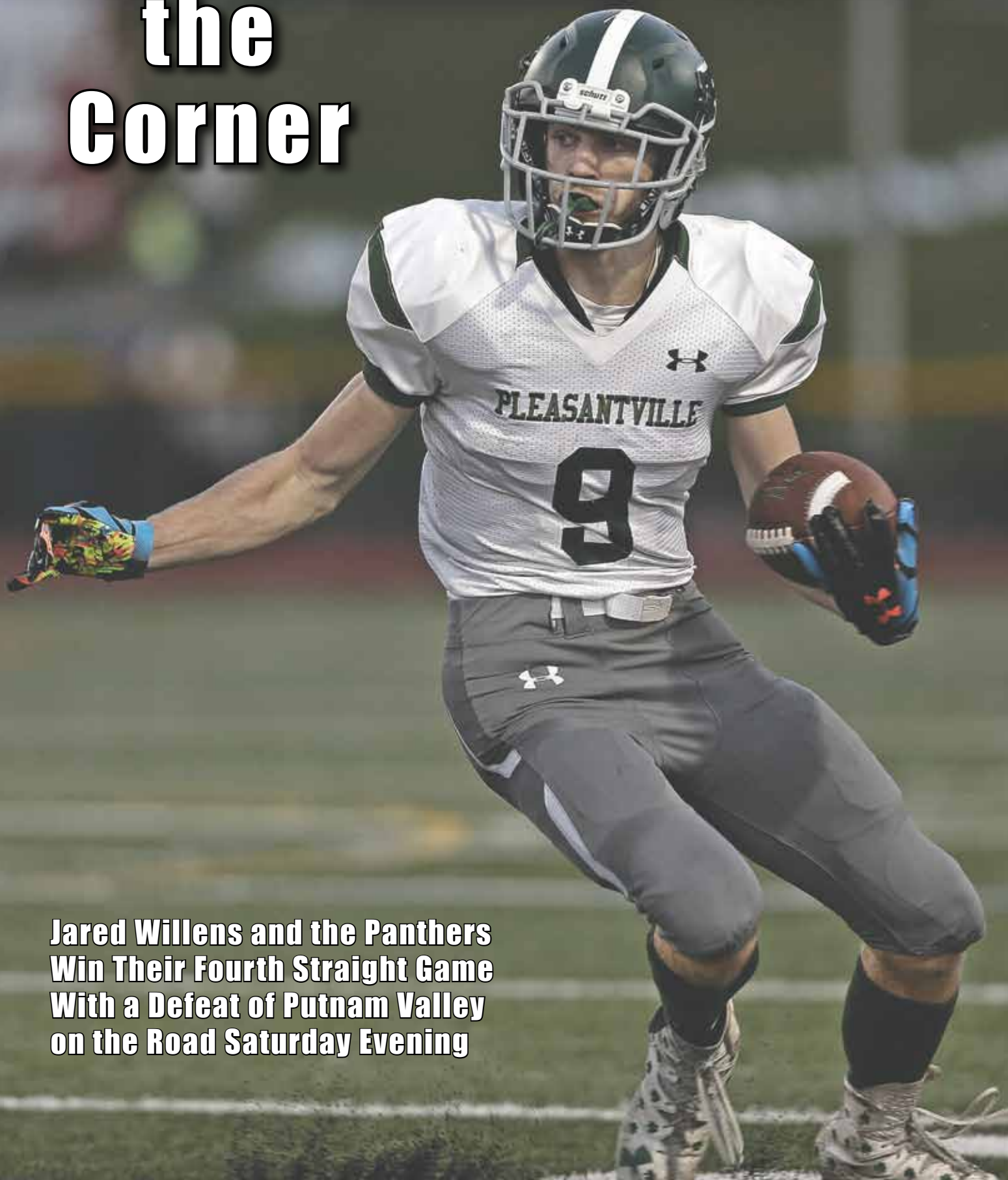


Turning the Corner



**Jared Willens and the Panthers
Win Their Fourth Straight Game
With a Defeat of Putnam Valley
on the Road Saturday Evening**

A Late Touchdown Lifts Croton Past Briarcliff/Hamilton

By Andy Jacobs

One opportunity after another had disappeared for the Briarcliff/Hamilton football team in the second half of Saturday's game against host Croton-Harmon. But with 20 seconds remaining, the Bears still had one last chance to leave Spencer Field with a victory.

Unfortunately for them, though, junior quarterback Nick Reish's fourth-down pass to a triple-covered Ian Becker in the right side of the end zone was knocked away, preserving the Tigers' precarious six-point lead. One kneel-down play later, the clock ran out on the frustrated Bears and Croton emerged with a 19-13 win.

On a spectacular fall afternoon, a 10-yard touchdown pass from Matt Zoller to Kyle Morrison on fourth down with just over two minutes remaining broke a 13-13 deadlock and sealed the fate of the Bears, who dropped to 1-3 this season despite completely controlling field position over the final two quarters.

"We just didn't play our game," said the Bears' Reish, shortly after Briarcliff/Hamilton's last promising possession of the day stalled at the Croton 5-yard line. "We knew what we were getting and we didn't execute when we had to. We had that final drive and it just didn't go our way."

Two Zoller touchdown passes in the first half had given Croton a 13-6 advantage at intermission, but once the third quarter got under way it was the Bears who seized firm control of field position and maintained it for nearly the rest of the day. Briarcliff moved the football into Tigers' territory on its first possession of the second half, then began three subsequent drives in the third quarter past midfield.

"Our defense played much better in the second half," said Bears assistant coach Rob Hagle. "Obviously made a couple more stops, a couple of turnovers,



The Bears' Nick Reish tries to reach the end zone as he runs with the ball in Saturday's game at Croton.

a couple things falling our way that weren't falling in the first half. We've got to capitalize. There's not much more we can do. Hats off to Croton for getting the 'W'. We both played hard. We've got to clean some stuff up on our end, come back next week and get after it again."

Croton, in search of its first win this season in Independent League play after losses to Rye Neck and Haldane, jumped ahead midway through the opening quarter when Zoller connected with Kevin Smith for a touchdown pass on fourth and goal from the 8-yard line. The point-after kick was no good, so the Tigers had to settle for a 6-0 lead.

Late in the first quarter, Reish picked off a Zoller pass and the Bears took over at the Croton 36-yard line. An eight-play Briarcliff/Hamilton drive that lasted two minutes into the second period

ended with Reish lofting a pass on third and eight into the left side of the end zone to Jason Bernard Jr. for a 12-yard touchdown. The Bears' PAT attempt also failed, keeping the score tied.

The Tigers responded by marching 70 yards in nine plays over the next five minutes. They scored on a 25-yard pass play on fourth and eight, with Zoller, under pressure, completing a throw to Mike Mamone, who fumbled the ball along the left sideline just shy of the goal line, leading to a recovery in the end zone by teammate Jonathan Giardina.

The point-after kick by Dorian Gardner gave Croton a 13-6 lead, but the Bears had a chance to get even late in the half. After completing three passes in a row — to Dan Huegel, Bernard and Jackson Mauro — Reish overthrew a wide-open Bernard near the left sideline with no one in the Croton secondary anywhere nearby.

But in the second half, the Bears would get plenty of other opportunities to take control of the contest. They began the third quarter at their own 35-yard line and Reish immediately scampered for a 27-yard gain. Soon after, Reish connected with Becker on a fourth-and-nine play for a 20-yard pickup. The drive ended, though, with Huegel, on a fake 33-yard field goal try, unable to complete a fourth-and-11 pass.

A big sack by freshman Scott Becker of Zoller then led to a short Croton punt that was returned by Huegel to the Tigers' 23-yard line. But the scoring chance instantly disappeared when the Bears fumbled the ball away on first down. Even though Briarcliff started two more drives in Croton territory, one at the 41-yard line and the other at the 42, the third quarter ended with the Tigers still ahead by seven points.



Jackson Mauro of Briarcliff/Hamilton is tackled by Croton's Jonathan Giardina after catching a pass in the first half of Saturday's game.

"Our coaches put us in good position to be successful," said Reish, "and we just don't execute. We've got to focus in on what we've learned in practice."

The Bears used up their final timeout three plays into the fourth quarter just before a Reish fourth-and-six pass to Bernard fell incomplete to halt a drive at the Croton 16-yard line. But moments later, a Tiger punt on fourth and 23 was all but whiffed and the Bears' Conor Gualtiere fell on the football at the 6-yard line.

Reish kept the ball three straight times and scored from a yard out, around the left end. The PAT by Huegel tied the game with 6:51 left on the clock. Both teams then went three and out, setting the stage for the Tigers' game-winning drive that began at midfield.

A Zoller 36-yard pass play on third and nine enabled Croton to keep possession of the football. Just four plays later, facing fourth and seven at the 10-yard line, Zoller threw straight across the field to the right sideline to Morrison, who somehow broke a pair of tackles and found himself in the end zone.

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ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Bears quarterback Nick Reish throws a pass under pressure from Croton's Eddie Scutari during Saturday's game.

Leaving a couple of Bears behind, Croton's Kyle Morrison winds up in the end zone with the game-deciding touchdown late in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game.



Briarcliff senior running back Dan Huegel carries the football in the Bears' road game vs. Croton-Harmon at Spencer Field.

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Huegel blocked the extra-point try, but as it turned out it didn't matter even though Reish did manage to come through with a clutch 27-yard pass to Becker to the Tiger 6-yard line on fourth and seven with a minute to go. After spiking the ball on first down and gaining three yards on a toss to Huegel on second, successive passes by Reish into the end zone to Mauro and Becker fell incomplete, ending the Bears' bid for a come-from-behind victory.

"I think the toughest thing for us," said Hagle, "is we've got to be a lot more consistent. We have great spurts here and there, glimpses of what we can do and what we're capable of if we can get a little bit better as the season goes on. Hopefully we get more 'W's under our belt. I think that's the game plan for us the rest of the way."

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Dan Huegel of Briarcliff/Hamilton tries to run past Croton's Mike Mamone in the Bears' road game on Saturday afternoon.



Briarcliff/Hamilton sophomore Conor Gualtiere recovers the football following a botched Croton punt attempt in the second half of Saturday's game.



Briarcliff/Hamilton senior tight end Ian Becker holds onto the football after making a catch in the Bears' 19-13 loss at Croton.



The Panthers' Danny Melillo, who had two interceptions, one of them a pick-six, tries to break up a pass to Putnam Valley tight end Darnel Shillingford.



Pleasantville senior Jaden Kamer tries to break through the line of scrimmage in the first half of the Panthers' 31-14 victory at Putnam Valley.

Pleasantville Cruises Past the Host Tigers



Harrison Hailsworth of Pleasantville gets a good block while looking for running room in Saturday night's game against the Putnam Valley Tigers.



Pleasantville's Jared Willens tries to elude Joseph Cioffi of Putnam Valley as he runs with the football in the Panthers' 31-14 win on Saturday.



Panther quarterback Jack Howe carries the football in the first half of Saturday night's victory over Putnam Valley.



Pleasantville head coach Tony Becerra selects a play for the Panther offense to run as quarterback Jack Howe (center) and Jared Willens listen.



Valhalla's Sebastian Pacheco races after the ball along the right sideline during the Vikings' home game against Pleasantville.



Fox Lane second-singles player Allesandra Brittis-Tannenbaum volleys a return in the Foxes' road match vs. the John Jay Indians last week.



Pleasantville senior Devin Juros sends the ball to an open teammate in the first half of Friday's game at Valhalla.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Leah Tuluca of Fox Lane moves forward to hit a forehand return during her victory in first singles at John Jay in Cross River on Thursday afternoon.



Briarcliff's Caroline Adams (left) and Ayla Preble converge on the ball during last week's game against the Croton-Harmon Tigers.



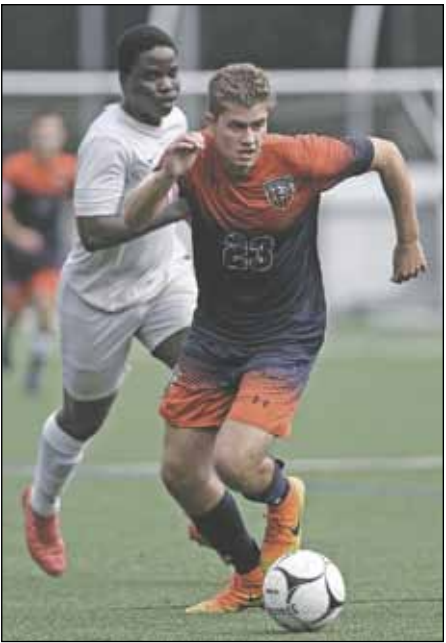
Fox Lane's Ally Waldman smacks a forehand during her match at third singles last Thursday afternoon vs. host John Jay.



Briarcliff's Emma Diller prepares to send the ball up the field in the second half of the Bears' home loss to Croton last Wednesday.



Horace Greeley's Aidan Curtis settles the ball in front of Lakeland's Reed Thompson in last Wednesday's Quaker home game.



Jack Rifkin of Greeley moves the ball up the field in the second half of last Wednesday's 2-0 Quaker win over the Lakeland Hornets.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS



Adrian Rippstein of Pleasantville controls the ball in Friday's game against host Valhalla.



Greeley junior Eli Peretz gets set to head the ball to a teammate during second-half action against visiting Lakeland last week.



Michael Rizzuto of Valhalla gets control of the ball near midfield in the Vikings' home game vs. Pleasantville.



Sophie Jelinek of Briarcliff sends the ball over the net in the Bears' home match vs. Byram Hills on Friday afternoon.



Briarcliff's Rebecca Lim belts a forehand return during her match at first singles against Pleasantville's Olivia Ashton last Wednesday afternoon.



Abby Siconolfi of Byram Hills finds plenty to shout about as the Bobcats defeat host Briarcliff in five games on Friday.



Anisha Chandy of Pleasantville lines up a forehand return in her match at second singles vs. Briarcliff's Jolie Wasserman.



Briarcliff's Hannah Khalilli (5) and Meghan Hayes battle at the net with Byram Hills' Julie Monforte (left) and Veronica Zawojek during Friday's match.



Briarcliff third-singles player Riya Rau follows through on a forehand en route to her victory vs. Pleasantville last Wednesday.



Horace Greeley junior Ally Forster boots the ball up the field in the Quakers' home win over Lakeland last Wednesday.



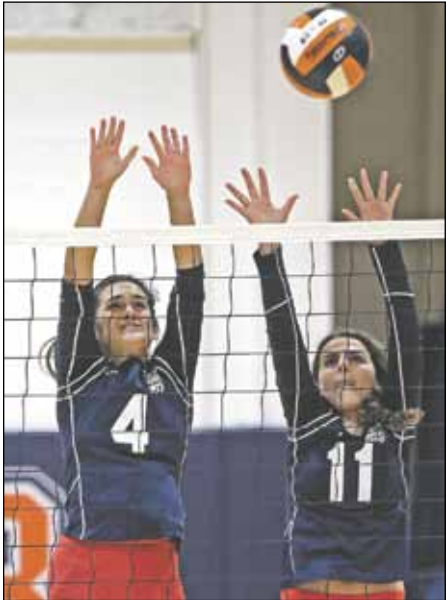
Jolie Wasserman of Briarcliff prepares to hit a backhand in the second-singles match vs. Pleasantville last week.



Amanda Lammers (5) and Madi Fang of Byram Hills try to block high-rising Mia Persico of Briarcliff in Friday's match, won by the visiting Bobcats.



Lindsay Schwartz of Greeley sends a pass to a teammate in the second half of the Quaker victory vs. visiting Lakeland last week.



Savannah Kirkwood (left) and Julie Monforte of Byram Hills rise together for a block in the Bobcats' three-games-to-two win over host Briarcliff.



Pleasantville's Olivia Ashton sets her sights on a backhand return during her match at first singles vs. host Briarcliff last Wednesday.

Byram Hills Runs Past the Huskies Under the Lights

By Sean Browne

When you think of high school football, one of the first things that comes to mind is Friday night lights. While this may be the norm for most, the Byram Hills Bobcats got to experience it on their home field for the first time on September 28 in a 28-7 win over the Harrison Huskies.

Byram Hills head coach Coach Doug Carpenter was pleased with the atmosphere in Armonk.

"Having all the kids in the stands and all the excitement was really an awesome feeling," Carpenter said. "Harrison has a really good coaching staff and roster, so to get a win tonight was just huge."

Other than the hoopla surrounding the lights, the other key story line going into the game was that the last time these two teams played was last year's sectional playoffs which resulted in a 28-20 Harrison victory.

Looking to prove that the playoff victory wasn't a fluke, Harrison quarterback Frank Nannariello connected on a 40-yard pass play to wide receiver Alex Siapanides for the first big play of the game, setting the Huskies up at the goal line. On the next play, running back D'Andre Cosby punched the ball in to give the Huskies a 7-0 lead.

Unable to move the ball on their first two possessions, the Bobcats' passing game looked stagnant as quarterback Jack Kenny had incompletions to wide receivers Dean Schaefer and Shea Gordon. But on their third possession, Kenny looked to the ground game to build some momentum and his own two runs of over 10 yards ignited the Byram Hills offense.

"Jack is an old-school throwback type of kid, he is a nose guard trapped in a quarterback's body," Carpenter said. "The thing I love most about him is all he wants is for this team to have success. He doesn't care how, he just wants to win."

As the second quarter began, the Bobcats were still on their third drive and now looked to running back Matthew Weiler to put the finishing touches on it. He scored on a five-yard carry to tie the game at 7-7.

Weiler answered the call again on the next Bobcat possession, carrying the ball one time after another and capping off the drive with an eight-yard run to give Byram Hills a 14-7 lead with 5:31 left in the half.

Weiler then had a monster 60-yard touchdown run on the first play of the Bobcats' next drive and it was clear as can



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Sophomore running back Matt Weiler rushed for 207 yards and three touchdowns in the Bobcats' win over Harrison.

be that this night was belonging to the sophomore tailback.

Byram Hills ended its impressive half with Kenny connecting on a slant pass to tight end Steven Franco, who took it 56 yards for a touchdown, giving the Bobcats

a 28-7 lead.

As the second half began, the Bobcats continued to play stout defense. The Huskies faced a fourth down at midfield, needing two yards, only to be stuffed in the backfield by defensive tackle Dean Corelli.

On the next Harrison possession, the Huskies managed to march the ball right down the field and were knocking on the door for their second touchdown. But facing another fourth down at the goal line, Nannariello threw an incomplete pass to Siapanides in the end zone as the Bobcats were able to hold off the Huskies on fourth down back-to-back times.

"I told the team after the Eastchester game that the next step for this program would change when we had a goal-line stand, and I hoped that would happen soon," Carpenter said. "For it to happen under these conditions was my favorite part of this game. Our program can now evolve because in the past we did lack on the goal-line stand."

With their fourth straight victory all but assured, the Bobcats, who play at Spring Valley on Saturday afternoon, did what they do best, running the ball over and over again until there was no time left.



Quarterback Matthew Bodine picks up big yardage as he carries the football in Fox Lane's 45-21 loss to Hendrick Hudson.



Thomas Olsen returns a kick in Fox Lane's home game against the Hendrick Hudson Sailors.

Hendrick Hudson Defeats the Foxes



Fox Lane quarterback Matthew Bodine throws a pass on the run in Friday night's home game vs. Hen Hud.



The Foxes' Josh Olsen is greeted by teammate Brian Smith after scoring on a first-half TD reception against visiting Hen Hud.



The Foxes' Andrew Brown runs with the football during Friday's game against Hen Hud at Memorial Stadium.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

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Pace quarterback Carlton Aiken completed 17 of 20 passes for 240 yards and four touchdowns in Saturday's 51-30 Setter win over Stonehill.



Antonio Giannico runs with the ball during the first quarter of Saturday's Pace win over Stonehill. The Setters' 51 points were their most in over 30 years.



Pace University running back Jhalen Bien-Aime carries the football in the first half of Saturday's rout of visiting Stonehill.



Pace's Brian Dolan tries to pick up a few extra yards after making a catch in the Setters' big win over visiting Stonehill on Saturday afternoon.



Pace University defensive players Prince Unaegbu (left) and Jalen Martinez make a tackle in the first half of Saturday's game.



Pace quarterback Carlton Aiken finds some running room in Saturday's 51-30 win over Stonehill.



The Setters' Grace Incledon is thwarted on a first-half scoring chance against visiting Merrimack on Saturday afternoon at Pace Stadium.



Anastasia Mascaro passes the ball toward the middle of the field in the opening half of Pace's 2-1 loss to Merrimack.



Amanda Chadwick of Pace battles for control of the ball in the first half of Saturday afternoon's game vs. Merrimack.



Gabby Lucas of Pace sends a pass to a teammate during the first half of the Setters' 2-1 home loss to Merrimack this past weekend.

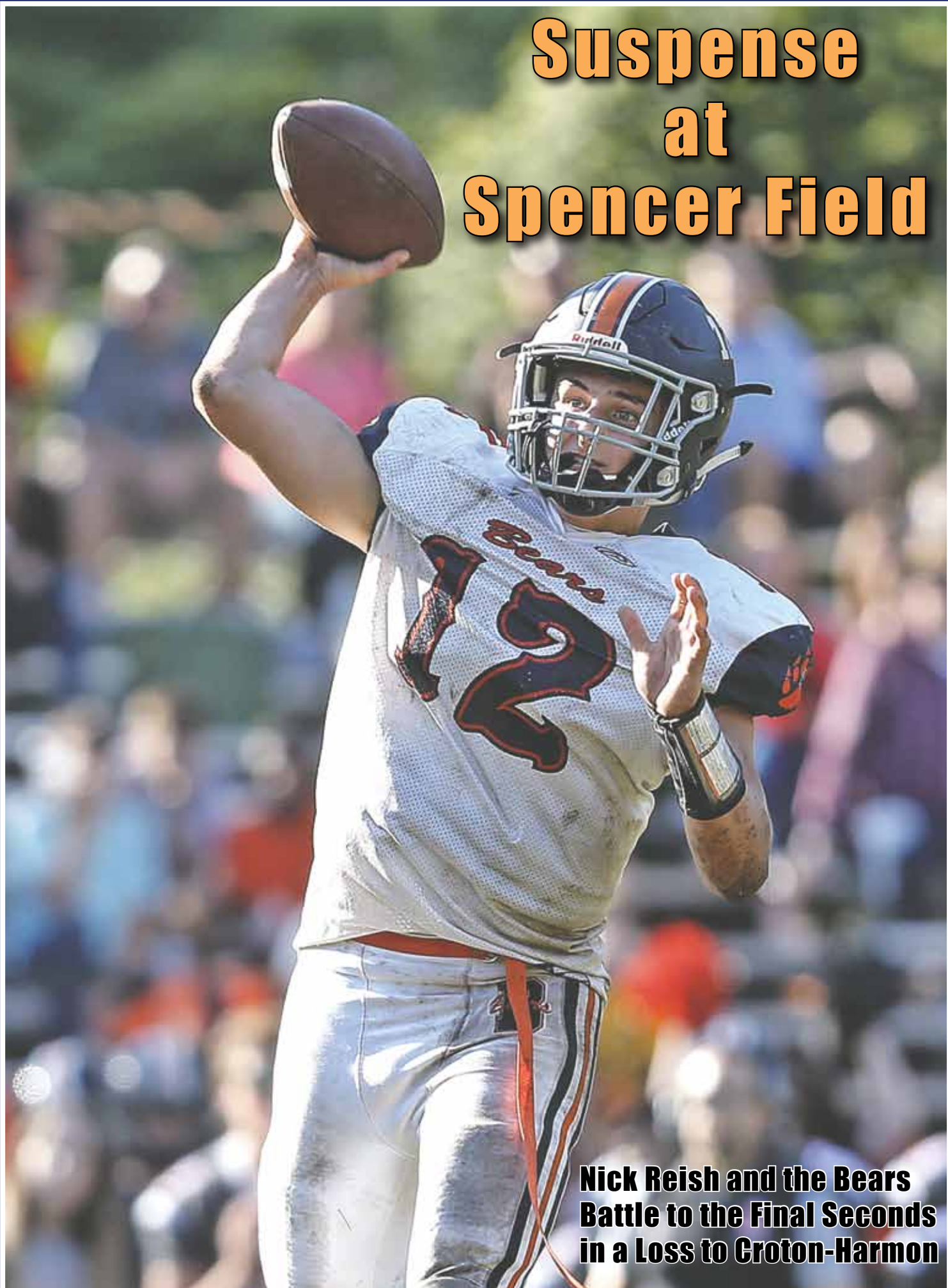


Pace's Carolina Ivanov takes the ball across the field in Saturday's home game vs. Merrimack.

focus on

Pace Athletics

Suspense at Spencer Field



**Nick Reish and the Bears
Battle to the Final Seconds
in a Loss to Croton-Harmon**

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO