

BYE BYE BRONCO



**Quarterback Jack Howe Breaks a Tackle
in Pleasantville's Lopsided Playoff Victory
Over Bronxville at Parkway Field on Friday**

Westlake Crushes the Falcons in the Class B Quarterfinals

By Sean Browne

While the Westlake and Albertus Magnus football teams may have met in a Section One Class B playoff game this past Saturday, the Wildcats proved that the Falcons weren't really in the same class, dominating them in a 48-20 rout.

"We needed to come out and play our brand of football, and I am happy that we did that," said Wildcat head coach John Castellano. "We did the things today that we had worked on all week and I am proud of that."

Among those things that Castellano referenced was running the football and the Wildcats had great success in that department. On the first play from scrimmage, with the ball at the Wildcats' 30-yard line, fullback Andrew DeBiase took off for a 42-yard carry, setting up Westlake deep inside Falcon territory. Three plays later, he capped off the drive with a 14-yard touchdown run. A two-point conversion gave the Wildcats an 8-0 lead with only a minute gone since the opening kickoff.

But the Westlake offense wouldn't get to rest for long because on the following kickoff the Wildcats' squib kick was misplayed by Magnus and Andrew Llamas recovered the ball at the Falcon 30-yard line. With great field position, the Wildcats looked to capitalize and it didn't take them long to do it. Halfback Nicholas Martinez ran the ball down near the goal line, setting up DeBiase for his second score and enabling the Wildcats to stretch their lead to 15-0 not even three minutes into the game.

Needing to keep the game competitive, Albertus Magnus looked to Lavonno Mitchell and he returned the ball all the way to midfield on the ensuing kickoff. But on fourth down and long, the Falcons



There was no stopping Westlake's Andrew DeBiase on Saturday afternoon as he ran 42 yards on the game's first play and finished with three touchdowns in a 48-20 Class B quarterfinal playoff rout of visiting Albertus Magnus.

decided to go for it at midfield and quarterback Michael McGrath's long pass down the field fell incomplete with no receiver in sight.

On the following Wildcat possession, junior quarterback Jason Ausiello wanted to get it on the action. On the first play, he connected on a 30-yard pass play to tight end Dylan Ahern. Halfback Thomas Iazzetta wound up scoring just two plays later and the fourth-seeded Wildcats suddenly had a 22-0 cushion over the fifth-seeded Falcons.

With the ball, the Falcons turned to Mitchell for a spark. But on fourth down, again at midfield, the Falcons chose to go for it and once more failed to convert.

"We were prepared, we knew that they were underdogs going into this game and that they were going to take every chance that they could to put up points," Castellano said. "They don't want to give us the ball and I don't blame them. So our kids had to be prepared for that and they were."

Running back Eric Nieves would quickly make the Falcons pay for the

good starting field position, taking a handoff from Ausiello and bolting into the secondary on his way to a 43-yard carry to the end zone that gave Westlake a 28-0 lead. The Falcons did manage to score before halftime, cutting their deficit at the break to 28-6.

In the third quarter, the Wildcats knew that their main objective was to run the ball time and time again, and they certainly had no problem doing that. Thanks to the hefty running lanes caused by the Wildcat offensive line, backs Martinez, Nieves, and Nicholas Veltri all alternated big run after big run on the Wildcats' second possession of the quarter. Nieves put the finishing touches on the drive with his second touchdown, giving the Wildcats a 35-6 advantage.

"What goes underrated for us is our offensive line," Castellano said. "They work hard and they have a great concept of what we are trying to do schematically."

The Wildcats hope they can duplicate their winning formula next week, but it certainly will be much more difficult. They now advance to play top-seeded

and unbeaten Ardsley next Saturday afternoon in a rematch of a September game that the Panthers came from behind in the second half to win 35-21.



After taking a handoff from quarterback Jason Ausiello, the Wildcats' Andrew DeBiase runs with the football in the third quarter of the sectional playoff game vs. Magnus.



Westlake junior back Eric Nieves is greeted by teammate Dylan Ahern after scoring one of his two touchdowns in Saturday's playoff victory.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



The Wildcats' Thomas Iazzetta runs for a big gain in the second quarter of Saturday's lopsided playoff win over the Albertus Magnus Falcons.



Westlake's Nick Martinez (left) and Vincent Spaziant combine to make a tackle during the Wildcats' rout of Magnus in the Class B quarterfinals.

Pleasantville Overcomes Injuries to Defeat the Broncos

By Danny Lopriore

Pleasantville's Danny Melillo lay on the turf in pain after being tackled on the opening kickoff of the Section 1 Class B quarterfinal game against Bronxville Friday night while the stunned crowd at Parkway Field stood quiet and his teammates looked on hopefully.

Melillo, a key player and senior captain for the defending state champion Panthers, suffered a broken bone in his lower leg and returned from an emergency room visit to support his teammates from the bench as they used his injury as inspiration in a 43-20 victory over the Broncos.

"We lost one of our best players, a team captain and a leader, so it's next man up and play harder," senior two-way lineman Michael Matica said. "It's like a family member needs us. We are a family. We had to show that we could go on and win for our guys."

The No. 2 seed Panthers (6-2), who lost another key player, Harrison Hailsworth, to a torn Achilles tendon injury in last week's regular-season finale against Westlake, drew inspiration from their sideline wounded. Led by quarterback Jack Howe, receiver Jared Willens, running back Jaden Kamer and an aggressive defense, the rest of the "family" moved on to next Friday night's semifinal round and will host Putnam Valley.

Kamer rushed 20 times for 108 yards and three touchdowns, mostly in the second half when he had a spurt of six carries for 40 yards and a touchdown that increased the Panthers' lead to 29-6. Howe rushed for 53 yards, including an 18-yard touchdown, kicked a 35-yard field goal and also completed 7 of 15 passes for 102 yards. Willens caught several key passes, as did wideout Justin Perlman, to lead the offense in opening up a 23-6 halftime lead.

"I trusted my offensive line and just



Panther quarterback Jack Howe throws a pass in Friday's 43-20 Class B quarterfinal playoff win over Bronxville.

got in behind the blocking, ran as hard as 'hell' and gave it all I could," Kamer said. "These guys (Nolan Egan, Matica, Willie Cahill, Willens), all of them, were fired up and stopped them. We have to get better now, with the injuries we have."

Kamer scored the first touchdown of the game with five minutes left in the first quarter to cap a 10-play drive that started from the 50-yard line. Howe's nine-yard dash on a fourth-down-and-seven play kept the drive alive and Kamer blasted in from the 4-yard line for the score.

"I was just going forward all the time," Kamer said. "I saw great blocks in front of me."

Willens's 65-yard punt return for a touchdown gave the Panthers a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. The senior bobbled the punt, picked the ball up off the ground, then turned to the left sideline and raced past Bronco tacklers to score.



The Panthers' Chris May is stopped by a pair of Bronxville defensive players as he carries the ball at Parkway Field on Friday evening.

Matica, Patrick Doherty, Cardel Robinson and Nolan Egan were among those leading the defense that held the Broncos to six points until late in the third quarter. The game was slowed down by several personal fouls and unsportsmanlike penalties as both teams pushed, shoved and grabbed after the whistle.

"It was a little rough," Egan said. "It's the playoffs. We had guys hurt and they were playing hard on every play too. I don't think anyone was trying to hurt anyone. We just didn't want to give up anything. It's emotional."

Danny Minerva scored from 10 yards out to complete the scoring for Pleasantville with 6:13 remaining in the game.

The Panthers will have to overcome their injuries as they prepare for a meeting with a Putnam Valley team that surprised third-seeded Nanuet in the quarterfinals.



Pat Doherty of Pleasantville (5) battles Tommy O'Connell for the ball on a pass play near the end zone in Friday's Class B quarterfinal playoff game.

Westlake (6-2), the No. 4 seed, won its quarterfinal game over Albertus Magnus and will visit top-seeded and unbeaten Ardsley Saturday in the other Class B semifinal.



Danny Melillo of Pleasantville returns the opening kickoff in Friday's game vs. Bronxville. He was injured on the runback and forced to miss the rest of the contest.



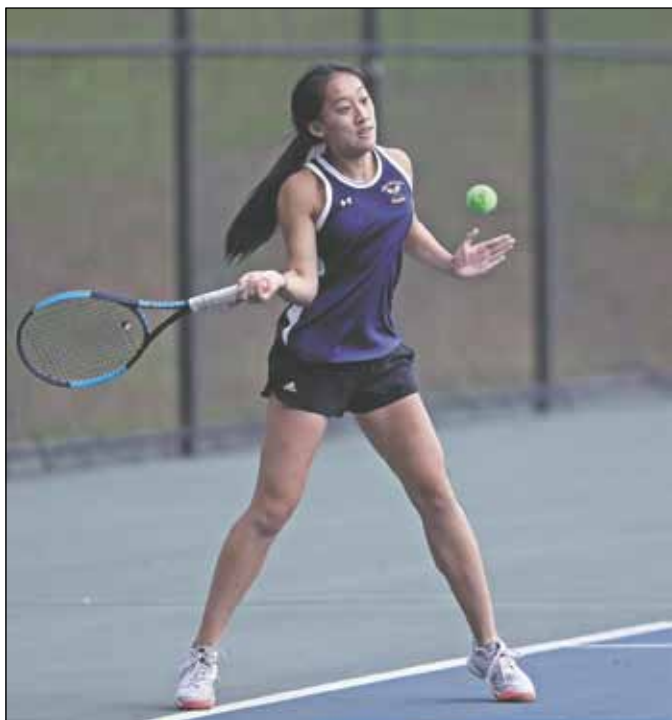
Pleasantville junior Jared Willens tries to elude Phil Meyers of Bronxville during Friday night's sectional playoff game at Parkway Field.



Pleasantville senior fullback Jaden Kamer scores a touchdown in the Panthers' 43-20 Class B playoff win over Bronxville.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

SPORTS SCENE



Briarcliff junior Rebecca Lim belts a forehand during her semifinal victory at the sectional championships last Tuesday. She lost to Yorktown's Caitlyn Ferrante in the final, but still qualified for the state tennis tournament.



Horace Greeley junior Sammi Forster, who had three goals and two assists, races up the right sideline in the Quakers' 5-2 outbracket win over visiting Pelham on Friday.



Bryan Roden of Byram Hills battles for control of the ball during the Bobcats' Class A playoff win over Brewster.



Byram Hills junior Yusuf Hafez moves across the field in Friday's playoff win over the Brewster Bears.



Briarcliff goal keeper Will Adams boots the ball up the field during the Bears' Class B playoff victory over the Putnam Valley Tigers.



Pleasantville standout Olivia Ashton hits a backhand return in her semifinal singles match during the sectional tennis championships at Harrison High School.



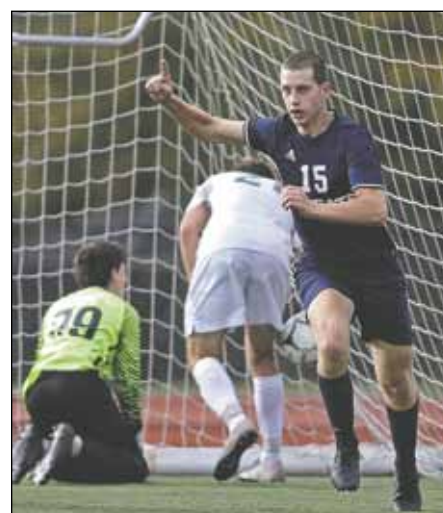
Greeley's Ellie Shepardson controls the ball in the second half of Friday's outbracket playoff win over visiting Pelham.



Daniel de Castro of Briarcliff gets possession of the ball in the second half of Friday's opening-round playoff rout of Putnam Valley.



Spencer Weinhoff of Byram Hills runs toward the goal with the ball in the first half of the Bobcats' playoff win over visiting Brewster on Friday afternoon.



Griffen Rakower of Byram Hills starts to celebrate after scoring a first-half goal in Friday afternoon's sectional playoff game vs. visiting Brewster.



Maddie Panzer of Greeley sends a shot on goal late in the Quakers' outbracket playoff victory over Pelham on Friday afternoon.



Briarcliff's Alex Cabeca takes the ball toward the goal in the Bears' easy playoff win over Putnam Valley on Friday afternoon.



Fox Lane's Oscar Monroy takes the ball past midfield during the Foxes' home game against Mahopac last Tuesday.



David Alberto of Fox Lane keeps his eyes on the ball in the first half of last week's game vs. the Mahopac Indians.



Horace Greeley senior Katie Du moves toward the middle of the field with the ball in the Quakers' home rout of Ossining last Tuesday.



Fox Lane's Anderson Lemus dribbles up the field against visiting Mahopac last Tuesday afternoon.



Kristen Graham of Horace Greeley takes the ball down the right sideline during the Quakers' lopsided victory visiting Ossining last Tuesday afternoon.



Alyssa Margolin of Byram Hills follows through on a backhand return during doubles action in the Section 1 championships last Wednesday afternoon.



Greeley's Natalie Laskowski surveys the field before hitting the ball in last week's game against Ossining.



Greeley junior Sophia Rutman sends the ball up the field during the second half of a 5-0 home win last Tuesday afternoon.



Carlos Rivera of Fox Lane prepares to settle the ball in last week's game against Mahopac. The Foxes' season ended with a playoff loss to Scarsdale on Friday afternoon.



Greeley's Isabelle Klein races after the ball in the second half of last week's home win over Ossining.



Byram Hills' Ellie Margolin stretches for a forehand return while competing in doubles last week at the sectional championships, hosted by Harrison High School.



Agustin Nunez of Fox Lane tries to reach the ball before it rolls out of bounds during last Tuesday's home game.



Isabelle Tola of Briarcliff is stopped by Hastings goal keeper Ani LeFevre during the first half of Sunday's playoff game. But she later scored her 30th goal of the season in the 2-0 Bear win.



Westlake's Maeve Sheehan battles for possession of the ball in Sunday's 2-0 playoff victory over Blind Brook. She scored the Wildcats' first goal.



Elle Verna of Westlake uses some fancy footwork to maintain control of the ball in the second half of the Wildcats' opening-round playoff win over visiting Blind Brook.



Julia Dalessandro of Briarcliff wins a race for the ball near midfield with Ava Nelson of Hastings in Sunday's 2-0 playoff win by the host Bears.



Valhalla's Katherine Arteaga keeps her eyes on the ball in front of Pleasantville's Analese Picart in the second half of the Vikings' season-ending playoff loss.



Katie Moses of Pleasantville boots the ball in the Panthers' 3-0 playoff win over Valhalla. She wound up with a pair of assists.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

focus on

GIRLS' SOCCER

Class B Playoffs

Sunday, Oct. 21



Briarcliff's Maya Celaj races toward the goal in Sunday's cold and windy playoff game against visiting Hastings. She finished with a goal and an assist.



Carolyn Brosnan of Valhalla settles the ball during the Class B opening-round playoff game at Pleasantville High School.



Westlake's Jacqueline Andrews has possession of the ball near midfield during Sunday's windy playoff victory over Blind Brook.



Sophia Villacorte of Valhalla tries to clear the ball late in the second half of the Vikings' playoff game against the host Pleasantville Panthers.



Pleasantville's Lyndsey Minerva, who scored one of the Panthers' three goals Sunday, gets set to send a shot on goal in between Valhalla's Shannon Brosnan (left) and Sophia Villacorta.



Pleasantville's Isabelle Kapoor dribbles the ball up the field in the second half of the Panthers' 3-0 opening-round playoff win over Valhalla.



Byram Hills sophomore Hayden Fruhling gets set to fire a pass in the fourth quarter vs. the visiting Huskers of Yorktown.



Shea Gordon runs with the football after making a reception during Byram Hills' bowl game against Yorktown this past weekend.

Bobcats Lose to Yorktown



Byram Hills junior Cole Picca carries the football in the second half of Saturday's bowl game against the visiting Yorktown Huskers.



Byram Hills quarterback Nic Pica searches for an open receiver in the fourth quarter of the Bobcats' 35-20 bowl loss to Yorktown on Saturday.



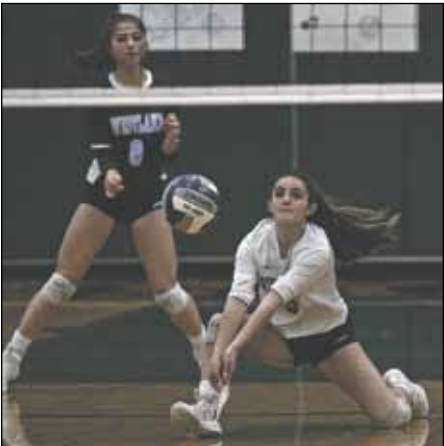
Jenna McAllister of Pleasantville is met at the net by high-rising Bea Scoca of Westlake in last Tuesday's volleyball match hosted by the Panthers.



Madison Schneeweiss of Pleasantville rises to block the ball being tipped over the net by Westlake's Beatrice Scoca during last week's match.

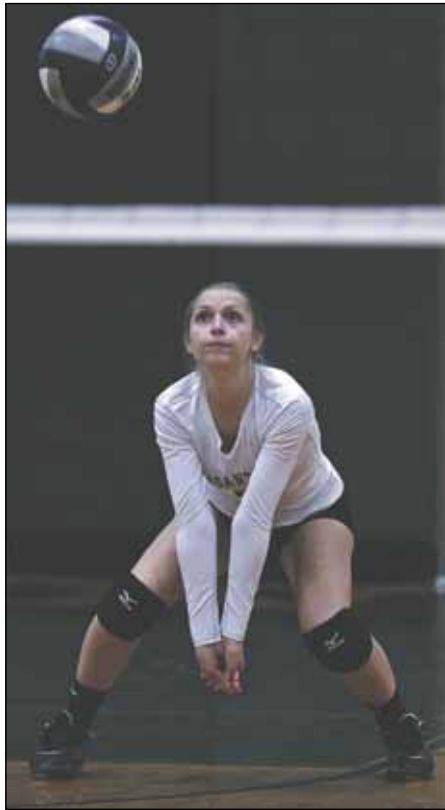


Loren Iannucci (15) and Bea Scoca of Westlake rise above the net together while trying to block the ball being hit by Lily Rosenbaum of Pleasantville.



Westlake's Lia Poggioreale makes a lunging return in the Wildcats' three-games-to-none victory over host Pleasantville last Tuesday.

SPORTS SCENE *EXTRA*



Pleasantville's Briana Braia gets ready to bump the ball in the Panthers' home match against Westlake last Tuesday evening.



Beatrice Scoca of Westlake slams the ball past Lily Rosenbaum of Pleasantville in the third and final game of last week's match won by the Wildcats.

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Sunday Sectional Soccer



Pleasantville's Eliza Murphy moves the ball up the middle of the field during the Panthers' 3-0 playoff win over visiting Valhalla.



Westlake's Marabel Jaime controls the ball early in the second half of the Wildcats' Class B opening-round playoff win over visiting Blind Brook.



Briarcliff senior Isabelle Tola appeals for a call from the officials in the first half of Sunday's 2-0 Bear victory over Hastings in the Class B opening round of playoffs.

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