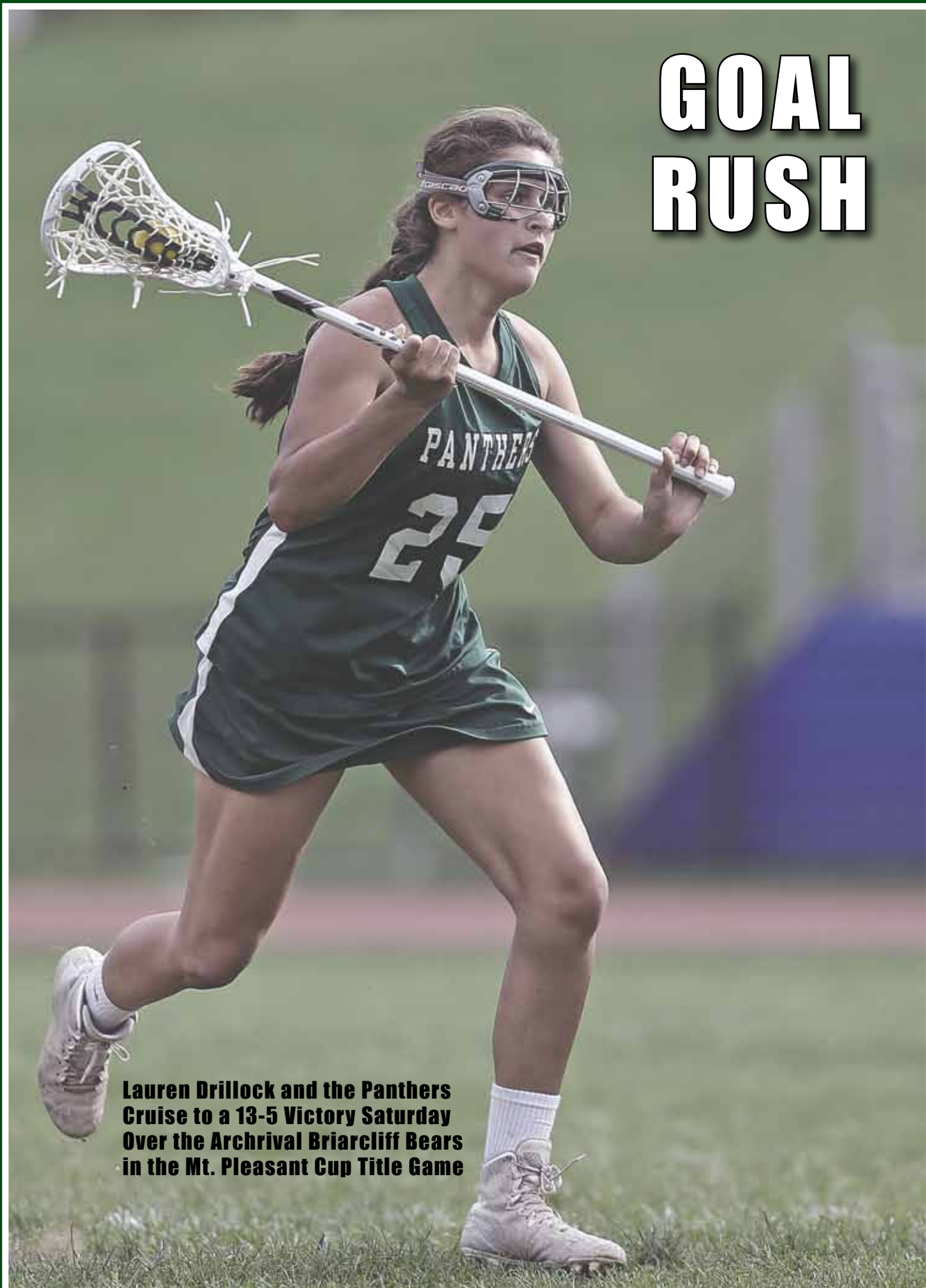


GOAL RUSH



**Lauren Drillock and the Panthers
Cruise to a 13-5 Victory Saturday
Over the Archrival Briarcliff Bears
in the Mt. Pleasant Cup Title Game**

Lichtenberger Pitches the Foxes to a Win Over Greeley

By Danny Lopriore

Two dozen professional baseball scouts and a large crowd of fans from both schools were on hand to see Horace Greeley pitcher Brandon Neeck and Fox Lane catcher and batting star Henry Davis face off last Thursday, but it was Fox Lane sophomore righthander Matt Lichtenberger who stole the show.

Lichtenberger allowed just one run and four hits over six innings to best Neeck, a pro prospect and University of Virginia signee, who took the loss. The Foxes, who defeated Greeley 9-8 in a thriller last Tuesday, swept the two-game season series with 6-1 victory and remained undefeated in league play with an overall record of 9-2.

"I used a fastball and curveball mostly," Lichtenberg said. "My changeup wasn't as good, but I made some good pitches. I tried to stay focused on my job and knew the guys would score runs for me. I try not to let things distract me. Henry's (Davis) home run got us going."

Fox Lane coach Matt Hillis was most impressed with his young pitcher's poise with all the attention and speed guns pointed at Davis and Neeck.

"The atmosphere was difficult, No. 1, (Lichtenberg) fell behind on a lot of hitters, No. 2, and No. 3, he is a sophomore," Hillis said. "Then, you have 18 scouts here. He maintained his composure, kept getting outs and kept us in the ball game."

Neeck, who faced each batter with a swarm of scouts armed with speed guns behind the chain-link backstop, nursed a one-run lead into the fourth inning before Davis cracked a long line-drive home run over the left-field fence to tie the score at 1-1. Second baseman Justin Reeves drove in left fielder Ethan Gabor with what would prove to be the winning run later in the fourth.

"To be super honest, we're down here



Fox Lane sophomore Matt Lichtenberger pitched six strong innings to earn the victory in the Foxes' 6-1 triumph over Greeley.

working our butts off on practice days, working on what our approach is going to be how we mentally approach at-bats," Hillis said. "We have a kid like Neeck, we prepare by throwing super hard out of our pitching machine and two of us are lefties on the staff, so we throw hard and ask the kids to lock down on a fastball. When they put in another pitcher, we have to adjust to that speed, and we did that well."

Davis, who is signed to attend the University of Louisville in the fall, changed the flow of the game when he



Horace Greeley's Tyler Rosenberg hangs onto second base as Fox Lane shortstop Marvin Pineda applies a late tag during last week's game in Bedford.



Greeley's Andrew Hildenbrand puts on the brakes after rounding first base on a single in last Thursday's game at Fox Lane.

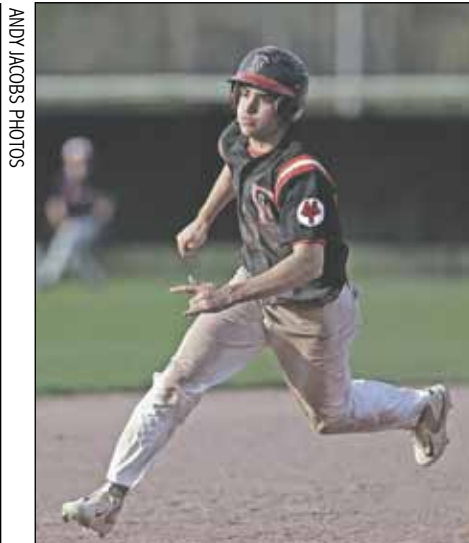


Adam Neuberger of Greeley swings the bat during Thursday afternoon's game against host Fox Lane.

caught his "best friend's" slider for the game-tying home run. The senior right-handed hitter smacked two home runs in Tuesday's 9-8 win.

"He threw me about five sliders in a row and I got that one," said Davis, who struck out in his first at-bat. "(Neeck) is stone cold on the mound and has no emotion. We're best friends. You can't phase him. No matter what happened on the previous at-bat, he's going to come at you. Adding on a run was big. When we stay in our approach, we can be tough."

Neeck struck out eight and allowed two runs on four hits over five innings. The Quakers opened the scoring in the first inning when Alek Kevorkian walked and later scored on a single by catcher Nate Jbara. Lichtenberg locked down the



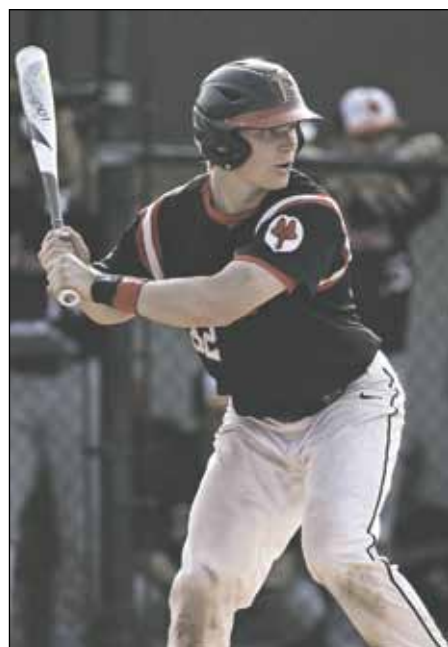
Ethan Gabor of Fox Lane runs the bases in the 6-1 win over visiting Greeley.

Quakers over the next five innings.

Designated hitter Tom O'Sullivan stroked a two-run triple to key a four-run sixth inning as the Foxes opened a 6-1 lead. Reliever Nick Giattino, another sophomore, pitched a scoreless seventh inning to close out the Quakers.

"Coach Hillis on third base literally gave me the signs and said, 'Hit it that way,' and I stayed back and drove it to right-center," O'Sullivan said. "You have to look away against a hard thrower like Neeck and make contact and it worked out for us. I didn't need to slide, but I did. We try to be aggressive, steal bases and make things happen."

Senior center fielder Antonio Chousa had two hits and Gabor and senior shortstop Marvin Pineda each drove in a run in the sixth inning for the Foxes.



Fox Lane standout Henry Davis awaits a pitch in last Thursday's home game vs. Greeley.



Fox Lane second baseman Justin Reeves puts a tag on Greeley's Alek Kevorkian as shortstop Marvin Pineda looks on during last Thursday's game.

Panthers Rout Briarcliff in the Mt. Pleasant Cup Final

By Andy Jacobs

Sports fans looking for suspense-filled finishes on Saturday would've been in luck tuning into either one of the NBA's Eastern Conference playoff games or the 144th Run for the Roses at Churchill Downs.

But they wouldn't have found much drama by showing up at Westlake High School.

That's where the Pleasantville girls' lacrosse team scored three straight early goals on the way to a 13-5 rout of Briarcliff in the championship game of the 2018 Mt. Pleasant Cup. Kathryn Finnegan scored five goals, Grace Capko and Lauren Drillock each finished with three and tourney MVP Jess Mullane made six saves guarding the cage as the Panthers, now 10-2 this season, won in convincing fashion over their biggest rival.

"Coming off a win against a great Putnam Valley team and to be able to beat Briarcliff, a rival, keeps everything going for us right now," said Panther first-year head coach Jaime Williams afterwards. "We're hoping we can kind of take what we've done in the past couple of weeks of games and keep going with it."

On an overcast, breezy afternoon, it didn't take very long for the Panthers to gain the upper hand. They won the opening draw and Capko ran straight down the middle of the field to fire in her first goal just 16 seconds into the game. Less than two minutes later, Drillock took a pass from Katherine Guttridge and converted from point-blank range to give Pleasantville a 2-0 lead. The Panthers' margin grew to three goals less than four minutes in when Drillock scored on a free-position opportunity.

"Yeah, it didn't help going down 3-0," said Briarcliff assistant Dan Perito, speaking on behalf of head coach Jess McDonough, who was too dismayed to chat after her Bears dropped to 6-8 with the lopsided loss. "Then we got a goal and we were able to start to settle in. Turnovers did not help. I mean, first half, second half, we had way too many turnovers for us to be effective offensively and keep them from having chances on offense."

Nearly five minutes into the contest,



Pleasantville's Kathryn Finnegan races toward the cage in Saturday's Mt. Pleasant Cup final vs. Briarcliff. She scored a game-high five goals.

the Bears scored for the first time, cutting Pleasantville's lead to 3-1 as Sam Kilman received a pass from Kelly O'Donnell and placed the ball past Mullane from the right doorstep. Less than a minute later, though, the Panthers regained their three-goal cushion with Grace Hammond finishing on a break caused by a Briarcliff turnover.

The Bears soon provided another hint that the game might be competitive after all, with O'Donnell, a junior midfielder, running through a trio of P'ville defenders before firing a lefty shot past Mullane to move Briarcliff within 4-2 with 17:15 left in the first half.

But that was as close as the Bears would get the rest of the way. Pleasantville outscored them 4-1 over the final 16 and a half minutes of the opening half to



Sam Kilman of Briarcliff controls the ball during Saturday's game against Pleasantville.



Pleasantville freshman Grace Capko takes the ball across the field in the championship game of the Mt. Pleasant Cup. She scored three goals.

build an 8-3 advantage at intermission. Finnegan had two of the Panther goals, the first one coming on a nifty spin to the right that set up her shot from just left of the cage.

"To get out early was huge for us," said Williams. "I told 'em coming into this game to come out with momentum right off the bat and try and maintain that the whole game."

According to Perito, the Panthers' 8-3 halftime lead wasn't insurmountable for the Bears.

"It's only five goals," he said. "We've come from behind a bunch of times this year. We've had a lot of close games where we've come from behind. So we knew that it was within us. We just had to play better and execute. We did it in spurts, but not enough."

Any chance of another Briarcliff comeback seemed to vanish soon after an apparent goal by Kilman 90 seconds into the second half was waved off by an infraction. A turnover by the Bears then led to Finnegan's fourth goal of the day that gave Pleasantville a 9-3 lead with 20:12 remaining. Just 48 seconds later, a shot from Capko trickled past freshman goalie Charlotte Baer and it was apparent the Bears would have to wait until at least next year to hoist the title trophy.

The Panthers answered a goal by Briarcliff's O'Donnell with three more of



The Panthers' Lauren Drillock is poised to fire a shot on goal in the 13-5 victory over Briarcliff.



Briarcliff junior Ashley Goldstein gets set to send a shot toward the cage in the title game of the 2018 Mt. Pleasant Cup.

their own, starting with one from Drillock following a midfield defensive takeaway. A goal by Paige Long and then Finnegan's fifth extended the Pleasantville lead to 13-4 before Camryn Cohen concluded the day's scoring with a goal for the Bears with just 33 seconds remaining.

"Being this is my first year here, I hear about the rivalry from the girls," said Williams, who now has a much better idea what they were talking about. "The girls were definitely amped up for it. I'm happy for them that they got to experience this, but we've got some goals and other things. I said don't lose sight coming here and getting the victory. There are other things we want to do this year."

"We can play better, that's not our best effort," said the Bears' Perito. "They played better than us and they deserved to win. Mainly it was the start and then the turnovers that really hurt us."



Briarcliff's Julia Dalessandro is closely guarded by Pleasantville's Katie Keane in the second half of Saturday's Mt. Pleasant Cup final.



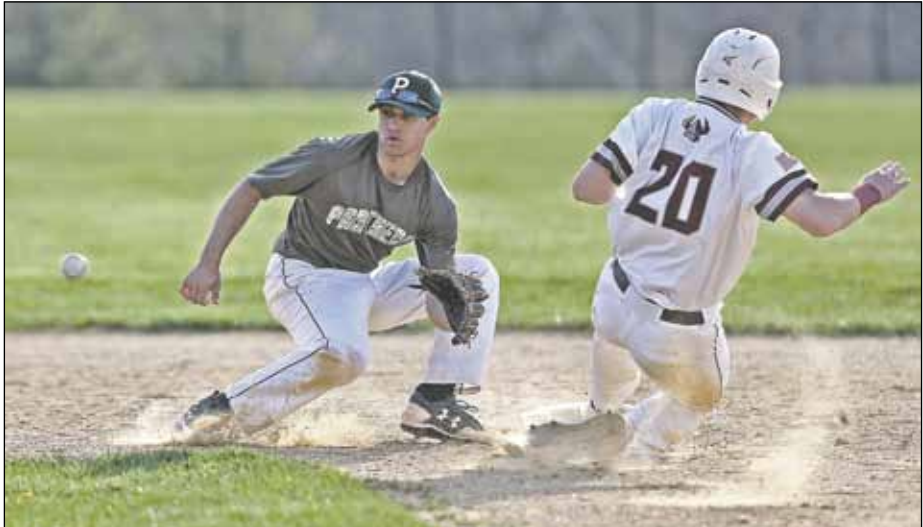
Maya Goldheim of Briarcliff wins the race for a ground ball during Saturday's Mt. Pleasant Cup championship game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

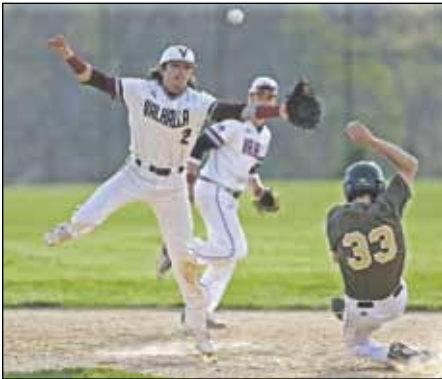
SPORTS SCENE



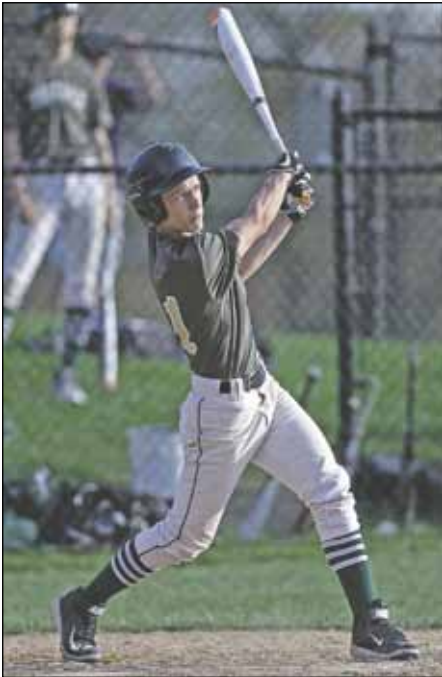
Fox Lane's Tess Krensky gets set to fire a shot as Greeley's Jessica Rosendorf defends in Thursday's game, won by the visiting Foxes.



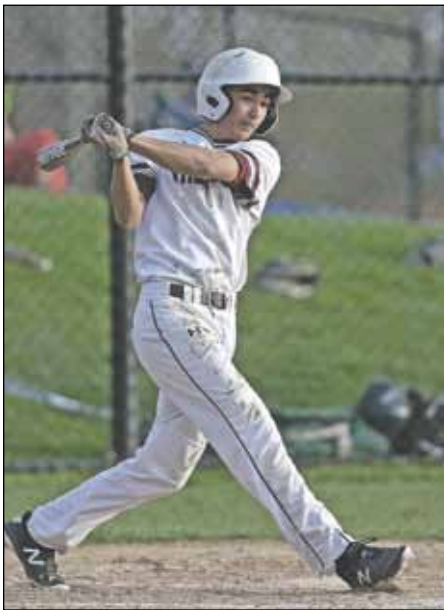
Pleasantville shortstop Danny Melillo waits for a late throw as Valhalla's Bryan Goodman slides into second base during last Wednesday's game.



Valhalla second baseman Justin Renauto reaches for a wide throw while Pleasantville's John DiGilio starts his slide into the bag in last Wednesday's game.



Pleasantville's Nick Satriale blasts a pitch toward center field in last Wednesday's game at Valhalla High School.



Valhalla's Brad Sasso rips a pitch down the right-field line in last week's 2-1 victory over Pleasantville.



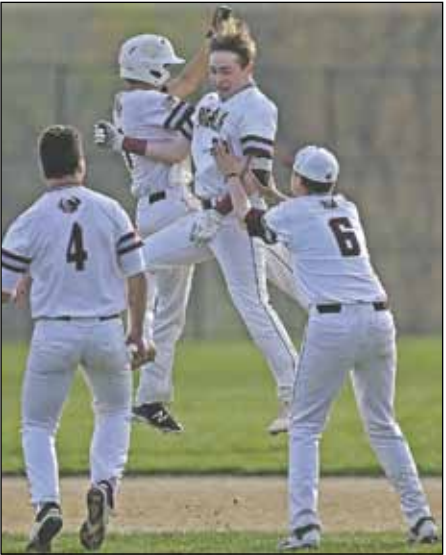
Callie Wortmann of Fox Lane tries to run past Horace Greeley's Bella Arrese during the Foxes' 10-9 victory last week.



Nikki Potter of Greeley races up the field with the ball during the Quakers' home game against Fox Lane.



Horace Greeley's Lily Ives prepares to send a shot toward the cage in the first half of last Thursday's game vs. visiting Fox Lane.



Valhalla's Bryan Goodman (second from right) is greeted by giddy teammates after he delivered the game-winning two-run double with two outs in the seventh inning vs. Pleasantville.



Greeley freshman Grace Arrese passes the ball in Thursday afternoon's game vs. Fox Lane.



Danny Keon of Pleasantville runs toward third base in the Panthers' game at Valhalla last week.



Lorraine DiSano of Byram Hills runs the bases in the Bobcats' home game vs. Pelham.



Horace Greeley standout Dylan Glickman lines up a forehand in his match at first singles last Wednesday afternoon vs. visiting Fox Lane.



Byram Hills first baseman Abby Siconolfi waits for a chance in the infield during last Tuesday's game vs. visiting Pelham.



Fox Lane first-singles player Sachin Ganesh moves forward to make a backhand return during his match vs. Greeley's Dylan Glickman last week.



Ken Dorazio of Fox Lane belts a forehand in his match at second singles last Wednesday at Horace Greeley.



Fox Lane's Jake Bazyk looks for shooting space in the Foxes' 11-7 win at Greeley last Wednesday.



Byram Hills infielder Skylar Sanders swings the bat in last Tuesday's game vs. the Pelicans.



Westlake's Vanessa Lembo searches for an open teammate as Valhalla's McKenzie Flaherty defends during Saturday's Mt. Pleasant Cup consolation game.



Horace Greeley junior Harris Allen sets his sights on the cage as he prepares to launch a shot in the Quakers' home game vs. Fox Lane last week.



Alexandra Howard of Westlake controls the ball in the second half of the Wildcats' 17-11 win over Valhalla on Saturday.



Zach Wallis of Greeley prepares to put away a forehand from well inside the baseline during a match at second singles vs. Fox Lane.



Everett Banks of Fox Lane tries to run past Greeley's Garrett Katchis behind the cage in the Foxes' 11-7 victory on Wednesday afternoon.



Westlake's Jack Simon scoops up a ground ball near midfield in the Wildcats' home loss to Hen Hud last Tuesday afternoon.



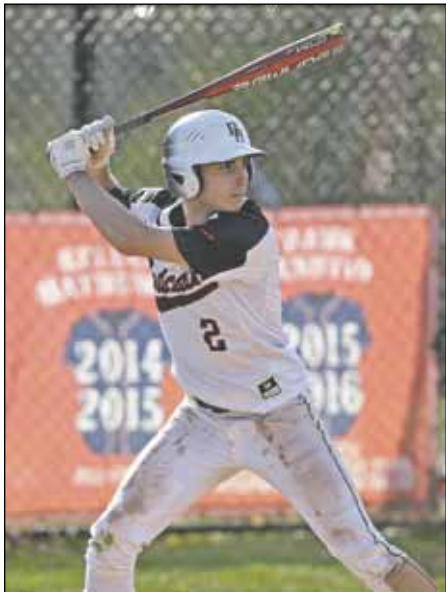
Byram Hills shortstop Gianluca Nelson tracks a pop fly during last Tuesday's win over Eastchester.



Juliana Colabatistto of Westlake moves past Valhalla's Shannon Brosnan in the second half of Saturday's Mt. Pleasant Cup consolation game.



Rob DiNota of Westlake protects the ball as he moves up the field in the second half of last week's game vs. Hendrick Hudson.



Daniel DiSano of Byram Hills bats during last week's home win over the Eastchester Eagles.



Westlake's Viktoria Hudd is guarded by Valhalla's Ana Pereira during Saturday afternoon's Mt. Pleasant Cup game.



Westlake's Nick Ryan guards the cage during the Wildcats' home game vs. Hen Hud last week.



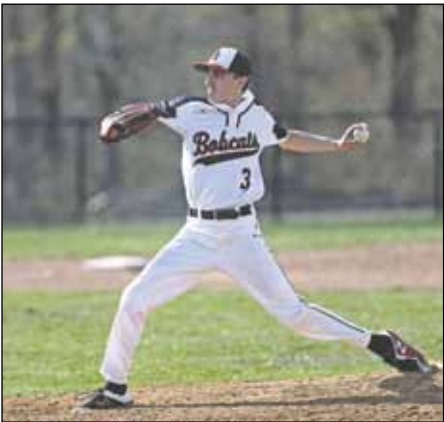
Westlake senior Jesi Oswald controls the ball in back of the cage as Valhalla's Ana Pereira tries to slow her down in Saturday's 17-11 Wildcat victory.



Emily Sardo of host Westlake is chased by a trio of Valhalla players in the second half of Saturday's consolation game of the 2018 Mt. Pleasant Cup.



Westlake's Ryan Hayes controls the ball behind the cage late in last Tuesday's home game against the Hendrick Hudson Sailors.



Byram Hills southpaw Ryan Steeg delivers a pitch in the Bobcats' 9-6 victory over visiting Eastchester last Tuesday.

SPORTS SCENE

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Pace shortstop Paul Piccolino applies a late tag as Molloy's Jake Saltzman steals second base in the seventh inning of Friday's game.



The Setters' Casey Gelderman moves the ball up the field in last Wednesday night's playoff win over Bentley.



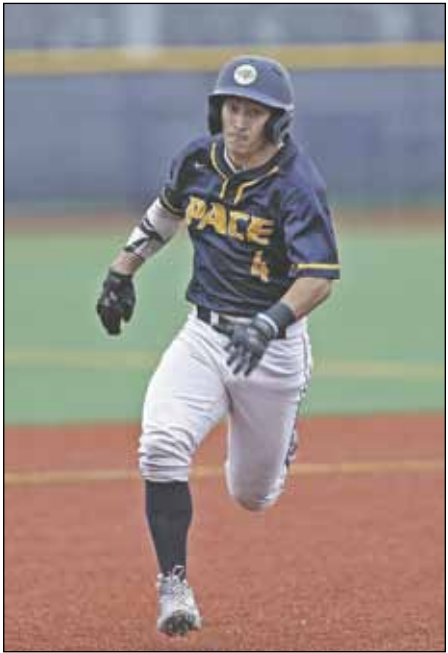
The Setters' Carlyn Mucci tries to get toward the cage during last Wednesday's playoff win over visiting Bentley at Pace Stadium.



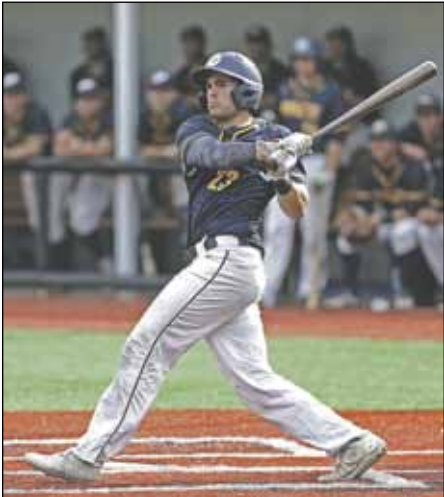
Abby Haimson dodges her way toward the cage in the second half of last week's NE-10 playoff win over Bentley, the first ever for the four-year-old Setter program.



Courtney Pabst looks for a scoring opportunity as she runs toward the cage in Pace's 18-10 opening-round win in the NE-10 playoffs.



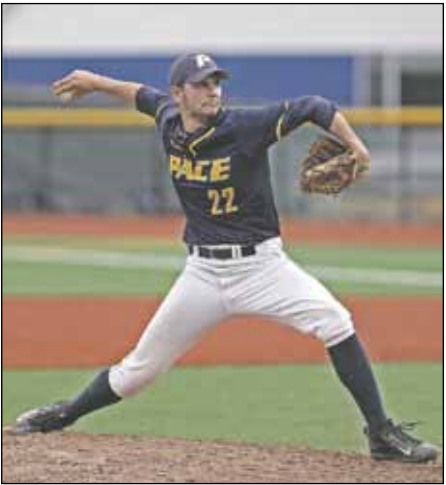
The Setters' Michael Salmonese races toward third base with a seventh-inning triple vs. visiting Molloy.



Pace University's Michael Gulino sends a pitch toward left-center field in the eighth inning of Friday's home game at Finnerty Field.



Angela Kelly, who scored six goals, heads for the cage in the second half of the Setters' first-ever playoff victory last Wednesday evening.



Setter right-hander Ryan Aquino pitched the first six innings of the home finale vs. Molloy on Friday afternoon.



Stephanie Chadnick of Pace sets her sights on the back of the cage as she prepares to fire a shot in the playoff victory vs. Bentley.



Pace first baseman Brian Bohlander stays ready during the Setters' 6-2 home loss to Molloy on Friday.

Baseline Ballet

Fox Lane Senior Sachin Ganesh Goes Airborne for a Backhand During His Match at First Singles vs. Horace Greeley Last Week

