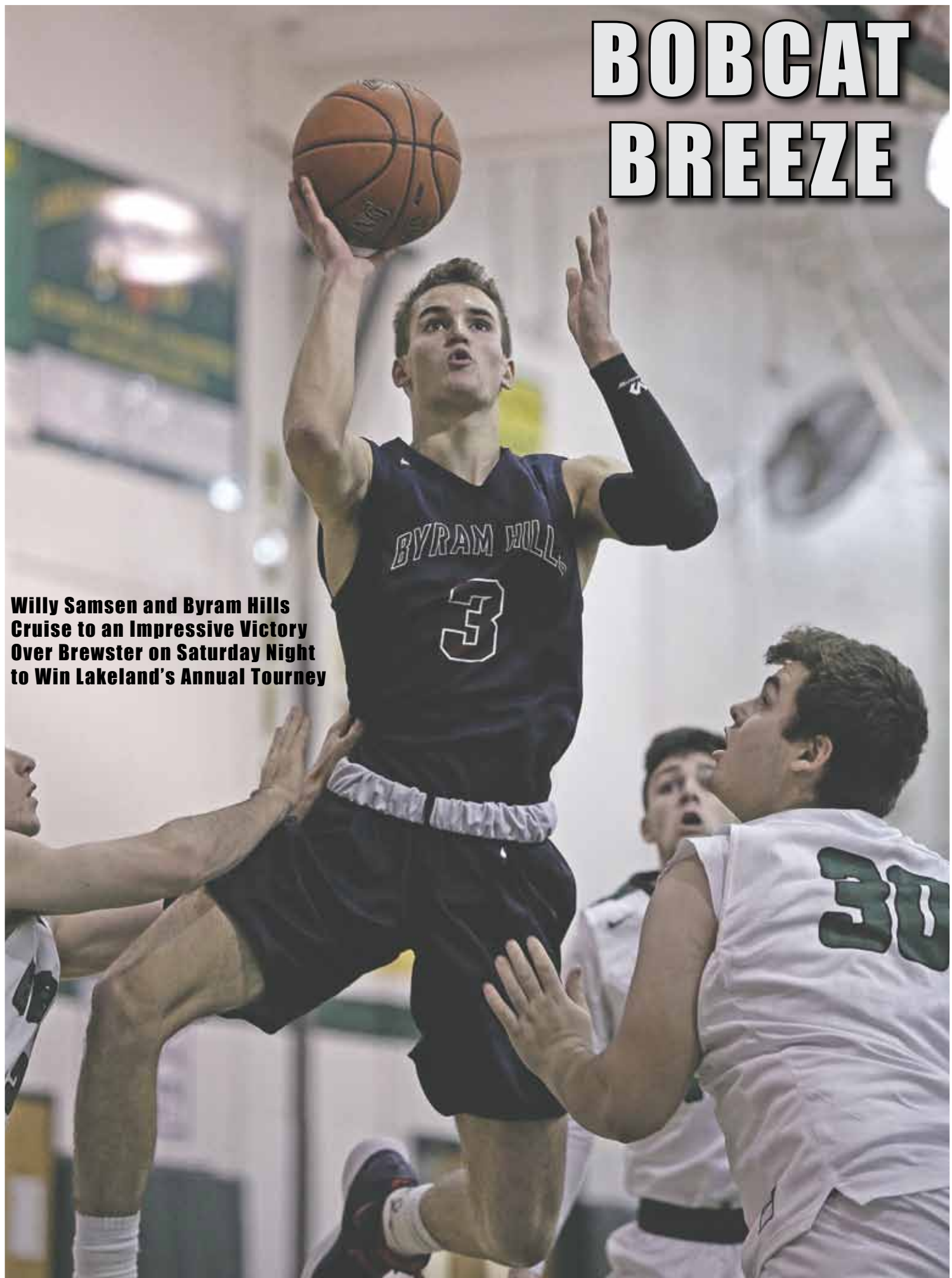


BOBCAT BREEZE

**Willy Samsen and Byram Hills
Cruise to an Impressive Victory
Over Brewster on Saturday Night
to Win Lakeland's Annual Tourney**



Dazzling Debuts Highlight Greeley's Season-Opening Win

By Andy Jacobs

Fans attending Thursday night's season-opening game for the Horace Greeley boys' basketball team could not have helped noticing the gym's two spectacular new scoreboards.

They also couldn't have missed the brand new player in the host Quakers' starting lineup.

Nick Townsend, a 6-foot-5 freshman center, made his varsity debut and wasted little time providing a reminder of the past and a hint of the future. He grabbed his first rebound less than 15 seconds after the opening tip and finished the evening with 11 of them, to go along with 13 points, as the new-look Quakers cruised to a 69-48 victory over the Carmel Rams.

"He's going to create his own reputation and he's gonna create his own game," said Greeley head coach Felix Nicodemo after watching Townsend replicate some of the interior dominance his much older brother Matt supplied the Quakers with for four years before leaving as the school's all-time leading scorer and rebounder.

"He creates a lot attention and he's a very smart individual and basketball player," Nicodemo added. "So he knows when to hit the open man or when to go to the basket with it. Guys are gonna be able to get open shots and get freed up because of the attention that he brings."

One of those guys figures to be



Horace Greeley freshman center Nick Townsend sends up a jump hook in the lane during the Quakers' win over visiting Carmel.

Christoph Sauerborn, a junior guard who also dazzled in his varsity debut by connecting on four 3-pointers during a three-and-a-half minute, 14-2 Greeley blitz in the first quarter that opened up a whopping 26-7 lead against the overwhelmed Rams. Carmel did manage to cut its huge deficit down to seven points late in the opening half, but never



Greeley forward Chris Melis is challenged by Carmel's Peyton Cayea (left) and Christian Hutra as he drives to the basket in Thursday's season-opening game.

Quaker guard Christoph Sauerborn made five 3-pointers and scored 15 points in his first varsity start last Thursday evening.

got any closer than eight after halftime.

"I knew they were gonna come out with intensity," said Nicodemo about his players. "It's always nice to start the season when you have kids hitting open shots and the intensity's there. They were excited and I thought they came out with a defensive intensity. We just wanted to make sure we pressed them and tried to wear them down as the game went on."

The Quakers began the night by scoring the game's first seven points and never looked back. Their star junior forward, Chris Melis, who wound up with a game-high 23 points, provided an early highlight when he drove the left baseline and finished with a two-handed dunk that stretched Greeley's advantage to 12-2 just two and a half minutes into the contest.

Soon after, the Quakers ran off 11 straight points, nine of them coming from the hot shooting of Sauerborn from beyond the arc and the other two on the first basket of Townsend's career, a little flip in the lane that Greeley fans are sure to see plenty more of in the years to come. Sauerborn's final 3-pointer of the game, with three and a half minutes left in the half, gave the Quakers a 31-17 lead, but by halftime Carmel had closed to within 38-29.

Melis, now the leader of the Quakers with the graduation of three-fifths of the starting lineup from last year's team that advanced to the sectional semifinals, had 15 first-half points. He erupted for four baskets in the third quarter, and Townsend added six points as Greeley outscored the Rams 16-10 to build a 15-point cushion heading to the final period.

"Chris Melis is another one who works hard day in and day out and let's his game speak for him," said Nicodemo, now in his second season directing the Quakers. "He just draws so much attention from the defense and he can get to the basket any time he wants. This team is very unselfish and they play team oriented, but Chris is a guy I want the ball in his hands when it's crunch time."

Crunch time never arrived against the Rams in the fourth quarter because of an 11-0 Quaker spurt that built a 67-44 lead with just under two minutes remaining. Senior guard Noah Shar had eight of the points during the big run, in just over a minute, as he made back-to-back 3-pointers and then added a lefty toss in the lane.

"I think the sky is the limit with how far we can go as long as we play together," said Nicodemo, whose Quakers have moved down to Class A this season. "We're a deep team and we're well balanced. So on any given night, any person can play a significant role. We want to be peaking once sectionals come and hopefully put us in the best situation to compete and challenge for a sectional title and beyond."

Nicodemo was no doubt satisfied with what he saw from his team on opening night, but what about those new state-of-the-art scoreboards that commanded everyone's attention and at times bewildered the crew trying to control it at the scorers' table?

"As you know, technology can be hard sometimes," he said. "But I think people are very excited about it. It's almost like you come here and it's an experience. It's like going to a college game or an NBA game. I think it takes it to another level. I'm so fortunate to be able to coach and be a part of all this that they have here. It definitely adds an excitement to the game."



Greeley junior Sean Dunleavy rises for a jump shot in the first half of Thursday's Quaker home win.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



The Quakers' Noah Shar dribbles across midcourt in the second half of the 69-48 win over the Carmel Rams.

Bobcats Trounce Brewster in Tournament Title Game



The Bobcats' Mike Caporale gets inside for an easy basket in the second half of Saturday's tournament win over Brewster.

By Andy Jacobs

Even though the Byram Hills boys' basketball team was holding a five-point lead over Brewster on Saturday evening, a quick glance at the halftime statistics was enough to convince Bobcat head coach Ted Repa that the still-to-come second half should not resemble the first two quarters.

"Yeah, we looked at the stats at halftime," he would say later. "And I think we were four for 16 from three and seven for 12 from two. So we said, 'Guys, I think there's a little better strategy.'"

That strategy, to keep feeding the post, quickly became apparent as the Bobcats scored the first eight points of the third quarter. They wound up making seven baskets in the period, none of them



Byram Hills junior forward Nick Ferrante shoots the ball in the fourth quarter against the Brewster Bears.



The Bobcats' Willy Samsen battles for a loose ball with Brewster's Joe Girard in the first half of the championship game at the 2018 Relay for Life Basketball Tournament, hosted by Lakeland High School.

from more than four feet away, and outscored the Bears 20-10 to pave the way to a lopsided 64-38 victory in the championship game of the 2018 Relay for Life Basketball Tournament, hosted by Lakeland High School.

Senior center Ben Leff scored 17 points and pulled down a dozen rebounds to earn most valuable player honors, while Willy Samsen added 13 points and 10 rebounds and Mike Caporale, a senior transfer from Iona Prep, chipped in with 14 points and eight boards. The Bobcats went on an early 10-0 spurt to overcome a 3-0 deficit and never trailed the rest of the way.

"Not many high school teams have a front line like that," said Repa about the 6-foot-7 Leff and 6-5 Caporale. "And once we get (Mike) Parrotta and (Sam) Goldman fully healthy, we can put a really tall lineup out there that's gonna be tough to match. We've got a few issues we've got to work on, but the ceiling is pretty high."

A 3-pointer at the start of the second quarter by Samsen, who was named to the all-tournament team, was followed by a fast-break layup from Leff, giving Byram Hills its first double-digit lead of the night, 20-10, nearly 90 seconds into the period. Though the Bobcats only



Bobcat sophomore Matteo Sinon handles the ball near the 3-point arc during Saturday night's tournament championship game.

scored seven more points in the half, on two inside buckets from Caporale and another trey by Samsen, they still led 27-22 at intermission.

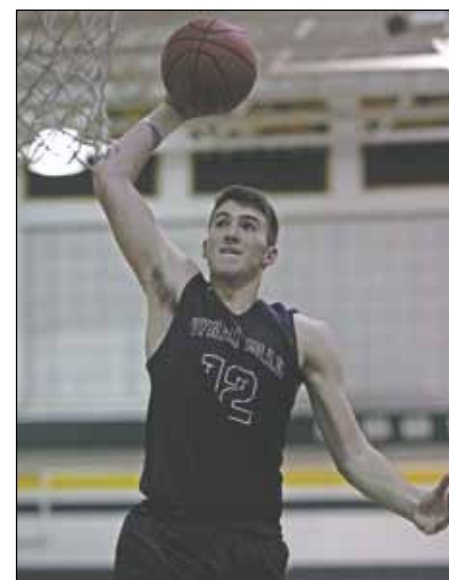
They came out of the locker room to start the third quarter determined to get the ball to their two big men under the basket. Passes into the paint led to back-to-back layups by Caporale and Leff, stretching the Byram Hills lead to nine points. A pair of free throws by Leff, followed by a put-back basket from Caporale left Brewster trailing 35-22 with 3:45 remaining in the third quarter.

In the final minute of the period, junior guard Jon Trongone went back door for a layup and Samsen added two foul shots, enabling the Bobcats to build a 47-32 cushion. When the fourth quarter began with two quick jump hooks by Leff, one right-handed and one left-handed, and then Caporale was on the receiving end of a full-court pass for a layup, the Bobcat lead suddenly swelled to 21 points.

The Caporale layup was the last basket of the evening from the Bobcats' big three, and it was the Byram bench that



Byram Hills guard Mike Kalian dribbles the ball up the floor during the Bobcats' victory over Brewster in the title game of the Lakeland annual tournament.



Byram Hills senior center Ben Leff was named tournament MVP after scoring 17 points and grabbing 12 rebounds in Saturday's championship game vs. Brewster.

outscored the Bears 9-3 over the final minutes to increase the final margin to 26 points. Repa, who relied heavily on star guard Skylar Sinon for the past half dozen years, knows he's fortunate to have Caporale aboard now to help ease the graduation loss of his leading scorer.

"Oh, his offensive rebounding, his defensive presence, you know, altering shots," he said about the Caporale contributions. "He's been an awesome addition. There's only one Skylar. He's doing well at Ithaca right now. We lost that, in tight games, end of the game, that experience and that talent with the ball. But we gain a little bit more balance. So in some ways it's even harder to guard because they can't overload on one guy."

The Bobcats had advanced to Saturday's title game by edging Tuckahoe 65-62 in the tourney's opening round 24 hours earlier. Leff had 22 points and 16 rebounds, Samsen scored 18 points and Caporale, in his Byram debut, hauled in a game-high 17 rebounds. Tuckahoe's Malik Moore helped keep the game close by hitting seven 3-pointers and finishing with 32 points. But his desperation 3-point shot from the left wing at the buzzer rattled off the rim and the Bobcats avoided having to play overtime.

"First of all," said Repa, "Tuckahoe, I don't know if they're C or D, but that's a very talented team regardless of class. They played really well. I think it was good that we kind of struggled early and we had to grind it out because those are the kind of wins that build character."

The Bobcats only play once at home in the month of December, next Tuesday evening against Nyack, but Repa is hoping the tournament victories at Lakeland are a springboard to bigger things.

"Yeah, I'm definitely happy with two wins," he said. "Getting Goldman and Parrotta healthy is gonna be a key. So I'd like to get our full squad out there. But two wins is better than two losses."

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Jason Oppong scored all three Briarcliff goals in the sectional championship game.



Sophomore Bryant Seok heads toward the finish in the Section One Cross Country Championships at Bowdoin Park.



Karina Zielinski boots the ball away near midfield during one of the Bears' home games.



Emma Diller gets set to send the ball up the field during a Briarcliff home field hockey game.



The Bears' Hanna Khalilli (5) and Meghan Hayes try to block the ball in a volleyball match against visiting Byram Hills.

BRIARCLIFF

FALL 2018

A Look Back



Tennis standout Rebecca Lim belts a forehand return at the sectional championships.



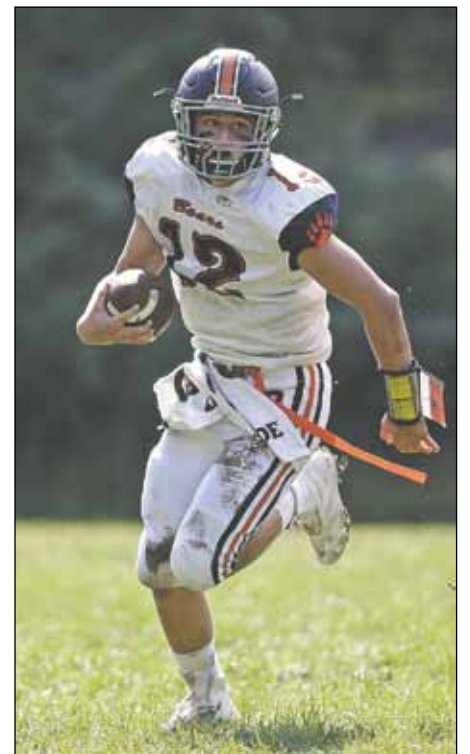
The Bears' Devin Franks competes in the Westchester County Championships at Croton Point Park.



Running back Dan Huegel tries to elude a tackle during the Bears' game at Croton.



Matt Sturman celebrates after scoring the game's only goal in the Bears' state semifinal victory.



Bears quarterback Nick Reish picks up big yardage as he runs with the football.



Briarcliff senior Alex Cabeca moves the ball up the field in the Bears' regional playoff win over Section 9's Rhinebeck.



Soccer star Izzy Tola controls the ball in the Bears' rout of visiting Haldane.



Senior quarterback Jack Howe throws the football during a Panther home game at Parkway Field.



The Panthers' Nathaniel Graham gets set to kick the ball a long way down the field.



The Panthers' Delaney Cotter sets her sights on the ball as she battles for possession with Pawling's Ava Panzer in the sectional playoffs.



Aidan Lynch reaches the top of a steep hill as he runs in the Section One Championships at Bowdoin Park.



Lyndsey Minerva chases after the ball during a Panther playoff win over Croton.

PLEASANTVILLE FALL 2018

A Look Back



Marc Kyriakidis moves the ball across the field in the Panthers' road game against Westlake.



The Panthers' Harrison Hailsworth carries the football in a win over visiting Bronxville back in September.



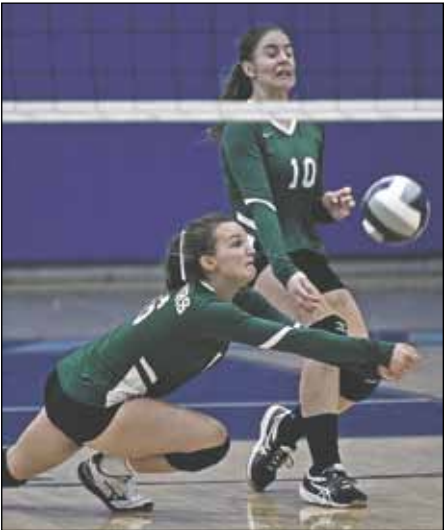
Senior Danny Melillo rolls out to his right on a halfback option in a home game under the lights at Parkway Field.



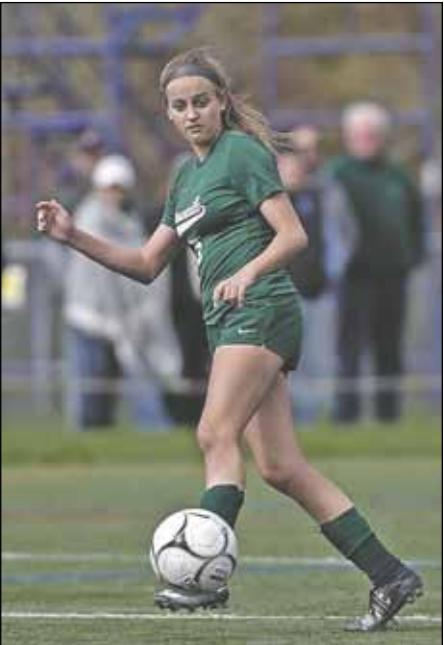
Star tennis player Olivia Ashton lines up a backhand return in her match at first singles vs. host Briarcliff.



Sophie Ruhl considers her options as she scans the field during a Pleasantville home game.



The Panthers' Jenna McAllister (left) bumps the ball in front of teammate Madison Schneeweiss during a Panther home volleyball match.



The Panthers' Allison Portera passes the ball in the sectional championship game against Bronxville.

Local Wrestling Squads Gearing Up for a Successful Season

By Tony Pinciario

Veteran **Pleasantville** coach Bob Bernarducci might be the envy of his fellow Section 1 coaching brethren.

Ten wrestlers who placed in the 2018 Section 1 Division II Wrestling Championships return for Bernarducci, who guided his team to a second-place finish behind champion Pearl River. This coming one year after the Panthers won the 2017 sectional title.

This core group of 10 is highlighted by a pair of sectional champions – senior Michael Perlleshi and junior Len Balducci. Balducci went on to place at the state championships, third, for the second consecutive year.

Balducci and his uncle, Chris Balducci, both have two sectional titles and Len's father, Lenny, was a sectional champion.

Perlleshi and Balducci are among the Section 1 elite and are strong favorites to win sectional titles and return to the New York State Division II Wrestling Championship.

Joining Perlleshi and Balducci are a pair of sectional runner-ups – junior Nayshawn Marks and junior Jadan Kammer. Seniors Michael Perlleshi and Chris May placed fourth in sectionals, classmates Keon Ansari and Nolan Egan were fifth-place finishers and fellow senior Eli Cuniffe placed sixth. Junior Aidan Canfield completes the returning nucleus.

With 10 returning wrestlers, there are not many openings in the lineup. However, the Panthers have four newcomers ready to step in.

Senior Sebby Senande joins the team, as does sophomore Jude Safieh and eighth-graders Christian Perlleshi and Jo Jo Alseway.

"Our lower weights and overall team depth are our strengths," said Bernarducci, in his 29th year coaching. "We should be a very competitive team and hopefully will be competing for a sectional championship."

Pleasantville opened the season with a third-place finish at the Mike Nardone

Ossining Dual-Meet Tournament.

The Panthers defeated Hen Hud (61-22), Clarkstown North (62-13), Byram Hills (66-22) and Brewster (60-44). Pleasantville's lone loss was to 2018 Section 1 Division I champion Fox Lane (44-36).

Victor Perlleshi, Balducci, Marks and Canfield all went 5-0. Bernarducci noted that Balducci beat Fox Lane's Mattias Rivera, a sectional runner-up last year and Canfield beat Clarkstown North's Ryan Stern, a state qualifier last year.

Bernarducci will be taking five wrestlers to the prestigious Eastern States Classic in January. The Panthers will continue their busy December, opening the Section 1 Division II Dual-Meet Tournament on Thursday.

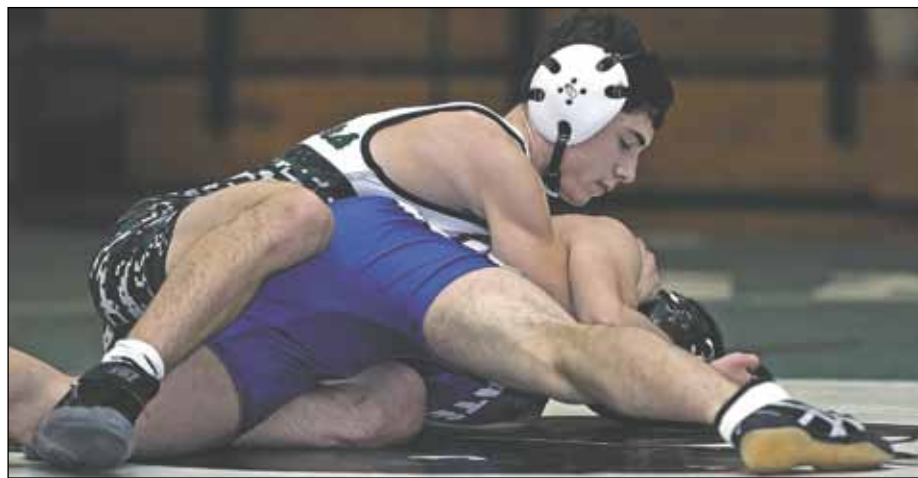
Pleasantville, seeded first, will host a quarterfinal and semifinal. If the seeds hold, Pleasantville will face fourth-seeded Edgemont in a semifinal. The other half of the tournament has defending champion Pearl River and Pawling seeded second and third, respectively. The semifinal winners will wrestle for the title, Thursday, Dec. 13 at the higher seed.

Following the dual-meet tournament, Pleasantville will wrestle in the Port Chester Tony Carlucci Dual-Meet Tournament at SUNY-Purchase.

Fox Lane entered 2017-18 as a contender for the Section 1 Division I title and when the season concluded, the Foxes won everything.

The Foxes opened the season winning the Section 1 Division I Dual-Meet title. They followed it up in January by taking the Westchester County title and finished up winning the Section 1 Division I championship. Overall, Fox Lane went 25-2.

Seventh-year coach Anthony Rodrigues, who is in his 19th year at Fox Lane, enters the 2018-19 season without the most successful wrestler in program history as six-year varsity great Matt Grippi is now a freshman at North Carolina State. He will also be without Matias Rivera, a sectional place finisher,



Pleasantville's Len Balducci

Jake Witz and 195-pound sectional titlist Johnny Santos, who all graduated. However, Santos returns as an assistant coach while attending college.

Santos replaces former Fox Lane great and NCAA all-American Steven Rodrigues, who is now an assistant coach at Old Dominion.

Fox Lane will, once again, be a sectional contender as the trio of Amos Rivera, Jake Hoffman and Quincy Downes are back. Rivera was the 120-pound sectional runner-up last year while Hoffman placed fourth and Downes was sixth.

Also returning are Thomas Prisco, Lucas Freidman and Griffin Zegras.

Joining varsity are Jaime Jarquin and Nino Prisco.

"We have depth in our middleweights," said Rodrigues, who in his 29th year, overall, coaching. "We're a very young team, so if our young wrestlers continue to develop we can have a successful season."

Fox Lane opened the season winning the Mike Nardone Ossining Dual-Meet Tournament, going 5-0.

The Foxes beat Byram Hills, Hen Hud, Pleasantville, Clarkstown North and Cossackie-Athens. R.J. Gierum, Downes and Hoffman each went 5-0.

Fox Lane is seeded seventh in the Section 1 Division I Championship. The

Foxes host No. 26 Yorktown in a first-round match on Thursday. A win propels Fox Lane against the winner of No. 10 Brewster-No. 23 Byram Hills the same day. A second victory would send Fox Lane into a quarterfinal against No. 2 John Jay-East Fishkill, Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Horace Greeley had one of the most successful seasons in program history in 2017-18.

The Quakers went 12-6 overall, but finished seventh in the prestigious Eastern States Classic and duplicated that with a seventh-place showing in the Section 1 Division I Championships.

Co-coaches Mike DeBellis and Anthony Tortora had a pair of sectional champions in Matthew Schreiber and Aaron Wolk, who placed fourth and fifth, respectively, at the state championships. Graduate Jacob Ferreira, now wrestling at Bucknell, was a sectional and state runner-up to New Rochelle's Jake Logan.

Wolk and Schreiber enter the season committed to Cornell and Binghamton, respectively.

Along with Wolk and Schreiber are classmates Everett Bueti, Hojin Lee, Drew McMillan, Nicholas Ng (division champion) Dominick Ruggiero and Chris Sasso.

The returning juniors are Isabella Garcia and Jacob Weitzman and the sophomore group includes Michael Ametrano, Brady McCarthy and Jeton Shabaj.

"We have a talented senior class and great leadership in Matthew and Aaron," said DeBellis, a sectional champion for Carmel. "We have an eager group of wrestlers that have become students of the game very quickly."

"We are very excited to kick off the season. This is a talented group of wrestlers out there in Section 1 and we are looking forward to competing."

Horace Greeley has a deep coaching staff, which includes Khaled Dassan, Mike Boyle and New York State champion and Ossining graduate, Alex Delacruz.

The Quakers drew the fourth seed in the Section 1 Division I Wrestling

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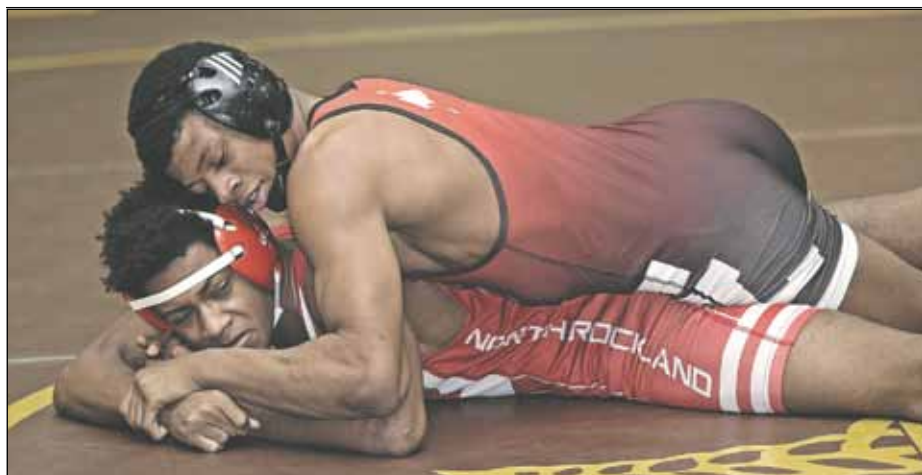


Horace Greeley's Matt Schreiber



Horace Greeley's Aaron Wolk

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Fox Lane's Quincy Downes

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Championship. They will host No. 29 Hen Hud in a first-round match this Thursday. A victory will have the Quakers face the No. 13 Tappan Zee-No. 20 Mamaroneck winner.

The Quakers have eight wrestlers competing in the Eastern States Classic in January and two weeks later Greeley heads to Yonkers for the Westchester County Championships.

Joey Grippi walked into the **Byram Hills** wrestling room the first day of practice and saw a plethora of wrestlers, which was quite different from his first three years.

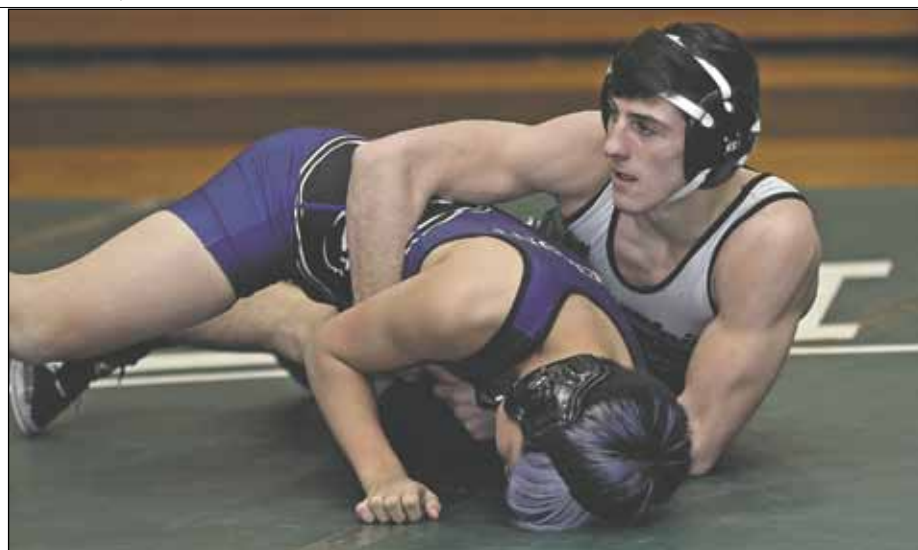
The rise in wrestlers is a result of a merger with Westlake, as well as Valhalla

and Briarcliff.

"We have a ton of first-year guys from our merger with Valhalla, Westlake and Briarcliff and, hopefully, they can learn and make a mark during their first season of wrestling," said Grippi, who will be assisted by younger brother Peter again.

The Grippi brothers have three impact wrestlers returning in the Fortugno brothers – John and Justin – who were second and third, respectively, in the section last year, and Alex Behar.

"For my first three years coaching, the most wrestlers we ever had on the team was nine but, now, with a roster of 23, the practice room is much more competitive and the kids are pushing each other," Grippi said. "We also have strong lightweights, especially at 99 and 106 pounds."



Pleasantville's Victor Perleshi

Grippi knows this year will be a learning experience for the new wrestlers, but he and Peter embrace the challenge of working with the guys.

"I am very, very excited for this season," said Grippi, a two-time sectional champ for Fox Lane, state place finisher and all-American at Springfield. "As I said before, having a full roster and being able to almost fill out every weight class is awesome. The program is growing rapidly with roster sizes increasing from five my first year to 23 this year.

"Wins and losses are obviously important, but for the first-year guys it's more about learning the sport and getting as much experience as possible. The wins

will come with hard work, dedication, and experience. I'm looking forward to this being the best season yet I've had in my four years as head coach."

Byram Hills, seeded 23rd, faces No. 10 Brewster in the first round of the Section 1 Division I Dual-Meet Tournament on Thursday. A win would give Byram Hills a matchup against the No. 7 Fox Lane-No. 26 Yorktown winner. If it's Fox Lane, Grippi would face his alma mater and former assistant coach, Anthony Rodrigues.

Grippi will bring Byram Hills to the Ted Murphy/James Guccione Shoreline Classic in January, as well as some of his wrestlers to Eastern States.

The advertisement features three photos at the top: a person in a racing helmet, a group of people playing pool, and a person in a go-kart. Below the photos, the text reads "GRAND PRIX NEW YORK" and "SPINS BOWL". At the bottom, it lists "BIRTHDAY PARTIES", "CORPORATE EVENTS", "BAR / BAT MITZVAHS", and "FUNDRAISERS". The address "333 North Bedford Road | Mount Kisco, New York" and contact information "www.gpny.com | info@gpny.com | 914-241-3131" are provided.

The advertisement features a photo of a large self-storage building. The text reads "Safe Haven Self Storage" and "GOT STUFF? WE GOT SOLUTIONS". Below this, it lists services: "WE SELL BOXES, CARTONS, LOCKS", "SAFE AND SECURE", "FULL INSIDE LOADING DOCK", "ACCESS TO YOUR UNIT 7 DAYS A WEEK", and "CLIMATE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT". A banner offers "50% OFF" for "NEW CUSTOMERS FIRST 3 MONTHS". The address "ELMSFORD 444 SAW MILL RIVER ROAD (9A) | 914-592-1000" and "MOUNT KISCO 333 NORTH BEDFORD ROAD | 914-666-7233" are provided.

Roasting the Rams



Chris Melis and the Quakers Easily Defeat Visiting Carmel in the Season-Opening Game