

END OF THE RUN



**A Six-Game Winning Streak Ends
for Antonio Chousa and the Foxes
With a Loss Saturday at John Jay**

Westlake Comes From Behind to Beat the Panthers

By Danny Lopriore

Sal Nardone and Mike Mancuso each ripped run-producing hits in a four-run, third-inning outburst and starting pitcher Steve Donato earned a complete-game victory to lift Westlake to a 5-4 victory over visiting Pleasantville last Thursday afternoon.

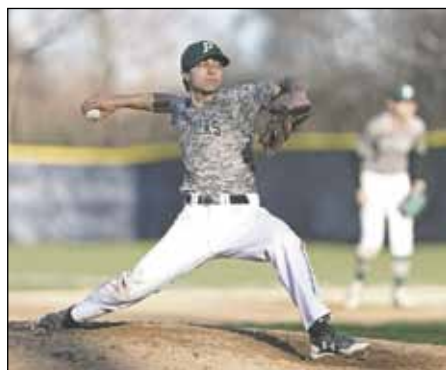
The Wildcats flipped Wednesday's 5-4 loss to the Panthers and snapped a three-game losing streak to lift their record to 5-4, while Pleasantville is now 10-3. The Panthers' other two losses came at the hands of Briarcliff last week.

Nardone's two-run double gave the Wildcats a 5-3 lead after Mancuso had tied the score at 3-3 with a single that drove in Tommy Carpenter. It was Carpenter who scored the Wildcats' first run in the first inning before the Panthers took a 3-1 lead in the top of the third inning. Center fielder Tommy Iazzetta went 2 for 3 and drove in two runs for the Wildcats.

"I was just looking to drive the ball the other way with guys on first and second," said Nardone, a big first baseman with power. "Their pitcher (Brendan O'Neill) was pitching well and had a good curveball. I got a good swing and it took off."

Donato, who allowed single runs to Pleasantville in each of the first three innings, didn't let his team down after they gave him the 5-3 lead.

"Our offense really picked me up after we've had trouble scoring the last few games," Donato said. "I try to hang in because I trust my teammates to make



The Panthers' Danny Melillo pitches in relief during Thursday's game at Westlake. He struck out all six batters he faced.

plays. We made some good plays today after we had the lead. I feed off the energy of the team."

Mancuso, the designated hitter for the day, said the Wildcats needed a big inning to help break out of an offensive lull over the last week.

"We had a few tough losses, so it was good to get those four runs and take the lead," Mancuso said. "I think we have guys who can hit up and down the lineup. We have to tighten up the defense and get the big hits like we did today."

O'Neill, the Pleasantville starter, handled the Westlake lineup fairly well aside from the game-changing third inning, striking out five and allowing five hits over four innings before giving way to reliever Danny Melillo.

Melillo was as perfect as a pitcher could be, striking out all six batters he faced in the fifth and sixth innings. He also had a pair of hits and scored a run.

Pleasantville scored in the fifth inning to close the deficit to 5-4 when Nick



Westlake junior Stephen Donato pitches in Thursday's home game vs. Pleasantville.

Salzarulo reached second on an error and later scored on an RBI single by Massimo Stinziani, who had a pair of hits in the game. Salzarulo also scored a run in the second inning on a hit by O'Neill.

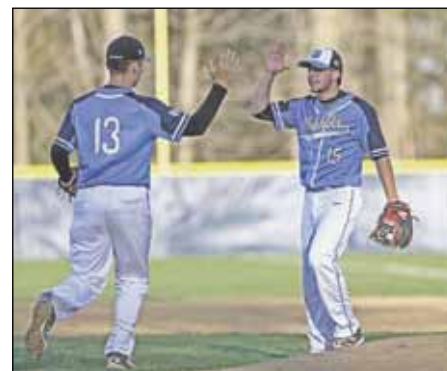
Westlake coach John Consorti was relieved to see a big inning and a win after his team had lost three close games over the last week.

"The kids needed a win after the tough losses to Valhalla and Pleasantville," Consorti said. "It's important to take advantage of guys on base and we got the big hits today. These games are all tight and you win when you make plays and limit mistakes. It was a good win."

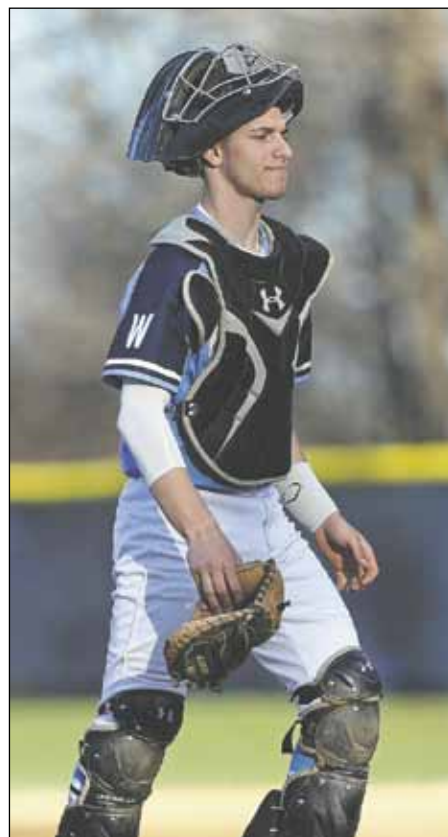
ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Pleasantville's John DiGilio awaits a pitch as he bats in the seventh inning of Thursday's game at Westlake.



Westlake's James Stuetz (left) and Stephen Donato exchange a high five after defeating visiting Pleasantville on Thursday afternoon.



Catcher Vincent Spaziant walks back toward the plate after a meeting on the mound in Westlake's 5-4 win over Pleasantville.



Westlake shortstop Tommy Carpenter chases after a pop fly in the Wildcats' 5-4 victory over Pleasantville.



Pleasantville head coach Dan Iorio chats with his team following last Thursday afternoon's game at Westlake High School.


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Fox Lane's Winning Streak is Stopped by the Indians

By Andy Jacobs

Everyone knows baseball can sometimes be a game of inches.

It sure turned out that way late Saturday afternoon as a red-hot Fox Lane team got an unfortunate reminder while playing in Lewisboro against the host John Jay Indians. A promising fifth-inning rally by the Foxes was thwarted by the call of an umpire that converted what would have been an Antonio Chousa double into a mere foul ball.

"It changed the complexion of the game," Fox Lane head coach Matt Hillis would say later about the ruling on the sizzling shot off the bat of his senior outfielder that wound up down the left-field line, seemingly putting two runners in scoring position with no outs and the Foxes trailing by just a run.

Instead, though, Chousa had to return to the batter's box and wound up flying out to deep center field. The Foxes were soon retired in the fifth without scoring and John Jay added an insurance run in the bottom of the inning en route to a 3-1 victory, snapping Fox Lane's winning streak at six games.

"It's hard to summarize this one, quite honestly," said Hillis, whose team lost for just the second time in nine outings this season. "The errors were definitely an issue. The walks were an issue. In the first two innings, the first inning and a third actually, we had walked three guys and hit three guys. So certainly not the recipe for success."

Facing an Indian team struggling with a 4-7 record at the start of the day, the Foxes had to like their chances of extending their early-season winning streak, especially since senior right-hander Joe Nuzzi, still unbeaten in his varsity pitching career, was getting the start. He came into the game already 2-0 this year with a dazzling 0.30 earned run average.

But shortly after Fox Lane stranded two runners in the top of the first inning, it became apparent Nuzzi didn't have his normal command. He hit the first two batters he faced, induced Brett Paulsen



Fox Lane starting pitcher Joe Nuzzi delivers to the plate in the 3-1 loss to the host John Jay Indians.

to bounce into a double play, then walked Greg Patti. The John Jay threat ended, though, as Stephen Fisher fouled out to third.

In the bottom of the second, Nuzzi plunked his third Indian, leadoff batter Cole Borowitz. Two more walks, sandwiched around a strikeout, left the bases loaded and Hillis out of patience. John Alley took over on the mound for Nuzzi and immediately surrendered a sacrifice fly on a liner to left by Chris Orifici that gave John Jay an early 1-0 lead.

The Foxes tied the game in the top of the third as Chousa reached on a one-out walk, stole second and continued onto third on the catcher's overthrow before scoring one batter later on Thomas O'Sullivan's infield hit. Ethan Gabor followed by lining a single to left field, but Jay right-hander Ryan Bryggman avoided further trouble with a big strikeout.

John Jay scored what proved to be the winning run in the bottom of the third inning. Leadoff batter Paulsen singled past third, then moved to second base on a wild pickoff throw. He easily scored on a booming double to left by cleanup hitter Greg Patti.

Both teams were retired in order in the



Fox Lane relief pitcher John Alley gave up just two hits in four and two-thirds innings of work on Saturday against the host Indians.

fourth inning, but in the top of the fifth it appeared the Foxes were ready to pounce. Dean Massari reached on an error and then Chousa seemingly came through with the extra-base hit that would have had Fox Lane primed to take the lead. "It looked fair to me," said Hillis. But the home-plate umpire disagreed and a Fox rally never happened because Chousa instead flied out, Massari was picked off first base and O'Sullivan's long fly to left was caught up against the fence.

The Indians, who only managed two hits all afternoon, scored an unearned run in the bottom of the fifth to build a 3-1 lead. Joe Biancone led off with a walk, moved to second on a ground ball, then to third on another. He scored when Fisher's grounder to third led to a wide throw to first base.

Bryggman finally relinquished the Jay pitching chores after scattering four hits in six innings.

"With that kid on the mound, John Jay Cross River will compete with anybody," said an impressed Hillis. "He is a legit pitcher. They're certainly not an under .500 team with him on the mound, that's for sure."



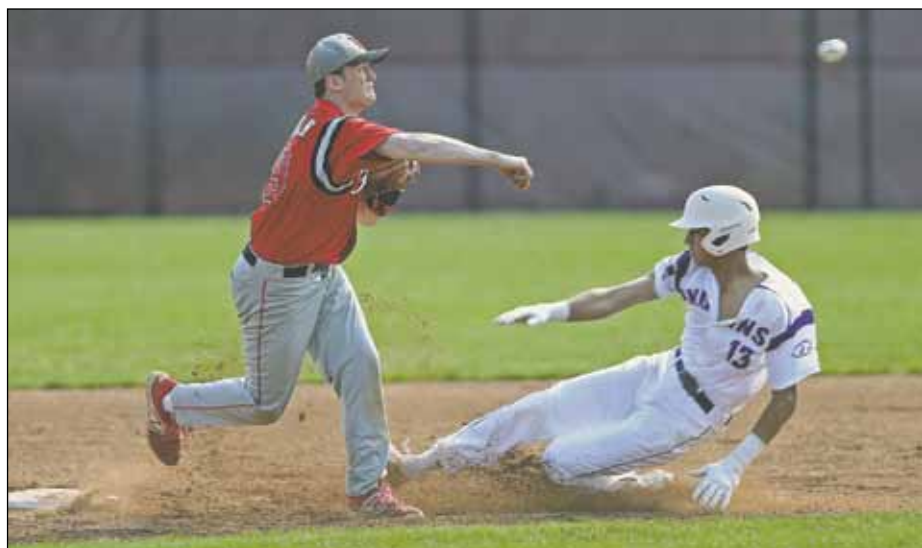
The Foxes' Justin Reeves hits the ball toward third base in the second inning of Saturday's game.

Biancone took over for the Indians to start the seventh and after two quick outs, both Massari and Chousa reached on walks, setting the stage for Fox Lane's star catcher, Henry Davis, who entered the contest with 12 hits in 23 at-bats this season, along with a team-leading 15 RBIs.

"The two kids battled to get on base," said Hillis, "and we'll take our chances with Henry."

But the game ended with Davis lofting a high fly to right-center field that was gobbled up by Borowitz. For the first time in three and a half weeks, the Foxes were left to ponder a defeat. According to Hillis, the team's formula for success in the month of April went missing against the Indians.

"Well, it's been the complete opposite of what you saw today," he said. "Our pitchers have worked ahead of hitters the entire year and the balls we've hit hard have dropped, and today they didn't."



Fox Lane shortstop Thomas O'Sullivan turns a first-inning double play in Saturday afternoon's game at John Jay.



Dean Massari of Fox Lane runs to third base after teammate Antonio Chousa hit a liner down the left-field line in the fifth inning. He had to return to first when the umpire ruled the ball landed in foul territory.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Horace Greeley infielder Greg Murray can't quite reach the bouncing ball as it heads toward right field for a hit during Saturday morning's game at Roy C. Ketcham. An 11-run first-inning by the host Indians doomed the Quakers.



Kathryn Finnegan of Pleasantville makes her move to the cage as Valhalla's Sabrina Tenezaca tries to slow her down in Thursday afternoon's game.



Brian Reda of Pleasantville is about to score one of his five goals in last Thursday's 16-11 victory over Lakeland/Panas.



Fox Lane's Jacob Payson takes the ball toward midfield during Saturday night's game vs. the John Jay Indians.



Pleasantville's Lauren Drillock heads toward the cage early in the second half of Thursday's game at Valhalla.



Pleasantville's Justin Lupo has plenty of room to run as he takes the ball toward the cage in the Panthers' 16-11 win over Lakeland/Panas.



Greeley senior Eli Thaler delivers a pitch to the plate in the first inning of the Quakers' game at Ketcham on Saturday morning.



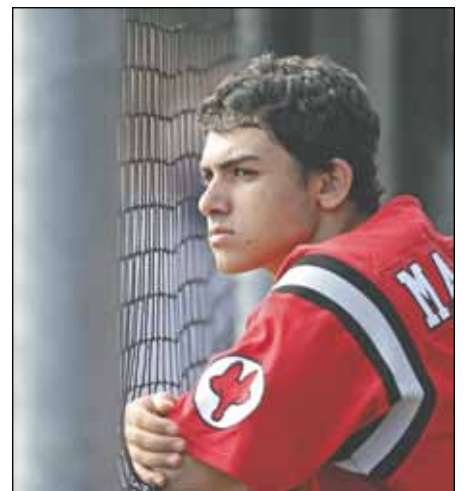
Fox Lane's Joe Rozgonyi takes the ball up the field in the opening quarter of Saturday's game at John Jay High School.



Pleasantville's Grace Capko tries to run past Gwen Lilcika of Valhalla in the Panthers' road win last week.



Ryan Bernstein of Byram Hills concentrates on a forehand as he plays a third-singles match vs. host John Jay this past weekend.



Fox Lane's Dean Massari watches from the dugout as the Foxes play against host John Jay on Saturday.



Byram Hills' Shea Gordon gets set to crush a forehand return in his match at second singles on Saturday at John Jay in Cross River.



Pleasantville's Justin Lupo (left) and Jack Howe (center) congratulate Jake Coleman after he scored a first-quarter goal in Thursday's game.



Greeley shortstop Jacob Small tracks a pop fly during Saturday's road game vs. Ketcham.



Pleasantville senior Declan McDermott turns on the speed as he heads for the cage in the first quarter vs. the visiting Lakeland/Panas Rebels.



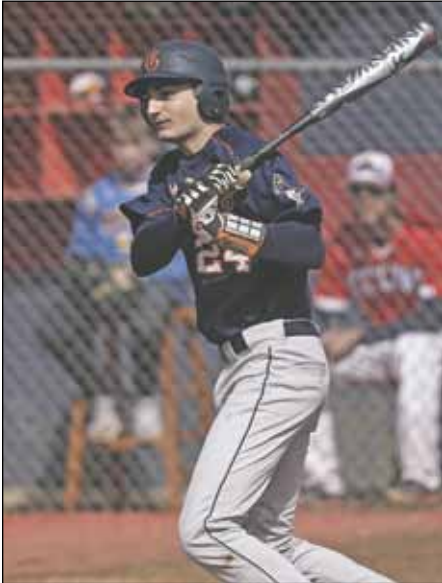
Matthew Fink of Byram Hills hits a backhand during his 4-6, 6-2, 10-5 victory at first singles against host John Jay on Saturday.



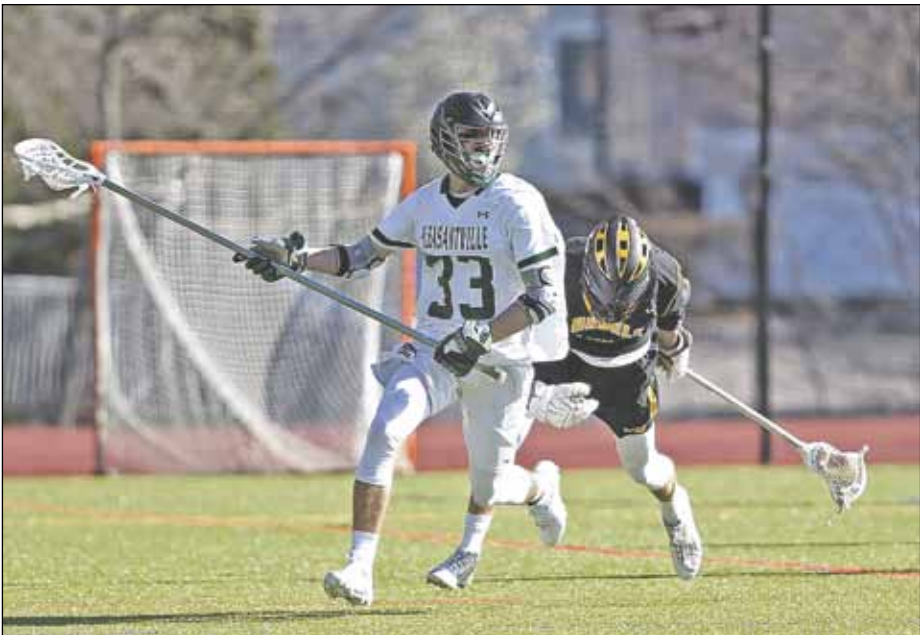
Fox Lane's Everett Banks controls the ball behind the cage in Saturday evening's game vs. host John Jay.



Dillon Morgan of Fox Lane moves the ball up the field in the second quarter of Saturday's game at John Jay (Cross River).



Alek Kevorkian of Greeley swings the bat in the first inning of Saturday's game vs. RCK.

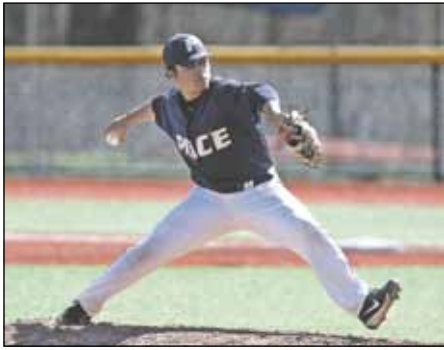


Jack Mueller of Pleasantville begins a Panther break as he moves toward midfield in the second quarter of Thursday afternoon's home win.



Katherine Guttridge of Pleasantville is defended by Valhalla's Shannon Brosnan during last Thursday's game, won by the visiting Panthers.

focus on **Pace**



The Setters' Lorenzo Russo pitches in relief during Thursday's game vs. Adelphi at Finnerty Field.



Courtney Pabst goes on attack in the first half vs. Franklin Pierce. She wound up with three goals, including the 100th of her Setter career.



Pace junior Michael Barbato hits a fly ball to center field in last week's home game vs. Adelphi.



Angela Kelly passes the ball during Pace's school-record 26 goal onslaught vs. Franklin Pierce.



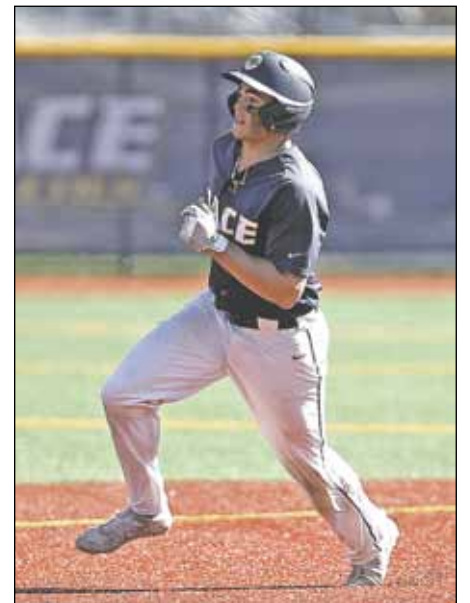
Pace's Harrison Treble runs the bases in the third inning of Thursday's home game.



Stephanie Chadnick finished with four goals in Pace's 26-16 victory on Saturday.



The Setters' Emily Ankabrandt moves the ball up the field in the first half of Saturday's game.



Michael Gulino runs toward second base in Thursday's game. He hit a two-run homer in the seventh, but the Setters lost 6-5.



Casey Gelderman scored seven goals and assisted on two others as Pace routed Franklin Pierce on Saturday afternoon.



Michael Salmonese lines a pitch foul down the left-field line in the Setters' game vs. visiting Adelphi.



Pace senior Abby Haimson heads for the cage during Saturday's 26-16 victory over visiting Franklin Pierce.

Panther Softball Team Loses To Putnam Valley

By Danny Lopriore

Putnam Valley freshman righthander Emily McKenna struck out 13 batters and the Tigers' offense took advantage of an injury to Pleasantville starter Briana Tucci in a 6-0 victory over the Panthers on Saturday.

The Tigers, who scored single runs in the first, third and fourth innings to open a 3-0 lead, upped their record to 7-3 with the win. The Panthers fell to 6-5 at the midway point of the season.

"I have been striking out about 12 or 13 a game so far this season, so I try to stay in the strike zone and then I know my fielders will make the plays if they hit the ball," McKenna said. "My pitches had good movement. We've been playing well all season and getting experience."

While McKenna was moving through the Panthers' lineup, Tucci allowed just two runs before taking a line drive to the upper part of her left leg in the third inning. The senior righthander was stunned and tried to laugh through the pain, but was hampered through the fifth inning before leaving the mound. Tucci struck out seven and allowed six hits and two earned runs.

"It really hurt a lot, but I tried to get through it by laughing it off," Tucci said.



The Panthers' Bridget Giglio awaits a chance to make a play at shortstop in the sixth inning of Saturday's game.

"It helps having (catcher Rachel Brody) back there because she has experience. It was tough to make pitches, everything, after I got hit. We'd like to win a few more games. I'll be okay in a few days."

Freshman shortstop Frankie Reyes went 3 for 3 with a double and two runs batted in to lead the Tigers' offense. She attributed the youthful success of the



Jackie Sicignano delivers a pitch to the plate in Pleasantville's home game on Saturday.

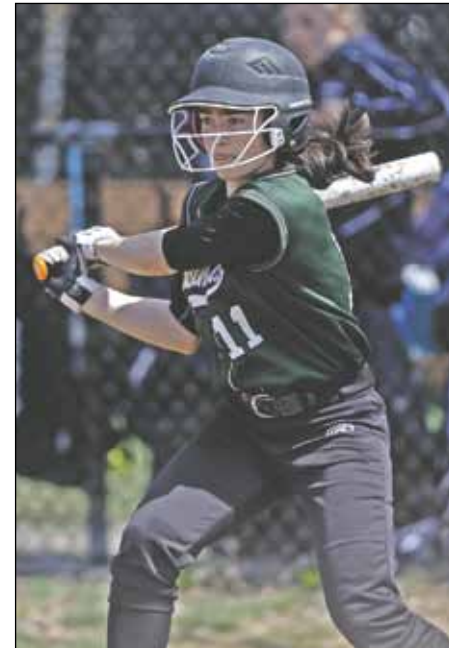
Tigers to good sports foundations.

"In the beginning of the season, I didn't have the confidence I have now," said Reyes, who is also a pitcher. "My dad plays and we're a sports family, so I guess I get it from them. We have good young players, but we're learning a lot and winning."

Brody, a Pleasantville senior, was the defensive star of the game, making two outstanding catches, diving headfirst from behind the plate for two big outs with runners on base.

"We need to hit the ball a little more and get a few runs earlier in the game," Brody said. "But we have a great group of girls and we're a young team, with a couple of freshmen and sophomores. We want to try to limit mistakes, play as a team and have fun while we win some more games. It's just great to be out here working as a team and playing as a team. We're going to get better each game."

Freshman outfielder Mary Grace O'Neill had two hits and junior Jackie Sicignano added a hit for the Panthers in addition to taking over the mound chores from Tucci. The Panthers will try to get back on the winning track this week when they travel to Croton on Wednesday before hosting Briarcliff on Friday



Panther freshman Mary Grace O'Neill hits the ball to the opposite field vs. the visiting Putnam Valley Tigers.



Pleasantville's Chloe Pagnozzi hits the ball foul down the first-base line as she bats during the Panthers' game vs. Putnam Valley.



Pleasantville senior Briana Tucci pitches during Saturday's home game against Putnam Valley.



The Panthers' Jackie Sicignano runs the bases vs. the visiting Putnam Valley Tigers.



Sarah Whynott of Pleasantville watches a pitch go by while batting in the seventh inning of Saturday's home game.

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Rebel Rousers

**James Daniele Celebrates a Goal
During Pleasantville's 16-11 Victory
Over Lakeland/Panas on Thursday
in a Clash of Sectional Champions**