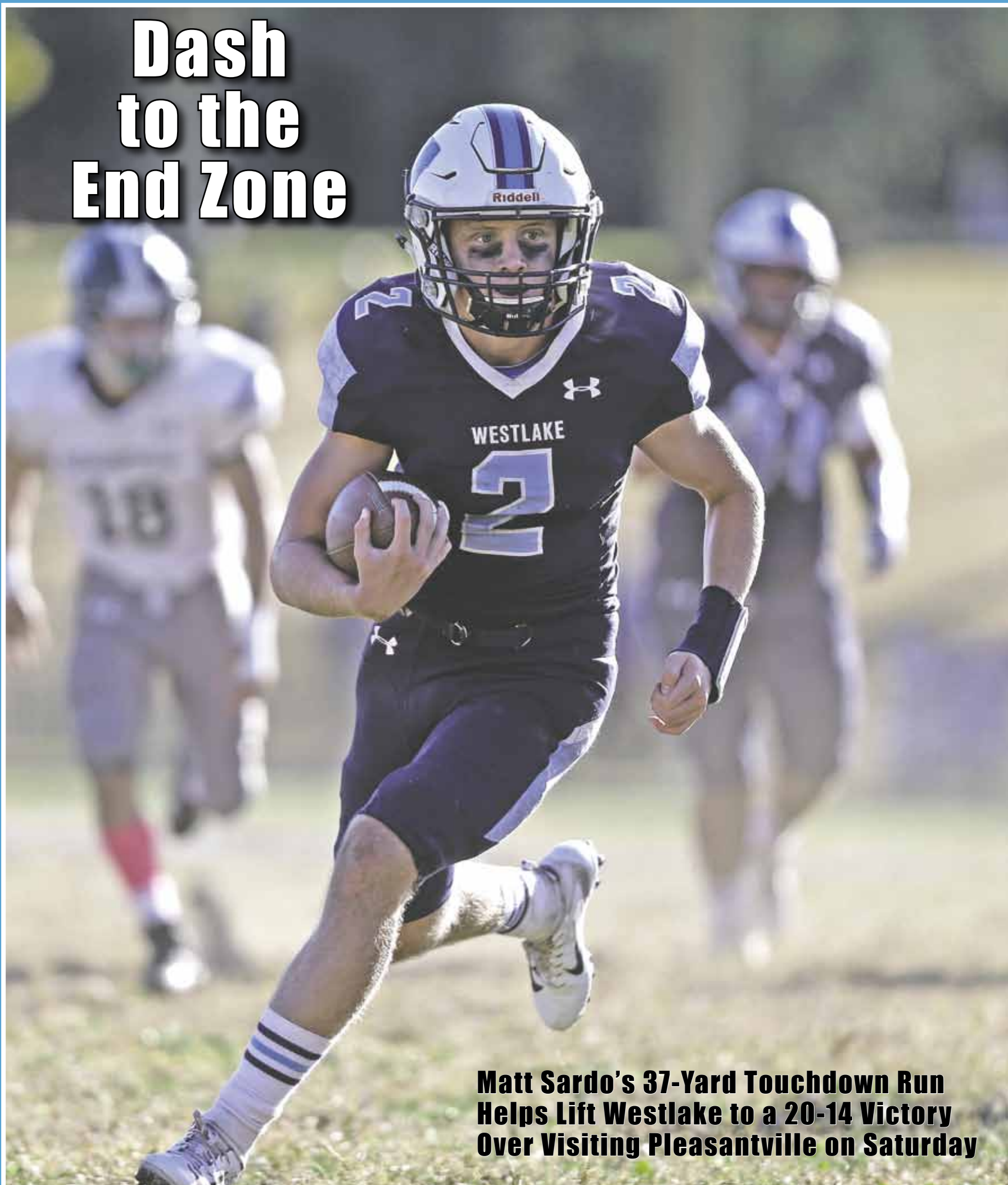


Dash to the End Zone



**Matt Sardo's 37-Yard Touchdown Run
Helps Lift Westlake to a 20-14 Victory
Over Visiting Pleasantville on Saturday**

Fourth-Quarter Misfortune Dooms the Bobcats Against Ardsley

By Andy Jacobs

The fourth quarter of Friday night's huge showdown against Ardsley may seem like one the Byram Hills Bobcats would soon like to forget, but head coach Doug Carpenter probably won't let them.

A 10-point advantage quickly dissolved into a crushing defeat as a rapid sequence of misfortune led to 17 unanswered points for the visiting Panthers, who emerged from the battle between Class B unbeaten with a 24-17 victory. The Bobcats' early two-touchdown lead turned out to be just as temporary as the portable field lights recently shuttled onto campus for Homecoming.

"I'm hoping that months from now, we can look back on this day and say, 'Wow, what a great learning experience that was. We needed that,'" said Carpenter shortly after his team had lost for the first time in five games this season. "I think our kids will be reflective about this and we'll get better."

Facing an Ardsley team averaging nearly 35 points a game beginning the evening, the Bobcats quickly demonstrated they were up to the challenge by forcing a three-and-out on the Panthers' first possession. They



The Bobcats' Steven Franco tries to elude Ardsley's Ryan Watson during Friday night's game.



Ardsley's Preston Wachtell rises in the end zone to catch the touchdown pass that gave the Panthers the lead for good at Byram Hills.

then thrilled the home crowd by marching 63 yards in eight plays, scoring a touchdown exactly five minutes into the game on Nic Picca's seven-yard pass to Steven Franco.

Just four plays into the second quarter, Jack Tillinger ran three yards for another Bobcat touchdown. David Gold followed with his second point-after kick of the contest, increasing the Byram Hills lead to 14-0.

"Our kids were just excited to prove that we belong in that championship conversation," said Carpenter. "I felt like we had a really good game plan and our kids practiced it really well throughout the week."

The Panthers, held without a first down in the opening quarter, finally started to move the ball after Tillinger's short TD run had capped Byram's 14-play, 60-yard drive. Ardsley's star running back, Jalen Leonard-Osbourne, scooted to his right on fourth-and-three from the 4-yard line, barely crossing the goal line to get the Panthers on the scoreboard with 8:25 left in the half. The PAT from Darren Judge cut the Bobcats' edge to 14-7.

Ardsley threatened again late in the second quarter, advancing the ball to the Bobcat 33-yard line in the final minute. But their drive ended when Franco picked off quarterback Luke Mantini's pass over the middle, and Byram Hills took a seven-point lead into intermission.

In possession of the ball to start the second half, the Bobcats picked up first downs on their first two plays and eventually reached the Ardsley 3-yard line. But an apparent Tillinger touchdown run was nullified by a holding penalty, forcing the Bobcats to finally settle for a 25-yard field goal by Gold that gave them a 17-7 cushion with 5:31 remaining in the third quarter.

"Yeah, that was frustrating," said Carpenter about adding just three points instead of six. "Whether it was a legitimate holding penalty, I don't know or care at this point. Certainly a touchdown would've been nicer in that spot. But I was proud of our kicking group that we were able to get out there and get the three points."

The Bobcat defense again rose to the occasion late in the third quarter after Ardsley had driven inside the Byram 10-yard line. Leonard-Osbourne was denied the end zone on three straight runs and then on fourth down, Mantini, scrambling to his left and then all the way back across the field,



Byram Hills football players, left to right, Ben Barad, Ryan Abatemarco, Louie Rocco and Julian Carnevale dejectedly walk off the field following the 24-17 loss to Ardsley.



Jack Tillinger of Byram Hills finds some running room against Ardsley.

misfired on a pass to Preston Wachtell.

The fourth quarter began with Byram still maintaining its 10-point advantage. But all the momentum would soon shift to the Panthers, starting with a botched Bobcat punt attempt on the third play of the period. Ardsley gained possession at the Byram 9-yard line and needed just one play to get back on the board with a Samuel Lowson TD run. Not even 90 seconds into the quarter, the Bobcats' lead was trimmed to just three points.

"You know, that's a thousand percent my fault because it's something we practice," said Carpenter about the Bobcats' ill-fated punt. "Our punter came out because he needed a blow and we had our back-up guy in there. And I've never given him that rep in practice. I don't think I'll ever make that mistake again as a coach for the rest of my career. So I told him immediately after that was on me because I never gave him that rep in practice."

But the Bobcats' troubles were just getting started. On their ensuing possession, Picca's pass was intercepted by Leonard-Osbourne, giving Ardsley the ball at the Byram Hills 30. Three plays later, Leonard-Osbourne tossed a surprise option pass to a leaping Wachtell in the end zone for a 23-yard touchdown that finally gave Ardsley the lead.

The Bobcats then proceeded to turn the ball over again with a fumble on the first play of their next possession. Ardsley wound up with a 29-yard field goal by Judge to build its lead to 24-17 with 5:37 left on the clock.

With just under three minutes to go, Byram got the ball back one last time, just shy of midfield. But on fourth-and-seven, Picca was thrown down for a loss by George Lebberes, all but ending the Bobcats' chances.

"I told them afterwards that they shouldn't hang their heads for anything," said Carpenter. "I thought Ardsley played their butts off. I thought our kids played their butts off. When you turn the ball over, especially in your own territory, it's hard to win football games. Those are things I think we can clean up. And all our goals, all the cards, are still on the table."



Byram Hills quarterback Nic Picca gets set to throw a pass in the fourth quarter of Friday night's showdown with Ardsley.



Byram Hills running back Cole Picca carries the football in Friday's Homecoming game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Westlake Prevails After a Late Comeback by the Panthers

By Andy Jacobs

Who could've guessed late Saturday afternoon when the Westlake football team opened up a 20-point advantage over visiting Pleasantville 90 seconds into the fourth quarter that the final minutes of the contest would somehow turn into yet another dramatic finish between the two fierce rivals?

But the seemingly down-and-out Panthers roared back to life with a blocked punt, a successful onside kick and a pair of Michael LaCapria-to-Jared Wilens touchdown passes. Suddenly the Wildcats' big lead was trimmed to just six points and there were still nearly five minutes remaining.

It took an interception by Westlake's Andrew Llamas on the final play of the game to finally put an end to the Panthers' late comeback bid and secure a 20-14 nail-biting victory for the Wildcats.

"This was a must-win for us, a must-win," said a clearly relieved Westlake head coach, John Castellano, moments after his Wildcats had weathered the storm and improved to 3-2 this season. "It's good to get this one under our belt."

The Panthers, riding a three-game winning streak, turned the ball over four times in the first half. LaCapria, who threw five touchdown passes in last week's win over Putnam Valley, had three of his passes picked off by the Wildcats, and the two teams left the field at halftime still scoreless.

"Yeah, he did struggle," said Panther coach Tony Becerra about his sophomore quarterback's early woes against Westlake. "Maybe we put a little more on him than we should've, given the performance he had last week. After last week's performance, I had a ton of confidence in him. But any ineffectiveness on offense, it's all me because as the offensive coordinator, anything that goes wrong on offense it's always gonna be on me, never on a kid."



Pleasantville sophomore quarterback Michael LaCapria fires a pass on the run in the second half of Saturday's game at Westlake.



Westlake quarterback Jason Ausiello is on his way to a 19-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter of Saturday's game.

It took Westlake just 30 seconds of the third quarter to do what neither team could do in the opening half — put some points on the scoreboard. Matt Sardo bolted 36 yards to the Panther 19-yard line on the first play from scrimmage, then quarterback Jason Ausiello raced to his right and reached the end zone. The PAT by Josh Gelman gave the Wildcats a 7-0 lead.

After the Panthers went three-and-out, Westlake took over near midfield and moved 49 yards in four plays, the last one a 37-yard jaunt by Sardo out of a wildcat formation. The kick by Gelman increased the Wildcats' lead to 14-0 less than five minutes into the third quarter.

A poor punt by the Panthers on their next possession set Westlake up again at the P'ville 37-yard line. With a key fourth-and-six pass from Ausiello to James Murray, the Wildcats kept their drive alive and, three plays later, Nick Martinez ran four yards for another touchdown. Though they missed the point-after, the Wildcats still had a seemingly insurmountable 20-point cushion with 10:31 left in the game.

"We got in a little wildcat," said Castellano about his team's ability to move the ball on the ground after the scoreless first two quarters. "We made an adjustment at halftime. We saw something that they were doing and we kind of made an adjustment. It worked for us early. They adjusted to that adjustment, but at that point we had put three touchdowns on the board."

After the touchdown from Martinez, Becerra gathered his players together for an impromptu pep talk.

"There was still a lot of time and we were



Matt May of Pleasantville tries to elude Westlake's Carter Falkenberg during Saturday afternoon's game, hosted by the Wildcats.



Matt Sardo of Westlake breaks out of the backfield and heads toward the right sideline during his long touchdown run in the third quarter of the Wildcats' 20-14 win over Pleasantville.

feeling sorry for ourselves," he said. "We asked them to battle. Keep battling. They did and we put a dent in it. It was just too little, too late."

The Panthers responded by moving the ball 89 yards in eight plays, highlighted by LaCapria's improvisational throw on third-and-six to Wilens for a 25-yard gain and capped by a 32-yard touchdown pass to Wilens. With the point-after kick from Nicky Doto, Pleasantville was within 20-7 with 6:14 remaining.

When they recovered the ensuing onside kick, the Panthers were right back in business with the ball at midfield. On third-and-nine, LaCapria connected with Wilens again, this time deep down the right sideline for a 35-yard touchdown. With two touchdowns in just 77 seconds, Pleasantville was suddenly within striking distance of an improbable come-from-behind win.

"Listen, that was a great throw," said Castellano about the second TD pass by LaCapria. "Their quarterback had some issues early, but he played great in the second half for them."

LaCapria and Wilens got an opportunity to bring the Panthers all the way back when a Westlake punt with just over three minutes remaining was blocked. P'ville took over at the Wildcats' 41-yard line, but all the new-found momentum disappeared with an



The Panthers' Jared Wilens had something to shout about after hauling in his second touchdown reception in the fourth quarter.



Westlake linebacker Joseph Piazza runs with the football after intercepting a pass in the first half vs. visiting Pleasantville.

intentional grounding call on second down.

"The intentional grounding killed us, killed us," said Becerra, who pleaded with the officials that he had a receiver, Sean Mueller, in the vicinity of the left sideline where the ball wound up. "It just squashed any momentum we had. I'll have to check the tape. That really killed us. We were doing some things and it's unfortunate that had to stop us."

The Wildcats did have to punt the ball one more time, but it wasn't blocked, leaving Pleasantville pinned back at its own 27-yard line with only 26 seconds on the clock. The interception by Llamas finally ended any doubt about the outcome.

"It's just a great, great rivalry," said Castellano. "It's never easy, especially against Pleasantville. You know they're gonna fight to the end. So I was kind of happy we responded the way we did."



Sean Mueller of Pleasantville returns a punt late in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game at Westlake.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Nicolas Bisgaier is about to score a goal in the first half of Byram Hills’ victory over Sleepy Hollow last Wednesday afternoon.



Sydney Levy of Bryam Hills lines up a forehand in her match at third singles last Wednesday. The Bobcats defeated Harrison to remain unbeaten.



Alex Lambos of Byram Hills races for the ball during the first half of the Bobcats’ game vs. Sleepy Hollow last week.



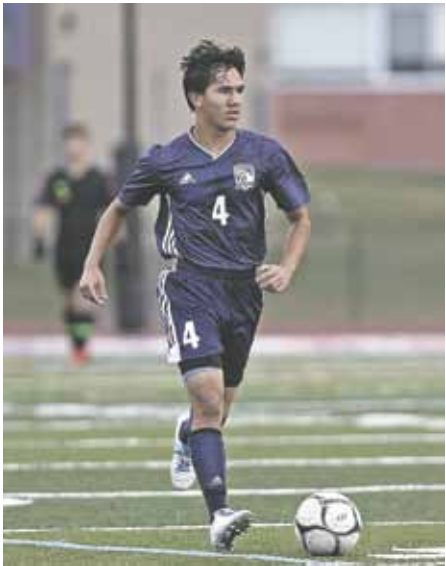
Bryan Roden of Byram Hills boots the ball up the field against visiting Sleepy Hollow.



Chloe Bernstein of Byram Hills smacks a backhand during her second-singles match last week against the Harrison Huskies.



Alyssa Margolin of Byram Hills gets set to hit a backhand return in her match at first singles vs. visiting Harrison last Wednesday.



Byram Hills senior Spencer Sidoti surveys the field as he controls the ball in last Wednesday’s home game.



Yusuf Hafez of Byram Hills takes the ball up the field in last Wednesday’s game.

Andy Jacobs Photos

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Byram Hills’ David Pereira chases the ball in the first half of last week’s home win over Sleepy Hollow.



Greeley's Ramsey Edson pursues the ball in Friday afternoon's home game vs. Fox Lane.



Fox Lane's Deysi Vasquez and Greeley's Ally Forster battle for possession of the ball in Friday afternoon's game in Chappaqua.



Lily Shapiro of Greeley searches for an open teammate to pass to in Friday's home game.



Fox Lane goalkeeper Katherine Abt stays ready in the early moments of the second half of Friday's game at Greeley High School.



Greeley's Hannah Fetter and Fox Lane's Alexandra Griffin each set their sights on the ball during Friday's game.



Fox Lane's Isis Gonzalez dribbles the ball near midfield against the Greeley Quakers.



Greeley's Jordan Troob controls the ball early in the second half of the Quakers' win over Fox Lane.

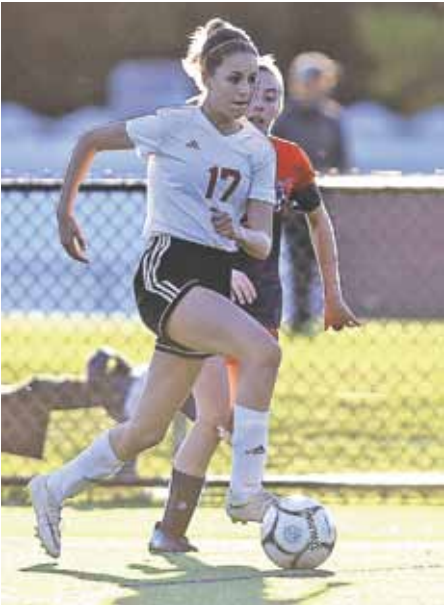


Horace Greeley's Sammi Forster goes on the attack as Fox Lane's Caitlyn Moccia chases in the second half of Friday's game, won by the Quakers.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

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Fox Lane's Morgan Eigel turns on the speed as she moves the ball up the left sideline against host Greeley.



Horace Greeley's Talia Belowich tries to move the ball past Fox Lane's Kelly Damore in the left corner during Friday's game hosted by the Quakers.

SPORTS SCENE



Greeley's Lily Schoonmaker moves the ball past Fox Lane's Sara Flores during the second half of Friday's game, which ended in a 1-1 tie.



Sophia Rutman of Greeley has some room to run as she heads toward the goal in Friday's game vs. Fox Lane.



Olivia Luppino of Fox Lane and Kristen Graham of Greeley fight for the ball in the second half of Friday's 1-1 tie.



Fox Lane's Kelly Damore sets her sights on the ball along the left sideline in Friday afternoon's game at Horace Greeley.



Grace Giannettino of Fox Lane and Talia Belowich of Greeley battle for control of the ball near midfield on Friday afternoon.



Claudia Hirsch of Fox Lane tries to send the ball out of the Foxes' defensive end vs. the Greeley Quakers.



Fox Lane players, left to right, Cayla Smith, goalie Ally DePalma, Suzie Paul, Sara Flores and Claudia Hirsch guard the goal during a Greeley penalty corner late in Friday's game.



Greeley's Stephanie Kasulka sends the ball up the field in Friday's home game.

Tuskers Hand Fox Lane Its First Loss of the Season

By Rob DiAntonio

Trailing by just a touchdown at halftime and receiving the ball to start the second half, Fox Lane was in position to pull off an upset over visiting Somers last Friday night.

The Foxes, however, faltered in the second half and suffered their first loss of the season with a 28-7 setback.

The second half started on a promising note when Marcial Vasquez returned the kickoff 39 yards to the Somers 41-yard line.

Fox Lane, now 4-1, moved down to the 21, but two straight incomplete passes resulted in a turnover on downs.

The rest of the second half was a struggle for the Foxes on offense. Fox Lane star running back Michael Washington couldn't get much going against a swarming Tusker defense.

"In the second half, we struggled moving the ball downfield," Fox Lane senior quarterback Spencer Rowley said. "I wasn't able to complete some crucial passes which would've, in turn, opened up some rushing lanes for Mike."

Somers added to its lead when Jackson Kossow found Kenny McGrane on a 10-yard touchdown pass in the left corner of the end zone late in the third quarter. The Tuskers led 20-7 after three quarters.

Kossow capped off the scoring for Somers with a 12-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

The Tuskers put the Foxes in a quick hole just 26 seconds into the game when Kossow connected with McGrane on a 73-yard touchdown pass on the first play from scrimmage. Fox Lane bit on the play-action fake, leaving McGrane wide open as he jetted down the sideline and dove for the pylon. Somers missed the extra point and had to settle for a 6-0 lead.

"When we saw them score on the first play, we all looked at each other and knew what we had to do," Rowley said. "We knew it was going to be a game full of ups and downs and that we would have to persevere. The team responded well



Michael Washington of the Foxes finds some running room.

and we were able to shake off that early mistake."

Fox Lane responded when Rowley found Luca Friedman on a 25-yard touchdown pass over the middle on fourth down. Rowley's extra point gave the Foxes a 7-6 lead with 27 seconds left in the first quarter.

"It was fourth-and-long and I knew we needed to convert," Rowley said. "The offensive line gave me the time I needed to find Luca in the seam. He made a great play catching the ball in coverage and scoring."

The lead was short lived as Somers responded with a 10-yard touchdown run from Jack Kaiser and a two-point conversion pass to go up 14-7 with 3:34

left in the first half.

Somers had a Balancia touchdown run called back on a hold before halftime. Vasquez recorded a sack to end the first half, sending the Foxes into the break down just 14-7.

The Foxes look to bounce back when they welcome Yorktown (4-1) for the regular season finale at 2 p.m. on Oct. 12.

"It was a tough loss and a rude awakening for us with it being our first loss of the year," Rowley said. "Moving forward, we will study the film, key in on our mistakes and grind this week in practice to play a better game for Homecoming against Yorktown on Saturday."



Fox Lane quarterback Spencer Rowley rolls out to pass.



Luca Friedman of the Foxes looks to elude Somers' Charlie Balancia



Foxes quarterback Spencer Rowley scrambles

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS



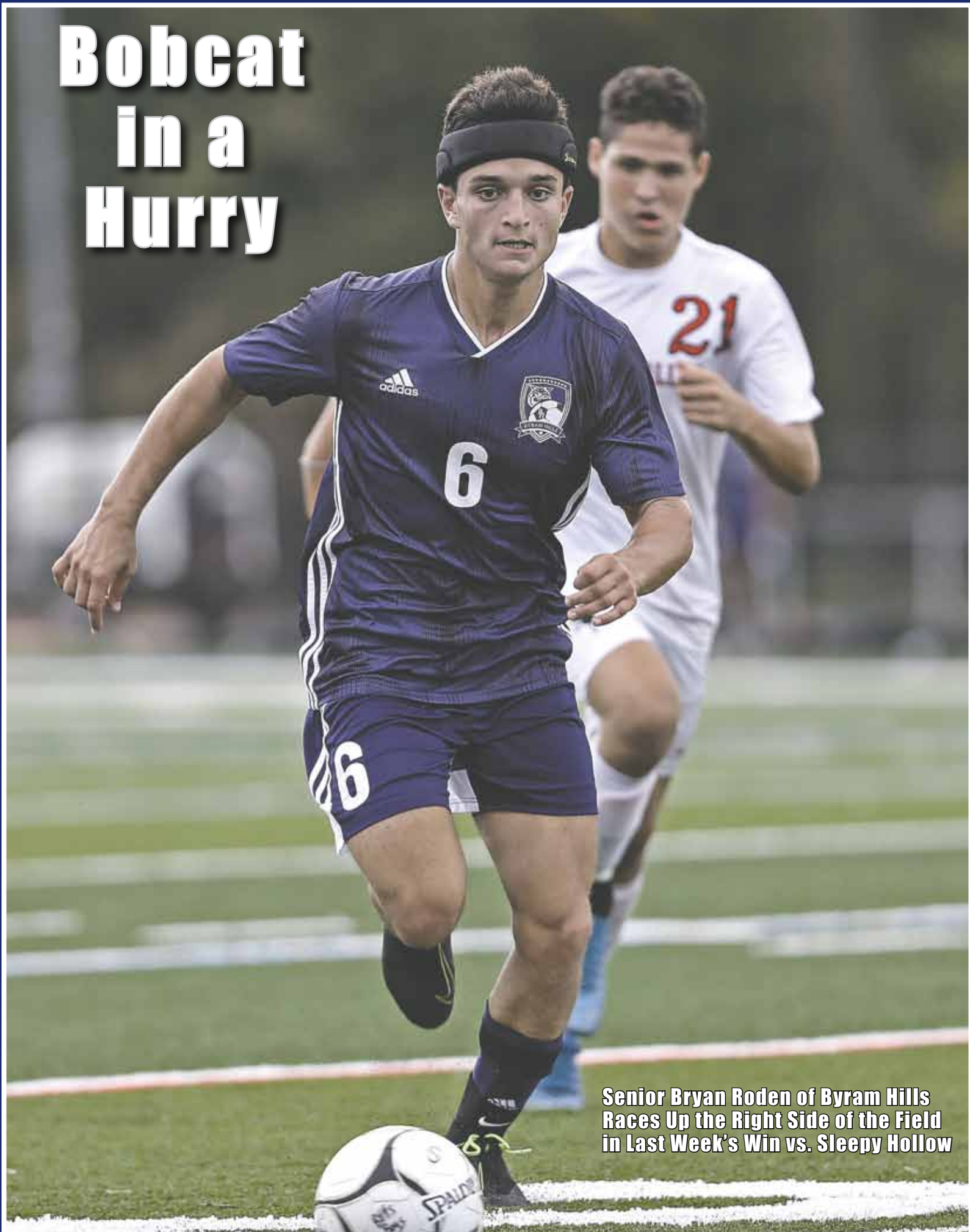
Marcial Vasquez can't hold on to a high pass in traffic.



Fox Lane's Thomas Olsen looks for a hole.



Bobcat in a Hurry



Senior Bryan Roden of Byram Hills
Races Up the Right Side of the Field
in Last Week's Win vs. Sleepy Hollow