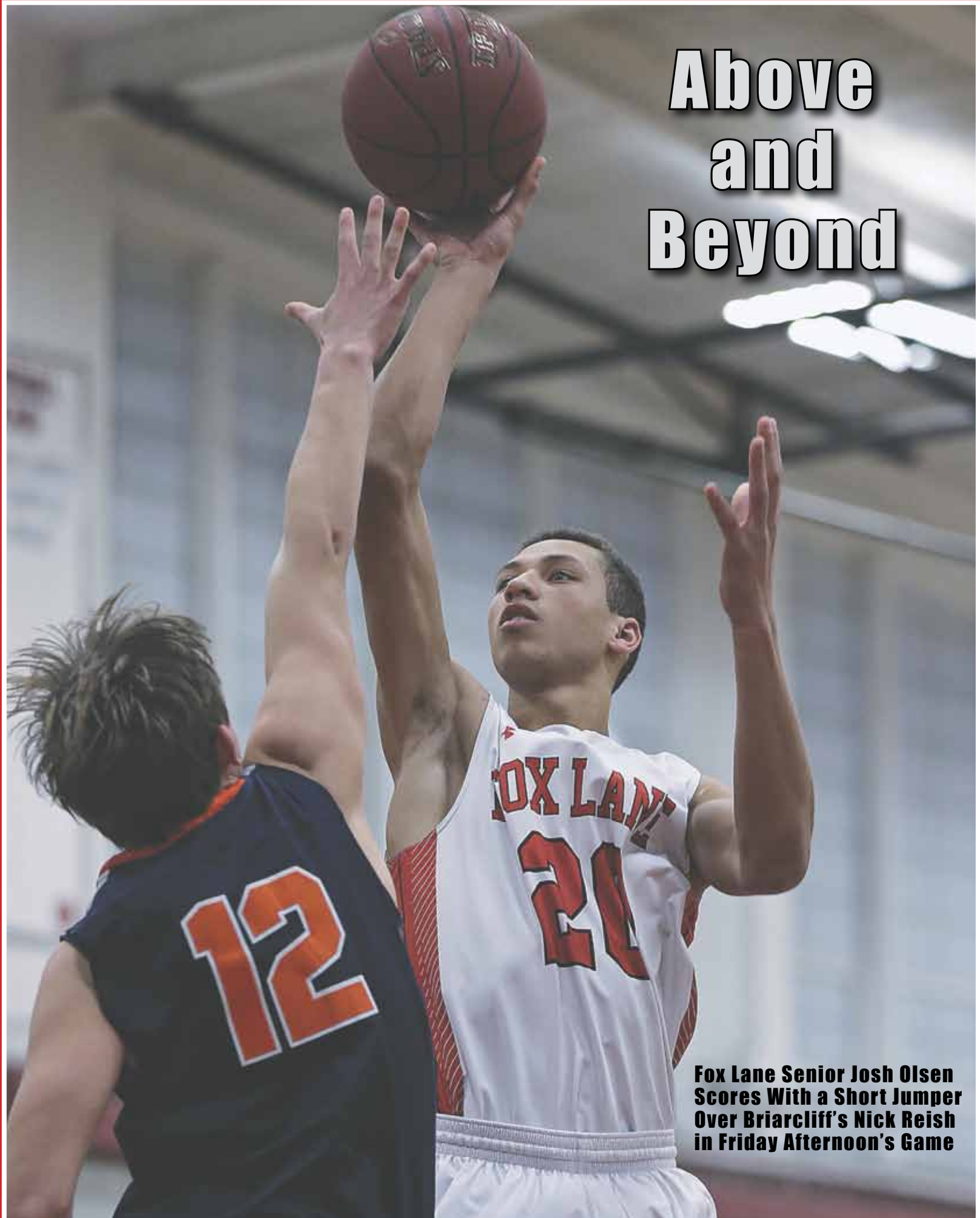


Above and Beyond



**Fox Lane Senior Josh Olsen
Scores With a Short Jumper
Over Briarcliff's Nick Reish
in Friday Afternoon's Game**

Westlake Defeats the Panthers in Tourney Opener

By Andy Jacobs

No, there wasn't an invisible lid over the Pleasantville boys' basketball team's rim at the start of Saturday afternoon's game at Westlake, but it sure seemed there must have been.

The Panthers misfired on one shot after another following the opening tip, went nearly four and a half minutes before finally scoring and quickly found themselves in an early hole against the Wildcats.

"Yeah, I would say we missed at least our first 12 outside jump shots," said Panthers head coach Bob Jordon. "We didn't get too many second opportunities on those first 12 either. That made it difficult for us."

Though the Panthers were able to put together an 11-0 run starting late in the first quarter to build a brief three-point lead, their season-long offensive woes continued and Westlake was able to take advantage, pulling away in the second half to win 56-43 in an opening-round game of the 15th annual Lt. Charles Garbarini Memorial Basketball Tournament.

Senior guard Richie Petrillo scored a game-high 17 points and Tyler Tsiakaros added 13 as the Wildcats, playing for the first time in two weeks, evened their record at 4-4 and earned a spot in this coming Saturday's tourney championship game, to be played at Pleasantville High School.

"This is the first time that we've had all 13 guys that are actually in uniform and eligible to play, healthy and all that," said Westlake coach Chad Charney. "We've had a lot of injuries. We've just got to get into a little bit more rhythm and we'll be fine."

The two teams were deadlocked at 15 apiece with three minutes remaining in the first half following an 18-foot jumper by the Panthers' Jared Wilens. But the Wildcats proceeded to outscore Pleasantville 17-3 over a nine-minute stretch that began late in the half and lasted almost the entire third quarter. They held the Panthers to just 21 points over the game's first 24 minutes and took an 11-point cushion into the final period.

"That's been our whole season," said Jordon about the Panthers' losing battle to put the ball in the basket. "We'll play hard defense and the offense struggles. So we know we have to try to keep people down. Today we turned the ball over in the third quarter, which didn't help us."

The Panthers, now 4-7 this season, also didn't help themselves at the foul line, making just two of their nine attempts. Still, they were only trailing 20-18 when Justin Perlman converted an old-fashioned 3-point play just over a minute into the third quarter.

But then they went scoreless for the next six minutes while Westlake got two free throws from Petrillo, followed by five straight baskets, the last two of them



Westlake guard Matt Martin tries to drive past Brian Wilson of Pleasantville in the Wildcats' victory on Saturday afternoon.

layups by Frank Malandrucolo. Brendan O'Neill finally ended the Panthers' scoring drought with a 3-pointer late in the quarter to cut the big Westlake lead to 32-21 heading to the final period.

Any thoughts about a Pleasantville comeback disappeared in the first 90 seconds of the fourth quarter with the Wildcats' Matt Martin, who finished with 10 points, starting an 8-0 spurt with a reverse layup while getting fouled. He added the free throw, then Malandrucolo followed with another and-one 3-point play. Moments later, Tsiakaros, returning from injury, slashed through the lane for a bucket that gave Westlake what turned out to be its largest lead of the day, 40-21.

"I thought we moved the ball well," said the Wildcats' Charney. "They got us out of our element a little bit early with their denial man-to-man. And then we kind of settled in and the ball started going in the



The Panthers' Brian Wilson gets set to pass the ball in the backcourt vs. Westlake.



Richie Petrillo of Westlake takes the ball to the basket near the right baseline in Saturday's win over Pleasantville.

basket a little bit, and that helped a lot. We got a couple steals there late in the third and into the fourth and that kind of gave us a little cushion."

After seeing P'ville get outscored 20-3 following the 3-point play by Perlman early in the second half, the Panther coaching duo decided it was time to question their players' heart and desire. Assistant coach



Westlake's Tyler Tsiakaros fires a jump shot over Pleasantville's Jared Wilens.



Pleasantville's Justin Perlman rises for a shot in the lane as Richie Petrillo of Westlake tries to stop him.

Terry Singletary, in particular, let them know during a timeout that much more effort would be needed the rest of the way.

"Yeah, we challenged 'em a bit during that timeout," said Jordon, "because we noticed that our heads were getting down and it almost looked like we were quitting out there on the court. So we challenged 'em and, you know, they rose to the occasion."

Held to just 21 points over the first three quarters, Pleasantville erupted for 22 in the fourth, six of them coming from senior point guard Danny Melillo, finally back in the starting lineup after a late-season football injury. His 3-pointer with 1:50 to go cut the Westlake lead to 47-36. Another trey, this time from O'Neill, moved the Panthers to within nine points with just over a minute left.

"We're not down," said Jordon. "We know what we have to do defensively to stay in the ballgames. You saw in the fourth quarter what we have the ability to do to win some games. We've just got to keep moving in that direction."

The Wildcats, meanwhile, now turn their attention to a busy, four-games-in-six-days week that concludes with their appearance in Saturday's tournament final. With the toughest part of their schedule behind them, Charney is confident his players can start to gain some momentum.

"I would've liked to have been over .500 going into break, and we were 3 and 4 instead of 4 and 3 or better because of the strength of the schedule we played," he said. "But we've improved and hopefully we're gonna steal a game late that maybe on paper we're not supposed to win. And I think we can."

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Fox Lane Begins 2019 by Defeating the Visiting Bears

By Andy Jacobs

Ask Fox Lane boys' basketball coach Mike Tomassi which team in the region has the most difficult schedule and he won't hesitate with his answer.

"I'll go on record as saying I think we have the hardest schedule in Section One, if you go by what was in front of us in December," was his response late Friday afternoon shortly after his team had begun the 2019 portion of its challenging slate of games.

Tomassi had just watched the Foxes, despite shooting an atrocious eight of 19 from the free-throw line, escape with a 52-45 home victory over the defending Class B champion Briarcliff Bears. Junior guard Will Crerend scored a team-high 15 points, while seniors Josh Olsen, J. R. Trumpbour and Jordan Alvarado combined for 30 to lift the Foxes to their fifth win in 10 games this season.

"I don't know if we needed it badly, just every win's important in Section One," said Tomassi, whose team had dropped its previous three games. "We wanna get back to .500. We had a tough schedule and it didn't get easier today. They're a good team and they're gonna be there at the end in Class B. So it's a solid win for us."

The Foxes only trailed once all afternoon, when Briarcliff star guard Miles Jones, the game's high scorer with 18 points, rattled in a fall-away jumper from the top of the key late in the first quarter to give the Bears a 14-12 edge. But Crerend drove for a lefty bank shot that tied the score just before the period ended and Olsen's bucket 20 seconds into

the second quarter gave Fox Lane the lead for good.

"It's tough to come out of a two-week layoff," said Bears coach Nick Friedman after his team had slipped to 5-3. "We were all really excited for this game. We've had great practices this week. Disappointing in terms of the result, but I do see us getting better. So that's a positive. And I think they're a good team. They'll beat some people this year."

A basket by Jones with 10 seconds remaining in the half cut Briarcliff's deficit to just 27-24 at the break, but the Bears could never get any closer once play resumed. The third quarter was dominated by turnovers and an alarming amount of air balls from both teams. Fox Lane outscored the Bears 8-5 and took a six-point lead into the final quarter.

"I thought in that third quarter we had about three shots in a row go in and out," said Friedman. "A couple of them were 3s, so that would've been eight points right there. That's the way the breaks go sometimes."

The fourth quarter began with a put-back basket by Trumpbour, who finished with 10 points. When Crerend soon took a lead pass from Alvarado after a Briarcliff turnover and dropped in a layup, the Foxes had their first and only double-digit lead of the contest, 39-29. But then two free throws by Kyle Harris, followed by a conventional, but acrobatic, 3-point play from Aidan Murnane sliced the Bears' deficit in half with 5:43 left on the clock.



The Bears' Kyle Harris tries to dribble away from Fox Lane's Josh Olsen and Chris Bodine during Friday afternoon's game won by the host Foxes.



Fox Lane's Oliver Shevick (25) and Matt Chernis await a rebound along with Briarcliff's Miles Jones in Friday afternoon's game.

That was as close as the Bears would get, though, because with just over five minutes to go sophomore forward Oliver Shevick connected on a 3-pointer from the right elbow to stretch the Foxes' lead to 42-34. When a Jones 3-pointer with two minutes left moved Briarcliff to within 47-40, Alvarado lobbed a pass over the Bears' press to a wide-open Olsen for an easy layup that all but sealed the outcome.

"That was a big 3," said Tomassi about the long shot from Shevick. "That was a big 3, and then I thought late in the game there they were pressing and they didn't have a center fielder. We were able to throw over the top and get a layup. I thought those five points were probably the biggest points of the game, gave us a little more confidence and kind of took the wind out of their sail."

The two teams spent a good portion of the afternoon playing identical matchup defenses, with an occasional full-court zone press thrown in too. But the Foxes were able to take exploit their height advantage over a Briarcliff squad that no

longer has the interior presence of two 6-foot-5 players who helped capture the Class B sectional championship a year ago.

"Yeah, we knew they didn't have much size, they were gonna switch on screens, they were gonna get some matchup issues," said Tomassi. "So there was definitely an effort to play inside-out. We're bigger. We should dominate down low in a matchup like this. We were able to get some bigs on smalls and took advantage of some of the mismatches in our favor."

Tomassi is now hoping the win over the Bears and the end of the three-game losing streak bodes well for the rest of the regular season.

"The second half of the year, we've got to come out and rattle off some wins," he said. "Put some wins on the board to get a good seed and go into the playoffs. But we just want to get better every day and that's it. We want to be a better team three weeks from now than we were today and that's all we're kind of stressing."



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Briarcliff sophomore guard Aidan Murnane shoots the ball from the foul line vs. Fox Lane.

Briarcliff senior guard Miles Jones dribbles toward the midcourt line in Friday's game at Fox Lane.



J.R. Trumpbour of Fox Lane slips inside for a reverse layup in the first half of Friday's game against the Briarcliff Bears.



The Foxes' Will Crerend pushes the ball up the court on a fast break in the 52-45 victory over visiting Briarcliff.

Behar's Return Lifts Bobcats to an Overtime Win

By Rob DiAntonio

With star forward Ethan Behar on the sidelines recovering from an injury, Byram Hills' hockey team started the season by losing six out of seven games.

Behar made his grand return on Jan. 4, scoring the game winner in a 5-4 overtime victory over a combined Lakeland/Panas/Hendrick Hudson/Putnam Valley/Haldane team at Brewster Ice Arena.

The senior, who was named all-state last season, scored the decisive goal with 2:38 left in overtime. It was his second goal of the game. He added three assists.

"Having Ethan back is huge for us," Byram Hills coach A.J. Cloherty said of Behar, who tore his ACL back in June at a soccer practice. "The guys were lacking the confidence we have thrived on the past few years. Ethan's return lifted the team both on and off the ice. The bus ride was electric, the locker room was positive and the bench during the game was calm. His presence reaches far beyond the ice."

Behar gave Byram Hills a 4-3 lead late in the second period, but the opponents tied the game up with 47 seconds left.

The teams played a scoreless third period, setting the stage for Behar's overtime heroics.

Michael DiMarco, Will Cohen and Austin Carlin added goals for the Bobcats.

While it was a sorely needed win that Cloherty said lifted everyone's spirits, he added that the team spent too much time in the box with seven penalties.

It's been a theme this season.

"That is just not a sustainable practice," Cloherty said. "We want no more than three (penalties) a game and we won't stop driving that point home to the team until we get there."

An early penalty played a key role in a 10-2 loss to Joel Barlow at Danbury Ice Arena two days earlier.

With the game tied 1-1, a check from behind resulted in a five-minute non-



Lucca Conigliaro battles for a loose puck.

releasable penalty. Barlow capitalized, scoring three times in less than three minutes to take a 4-1 lead with 9:38 left in the first period.

"That's the third time that's happened this year where we tie the game up and get a checking from behind non-releasable," Cloherty said. "We're just not a team that's built to be killing penalties. It's not our forte. And when you make it non-releasable, it's just a recipe for disaster. It took any sort of momentum we had and squashed it. We have to play more disciplined hockey and be more accountable for our actions."

The second period was more of the same with Joel Barlow adding four more goals to make it 8-1.

Ryan Cohen and Lucca Conigliaro scored for the Bobcats. Ben Mautner and James Seiferheld had assists.

Byram Hills (2-6) returns to the ice when it travels to Danbury Ice Arena

again to face off with Bethel/Brookfield/Danbury at 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 9. It then faces the defending Section 1 Division 2 champion John Jay-Cross River Indians on Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Brewster Ice Arena. The Indians have knocked the



Will Cohen pushes the pace up the ice.



Byram Hills' Jack Cohen sends it in.

Bobcats out of sectionals in the semifinals the past two seasons.

"It's important that we get point production from our second line," Cloherty said. "They have a few points, but we need to have two lines that can score in order to compete with the top teams in Section 1."



Bobcat Austin Carlin rips a slapshot.



Ben Mautner maneuvers through two Joel Barlow defenders.



Will Cohen looks to make his move.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

Greeley Suffers Its First Loss in a Finals Rematch

By Rob DiAntonio

It was a rematch of last year's Section 1 Division 2 championship game when Horace Greeley and John Jay-Cross River hit the ice late Sunday afternoon.

The pace was fast and furious with the Quakers taking an early lead, but the defending section champion Indians seized control and pulled away for a 5-2 win at Brewster Ice Arena.

It was the first loss of the season for Greeley (8-1).

"I always say that you learn a heck of a lot more from a loss than you do from a win," Quaker coach Dan Perito said. "There's definitely a lot to take away from this and hopefully this is one of those learning experiences. I told them that it's not going to be easy to get where we want to get to in the end. This is one of those things that will make us stronger in the end."

Liam Whitehouse, a senior defenseman, gave Greeley the early 1-0 edge when he scored on a feed from Gabe Adams with 11:13 left in the first period.

Standout forward Ryan Renzulli was stopped on a breakaway by John Jay goalie Eric Sasimovich with 21 seconds left in the first period. Renzulli, however, quickly made up for it when he doubled the lead to 2-0 less than 30 seconds into the second period. Tyler Kay notched the assist.



Gabe Adams sends a pass late in the third period.



Jake Cronin gets ready for the face off.

After that, though, it was all John Jay. John Jay freshman Mattie Wierl snuck one in with 13:10 left in the second. Wierl then wrapped around the back of the net and found Will Hasapis wide open in the slot. The senior did the rest to tie the game at 2-2 with 4:14 to go in the second period.

"We played a little undisciplined," Perito admitted. "We got out of our structure and I think that opened up some things for them (the Indians). We gave them too many opportunities. We didn't follow the game plan. It's something to learn from. We took too many penalties throughout the game which definitely didn't help. If you give a team that many chances on the power play, it's going to come back to bite you. Even if they don't score, it kills your line flow and everything else."

Jay gained its first lead when Tyler Wishart weaved through traffic and finished with 2:23 left in the second period.

"It was a really big game for us,"

Hasapis said. "We were expecting to come for a fight and they gave us one."

The puck was moving freely for a John Jay team that graduated 11 seniors and has a number of talented freshmen stepping into key roles.

"They've got a good mix of veteran leadership and youth involvement," Perito said. "I've seen them play and I wasn't surprised with the way they played. They're a solid team and are coached well. Alex (Smith) has done a great job with them for years."

John Jay's Justin DeLucia stretched the lead to two goals with 10:15 to play. Wishart scored his second goal of the game on an empty netter with just over a minute left.

The Indians locked down defensively in the second and third periods, allowing no goals over the final 30 minutes.

Goaltender Arye Wolberg made 24 saves in net for the Quakers, who outshot the Indians 32-29.

Two evenings earlier, it was all Greeley in an 8-1 drubbing of Mount Pleasant.



Quaker Jake Potter looks up the ice.



Greeley's Tyler Kay controls the puck near center ice.

The Quakers had eight different scorers. Renzulli, Ilan Laurence and Adams had a goal and two assists each. Jake Potter notched a goal and an assist. Whitehouse dished out two assists.

Greeley will look to get back on track when it heads to Playland to face Rye at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9. It then takes on New Rochelle at Hutchinson Ice Arena on Jan. 12 and faces Byram Hills the next day at 6:30 p.m. at Brewster Ice Arena.

"We've got to put it behind us," Perito said of the loss to the Indians. "We've got 72 hours and we come back Wednesday night down at Rye. That's the biggest thing. Put this behind us, move on and learn from our mistakes."

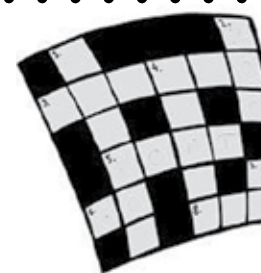


Jake Potter looks to pass during Sunday's game at Brewster Ice Arena.



Liam Whitehouse gives Greeley a 1-0 lead over John Jay.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS



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Bobcats Start the New Year by Beating the Huskies

By Andy Jacobs

The Byram Hills girls' basketball team picked up in 2019 right where it left off in 2018 — winning games.

Despite going scoreless for six minutes during the third quarter and getting outscored 15-4 in the period, the Bobcats were still too much for visiting Harrison, coming away with a 55-44 victory on Friday night. Maggie Walsh scored a team-high 14 points, while Olivia Picca added 11 and Jen Mui nine as Byram Hills prevailed in the league opener and improved its impressive record to 8-1 this season.

"I'm glad it was a good challenge for us, especially our first league win," said Bobcat second-year head coach Tara Ryan afterwards. "Knowing that we didn't win a league game last year, this was a monumental win to start off the season."

It was Walsh, a senior forward, who sparked a 15-1 Byram Hills run that bridged the first and second quarters and turned a two-point deficit into a 23-11 Bobcat lead. Her 3-pointer from left of the key with two and a half minutes left in the opening period began the Byram blitz and her 3-point shot from right of the key midway through the second quarter capped it off.

The Bobcats' 30-21 halftime advantage quickly began to disappear once the teams returned to the court for the third quarter. A layup by Stefana Latella two minutes into the second half ended a 6-0 Harrison spurt, but then Byram Hills went the next six minutes without scoring a point. The Huskies, meanwhile, ran off another nine points in a row, grabbing a 36-32 lead before the quarter ended with Grace Scavone driving the left baseline for a Bobcat bucket to beat the buzzer.

"Grace came off the bench and she was able to attack and hit that basket," said Ryan. "Those shots like that, they really give us a little energy going in (to the huddle). And then it's, 'Hey, wake up everybody.' They finally did in the fourth. So that was nice."

In the final quarter, Mui, the Bobcats' point guard, drove left of the lane for a shot off glass that tied the game. Just over a minute later, the Huskies' Olivia DeBald



Sophia Villani of Byram Hills tries to score inside as Harrison's Tori Fernandez defends in the first half of Friday's game won by the Bobcats.

scored on a put-back that gave Harrison its last lead of the evening, 38-36. An old-fashion 3-point play by Latella then started an 11-0 Byram Hills blitz that all but decided the outcome.

Gabby Ripka soon followed with a 3-pointer to give Byram a 42-38 edge. A minute after Ripka's shot, Beth Corelli drove along the left baseline and banked in a shot. The big Bobcat run ended with exactly three minutes remaining as Corelli, who would injure her right shoulder moments later, fed Mui in the right corner on a fast break for a 3-pointer that opened up a nine-point cushion.

The Huskies' Ashley Stagg, who finished with a game-high 16 points, ended the Byram spurt with a 3-pointer with 2:45 left on the clock. But Walsh, who also pulled down 14 rebounds and made seven steals, then answered with a fast-break layup. Four free throws by Picca, sandwiched around two from Walsh in the final minute, gave the Bobcats their



Byram Hills point guard Jen Mui is pressured beyond the 3-point arc by Harrison's Samantha Andrews.



The Bobcats' Olivia Picca dribbles the ball near midcourt in Friday's home victory over Harrison.

largest lead of the night, 13 points, before Stagg's put-back basket with 10 seconds to go ended the game's scoring.

"We had a couple of minutes where we didn't execute and they did," said Ryan about her team's third-quarter woes. "But we were lucky and came out with some energy in the fourth quarter and were able to make foul shots and layups. That's basketball. It's gonna go up and down, highs and lows. We're a team that likes to push the ball. And when we don't push the ball, like we didn't in the third quarter, we struggle a bit more. We went back to the basics and we were able to execute. And everybody hit shots. That's fun."

Scoring 11 points in a dazzling two-minute surge the way the Bobcats did in the fourth quarter also provides extra confidence to a team that already has much more of it than one season ago.

"Oh, absolutely," said Ryan, asked if her players are becoming increasingly confident with each new victory. "In situations from last year where we would've fumbled it, we're able to take a step back, a breath, and say 'OK, here's our options' instead of freaking out with the basketball."

As giddy as the Bobcats are at the moment with their lofty win-loss record,



Byram Hills head coach Tara Ryan directs her team in Friday night's home win over Harrison.



Byram Hills guard Gabby Ripka races across the court with the ball in the second half vs. visiting Harrison.

they are not about to look too far into the future. Finishing at or above .500 would be a big step for the program, but Ryan also has a bit of a warning for future foes.

"Yeah, we have individual and team goals," she said. "But we're definitely game by game because you can't overlook somebody. That's what teams might be doing to us this year and they're gonna have to show up and play us. Byram Hills is back."



Maggie Walsh of Byram Hills shoots the ball from the top of the key in the first half of Friday's game.



Byram Hills' Beth Corelli looks over the defense as she prepares to pass the ball in the second half vs. the visiting Harrison Huskies.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Westlake's Rebecca Lovett takes the ball to the basket in the second half of Saturday's tournament game vs. Pleasantville.



Allie Castellone of Westlake drives into the lane in the second half vs. the Pleasantville Panthers.



Pleasantville guard Christina Matica dribbles the ball near the 3-point arc in the fourth quarter of the Panthers' 52-37 tournament victory over Westlake.



Pleasantville's Mary Grace O'Neill shoots the ball as Westlake's Allie Castellone defends in Saturday's game won by the visiting Panthers.



Pleasantville's Lila Donohue passes the ball during the Panthers' win over host Westlake.



Westlake's Julie Lyden dribbles the ball near midcourt in the opening round of the Lt. Charles Garbarini Memorial Basketball Tournament.



The Panthers' Dakota Corey pulls up for a jump shot in the first half of Saturday's game.



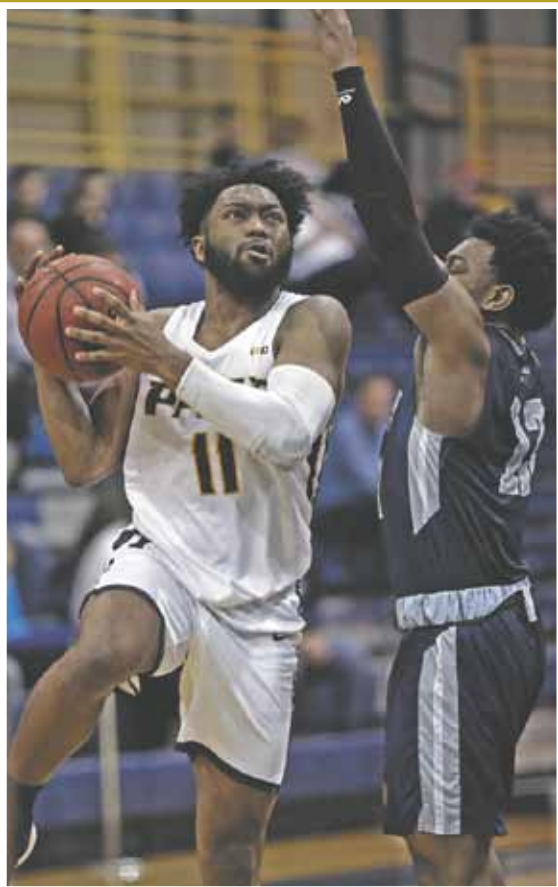
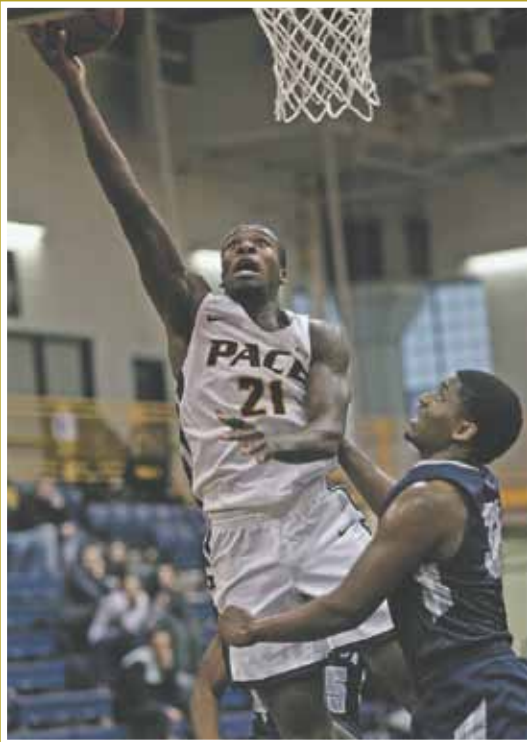
Emily Sardo of Westlake shoots the ball in Saturday's home game.

focus on
GIRLS' HOOP
Westlake vs.
Pleasantville

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Setters Defeat Mercy College



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Action from Pace University's 67-61 victory over visiting Mercy College at the Goldstein Fitness Center on Saturday afternoon included, clockwise from top left: senior forward Greg Poleon getting inside for a first-half basket; Austin Gilbertson rising at the top of the key to launch a 3-point shot; sophomore point guard Brandon Jacobs driving toward the lane; Peyton Wejnert adding to his game-high 17 points with a free throw; Tyron Cohen Jr. dribbling past midcourt late in the first half; and junior guard Ray Montilus looking to score a basket along the right baseline.