

**FOUR
IN A
ROW**



**Brian Reda and the Panthers
Continue to Build a Dynasty
With a Victory Over Westlake
in the Class D Sectional Final**

Panthers Defeat Westlake in the Class D Championship Game

By Andy Jacobs

Just when it seemed the Pleasantville Panthers' three-year reign as sectional champions might be in danger of coming to an end, they decided it was time for a parade.

A parade of goals, that is.

The Panthers erupted for 10 goals in succession, obliterating a 5-4 deficit midway through the third quarter, and went on to a 14-6 rout of Westlake in the Section 1, Class D championship game at Lakeland High School on Wednesday evening. Jack Howe finished with four goals and Declan McDermott three, while Brian Reda, James Daniele and Jake Coleman added two each as Pleasantville punched its ticket once again into the state tournament.

"It's definitely extra special," said McDermott about winning another sectional title, this time as a senior. "But we're not done yet. The last three years, we lost in the state semifinal. We're gonna do our best to not let that happen again."

Pleasantville, winner of the last three Class C championships before moving down to D this season, found itself in the unfamiliar position of trailing after halftime when the Wildcats began the third quarter with three straight goals to erase a 4-2 deficit. Rob DiNota's goal with 6:02 remaining in the period capped the Westlake run and provided plenty of apprehension for the large Panther cheering section.

"I don't think there was any panic," said Panthers head coach Chris Kear about the deficit his team was suddenly facing. "We just had to get back to what we do well. We started to make some plays on the defensive end, got some turnovers. And once we get up the field in transition, we can make plays."

The Wildcats, defending Class D champs, held their third-quarter lead very briefly. Just 11 seconds after the DiNota goal, Reda, now the all-time leading goal scorer in Section 1 history, finished off a lightning-quick Panther break that began



Westlake defenseman Stephen Simone moves the ball up the field in last Wednesday's championship game.

with a scramble for the ball at midfield. His goal ended the Westlake run, tied the score and turned the momentum back to the Panthers.

"Really big," said Kear about the tying goal by Reda. "If I remember correctly, that was when Rob DiNota came out. He wasn't taking the faceoff and Garrett Carney came in and James Daniele came in and won a ground ball. That was a big ground ball that created transition and that swung the pendulum back the other way."

"Oh, that turned the entire game around," added McDermott, "not only for our team, but for our crowd. A lot of fans here from P'ville. And it just turned the entire game around."

A goal by McDermott, on a straightaway missile with 2:45 left in the third quarter, gave Pleasantville the lead for good. Coleman added another with just 12.7 seconds to go, enabling the Panthers to take a 7-5 advantage into the fourth quarter.

After a scoreless first couple of minutes in the final period, the Panther goal-scoring parade began in earnest. Howe



Pleasantville junior Jack Howe gets set to fire a shot in the Panthers' 14-6 win over Westlake in the Class D sectional final.

and Reda scored 27 seconds apart to stretch the Pleasantville lead to 9-5 with 9:28 remaining. Then Howe and Daniele provided two more goals just 10 seconds apart and suddenly the Panther margin was up to six with eight and a half minutes left on the clock.

"You know, I think we just sort of ran out of gas there," said Westlake coach Hunter Burnard. "We gave them our best shot, but ran out of gas in the fourth quarter. They're dangerous. If they can get going in transition, it's tough to stop 'em."

The overwhelmed Wildcats had to endure three more Pleasantville goals in the fourth quarter before Dylan Donnery finally ended the huge Panther run with his second goal of the night with 32.5 seconds remaining. Much earlier in the evening, though, Westlake had gotten off to a promising start with a goal by Ryan Donnery just over a minute after the opening faceoff.

Westlake's zone defense kept the Panthers off the scoreboard for the entire first quarter. A shot by McDermott found



Westlake's Rob DiNota is closely guarded by Pleasantville's Charlie McPhee in the sectional final last Wednesday evening.

the back of the cage just after the buzzer sounded and the Wildcats maintained their 1-0 edge until McDermott ran the length of the field to tie the game two minutes into the second period.

Just 12 seconds later, Howe tallied his

continued on next page



The triumphant Pleasantville Panthers celebrate after receiving their Class D championship plaque at Lakeland High School.



Pleasantville goalie Jack Fitzgerald outlets the ball in the second half of the Panthers' 14-6 championship win over Westlake.



A dejected Dylan Donnery awaits the final buzzer late in Westlake's 14-6 loss to Pleasantville in the Class D title game.



Westlake goalie Nick Ryan gets ready to clear the ball after making a save vs. Pleasantville.



Brian Reda of Pleasantville sets his sights on the cage in the second half of the Class D title game.



The Wildcats' Greg Cafaro finds some shooting space despite double coverage in the first half of last week's Class D championship game.

continued from previous page

first goal of the game after scooping up a ground ball on the faceoff. With 7:58 to go in the half, Daniele gave Pleasantville a 3-1 lead, depositing a rebound in a crowd in front of the crease past Wildcat goalie Nick Ryan. The Panthers' advantage grew even larger with 4:29 left as Patrick Doherty scored, assisted by Howe.

A dazzling goal by Dylan Donnery, running to his right and then tumbling to the turf as he sent a shot past Jack Fitzgerald, ended the nearly-20-minute scoring drought for the Wildcats with 3:45 left before halftime.

"Well, 4-2, we were in good shape," said the Wildcats' Burnard. "Two goals

to that team, we're in striking distance. So we were confident. We were where we needed to be and we felt good about holding them to four goals in one half. A big focus was stopping them in transition and not letting them run. I think we did that for about three quarters."

Westlake closed to within 4-3 just 35 seconds into the second half as Ryan Donnery converted with the Wildcats a man up. With 7:09 left in the quarter, Greg Cafaro tied the score from the left doorstep, faking once and then shooting high past Fitzgerald. Just over a minute later, DiNota provided the Wildcats with their brief second-half lead with the final goal of his spectacular varsity career.

But it proved to be the last highlight of

the night for DiNota and the Wildcats, who had no answers for the fourth-quarter Pleasantville explosion.

"I respect him as one of the most talented players in the section," said Kear about DiNota. "When you have a talented player offensively and defensively, and he wins faceoffs, it's gonna make you nervous. So that was part of our game plan. We had to really limit him, we had to make him work hard. I think we made him work hard enough that he was really tired by the end of the game."

"He's the most special athlete I've ever coached," said Burnard. "So I couldn't say enough good things about him and what he's done for this program. We wouldn't be the program we are if it wasn't for him. He gives everything he has every minute that he's on the field."

"Nothing but respect for Rob DiNota," added the Panthers' McDermott, a rival in two sports. "I've been playing against Rob since I was in first grade, kindergarten.

You've got to credit him, never gives up. He was out here in the fourth quarter grinding. He poured his heart out on this field and you've got to give him credit. He's had a phenomenal career at Westlake."

With DiNota and the rest of the Wildcats in their rear-view mirror, the Panthers turned their attention three days later to a state regional playoff game back at Lakeland against Section 2 champion Schuylerville. Reda scored three goals in the opening minute and finished with seven as Pleasantville won easily, 21-5, on Saturday morning to advance to the state semifinals against Section 11 champ Mattituck.

"We're just gonna focus on the game ahead of us," said Kear, trying not to look ahead to an elusive state championship for a hungry Panther team that was stopped in the past by Cold Spring Harbor. "You can't get to the finals unless you win the games before that."



Westlake's Mike Leva moves toward the cage as Jack Mueller of Pleasantville tries to knock the ball away in the second half of the Section 1, Class D championship game.



Pleasantville's James Daniele is guarded by Westlake's Greg Cafaro as he controls the ball in the first half of last Wednesday's title game.



The Panthers' Declan McDermott runs past Westlake's Ryan Donnery during last Wednesday night's sectional championship game.



Pleasantville sophomore Jake Coleman passes the ball in last Wednesday's title game. He scored a pair of goals in the Panther win.



Nick Gorman of Westlake tries to maneuver past Pleasantville's Declan McDermott during the sectional final at Lakeland High School.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Perino's Heroics Lift Westlake in the State Regionals

By Danny Lopriore

Antonia Perino seized her big championship playoff moment by delivering a triple, then scoring the game-winning run on a wild pitch to propel Westlake to a 5-4 extra-inning victory over Rondout Valley in the Class B state regional softball semifinals at North Rockland High School last Thursday afternoon.

A persistent drizzle made conditions slippery throughout a close game as the resilient Section 1 champion Wildcats (17-5) came back from deficits three times to eliminate the Section 9 champion Ganders and roll into the regional final.

Perino, doused with water by teammates after the win, seemed to cherish the damp environment, despite nearly slipping on home plate as she scored the winning run in the bottom of the eighth. The third baseman, one of 10 seniors on the team, scored the Wildcats' first run on a triple by Kristin Pierce.

"Right before I scored, Coach Mike said to go if the ball got past the catcher, so I was ready," Perino said. "I walked out of the dugout to lead off and everyone was saying we needed a hit to start it off, so I was trying to drive it. I have only imagined getting the game-winning hit and this time it happened. It feels amazing. I knew it had a good distance when it hit the bat. I was getting as many bases as I could."

The Wildcats trailed 2-0 after one inning, then by scores of 3-1 and 4-3 before taking their first lead of the game on the winning play.

"That's heart, all heart, and about how bad do you want it," first-year coach Mike D'Angelo said about his team's determination through the championship



Westlake sophomore Kristin Pierce watches the flight of the ball off her bat in the regional final vs. Babylon.

playoffs. "We had a good run through the sectionals, not giving up runs, but I told them someone was going to score on them and they responded like champions."

Jamie Perfito drove in Daniella Mulvey in the third inning to bring Westlake within 3-2 and later pushed Mulvey across again in the fifth to tie the game at 3-3.

Rondout scored in the sixth inning to take a 4-3 lead, but Kelly Pierce, the Westlake catcher, scored on a single by starting pitcher Allison Brunetto, who faked a bunt, pulled the bat back and lined a hit to tie the game again. Brunetto, a senior lefty who pitched four successive shutouts in the Section 1 playoffs, struck



Westlake third baseman Antonia Perino, who scored the game-winning run in Thursday's playoff win over Rondout Valley, guards the hot corner against Babylon.

out six and allowed just two earned runs to get the win.

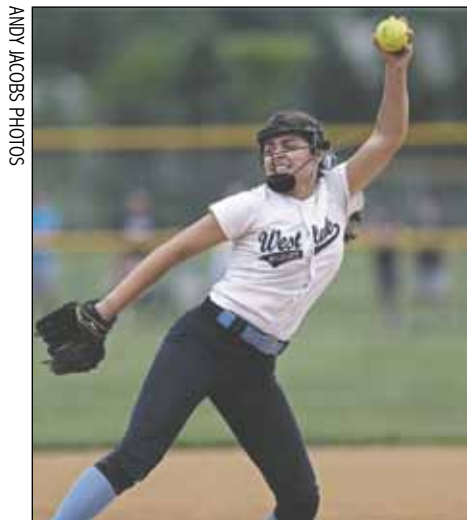
"Allie got her groove towards the middle of the game and she's another one that when she sets her head to it, she's all heart and she's gonna come right at you," D'Angelo said. "Their pitcher was strong and they fielded well. We just got that one extra big hit."

Brunetto and Kelly Pierce talked about realizing their childhood softball dreams along with their teammates.

"As a pitcher-catcher combination, we've learned to help each other through tough spots and Kelly is there to support me like she did today when I struggled early," Brunetto said. "I know my defense is there for me and everyone made big plays and got big hits. We are a very close team."

Pierce said this group of Wildcats adds passion to experience.

"When you have 10 seniors who have played together since we were little, it's



Westlake pitcher Allison Brunetto delivers a pitch in the Wildcats' 3-2 win over Babylon on Saturday at North Rockland High School.

about the passion knowing each game might be the last we play together," Pierce said. "We are enjoying the experience and each pitch and each game are special."

The Wildcats will have a chance to play together a little bit longer after they followed up their win over the Ganders with another one over Long Island champion Babylon on Saturday. Perfito's two-run double down the left-field line brought home a pair of runs as Westlake erased a two-run deficit and won 3-2 in the regional final.

Center fielder Mulvey threw out the potential tying run in the top of the fifth inning, unleashing a strike that nailed the Panthers' Meg Flower at the plate by almost 10 feet. The victory sends Westlake to Saturday's state semifinals at Moreau State Park in South Glens Falls.

"They're playing awesome, doing a fantastic job," said D'Angelo about his players. "I'm just going along for the ride here."



Center fielder Daniella Mulvey fires the ball to home plate to cut down the potential tying run in the top of the fifth inning of Saturday's regional playoff game.



Shortstop Jamie Perfito of Westlake chases a pop fly during Saturday's state regional win over Babylon.



Westlake softball players celebrate after the final out of Saturday's 3-2 victory over Long Island champion Babylon in the state's Class B regional final.

Panthers' Season Ends With a Regional Loss to Marlboro

By Andy Jacobs

A long bus ride north turned into a short stay in the state tournament for the Pleasantville baseball team.

Just five days after capturing the Section One championship, the Panthers' season came to a disappointing finish with a 4-3 loss to Marlboro in a Class B regional semifinal at Cantine Field in Saugerties on Thursday afternoon.

The Section Nine champion Iron Dukes used a three-run fifth inning to break a 1-1 deadlock on their way to their 20th victory in 21 games. Starting pitcher Sam Mongelli limited the Panthers to four hits in his five innings of work and provided a key run-scoring triple in the big fifth inning for Marlboro. But to Panther head coach Dan Iorio, it was his team's four errors that made the difference in the outcome.

"I mean, you've just gotta look at the scoreboard," he said shortly after the Panthers had been retired in the top of the seventh inning with the tying run in scoring position. "We outpitched 'em, we outhit 'em. The errors, three out of those four errors came around to score, and that's what cost us the game. That's the bottom line. In a game like this, it can't happen and we all know that."

After the Panthers had been retired in order in the top of the first inning, Marlboro came to bat and took advantage of a pair of errors to get on the board first. Pleasantville starter Danny Melillo struck out the first two hitters he faced before Mongelli reached on a



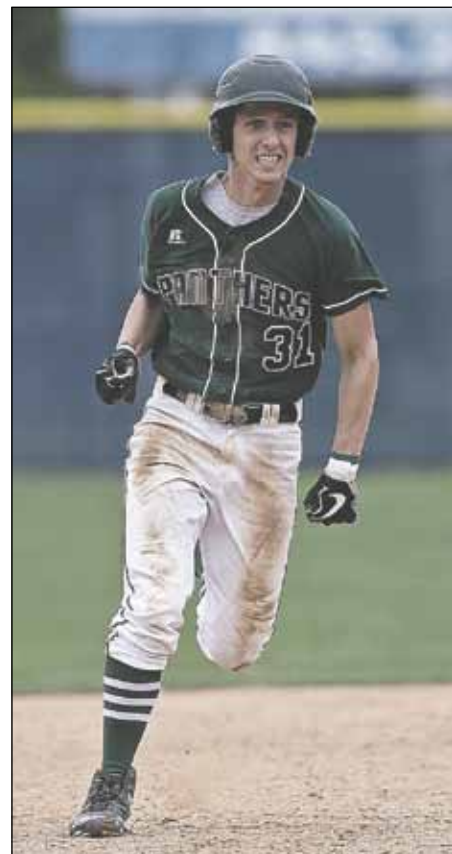
The Panthers' Danny Melillo fires to the plate in Thursday afternoon's regional playoff game at Cantine Field in Saugerties.

single to left field. Mongelli then stole second base and moved to third when the throw sailed into center field. He scored on Brendan Mahusky's chopper to third that led to an errant throw across the diamond.

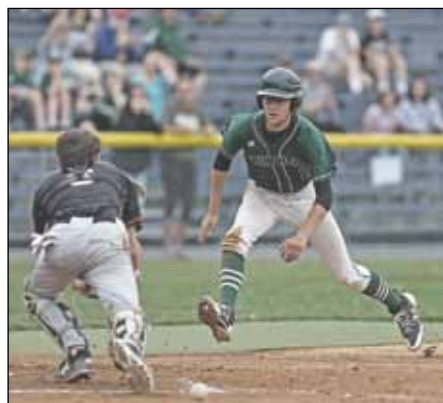
Melillo stranded a runner at third base in the second inning by striking out Eric Grzechowski. The Panthers then tied the game at 1-1 in the third as Justin Perlman lined a one-out single to center and later came around to score on Brendan O'Neill's single to right field.

Marlboro had a chance to reclaim the lead in the bottom of the third, but Austin Casey was left stranded at third base when Melillo retired Mongelli on a pop-up to first and Mahusky on a grounder to third. In the fourth inning, leadoff batter Nick Salzarulo reached on an error, then soon wound up on third base as the too-high throw trying to catch him stealing ended up in the outfield.

But Panther cleanup batter Mike Matica was retired on a comebacker and Salzarulo had to stay at third. With Nick Satriale at the plate, a Mongelli pitch got past catcher Trevor Taylor and Salzarulo dashed to the plate. Unfortunately for the Panthers, the ball bounced off the wooden backstop right back to Taylor, who was able to easily tag out Salzarulo.



Pleasantville's Nick Satriale races to third base with an RBI triple in the sixth inning of the state regional playoff game vs. Section 9 champion Marlboro.



Pleasantville's Justin Perlman scores the Panthers' first run as Marlboro catcher Trevor Taylor can't field the throw to the plate in Thursday's regional playoff game.

To add to the P'ville misery, Satriale then followed by lining a single to left.

"He shouldn't have gone, and he knew he shouldn't have gone," said Iorio of the ill-fated attempt by Salzarulo to score the go-ahead run. "As a senior, he should know better. We watched it happen in pregame. We talked about it, but still he went. So that's why it hurt."

In the bottom of the fourth, Melillo got out of trouble once again, stranding Alex Leduc at third base by striking out Taylor. That set the stage for the fateful fifth inning. In the top half, the Panthers loaded the bases as Massimo Stinziani led off with a walk and, two outs later, O'Neill singled to right and Melillo was hit by a pitch. But Salzarulo was jammed by a pitch and hit a squibber into the air that Mongelli easily caught for the third out.

"That's one of our better hitters," said Iorio about Salzarulo. "You know, we had an opportunity there. It just didn't happen. Didn't work in our favor today."

Marlboro's Grzechowski reached on an error to start the bottom of the fifth. He stole a pair of bases, then scored the go-ahead run when Mike Greco slapped a 3-2 pitch into right for a single. After a sacrifice bunt, Iorio summoned O'Neill to pitch in relief of Melillo. But Mongelli blasted an 0-1 pitch all the way to the fence in left-center field for an RBI triple. Mahusky followed by flaring a



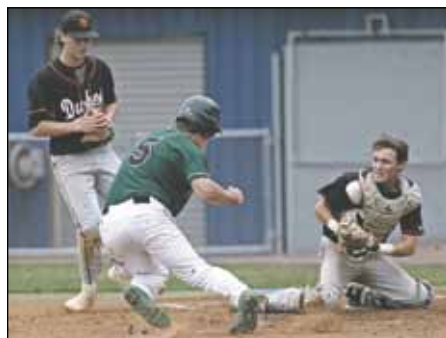
The Panthers' Massimo Stinziani swings for the fences in last Thursday's state regional against Marlboro.

single over first base to score Mongelli and stretch the Iron Dukes' lead to 4-1.

Facing relief pitcher Fred Callo in the sixth, the Panthers responded with a pair of runs. Matica led off with a single to center and Satriale followed by belting a full-count pitch to the gap in right-center field for a triple. Two outs later, Satriale scampered home with Pleasantville's third run as Perlman rapped a single down the left-field line.

The Panthers came to bat in the seventh with one final chance to extend their season. O'Neill and Melillo were quickly retired, but Salzarulo kept Pleasantville's fading hopes alive by dropping a single into right field. He moved to second base on a wild pitch, but that was as far he would get as the game ended on a bouncer to second by Matica.

"They fought to the end, but it just didn't work out for us today," said Iorio, whose team finished up 18-6. "They battled, and we did that all year. Even the games we lost, they were all close games. We fought to the end, and that's the type of team we are. That's why we were here today."



Nick Salzarulo of Pleasantville is tagged out at the plate as he tries to score on a wild pitch in the fourth inning of the regional playoff game against the Marlboro Iron Dukes.



Pleasantville shortstop Brendan O'Neill fields a late throw to second base during the Class B regional playoff game at Cantine Field in Saugerties.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Valhalla's Sam Morillo easily took first in both the discus and the shot put.

TRACK & FIELD

Section 1 State Qualifier

May 29-30, 2018

at Arlington / White Plains



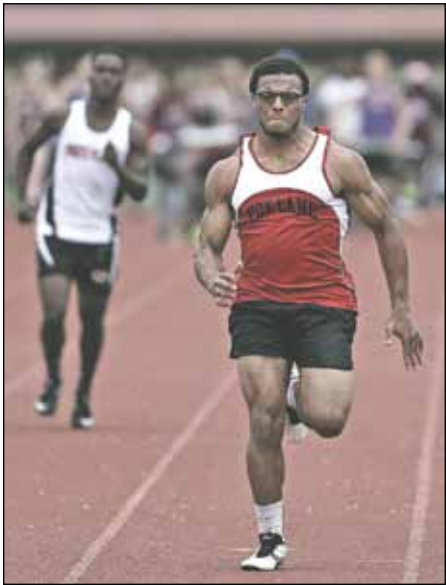
Fox Lane's Sam Barton runs in the 1600.



Westlake's Eric Nieves runs to a fourth-place finish in the 200.



Byram Hills freshman Jennifer Mui competes in the Division 1 2000 meter steeplechase on Friday.



Fox Lane's Andrew Brown was fifth in the 100 at Thursday's state qualifier.



Alden Iaconis competes in the 100 hurdles at Arlington High School last Thursday.



Pleasantville's Aidan Lynch rounds a corner in the 3200.



Briarcliff's Jacob Fridakis turns the corner as he runs in the 200.



Jonah Schwam of Byram Hills cleared 12 feet in the pole vault and finished sixth.



Greeley speedster Jessica Cristino was fourth in both the 100 and 200.



Adriana Catalano of Pleasantville runs the 1500 in Friday's portion of the state qualifier.



An exhausted and disappointed Rob DiNota contemplates the final moments of his standout career at Westlake late in the Class D championship game vs. Pleasantville.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

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Nicole Dragonetti of Westlake takes a big swing during Saturday's 3-2 victory over Long Island champ Babylon in the state playoffs.



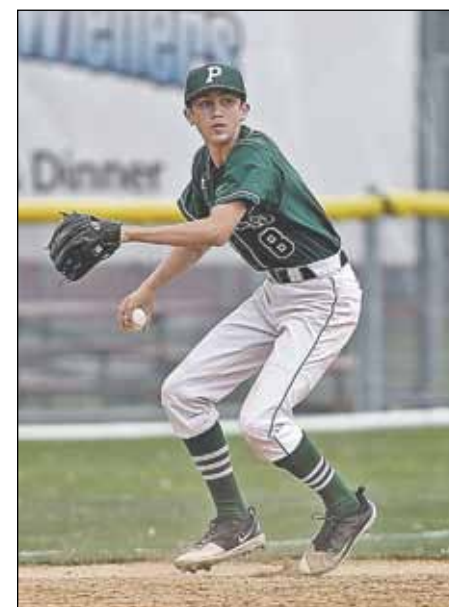
Pleasantville senior Nick Salzarulo heads toward third base in last Thursday's regional playoff game against Section 9 champion Marlboro.



Isabelle Kapoor of Pleasantville clears a hurdle during the state qualifying meet at Arlington High School last Thursday.



Westlake left fielder Angelina Guarnieri is a bit too late to make a leaping catch in the Wildcats' Class B regional final playoff game vs. Babylon on Saturday.



Pleasantville third baseman Danny Keon fires to first for an out during the Panthers' 4-3 loss to Marlboro in the Class B regional playoffs.

FINAL FOUR FLAIR



Senior Southpaw Allison Brunetto Wins Two Regional Playoff Games as Westlake Advances to Glens Falls to Play in the Class B State Semifinals