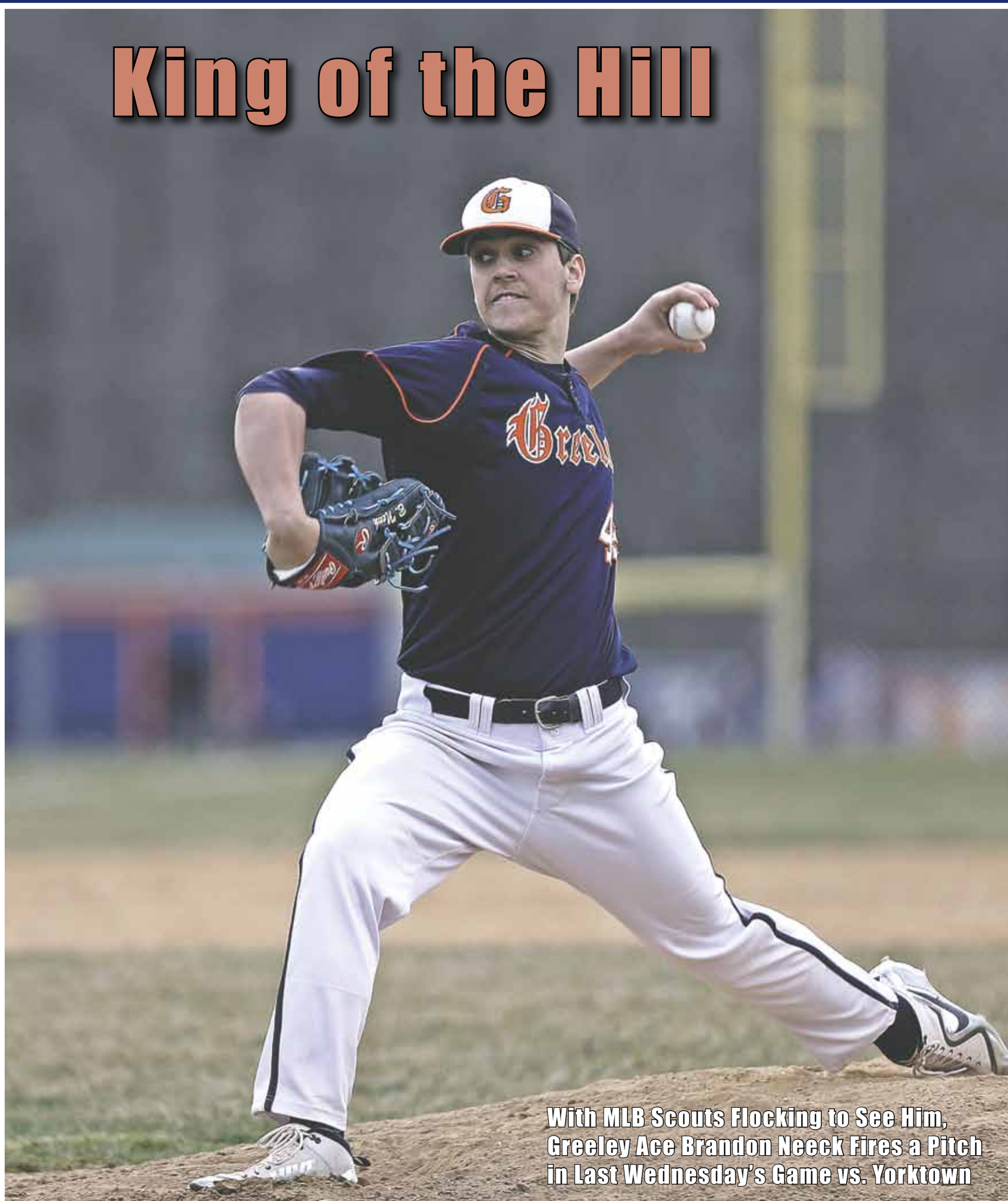


## King of the Hill



With MLB Scouts Flocking to See Him,  
Greeley Ace Brandon Neeck Fires a Pitch  
in Last Wednesday's Game vs. Yorktown



# Panthers Defeat Pawling to Remain Unbeaten

By Danny Lopriore

Pleasantville righthander Danny Keon pitched four scoreless innings and the Panthers' defense and relief pitching held on to an early lead Friday in a 7-4 victory over visiting Pawling at Parkway Field.

Keon allowed just one hit and struck out four in the win and the Panthers stretched their unbeaten season-opening winning streak to seven games after building a 7-0 lead after four innings.

"I was fine, no problem, so with a big lead Coach (Dan Iorio) got to use some of the guys who have been pitching well in relief," Keon said. "I think my curveball was really good, throwing them off balance. I was finishing off with my fastball. They were a little behind on it. The defense made some good plays backing me up."

Nick Salzarulo drove in the first run with a sacrifice fly in the first inning, then doubled home another to ignite a six-run fourth-inning outburst. He attributed the team's early success to a recent Florida trip.

"We had strict practices, played in scrimmages and played one game, but it



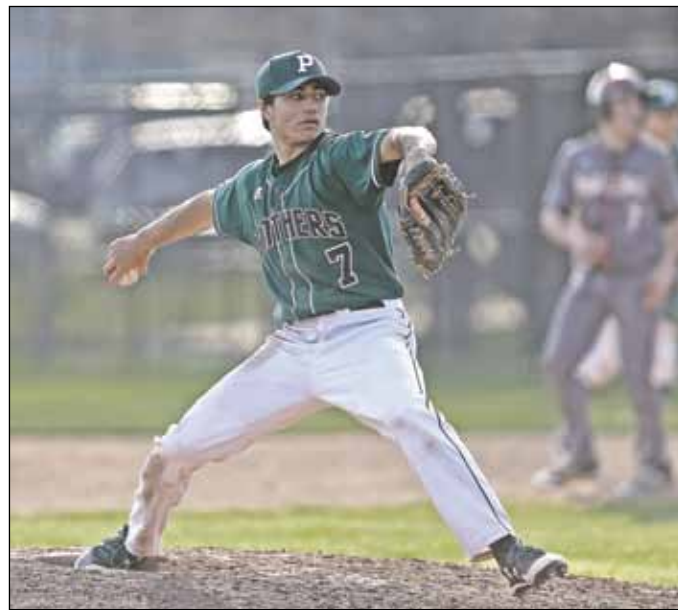
The Panthers' Danny Keon stays ready at third base in Friday's game. He pitched the first four innings to earn the victory.

helped get us going," Salzarulo said. "We are doing a lot of little things to win. I just try to put the ball in play, whether it's a sac fly or to drive the ball for a hit. We're getting guys on base a lot. We have to take advantage of opportunities."

Catcher Michael Matica, who has been handling what appears to be an emerging deep staff, likes the balance of this year's team.

"We started off with Danny (Melillo), who pitched a great game, and then brought in guys who are contributing this year," Matica said. "Colin (Finnegan) has had a couple of saves already and has made a big contribution. The important thing is that we're throwing strikes and the defense is playing well. I love catching these guys."

Pawling, now 5-2, put together a rally in the fifth inning to close the gap to 7-4, but could get no



The Panthers' Danny Melillo pitches in relief during Friday's win over Pawling at Parkway Field.



Nick Satriale takes a lead at first base in Pleasantville's victory on Friday.

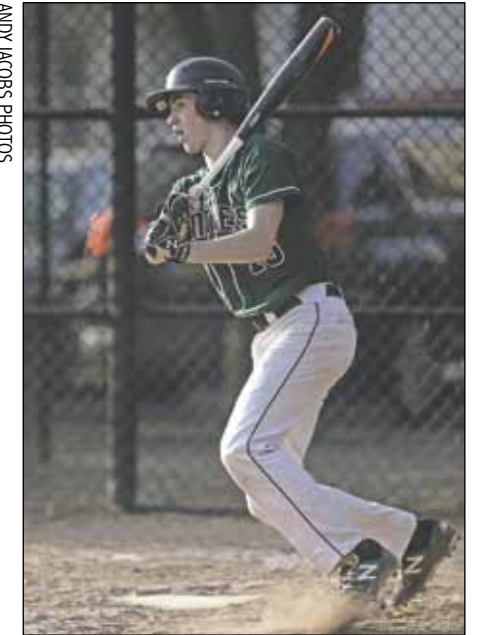
closer as Panther relievers Justin Perelman and Finnegan went the last three innings. Finnegan struck out the final two batters of the game and allowed no runs in a clean 1-2-3 ninth inning to earn the save.

Panthers second baseman Massimo Stinziani went 1 for 2 with a double and two runs batted in, while third baseman Brendan O'Neill added two hits, including a triple that plated Salzarulo in the fourth for a 3-0 lead.

"So far, we've been playing well in all aspects of the game, especially defensively," Panthers head coach Dan Iorio said. "Pitching has been very good and our hitting, we've been able to apply pressure, playing small ball. In our last game, we bunted six times, forcing the other team to make mistakes. It worked in our favor."

Iorio said the coaching staff is regulating the pitching staff to be sure arms are healthy.

"We're watching pitch count and have to be strategic in how we use the guys," Iorio said. "But we've been calling on guys



Pleasantville's Brendan O'Neill connects on a pitch in the 7-4 win over Pawling.

who haven't pitched much in the past to help our starters. Colin is one guy who has done that for us. He pitched well three times for us this week and he has never pitched for us before. That really helps keeping pitchers fresh."

The Panthers get into the heart of the season this week, playing border rival Briarcliff twice in a key home-and-home series. The Bears host Wednesday's game, while Friday's will be played at Parkway.



Nick Salzarulo of Pleasantville runs toward third base vs. the Pawling Tigers.



Colin Finnegan delivers a pitch to the plate in the seventh inning of Pleasantville's 7-4 win Friday at Parkway Field.




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# Strong Pitching Leads the Bears in the Booster Club Tourney

By Andy Jacobs

The Briarcliff baseball team couldn't have asked for anything more from its senior starting pitchers this past weekend.

With southpaw Matt Juvelier no-hitting Irvington on Friday afternoon, then righty Quinten Cooleen limiting Putnam Valley to just three hits over six innings 24 hours later, the host Bears cruised to their third consecutive title at the annual Booster Club Tournament.

"Obviously the backbone of our team is our strong pitching," said Bears head coach John Schrader shortly after the final out of his team's 5-1 victory over the Tigers in the championship game late Saturday afternoon. "Between our lefty, Matt Juvelier, throwing yesterday and no-hitting Irvington and then Quinten today, both of them excellent jobs."

On a day that began with a hint of summer and ended with a reminder of winter, the Bears jumped out to an early three-run lead against Putnam Valley and never had much to worry about afterwards with Cooleen in command on the mound. First baseman Noah Campo provided run-scoring doubles in each of the first two innings to power the Briarcliff offense and was later named to the all-tournament team.

"Clutch hits, overall teamwork and pitching," said Schrader, reciting the now 6-1 Bears' recipe for success. "Yeah, we were able to get a couple runs quick on 'em and that was beneficial."

Cooleen had the unenviable task of following Juvelier's MVP performance a day earlier. He stranded a Tiger runner at second base in the opening inning, then the Bears used consecutive two-base hits to get on the scoreboard first. With one out, Joe Scanga crushed a double to the



Briarcliff's Danny Huegel hits the ball down the first-base line in the third inning of Saturday's 5-1 victory over Putnam Valley.



The Bears' Quinten Cooleen pitches in Saturday's title game of the 15th annual Booster Club Tournament.

gap in left-center field. Moments later, he scampered across home plate on the first of Campo's RBI doubles, this one a line drive down the left-field line.

Luca Lombardi, who drove in three runs in Friday's 7-1 win over Irvington and joined Campo on the all-tourney team, followed with a base on balls. Spencer McCann's line single to left loaded the bases, but Putnam Valley starter John Millicker got out of big trouble by retiring John Gross and Mike Hardy to end the inning.

Millicker's problems were hardly over, though, as the Bears added a couple more runs in the bottom of the second inning. Jason Oppong laced a one-out single to center field, then raced to third when Jack Ryan dumped a single into right. A wild pickoff throw by Millicker to first base scored Oppong and moved Ryan to second. With two outs, Campo came through by belting a long double to left that plated Ryan to give Briarcliff a 3-0 lead.

Cooleen retired the side in order in the third inning, but had trouble finding the plate in the fourth. Three walks loaded the bases and the Tigers avoided an inning-ending double play when the turn-two throw to first was dropped. But Cooleen left the three runners aboard as he retired Franky Curran on a soft liner toward short that was snagged by Ryan.

"No, I was pretty confident our guys could do the job, pitching-wise and defensively, after that," said Schrader, asked later if he was concerned the drop at first base might prove costly to his team. "Yes, that can actually snowball into the worst things. But obviously it didn't for us today."

In the bottom of the fourth, Briarcliff stretched its lead to 4-0 when Oppong, leading off, was hit by a pitch, stole second base, then came around to score on Scanga's single to right field. Putnam Valley's Angelo Milano opened the fifth



Briarcliff shortstop Jack Ryan tracks a pop fly during Saturday's Booster Club Tournament championship game vs. Putnam Valley.

with a single to left, but the inning ended as Matt Carlsen lined into a double play.

The Bears threatened in the bottom of the fifth with Gross leading off and getting plunked by a pitch for the second time. Hardy then walked, but Carlsen, pitching in relief, retired the next three batters in order as Briarcliff stranded two runners for the second straight inning.

The Tigers, who had defeated Hen Hud in their opening-round game, finally got on the board against Cooleen in the sixth inning. Mike Gaitan led off with a walk and, one out later, moved to third on a booming double by Dan Cavanagh. Brian McBride followed with a line-drive single to left that scored Gaitan and sent Cavanagh to third. But Cooleen shut the door by striking out Alex O'Brien and getting Curran to pop up near the mound.

Briarcliff used some small ball to get its final run of the day in the bottom of the sixth. Scanga and Campo both reached on infield hits. Lombardi moved them over on a grounder to second, then McCann collected an RBI with a fielder's choice chopper to short.

After throwing 102 pitches, some of them in the early warm sunshine but most in the cold and wind that quickly moved



Spencer McCann runs the bases in Saturday's final of the annual Briarcliff Booster Club Tournament.



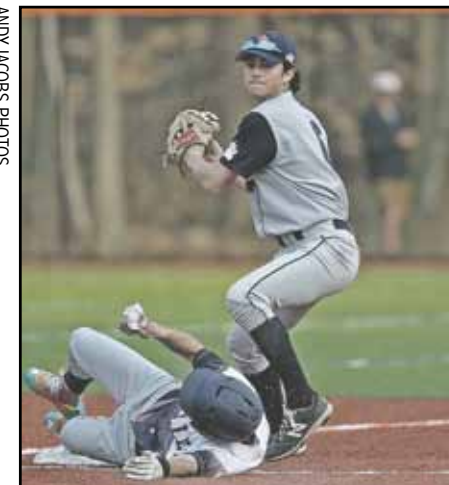
Noah Campo belts one of his two doubles in Briarcliff's 5-1 tourney win over Putnam Valley on Saturday afternoon.

in, Cooleen's day was done after the sixth. Ryan Nieto took over to start the seventh. He gave up a one-out double, but ended the game by striking out Gaitan looking, much to the delight of the Briarcliff fans who had to endure the plummeting temperature.

"Yeah, it was really warm, sunny, hot, and then all of a sudden the temperature dropped, the sun dropped," said Schrader. "It got windy, it's a little chilly. But we persevere and we don't worry about the weather. We just go out and play ball."

So now the Bears gear up for two big games this week with archrival Pleasantville, a team still unbeaten this season. Briarcliff seems to also have plenty of momentum at the moment, which Schrader thinks began thanks to a loss to Croton in the second game of the year.

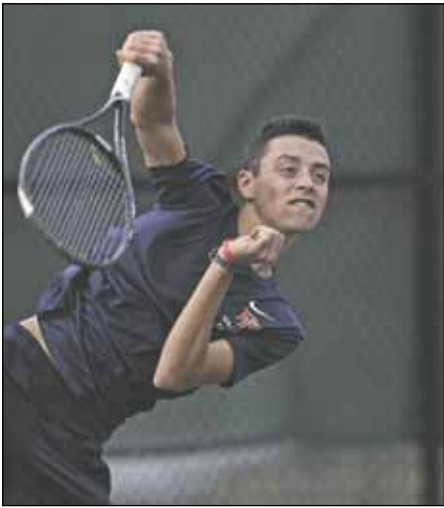
"Very good spot," he said of the Bears' current situation. "Never like to say a loss is ever good, but that first loss against Croton probably made us that much better of a team."



Second baseman Joe Scanga tries to turn a double play in the fifth inning of the Bears' win over Putnam Valley on Saturday afternoon.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS





Matthew Fink of Byram Hills serves during his 6-1, 6-1 win at first singles in Friday's tennis match at Fox Lane.



Nicole Musial of Westlake is on her way to a first-place finish in the 3000 at last week's home meet.



Second-singles player Connor DuVally of Fox Lane belts a forehand in Friday afternoon's home match.

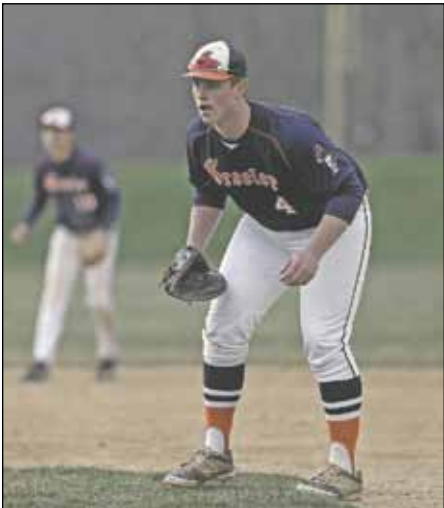
# SPORTS SCENE



Jake Anderson of Greeley runs the bases during the Quakers' home game on Wednesday.



Lauren Rogers of Briarcliff heads toward the finish line as she competes in the 3000 last Wednesday afternoon.



First baseman Hayden Schinderman of Greeley stay ready in the infield in last Wednesday's home game.



Byram Hills' Sam Sporn follows through on a forehand return en route to a come-from-behind win at third singles on Friday.



Greeley's Alek Kevorkian is tagged out at second base during the Quakers' extra-inning loss to the Yorktown Huskers last Wednesday.



Westlake's Chris Pagan runs in the 800 during last week's home track meet.





Briarcliff's Ben Cooper (left) and Mark Rogers run side by side in the 3200 at last Wednesday's track meet at Westlake.



Arjun Goyal of Byram Hills gets set to smack a forehand return in his 6-1, 6-2 victory at second singles vs. host Fox Lane on Friday afternoon.



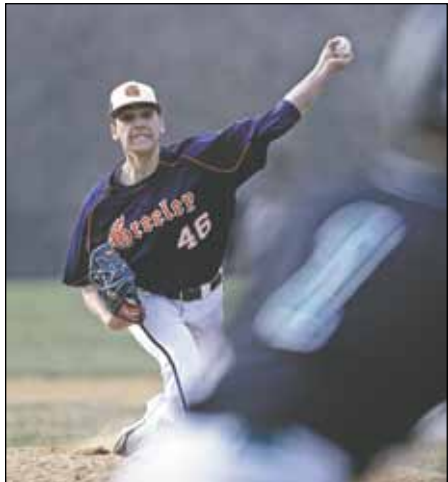
Westlake's Kaitlyn Jamie clears a hurdle in last Wednesday afternoon's track and field meet vs. visiting Briarcliff and Maria Regina.



Fox Lane's Robbie Rossi hits a forehand return behind the baseline during his match at first singles vs. Byram Hills.



Fox Lane third-singles player Mackenzie Sleeman concentrates on a backhand return in his three-set match on Friday afternoon.



Horace Greeley ace Brandon Neeck delivers a pitch in last Wednesday's home game against Yorktown.



Horace Greeley senior Andrew Hildenbrand awaits a pitch vs. visiting Yorktown.



Pace University's Liam Brennan tries to get to the cage in the third quarter of Saturday's home game against Merrimack.



It was a long, frustrating afternoon for Spencer DeRosa and his Pace teammates, who fell to second-ranked Merrimack 17-7 on Saturday.



Pace's Peter Bashar passes the ball in the second half of Saturday's home game.



Timothy January gets set to fire a shot on goal in Pace's home game vs. second-ranked Merrimack this past weekend.



he Setters' Ryan O'Hagan uses a screen from teammate Victor Vasheo as he moves with the ball in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game at Pace Stadium.

focus on

Pace  
Lacrosse



The Setters' Joseph Diggle goes on attack in the third quarter vs. visiting Merrimack.



# Westlake Lacrosse Team Races Past Ardsley

By Danny Lopriore

Dylan Donnery, Greg Cafaro and Rob DiNota led an early offensive barrage to help lift the visiting Westlake boys' lacrosse team to a breezy 15-1 victory over Ardsley on Thursday afternoon.

Donnery scored four goals and added two assists and Cafaro and DiNota each scored three times in the game, which was never in doubt after the Wildcats built a gaudy 9-1 halftime lead.

"We're feeling a lot more comfortable having been outside for a few days," Donnery said. "We can work on stick skills and ball movement in games, which is different than in practices. We moved the ball better and finished plays."

The Wildcats' defense allowed a goal early that tied the game at 1-1 with 8:11 remaining in the first quarter. Donnery answered off a nifty pass from DiNota three minutes later for the go-ahead goal and the Wildcats ran off 13 straight from there.

Westlake's defense smothered the



Westlake's Nicholas Gorman races across the field with the ball in the first half of Thursday's game at Ardsley.



Westlake senior Ryan Hayes passes the ball during the win over Ardsley.



Westlake long stick midfielder Jack Simon wins a race for a ground ball in the first half of the Wildcats' 15-1 win on Thursday afternoon.

Panthers' offensive game, holding top scorer Danny Hewitt to a single goal

"We played great 'D' today," starting goaltender Nick Ryan said. "Jason Ausiello locked down Danny Hewitt, which was a huge help, Jack (Simon) had a lot of ground balls and we made a few stops, so the offense had the ball a lot and we wound up scoring 15 on them."

Simon, who was a force around the goal, said the Wildcats will improve in all aspects of the game over the next week or two.

"We know what we need to do, but we just need more reps after only three full days of practice outside," Simon said. "We have to keep up the intensity through the whole game. We did that well today. We are learning to play with the younger guys."

DiNota, who helped lead last year's team to the Section 1, Class D title and a stunning state tournament run that ended with a loss to Christian Brothers Academy in the state championship game, hopes the Wildcats can use that experience to build another champion.

"We all know each other really well having played together since we were in third or fourth grade," DiNota said. "No

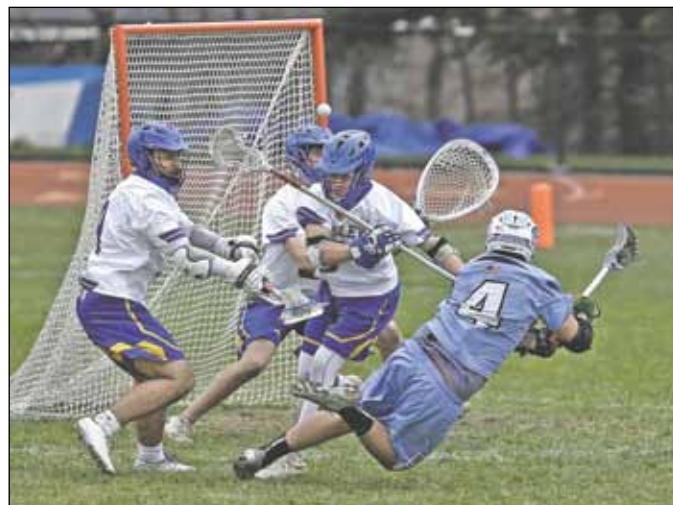
one wins a championship as individuals. We have the chemistry and experience to do well in the playoffs. It's about commitment to improve every day."

Wildcats coach Hunter Burnard knows the success of his upperclassmen in last year's playoffs will help with the development of his younger players, but the addition of rival Pleasantville, which dropped from Class C to Class D this spring, adds some extra motivation.

"The offense is very unselfish and works well in bringing the younger guys along," Burnard said. "We lost James Gorman, who played a big role for us. So other people are filling different spots and finding their roles. It's a work in progress, offensively and defensively. We can still improve in the riding and clearing game. We're trying to get better and better each day."

Projecting forward as the warmer weather comes, the coach is enjoying greener pastures during practices, which were mostly indoors early on.

"We can still improve off ball," said Burnard, whose team also crushed Irvington on Friday to improve to 5-1. "Defense is about working hard, but when you're in the gym for a few weeks, in



Westlake sophomore Greg Cafaro flings a shot at the goal while falling to the ground in the second half of Thursday's game.



Dylan Donnery, who scored four goals and assisted on two others, tries to get to the cage in Westlake's 15-1 rout of host Ardsley.



The Wildcats' Rob DiNota prepares to send a shot toward the cage during Thursday's easy win over the Ardsley Panthers.



Goalie Nick Ryan of Westlake watches an errant Ardsley shot miss the cage in the first half of Thursday's game.

smaller space, you can develop bad habits in defensive play. Being outside makes it much better. This game was a good one for us because we got everyone out there in game situations. That experience will help."



# Panthers Cruise to a Home Victory Against Fox Lane

By Andy Jacobs

For the Pleasantville boys' lacrosse team, Saturday was a day of fun in the sun.

For the visiting Fox Lane Foxes, it was a day of sun minus the fun.

With Brian Reda scoring five goals, Declan McDermott four and both James Daniele and Jack Howe adding two, the Panthers rolled past the Foxes 16-2 in a game that quickly turned into a rout after the opening quarter.

"It was a bad second quarter," said Fox Lane head coach Craig Henley, whose team was outscored 8-0 and walked off the field at halftime trailing 12-1. "That second quarter was inexcusable and we've got to get better."

On the first truly warm afternoon of the spring season, the Panthers, now 6-0, stepped onto their home turf seeking to put their struggle at Somers two days earlier behind them. P'ville managed to win 10-7, but the teams were still tied at 6-6 late in the third quarter.

"That was a great perseverance type of game," said Panthers coach Chris Kear. "Today we just wanted to come out and play a cleaner game and move the ball and find the open man. I felt like on Thursday at Somers we were taking hasty shots and we weren't finding the most open guy for the best possible shot. So we talked about that in practice and I felt like today we really shared the ball a lot better."

Against the Foxes, Pleasantville needed over three minutes to get on the scoreboard first. Reda, right of the cage, took a pass from McDermott and finished a fast break on the Panthers' third possession of the game. But nearly midway through the opening period, Fox Lane was able to tie the contest as Dillon Morgan ran to his left and fired a lefty shot past the Panthers' Jack Fitzgerald.

Unfortunately for the Foxes, the goal by Morgan would be their last for a while. Daniele gave the Panthers the lead for good with 4:52 left in the first quarter after getting a pass from Howe, then weaving



Jake Bazyk of Fox Lane gets set to send a shot toward the cage vs. the host Panthers.

his way through traffic. A takeaway by Cullen Dell set up a McDermott goal with 3:25 to go and a big save by Fitzgerald ignited another break that ended with a McDermott missile winding up in the back of the net for a 4-1 Panther lead with 2:37 remaining in the first quarter.

Despite losing four of six faceoffs, the Foxes had their chances in the first quarter. But they never recovered after the late blitz by Pleasantville. McDermott scored his third goal just 41 seconds into the second quarter with the Panthers a man up. Fitzgerald soon started another break with a sparkling save and Howe finished it on the right doorstep.

"Yeah, he had some fantastic saves and then he got the outlets out right on the money, on the guy's stick," said Kear about his reliable senior goalie. "And then pushed transition. So that was defense to offense. He really sparked us."

The Panthers scored five more goals, three of them off the stick of Reda, over the final 5:19 of the second quarter to build a 12-1 cushion at halftime. At the break, the Fox coaches had little they could do but appeal to their players' pride.

"Yeah, it's a pride thing at that point," said Henley. "I mean, it's frustrating. We've been on this end in these type of games a while now with this same group



The Panthers' Brian Reda pleads for a call from the official during Saturday's lopsided win over visiting Fox Lane.

of guys. And it's not like they're not motivated and they don't work hard. So it gets frustrating. It's bigger than lacrosse at that time. It's pride. It's representing your families and how you finish and stuff.

"We preach that and try to get 'em up again," he added, "and I think they responded and came out well in the third. But, by then, the second quarter did us in there."

Pleasantville dominated possession for the first four minutes of the third quarter, but the Foxes finally ended the Panther 11-goal run when Jake Bazyk scored with 7:51 left in the period. Just 50 seconds later, though, P'ville's Justin Lupo scored the first goal of his varsity career to restore the Panthers' 11-goal margin.

Before the quarter ended, Howe provided his first goal of the game despite being knocked to the turf and McDermott added his fourth even though he wound up limping away once the ball sailed into the cage. Howe closed the day's scoring when he sent a one-hopper into the right side of the net just 20 seconds into the fourth quarter.

Despite the lopsided outcome, Kear conceded that the presence of Fox Lane's



Pleasantville senior Declan McDermott heads for the cage as Fox Lane's Dillon Morgan defends in the Panthers' 16-2 victory on Saturday afternoon.



Pleasantville's Justin Lupo is about to score his first varsity goal in the third quarter of Saturday's win over Fox Lane.

Syracuse-bound star, Matt Magnan, was a source of worry prior to the opening faceoff.

"We were very concerned about number 24," he said. "We just wanted to make sure we contained him because we knew if we held him in check we would have a great chance to win. We held him to one assist, which is pretty good."

With Magnan and the Foxes in their rear-view window, the Panthers now turn their attention to more challenges ahead.

"Still a lot of games left," said Kear, "and we hit a huge, tough stretch coming up here. We've got Rye, John Jay, Shoreham-Wading River, Farmingdale, Bronxville. So we have some really, really tough games ahead of us and there's no time to relax. We want to really keep on getting better."



Fox Lane's Matt Magnan is watched by Charlie McPhee of Pleasantville as he attempts to dodge his way to the cage in Saturday afternoon's game.



Fox Lane's Dillon Morgan protects the ball as he tries to run past Pleasantville's James Daniele in the first quarter of Saturday's game.



Pleasantville goalie Jack Fitzgerald is pressured behind the cage by Fox Lane's Everett Banks after making a save in Saturday's game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



## Panther Putdown



**Dylan Donnery Scores Four Goals  
in Westlake's 15-1 Rout of Ardsley  
on the Road Thursday Afternoon**