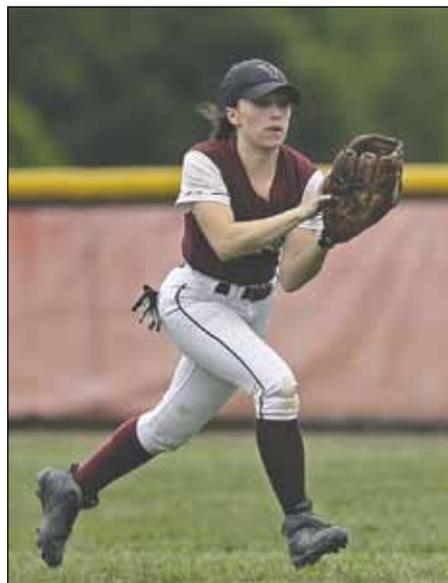
field to drive home both of them.

An inning later, Caldarola quickly retired the final three batters, the last of them harmlessly flying out to right fielder Ciardullo and setting off a Viking pile-on celebration near second base.

“There’s no superstars on this team,” said Hayes, who coached a few en route to winning six consecutive sectional titles before Rye Neck surprisingly ended the streak in 2015. “That’s the best part, there’s no superstars. They all work together. They bought into what we were selling, and they’re just a great bunch of kids.”

Even Hayes might have had a hard time believing his young and inexperienced team could accomplish what it just did, blanking Hastings, Westlake and Rye Neck in succession to get back on the Class B throne.

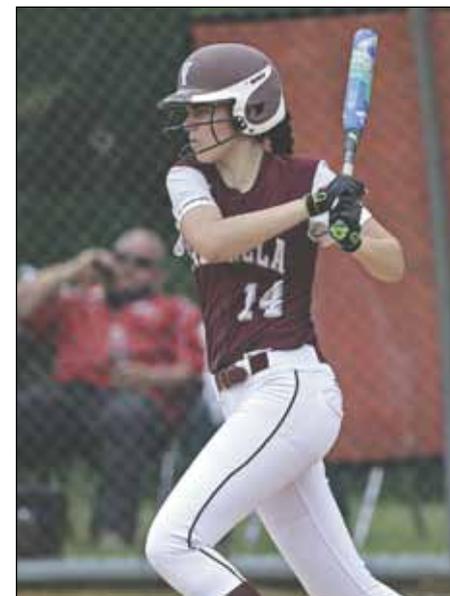
“Just a great ride,” he said. “A great ride.”



Valhalla center fielder Bella Riguzzi makes a running catch in the Vikings' title win on Saturday afternoon.



Vikings catcher Kayla Greenberg relaxes in the Valhalla dugout during Saturday's 11-0 win over Rye Neck.



Kaitlyn Doherty swings the bat in Saturday's Class B final at North Rockland High School.

Westlake's Season Ends With a Disappointing Loss

By Andy Jacobs

For the Westlake softball team, last Wednesday's Section One, Class B semifinal game didn't exactly go as planned.

Just two weeks after the Wildcats crushed archrival Valhalla by 11 runs, the Vikings made the short drive back to the same field and exacted a strong measure of revenge, winning 10-0 and putting an end to Westlake's title dreams.

“Disappointing, disappointing,” said Wildcats coach Claudio Barbieri shortly after his team had been retired in order in the bottom of the seventh inning. “I thought we had more in the tank. We just didn't get it done today.”

Westlake starting pitcher Ali Brunetto had breezed through the first three innings, striking out five Vikings. But in the fourth, Valhalla erupted for five hits against her, and took advantage of a Wildcat error to score four runs

that proved to be decisive. The Vikings collected four more hits in the fifth, including a two-run single by Juliana Abbondola after she failed to bunt twice, and increased their lead to 6-0.

In the sixth inning, Valhalla got a run-scoring single from Deanna Yurus and an RBI double from Kaitlyn Doherty. So when the Wildcats finally threatened for the first time all afternoon, in the bottom of the inning, they were facing an 8-0 uphill climb. With one out, Laine Peterson walked, Jamie Perfito singled to left and Daniella Mulvey singled to center, loading the bases.

But the Vikings' Jillian Caldarola, who tossed three straight postseason shutouts, got out of the jam unscathed by retiring Kelly Pierce on a line drive to center field and then Antonia Perino, whose hard grounder down the line was backhanded by third baseman Yurus, stranding three runners.

In the seventh, Valhalla capped its big day with RBI singles by Breanna Ciardullo and Yurus. Kristin Pierce, the only freshman on the Westlake roster, led off the bottom of the inning with a long drive to left field that was run down by



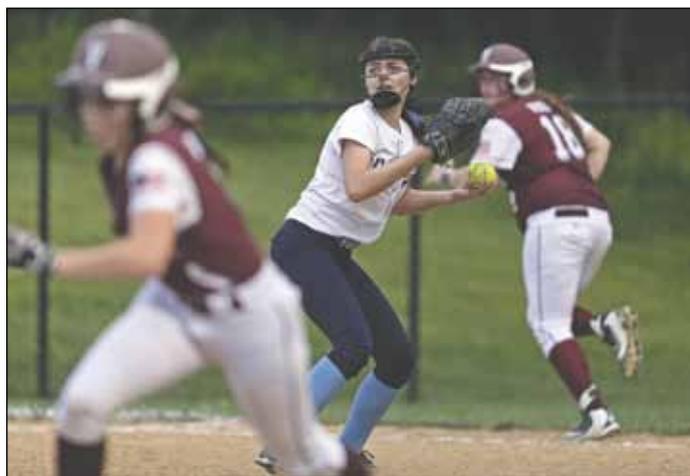
Westlake's Laine Peterson swings the bat during the Wildcats' Class B semifinal.



Daniella Mulvey of Westlake hits a fly ball during last Wednesday's Class B semifinal.



The Vikings' Deanna Yurus runs toward third base in last Wednesday's semifinal at Westlake.



Westlake pitcher Ali Brunetto is surrounded by Valhalla runners coming and going as she fields the ball in front of the mound.

Emily Strupinsky and, one out later, the Wildcats' season came to a disappointing conclusion as Nicole Dragonetti grounded out to third.

According to Vikings coach John Hayes, his team's one-sided defeat at Westlake late in the season turned out to be all the motivation needed to make the run that culminated with a championship this past weekend.

“I didn't have to say anything,” he said about that stinging 17-6 loss to the Wildcats. “They knew. They were humbled. It's a learning experience. They beat 'em earlier in the year and then

had to play 'em again. They were a little too confident, didn't take care of little things, and then it was a great humbling, learning experience for us.”

The Wildcats' Barbieri was not the least bit surprised Valhalla was a lot sharper in the rubber game between the two teams, with the stakes much higher.

“They came ready to play, as I thought Valhalla would,” he said. “They were the better team today. They put the ball in play, they made things happen, and we just didn't make the plays. You give a good team like that extra outs and they're gonna make you pay.”

So, for the second consecutive year, the Wildcats' season came to a close one game shy of the sectional final.

“Again, it's disappointing,” said Barbieri. “We thought we had a good chance of getting there. But we'll regroup and see what we can do next year.”

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

GRAND PRIX
NEW YORK
GPNY.COM

SPINS
BOWL

- BIRTHDAY PARTIES
- CORPORATE EVENTS
- BAR / BAT MITZVAHS
- FUNDRAISERS

333 North Bedford Road | Mount Kisco, New York
www.gpny.com | info@gpny.com | 914-241-3131

Follow us on 
twitter

twitter.com/ExaminerMedia

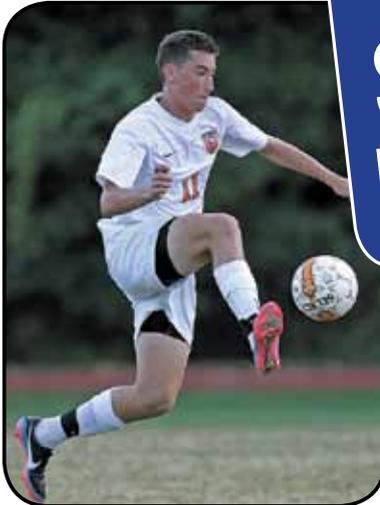
 Find us on **Facebook**

Search for **EXAMINER MEDIA**

914-864-0878
advertising@theexaminernews.com
www.theexaminernews.com









Like our SPORTS PHOTOS?

To purchase a digital file, email us at photos@theexaminernews.com. Just include the name of the student athlete featured in the picture or pictures you're interested in buying, the Tuesday publication date in which the image or images appeared and the page number or numbers. Photos are \$25 each.

This Week in Baseball (TWIB) – Mount Kisco Baseball 5/27

Welcome back Mt Kisco baseball fans... with a short holiday week cut even shorter due to... of course... rain... we have still had a very eventful week. Over in MKLL all teams had their eye on the upcoming playoffs as #2 seed, and first round bye, was still up for grabs. Discussions centered around the different scenarios and tie-breakers to determine the positions. It was so close league executives had to create new levels of tie-breakers. The usual head-to-head, run differential rules were already in place but, if needed, the next tie-breakers included a hot dog eating contest, egg toss and dodgeball. Thankfully it did not come to that.

Cassidy Flynn ends their season in 1st place with an 11-3 record. This well-rounded team features depth across the board as they seek their first championship under Coach Barone's leadership. The team is also a very close group...almost like brothers. Actually most of them are brothers with the Guyders, Tavolaccis and Double-Duarte. Add in Will "Red Baron" Barone, Achylles "Grand Slam" Pons-Beltsyk and strong contributions from role players like Max "I also play in the band" Rand and you have a team ready for a long playoff run. We'll see in the coming weeks if the regular season success carries over to the pressure-packed playoffs (say that tongue twister 10x).

Our Game of the Week... actually Game

of the Season... correction Game of a Lifetime... is courtesy of M&R vs Robison. After all of the competitiveness, playoff positioning and yearning to win, the bottom line is creating memories for families and the kids having fun. Well... do we have a lifetime memory for you... both teams came into the contest with an eye on capturing the #2 seed in the playoffs. So even before a pitch was thrown the pressure and hype was buzzing arriving Leonard Park. As the action got underway each team was feeling out the other with strong pitching dominating the early innings. Lev Simkhai & Mack Seidman for M&R and Nick Cacovic & Jack Cicchelli for Robison controlled the game. M&R was the first to punch through as Mack "Attack" Seidman doubled for a 2-0 lead. That score held until the 5th when Chris Buetti's single (two RBIs) and subsequent steal of home put Robison on top 3-2 entering the 6th. In the top of the 6th, with the game slipping away from M&R, it was the rookie Joey "Volcano" Volvano coming through with his own steal of



home to knot the game at 3-3. So we head to the bottom of the 6th with the game hanging in the balance. Stepping into the batter's box is the kid with the never give up attitude, Hunter Mezzatesta. In his rookie season Hunter has been biding his time and waiting for his big moment... studying

scouting reports, analyzing swing mechanics and reviewing defensive shifts in an effort to put his first ball into play. Well all of that time and effort finally paid off on one swing as Hunter launched the game ending, walk off bomb heard all around Mt Kisco into the mezz-anine section of the stands for a 4-3 win. It was a mezz-merizing moment as Coach Mezz could be seen leaping into the air in celebration. Hunter rounded the bases with the thrill and excitement that every kid should feel in little league as he was cheered by his teammates touching home plate. Truly a moment that summarizes Mt Kisco baseball!!

Due to the continuing inclement weather, Exit 4 Food Hall and SW&G played just one game this past week. For Exit 4 the game represented one of their four potential games on the schedule as they entered the week with a focus on securing the #2 seed and a bye in the upcoming playoffs. Coach Byrns was especially nervous as Robison and M&R set their sights on surpassing his squad in the standings. In the other dugout the SW&G big green machine continued to push forward as Coach Reder's battle-tested team followed their mantra..."trust the process". Andrew "Southpaw" Reder took the mound for SW&G and was usual crafty-self working the corners and relying on his off-speed repertoire. The game remained scoreless through the third inning before Exit 4 broke through in their half of the fourth inning scoring four runs then tacking on an additional run in each of the last two innings. Pitching was the key as Josh "Give 'em Fits" Taplitz and Jeff "Babe Ruth" Tripodi held the SW&G squad to two runs over 5

innings and closer Will Oliverio secured the 6-2 victory in the final frame.

Elks ended their regular season with a hard fought effort vs 1st place Cassidy Flynn. The team was shorthanded but everyone in the lineup played hard and contributed in an effort to stay in the game. The Elks lineup of Danny Spolansky, Paul Wichmann, Jack Mannion, Dominick Larizza, Lance Kleinknecht, Saer Sicignano, Anthony Luppino and Xavier Santos hung tight early for a close 4-run game before a big CF inning opened up the game. Strong pitching by Larriza and Kleinknecht as they hung tough and battled. Elks enters the playoffs as the #6 seed looking to shock the world with an upset over Robison.

Over in the minors AAA division...

Examiner brought out the lumber for their regular season finale against McCarthy winning 14-0 at Fox Field. The usual suspects continued their hot hitting led by Sammy "da Bull" DeMarco going 2 for 2 with three RBIs. Going round n' round on the bases carousel were Calum Anderson, Marco Grafuli and Sam Weiner. Defensive play of the game was Alex Montano-Miller throwing a runner out at home to Liam Provost. However, the story of the night were new heroes. Katie Berisha got her first hit and 2 RBIs and Bianca Weiss followed with her first hit and RBI. The lovely ladies of Examiner each earned a game ball for their efforts.

The Varamo and Shell teams were excited to get after it again this past week but Mother Nature felt otherwise. Coach's Sal-Horn-Son could be seen at Fox Field doing the rain dance backwards in an attempt to stop the oncoming downpour. Coach Bagley of Shell stopped by as well but watched the action from the dryness of his car. In particular, Coach Hirschhorn was adamant he could make this work as he continued the dance-athon all through the night. Unfortunately it did not work but the effort was appreciated. The VC Ballers and Shell were disappointed to miss the game but enjoyed a leisurely week leading into the official start of summer, Memorial Day weekend.

In the Seniors division...

The U15 Mount Kisco Chiefs upped their record to 5-2 with an 8-2 win at Bedford Pound Ridge Red on Friday night. The Chiefs' offense was paced by AJ Townsend and PJ Boles with 2 RBIs each; Townsend with an RBI single and a sacrifice fly, and Boles with a 2-run double. Luca Chousa and Ben Belfiglio scored 2 runs apiece while Harrison Konopka, Mitch Antin and David Boucher limited BPR to two runs on six hits.

Well that's all folks for TWIB Mt Kisco Baseball Edition. Come check out the MKLL playoffs this week and the rest of the action at Leonard Park. See y'all next week.

Your Daily Examiner Fix

Exami Blast

Visit TheExaminerNews.com
to subscribe to
Examiner Media's
FREE, daily e-mail newsletter

To get the latest headlines from



The Examiner The WHITE PLAINS Examiner
The PUTNAM Examiner The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

as well as columns,
features and sports

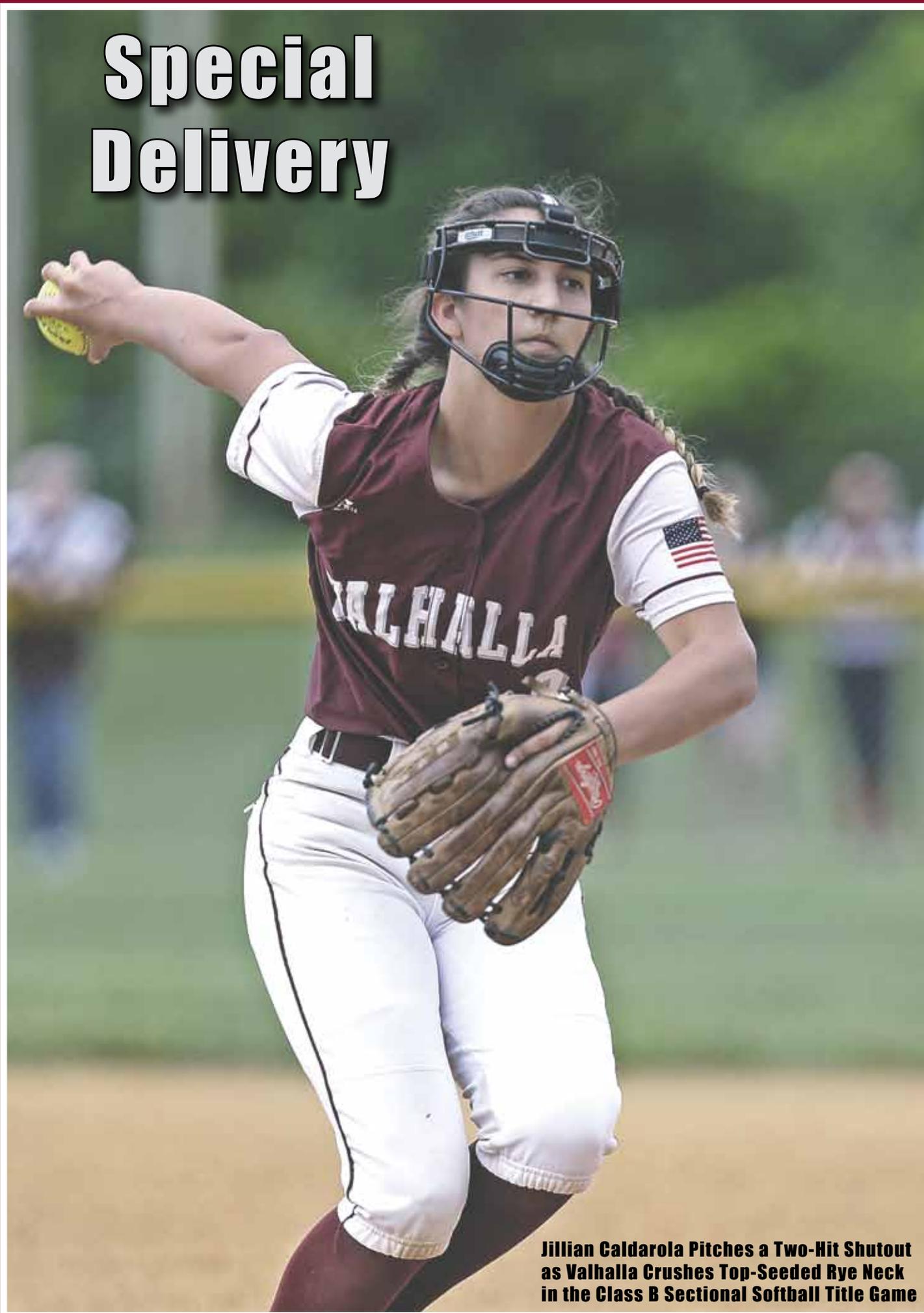
SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

advertising@
theexaminernews.com

914.864.0878

Special Delivery



Jillian Caldarola Pitches a Two-Hit Shutout as Valhalla Crushes Top-Seeded Rye Neck in the Class B Sectional Softball Title Game

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO