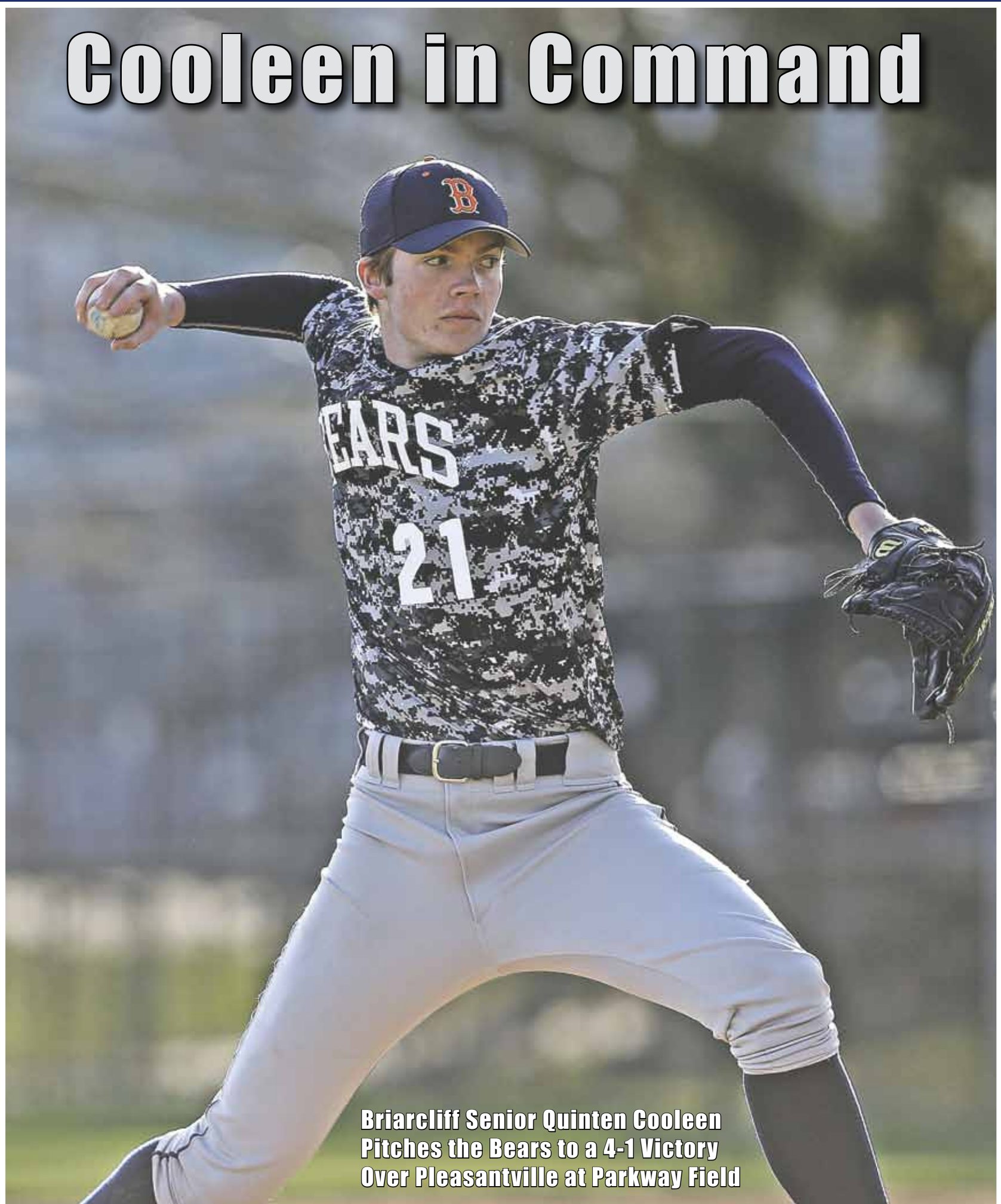


## Coolleen in Command



**Briarcliff Senior Quinten Coolleen  
Pitches the Bears to a 4-1 Victory  
Over Pleasantville at Parkway Field**



# Briarcliff Pulls Away in the Second Half to Rout the Tigers

By Andy Jacobs

Defense has been the name of the game for the Briarcliff boys' lacrosse team over the past couple of years. It took the Bears all the way to the Section One, Class C championship game a year ago and, according to head coach Al Meola, will probably determine whether they can make another appearance in the final a month from now.

"We're definitely a defensive-minded team," he was saying late Saturday afternoon, shortly after his Bears had kept Putnam Valley off the scoreboard in both the second and third quarters. "We are an all-defense-first program. That's all we talk about and work on it every single day."

The visiting Tigers got a good glimpse of Briarcliff's stinginess on the defensive end of the field right after tying the Bears at 2-2 late in the first quarter. Putnam Valley was held scoreless for more than 34 minutes and wound up yielding eight consecutive goals on the way to a 10-4 loss. Peter Olson scored four goals and assisted on three others as the Bears stretched their modest winning streak to three games and improved to 6-2 this season.

"We're still trying to find our identity," said Meola. "Today we broke out a little bit on offense, which was kind of nice. The boys needed that. We're trying to find that happy medium, get that balance between both sides of the ball."

Facing a Put Valley team that entered the game with a .500 record, the Bears jumped ahead just over three minutes in as Zach Vincent, who finished with three goals and two assists, picked up a loose ball and quickly fired a shot into the back of the net. Just 54 seconds later, though, the Tigers evened the contest with a goal from Joey Van de Veerdonk.

The Bears regained the lead with 5:02 remaining in the opening quarter as Cam Fash, on a break, found an open Olson running ahead of him and the senior attackman easily deposited the ball into the cage. But for the second straight time after a Briarcliff goal, the Tigers won the ensuing faceoff and converted to tie the game.

"That was just defense coming out flat today," said Meola about the two first-quarter goals by Putnam Valley. "Pretty uncommon for them. But they're human and they came out really flat. They weren't pinching in. Putnam Valley got some great looks inside. Hats off to them. They played really well. They came in with a great game plan against us."

But the goal by Charlie Broas with 3:26 left in the period turned out to be the last hurrah from the Tigers. With 1:08 left in the first quarter, Fash gave Briarcliff the lead for good, drilling a shot that seemed to be stopped at first but wound up trickling into the cage. Just 31 seconds later, another shot from Fash beat Tigers goalie Travis Anderson, enabling the Bears to take a 4-2 lead into the second quarter.

After six goals by the two teams in the first period, the second quarter turned into a defensive struggle. The Bears failed to build on their lead and walked off the field at halftime still ahead by a 4-2 margin.

"They had a nice zone, too, a real compact zone," said Meola about the Tigers. "We were all frustrated a little bit. So we had to change up our offense a little and just work on our zone offense."



Briarcliff's Zach Vincent tries to run past Kevin Gallo of Putnam Valley in Saturday's game, won by the host Bears.

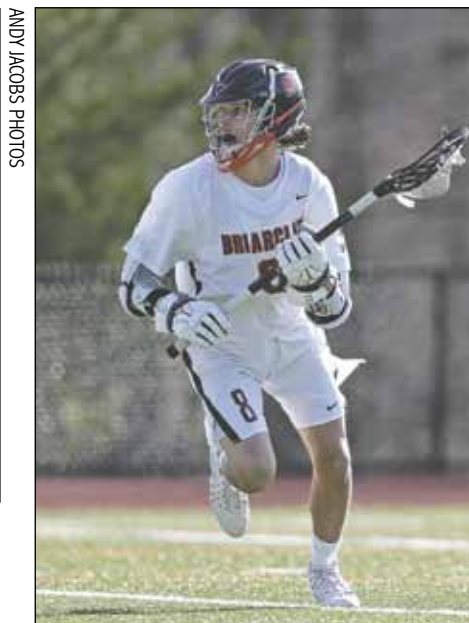
Find the right seams and try to move it quickly. That zone, they did a nice job."

Meola wouldn't have expected anything less from Putnam Valley under the tutelage of veteran Tim Weir, a coach he once upon a time played for as a member of the Lakeland/Panas Rebels.

"A great coach. I have a high admiration for him," said Meola. "So I knew it was gonna be a tough game. It wasn't gonna be easy, for sure."

The third quarter proceeded the way the second had until the Bears finally broke through late in the period. Olson converted for his second goal of the day with 93 seconds left in the quarter after taking a pass from Vincent, who was behind the cage. Then with only seven seconds to go, Vincent raced straight down the middle for another goal after a Briarcliff takeaway near midfield.

With a 6-2 cushion heading to the final quarter, the Bears quickly turned the game into a rout, scoring three times in the first four minutes of the period. Vincent started the offensive flurry with his third goal of the game two and a half minutes into the fourth quarter. Spencer Rockmore and Olson soon scored 16 seconds apart as Briarcliff's lead stretched to 9-2 with 8:10 left on the clock.



Briarcliff junior Spencer Rockmore runs with the ball behind the cage during Saturday's home game.

Nearly midway through the quarter, Olson provided the Bears' last goal of the day, skimming a shot along the turf past the Tigers' Anderson. Putnam Valley managed to score a pair of too little and too late goals in the game's final minutes to make the final score a bit more respectable.

"Obviously the sectional title, getting back to that game, is a huge goal for us this year," said Meola, whose team may be forced to play the rest of the way minus two of its top midfielders. Noah Benson is definitely through for the season after breaking his thumb and Waterhouse, just an eighth-grader, remains questionable after rolling his ankle.

So Meola has had to do some midseason improvising in their absence.

"We've played our last two games without our first-line middies, except Cam Fash," he said. "So the boys are stepping up. That's really nice to see."



The Bears' Michael Donoghue takes the ball across midfield in the third quarter of the 10-4 victory over visiting Putnam Valley.



The Bears' Camron Fash sets his sights on the back of the cage as he prepares to fire a shot in the win over Putnam Valley.



Peter Olson looks for shooting space in Briarcliff's 10-4 victory on Saturday. He scored four goals.



Briarcliff goalie Henry Anderson stopped 11 shots in Saturday afternoon's win over the Tigers.



# Cooleen's Arm and Bat Lift the Bears Over Pleasantville

By Danny Lopriore

Quinten Cooleen allowed one run over seven innings, laced two doubles and drove in a pair of runs to lead the visiting Briarcliff Bears baseball team to a 4-1 victory over Pleasantville at Parkway Field late Friday afternoon.

Cooleen, a tall righthander who bats lefthanded, struck out eight Panthers, walked none and allowed a single run in the sixth inning to earn the victory. He was helped out of a bases-loaded, no-out bind in the sixth when his shortstop, Jack Ryan, fielded a grounder up the middle, stepped on second base and fired to first for a double play.

"I try to keep the batters off balance because if they sit on a fastball they will be hitting all day," said Cooleen, who was wearing the white cowboy hat the Bears' players present to that day's star of the game. "They have guys who can hit. You just have to keep them guessing."

As for his own hitting prowess, Cooleen got his pitch and drove in two insurance runs in the sixth.

"I was just looking for my pitch to hit and I saw it the first pitch and took advantage," he said. "I hit it right on the screws and it flew."

Cooleen's catcher, Julian Matthews, praised his pitcher's ability to keep batters uncomfortable.

"His curveball was the best I've ever seen it," Matthews said. "It broke about a foot and a half. He had batters look silly up there. He hit his spots with his fastball. He did everything right out there. As for the cold, we are used to it. You want to make fewer mistakes and make plays and we did that."

The Bears, who topped the Panthers 15-2 at home last Wednesday as Noah Campo hit for the cycle and drove in six runs, completed a two-game series sweep of their league rivals to improve their record to 9-1. Pleasantville is now 8-2 after opening the season with eight straight wins.

Briarcliff took advantage of a wind-blown pop fly and two walks to score twice in the first inning without a hit. Ryan and second baseman Joe Scanga scored on a



Briarcliff's Quinten Cooleen delivers a pitch in Friday afternoon's 4-1 win over Pleasantville at Parkway Field.

fielder's choice and a throwing error for a 2-0 lead. Neither team would get a base hit until Cooleen hit the first of his two doubles in the fourth inning.

Pleasantville pitcher Brendan O'Neill matched Cooleen inning for inning and left in the fifth after allowing just two unearned runs on one hit.

"Brendan is our ace and has pitched great for us all year," Panthers' catcher Mike Matica said. "He was throwing strikes early. We made a couple of mistakes early that cost us. We really didn't attack and hit at all early. We have to start hitting again like we did early in the season. We have two games with Westlake next week, which is a big rival. We want to win every single game we play now."

The Panthers' offense stalled against Cooleen, who was perfect through three innings before Nick Salzarulo hit a two-out double in the fourth inning. Salzarulo was stranded on second. Trailing 4-0 in the bottom of the sixth, P'ville's Massimo Stinziani, Danny Keon and Danny



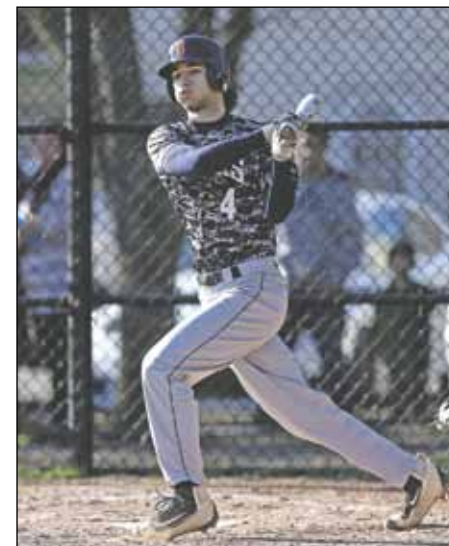
Briarcliff senior Joe Dunkleman races toward third base in Friday's win over Pleasantville.

Melillo opened the inning with three straight singles before Cooleen induced the double play turned by Ryan. Stinziani scored, but Salzarulo grounded out to end the inning.

"I was a little nervous there, I am not going to lie," said Cooleen. "I have a lot of faith that the guys behind me are going to get the job done and they did."

Briarcliff coach John Schrader said his team has gotten closer since last year's playoff loss to Croton and is focused on improving through the season. The Bears have now won eight in a row.

"You always try to get ahead early to take the lead," Schrader said. "Their kid pitched very well against us, so getting those early runs helped. We want to try to get better as individuals and as a team now. There were some sour grapes losing to Croton last year in the sectionals and in our second game this year, our first loss. I'm not saying losing is good, but I think it got us going."



The Bears' Noah Campo hits the ball down the left-field line vs. host Pleasantville in Friday's game. He hit for the cycle in last Wednesday's game against the Panthers.



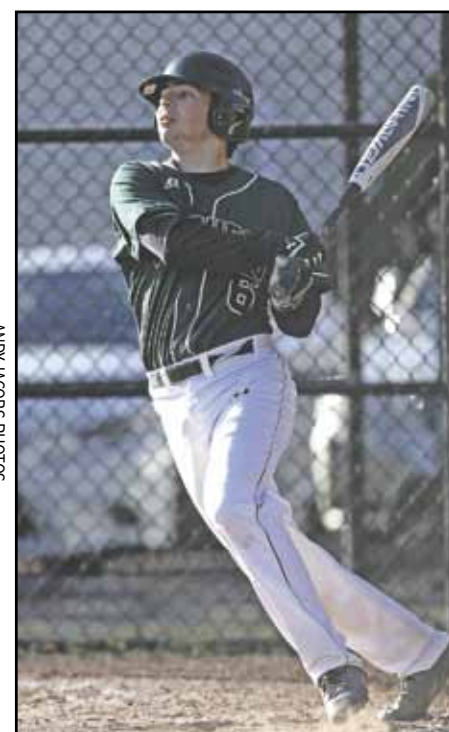
Pleasantville first baseman Justin Perlman stretches for the putout just in time to nip Briarcliff's Jack Ryan in Friday afternoon's game.



Pleasantville's Brendan O'Neill fires a pitch to the plate in Friday's game at Parkway Field.



Briarcliff baserunner Noah Campo is safe at second base as Pleasantville infielder Brendan O'Neill scoops the ball up off the dirt.



Massimo Stinziani of Pleasantville sends a pitch toward center field during Friday's home game vs. Briarcliff at Parkway Field.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

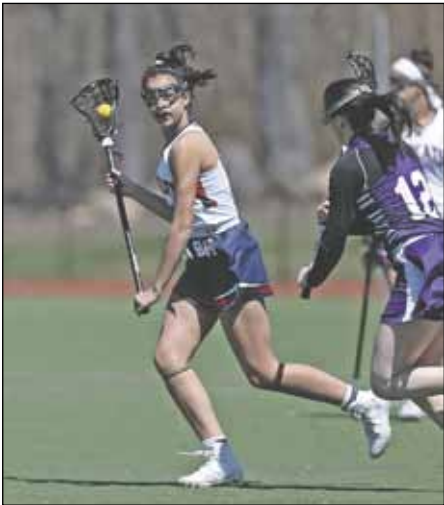




Horace Greeley's Hailey Rosenthal heads for the goal in the second half of last Thursday's road win over the Wappingers Warriors.



Valhalla's Marissa Serena hits the ball toward right field in the Vikings' road game vs. Westlake.



Lilly Ceisler of Byram Hills searches for an open teammate as she holds the ball in Saturday's win over New Rochelle.



Fox Lane's Isabel Abt passes the ball during the Foxes' 10-8 victory over Brewster.



Westlake's Daniella Mulvey awaits a pitch as she bats during last Wednesday's game against Valhalla.

# SPORTS SCENE



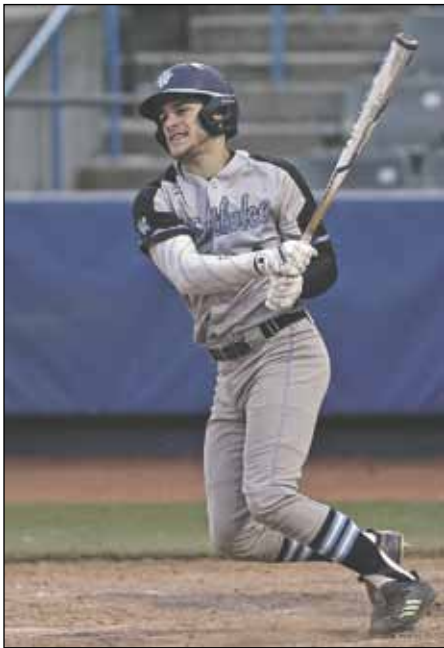
Westlake's Allison Brunetto delivers a pitch in the Wildcats' home win over Valhalla last Wednesday.



Lindsey Grotta of Byram Hills is closely guarded as she takes the ball up the field in the second half of Saturday's home victory.



Byram Hills' Kallie Hoffman goes on the attack in the second half of Saturday's 14-9 home victory over New Rochelle.



Westlake's Tommy Carpenter swings the bat in last Tuesday night's 14-1 win over Pawling at Dutchess Stadium.

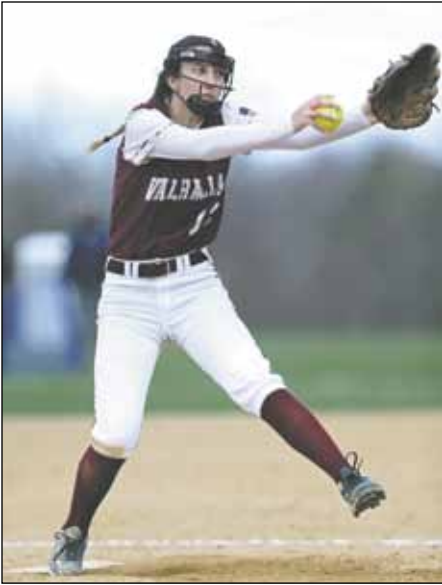


Vincent Spaziente watches the flight of the ball off his bat in last Tuesday night's Westlake victory over Pawling at Dutchess Stadium.



Fox Lane's Natalie Bazyk, who finished with four goals, moves the ball across the field in Saturday's 10-8 win over visiting Brewster.





Jillian Caldaro of Valhalla pitches during last Wednesday's game against host Westlake.



Westlake junior Mike Zulli runs the bases during the Wildcats' 14-1 romp over Pawling.



Tommy Iazzetta of Westlake pitches in last Tuesday evening's game vs. the Pawling Tigers at Dutchess Stadium.



Greeley junior Lily Ives controls the ball behind the cage late in last Thursday's road win over the combo team of Ketcham and John Jay.



Casey Wachtel of Greeley moves the ball up the right sideline during last week's victory over host Wappingers at John Jay High School.



Gianna New of Fox Lane has control of the ball in the first half of Saturday's home game vs. Brewster.



Horace Greeley junior midfielder Bella Arrese takes the ball across the field in the second half of last week's game vs. Wappingers.



Westlake third baseman Antonia Perino charges in for a bunt in last week's game vs. Valhalla, won by the Wildcats.



Valhalla's Kayla Greenberg keeps her eyes on the approaching pitch in last week's softball game at Westlake High School.



Westlake infielder James Stuetz fields a throw at second base as Pawling's Brian Beehler slides into the bag in last Tuesday's game, won by the Wildcats.



Taylor Duffy of Byram Hills gets ready to send a shot toward the cage in Saturday's Bobcat win over New Rochelle.



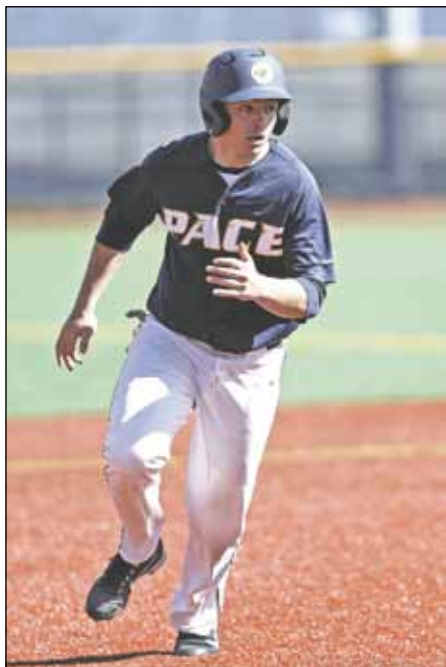
Tess Krensky of Fox Lane sets her sights on the cage in Saturday's victory over the Brewster Bears.



# *focus on* **Pace**



Pace second baseman Niyah Brown throws to first base to complete a double play in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader vs. Queens College.



Michael Barbato runs toward third base in the first inning of the Setters' 11-0 victory over Saint Rose that salvaged a split of Saturday's doubleheader.



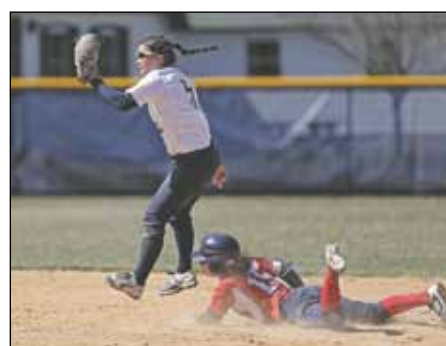
Pace senior Jaclyn Flores surrendered just two hits in the Setters' 5-2 win over Queens College in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader sweep.



The Setters' Thomas Ippolito earned his third win of the season, pitching five innings in the 11-0 win over Saint Rose in the nightcap of Saturday's doubleheader.



Pace senior midfielder Angela Kelly has control of the ball in the second quarter of Saturday's home game vs. SNHU.



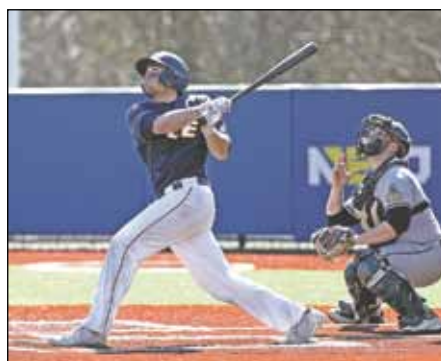
Shortstop Ashley Lew goes airborne to field a high throw to second base in Pace's doubleheader sweep on Saturday afternoon. The Setters, once 2-10 this season, are currently 20-19 and riding a five-game winning streak.



Pace University's Emma Norton makes her move toward the cage in the first half of Saturday's 20-10 victory over Southern New Hampshire.



The Setters' Stephanie Chadnick prepares to pass the ball up the field in the 20-10 home win on Saturday.



Pace senior Michael Gulino blasts a pitch toward center field during the Setters' home doubleheader on Saturday afternoon at Finnerty Field.



Pace University's Matt Almonte hits a first-inning single in Saturday's second game of the doubleheader vs. Saint Rose.



Juliana Marcolini of Pace gets control of the ball during the rout of visiting Southern New Hampshire. The Setters built a 15-2 halftime lead and coasted to a 20-10 win.



Pace outfielder Tara Bernstein takes a big swing during Saturday's doubleheader vs. visiting Queens College.





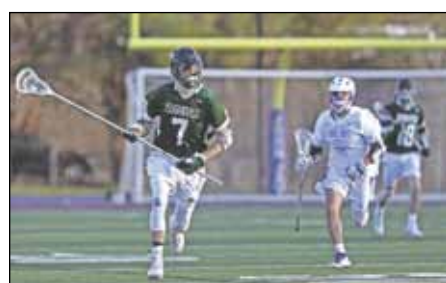
The Panthers' Declan McDermott races across the field with the ball in the first quarter of Saturday evening's game.



Brian Reda passes the ball from behind the cage during the first half vs. the host John Jay Indians.



Pleasantville's Pat Doherty gets ready to dodge his way toward the cage in Saturday's road game vs. John Jay.



Pleasantville defenseman Cullen Dell transitions to the offensive end of the field in the Panthers' 13-10 loss to the John Jay Indians on Saturday evening.

# CLASH OF THE TITANS

## Panthers and John Jay Battle Under the Lights for Lacrosse Supremacy



Jack Halloran of Pleasantville searches for open teammates as he controls the ball in Saturday night's game against Class B powerhouse John Jay.



The Panthers' James Daniele delivers a pass on the run in the second quarter vs. host John Jay.



Pleasantville's Jack Howe heads for the cage in the second quarter of Saturday's game, won by the host Indians, who overcame an early two-goal deficit in both halves.



At times on Saturday evening, Panthers such as Declan McDermott (3) and James Daniele were flying high in the showdown with John Jay.



Pleasantville coaches Chris Kear (kneeling) and Bob Kear watch from the sidelines as the Panthers battle at John Jay, a familiar place for both of them.



Like  
our  
**SPORTS  
PHOTOS?**

To purchase a digital file, email us at [photos@theexaminernews.com](mailto: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.



Attack Mode



Hailey Rosenthal Rushes to the Cage as Greeley Pulls Away Late in the Game to Defeat the Host Wappingers Warriors