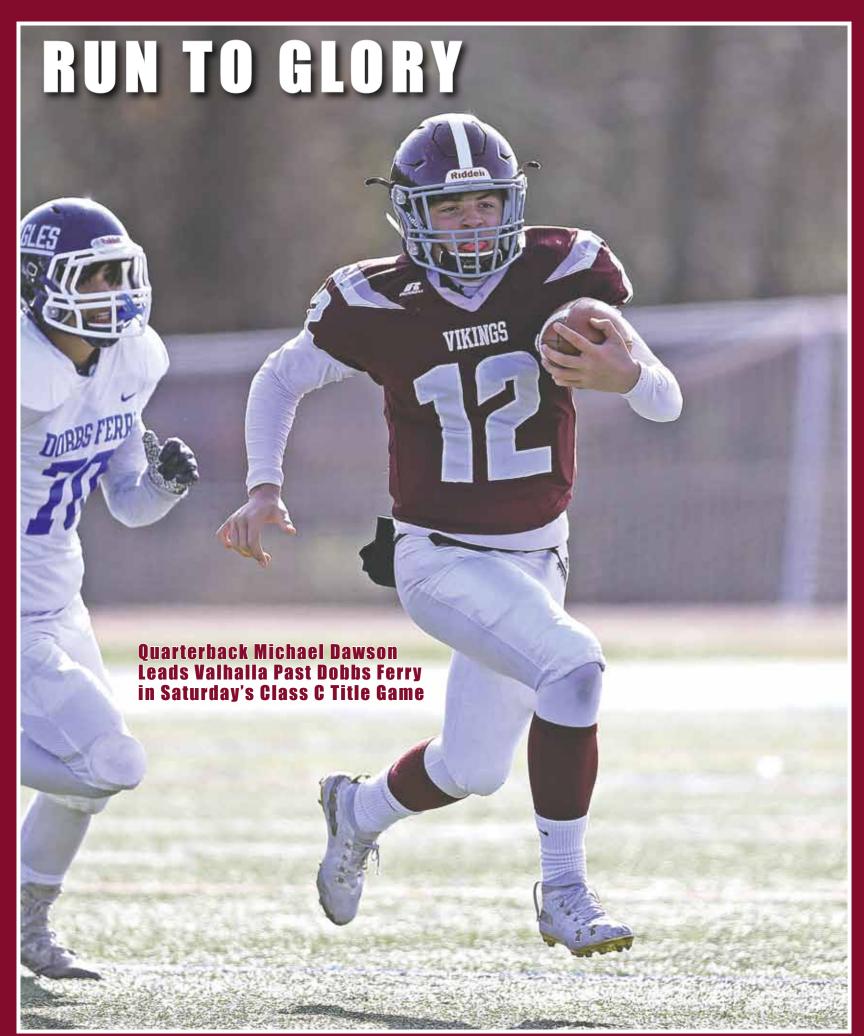
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Bobcats Fall to Ardsley in the Class B Championship Game

By Andy Jacobs

The championship dreams of the Byram Hills football team were dashed on Saturday afternoon by a one-man wrecking crew from Ardsley.

Jalen Osbourne, the Panthers' dynamic senior running back, erupted for five first-half touchdowns as the defending sectional champions were building a 27-point lead on their way to a resounding 55-27 victory over the Bobcats in the Class B title game at Mahopac High School.

"He's special. He's really good," said Bobcats head coach Doug Carpenter after watching the speedy Osbourne wind up with 303 yards on the ground and six touchdowns in a bravura performance that left his team overwhelmed. "You know, he's not just a one-trick pony that can run fast. He can do it all."

Osbourne began putting his stamp on the game immediately, returning the opening kickoff 35 yards. On Ardsley's second play from scrimmage, he got to the left sideline and scored on a 42-yard run that gave the unbeaten and top-seeded Panthers the lead just 59 seconds into the contest.

"You've just got to give a man like that props," said Byram Hills quarterback Nic Picca, who provided nearly 200 yards rushing himself in a losing cause. "We never underestimated him. We knew what he was about. We knew what he could do."

On its second possession of the sunny, but cold, mid-autumn day, Ardsley opted for some deception to help stretch the lead. Instead of punting on fourth-and-six near midfield, quarterback Luke Mantini made a surprise pass to Ryan Watson for a first down. One play later, Osbourne, from a wildcat formation, ran 18 yards to his right for his second touchdown. The point-after kick from Darren Judge gave the Panthers a 14-point lead just over five minutes into the game.

But the second-seeded Bobcats, winners of seven of their eight games coming in, soon showed the huge crowd they could move the football too. On first down, from their own 37-yard-line, Steven Franco ran for 30 yards. Just three plays later, Picca, after faking a handoff to Matt Weiler, scored on a two-yard run. The PAT from David Gold sliced the Ardsley lead to 14-7 with 4:55 left in the opening quarter.

Just before the period ended, it was Picca



Ben Weinhoff of Byram Hills is on his way to a 66-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter of Saturday's championship game.



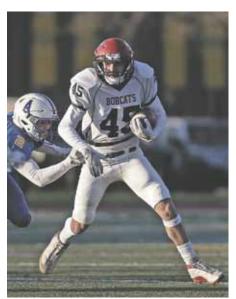
With the sun setting on the Bobcats' season, quarterback Nic Picca throws a fourth-quarter pass.

again finding his way into the end zone on an 18-yard run to cap a six-play, 43-yard drive. Gold's point-after tied the score and the game headed to the second quarter with the outcome still anybody's guess.

"I was just so proud of the way our kids answered the bell every time," said Carpenter. "Down 14-0, we asked them to keep believing, keep swinging, and we made it a 14-14 game."

Unfortunately for the Bobcats, the second quarter proved to be 12 minutes that doomed their title aspirations. Osbourne raced 60 yards on the second play of the period, getting tripped up by Picca at the 7-yard-line, then scored up the middle one play later to give Ardsley the lead for good.

The Panthers soon took advantage of a Byram turnover, moving 56 yards in just three plays for another touchdown. Osbourne took care of the last 48, bolting out of the backfield like a missile and running straight up the middle to pay dirt. The kick from Judge gave Ardsley a 28-14 advantage just two and a half minutes into the second quarter.



The Bobcats' Jared Cohen runs with the football on a kick return during the sectional championship game.



Byram Hills junior Steven Franco fends off the pursuit of Ardsley's Jalen Osbourne during the sectional final at Mahopac High School.

In response, Picca was able to connect with Ben Weinhoff on a 38-yard pass play down the right sideline that set the Bobcats up at the Ardsley 26. But on fourth-and-12, Picca's pass over the middle was intercepted by Osbourne, ending the Byram threat.

An Ardsley fumble gave the ball back to the Bobcats at the Panther 26-yard-line again almost immediately, but just four plays later Ardsley all but ended any suspense about the eventual winner when Griffin Buckland picked off a pass to the left by Picca intended for Jack Tillinger and returned it 85 yards. Though the PAT was blocked, with 3:57 left in the half the Bobcats suddenly trailed 34-14

14.
"Yeah, that certainly was a game changer," said Carpenter. "That kid made a heck of a play."

The big defensive play from Buckland was soon followed by Osbourne's fifth touchdown of the first half, a 44-yard run on second-and-19 during which he outraced both Franco and Ryan Abatemarco into the end zone with just 23 seconds left on the clock. When the teams left the field a few moments later, Osbourne had already amassed 275 yards and the Bobcats were facing a 41-14 deficit.

To their credit, the Bobcats returned for the second half and wasted no time putting their second-quarter woes behind them. Weiler ran 18 yards on first down, then threw a perfect option pass 40 yards in the air to Weinhoff, who sprinted the final 30 yards into the end zone for a 66-yard touchdown. Gold's line-drive PAT moved Byram back



The Bobcats' Matt Weiler tries to run past Ardsley's Luke Mantini in Saturday's Class B championship game.

within 20 points just 37 seconds into the third quarter.

"You know, halftime, we hadn't been in a locker room at halftime with a score like that in a while," said Carpenter. "And we just asked the kids to 'keep swinging, believe in each other. Understand we can do something great right now.' And they did. They came out and punched one in. It was awesome."

But any thoughts of a Bobcat second-half comeback quickly disappeared when Ardsley answered with a five-play, 72-yard drive that ended with Mantini finding Watson over the middle with a 26-yard touchdown pass. With 8:27 remaining in the quarter, the Panthers' cushion was back up to 27 points.

Picca's third score of the day, a 12-yard run on a fourth-and-two play, enabled Byram Hills to start the fourth quarter within three touchdowns again. But the only points of the final period came from Ardsley, which marched 82 yards on a drive that lasted over six minutes, took 10 plays and ended with Osbourne's sixth TD, from three yards out.

"Ardsley, they played really well," said Carpenter, who was hoping to even up the score with his former college roommate after losing to the Panthers and head coach Dan DiFalco during the regular season. "They had a great game plan. They outcoached us. I liked their fake-punt call on the second drive. That was something I could've put our kids in better position for, and I didn't."

Despite the humbling defeat, Picca, for one, won't soon forget what the Bobcats were able to accomplish this season.

continued on next page



Dejected players on the Byram Hills football team watch the postgame ceremony after losing to Ardsley in the Class B championship.



Byram Hills captains, left to right, Nick Ferrante, Cole Picca, Matt Weiler, Nic Picca and Thomas Grgurovic await the pregame coin toss at Saturday's Section 1, Class B championship.

continued from previous page

"As weird as it sounds, it's proud," he said when asked what emotions he was feeling in the wake of his final game in a Bobcat football uniform. "This team means more than I know to me and my family. Our school has gotten behind us now and it only took our coach four years when it normally takes people 10 to change an entire community, to change an entire town."

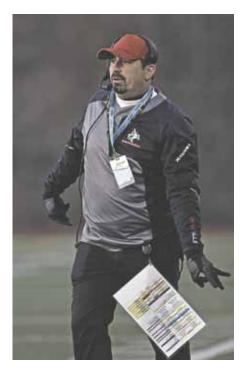
For Carpenter, what he'll remember most about the Bobcats' run to the Class B championship game goes far beyond what

they accomplished on the field.

"You know, the fact that we had some wins and some big plays is great, but in the last three days I've had so many people from the building tell me how respectful our kids are, how they'll go out of their way to say hello to hall monitors and security guards and hold the door for strangers. Those are things that mean the most to me. That's what I'm most proud of about this team. I love these kids, and this will be one of the most favorite years of my life."



Byram Hills lineman Thomas Grgurovic waits for the top-seeded Ardsley Panthers to come to the line of scrimmage during the second half of Saturday's title game.



Byram Hills head coach Doug Carpenter directs his team in the second half of the sectional final vs. Ardsley.



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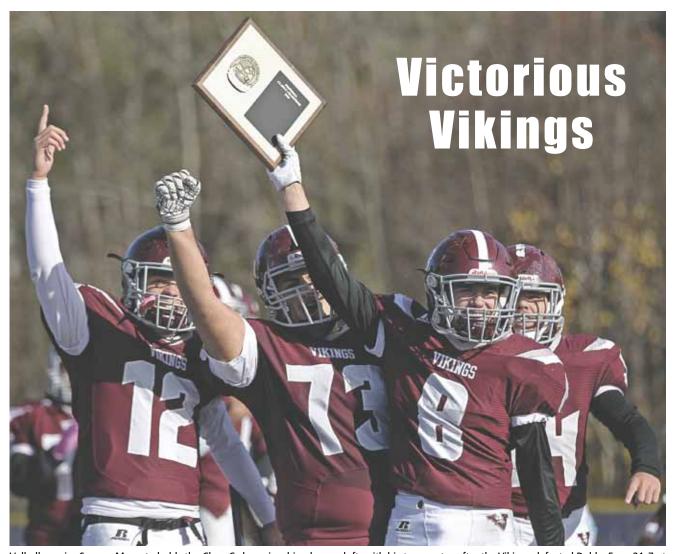
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Valhalla senior Sammy Mussuto holds the Class C championship plaque aloft with his teammates after the Vikings defeated Dobbs Ferry 21-7 at Mahopac High School on Saturday.







Pleasantville junior Katie Moses gets set to embrace teammates Allison Portera and Isabelle Kapoor following a Panther goal early in the first half of Friday night's 4-0 romp over Section 9 champion O'Neill in the state playoffs at Goshen High School.

Valhalla Races Past the Eagles in the Class C Title Game

By Danny Lopriore

Big plays on a big day lifted Valhalla High School to Viking football heaven Saturday with a 21-7 victory over Dobbs Ferry in the Section 1 Class C championship game at Mahopac High School.

The Vikings (7-2), a prodigious group with several underclassmen led by sophomore quarterback Michael Dawson, won their seventh straight game to earn the school's first Section 1 title since 1998, advancing to Friday's 7 p.m. regional playoff game against Section 9's Chester in Kingston.

"We were pretty successful in Class B and had to come to Class C last year, which was a struggle because we had a bunch of sophomores and freshmen," said Valhalla coach Steve Boyer, who was dripping wet after being doused by his players. "It took a year to grow up. After those first two losses, we went on a roll since Week 3. This win is a tribute to the boys, who never gave up."

The sunny, 30-degree frigid morning got a bit hotter late in the first quarter of a scoreless tie when the Vikings struck suddenly.

Dawson saw an opening in the Dobbs Ferry defensive formation and hit wideout Mahari Davis Jr. in the left flat. Davis did the rest. He juked a defender and raced 81 yards for the game's first score. The extra point by Elias Gonzalez, who hit all three of his chances, was good, and the Vikings led 7-0.

"I saw the mismatch, made an adjustment and Mahari made it happen," said Dawson, who completed 8 of 14 passes for 152 yards and ran for another touchdown that gave the Vikings a 14-0 lead. "Once preseason started, we knew we had the athletes and the talent, the size and speed, on offense and defense. We lost the first two games, but (Coach Boyer) told us we would win and here we are. It's a great feeling."

Dawson hit speedy Rahsean Melvin on another big play for 36 yards to the Dobbs Ferry 15-yard-line to key the second scoring drive. After a short pass to halfback Sammy Mussuto, Dawson scored on a keeper from four yards out and a two-touchdown lead at halftime.

"Mike tapped his helmet (to signal us) and I knew something was coming," Davis said of the first big play. "I made sure I caught the pass and then I got by one guy and just ran hard. We have guys who can make big plays. Winning Section 1 is great because the last time we had great teams (the state title) my uncle, Brian Johnson, was playing in 1996. It



Valhalla players, left to right, Ismael Youssef, Jack Sullivan, Michael Dawson and Sammy Mussuto pose with the spoils of victory after the Vikings captured the Class C championship on Saturday.



Valhalla sophomore quarterback Michael Dawson runs with the football in the first quarter of Saturday's Class C title game.

will help build our program."

Dobbs Ferry tried jump-starting its offense by laying down an on-sides kick to open the second half, but the Vikings' receiving team recovered the kick on its 48-yard-line. Dawson fed Mussuto four consecutive handoffs and the shifty back rolled for 52 yards, finishing with a three-yard burst to make the score 21-0 early in the third quarter.

The Eagles hit on a big play of their own on the next possession, scoring on a 50-yard pass play from quarterback Harry Dann to halfback James McGovern to cut the deficit to 21-7 late in the third quarter. Faced with a waning clock, Dobbs Ferry tried and failed on another on-sides kick.

While Valhalla's big-play offense built a lead, it was the Vikings' defense that kept the Eagles' running game from mounting drives. The defense got contributions from Melvin, Davis, Joseph O'Neil, defensive linemen Ben Rieber and Ismael Yusef and linebackers John Sullivan and Francesco Falco among others.

"The defense has been the key the last four weeks," Boyer said. "We make a big play to get a lead and that builds confidence on defense. When you get big stops to stop momentum things change. That was our defense all year."

The defense made its biggest play midway through the fourth quarter when the Eagles moved the ball inside the Vikings 5-yard line and were poised to score. Dann moved to his left, pitched low to his running back

and the ball bounced away. Falco recovered the ball to kill the scoring chance.

"Honestly, I saw the pitch, I followed the play, I saw the ball come out and made it there as fast as I could," Falco said. "I knew if we could stop them there we had the game in the bag. I knew it was big. The whole year we have made the plays when we needed them."

Falco said the defense was inspired to beat the Eagles.

"Our defense was keyed to stop their running game," Falco said. "Except for one pass play, we did that. It feels amazing. Dobbs has a program that we



The Vikings' Mahari Davis Jr. is on his way to an 81-yard touchdown reception in the opening quarter vs. the Dobbs Ferry Eagles.

strive to beat. They win almost every year. We knew they were the team to beat. We showed up. We wanted it more and it's a great win for Valhalla."

Dawson was named the game's Most Valuable Player and Davis the Most Valuable Back. Dobbs Ferry's Thomas Palicz was the game's Most Valuable Lineman.

Valhalla's next opponent is 6-2 and defeated the Vikings 42-22 on opening day this season.

"We had contributions from so many of the guys," Boyer said. "We will enjoy this win and then we look forward to playing Chester, who beat us, Dobbs Ferry and Woodlands this year, so we know it's a challenge."



The Vikings' Rahsean Melvin looks on from the sideline while getting a quick rest in the Class C title game.



Valhalla's Michael Dawson hands the ball off to Joseph Nolan in the Vikings' 21-7 title win over Dobbs Ferry at Mahopac High School.



Valhalla senior Sammy Mussuto picks up some big yardage as he carries the ball in the second quarter of the sectional final against Dobbs Ferry.

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Isabelle Kapoor provided a pair of goals as Pleasantville defeated O'Neill in the state playoffs.



Allison Portera passes the ball across the field during Pleasantville's 4-0 win over O'Neill.



Pleasantville's Amber Nanaj controls the ball near midfield in Friday night's state regional playoff game.



The Panthers' Grace Capko races up the field with the ball in Friday night's 4-0 regional romp over James I. O'Neill.



Pleasantville's Katie Moses pursues the ball in the regional final on Friday night at Goshen High School.



The Panthers' Allison Portera (left) greets Isabelle Kapoor after a goal early in Friday night's regional game vs. O'Neill.



Lauren Mathews scored one of the Panthers' four goals during Friday's victory in the state's regional final.



The Panthers' Mary Grace O'Neill sets her sights on the ball near the left sideline in the win over O'Neill.



Analese Picart boots the ball up the field in the first half against the O'Neill Raiders at Goshen High School.

SOCCER Pleasantville Crushes O'Neill in Regional Final



Lexie Rippstein battles for control of the ball in the Panthers' lopsided win over Section 9 champion James I. O'Neill on Friday night.



Saturday's regional playoff game against Kingston.





The Quakers' Natalie Laskowski searches for a teammate to pass to in the first half of Saturday's state playoff game.



The Quakers' Kristen Graham controls the ball in the Class A state playoff game at Lakeland High School.

FIELD HOCKEY Greeley Advances With Overtime Win **Against Kingston**



Greeley's Hannah Lane waits for a chance to intercept a pass in the first half of Saturday's state playoff win over Kingston.



Grace Arrese of Greeley tries to escape defensive pressure from the Kingston Tigers during Saturday's state regional at Lakeland High School.



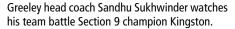
Horace Greeley's Sophia Rutman sends the ball up the field in the first half of Saturday's regional final against the Kingston Tigers.



Greeley's Caroline Flannery follows through after hitting the ball up the field while Kingston's Barrett Holsapple goes airborne in Saturday's 2-1 Quaker overtime win.



Stephanie Kasulka prepares to hit the ball in the first half of Greeley's regional playoff game on Saturday afternoon.



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Greeley senior Joe O'Brien finished fifth and qualified for states in Class A, clocking a time of 16:54.3.



Pleasantville senior Aidan Lynch leads the group early in the Class C race. Lynch placed first in a time of 16:57.8.



Briarcliff's Jack Sendek (fifth, 17:19.3) and Mark Rogers (fourth, 17:17.7) each finished in the top 5 in Class C.



Zachary Micucci of the Foxes competes in the Class A race last Saturday.



Isabella Smith of the Quakers competes at sectionals.

CROSS COUNTRY Section 1 Championships Saturday, November 9, 2019 Bowdoin Park, Wappingers Falls



Greeley's Rishi Young and Fox Lane's Ensen Sgaglio run neck and neck.



Meagan Moky of the Foxes runs in the Class A



Lauren Rogers was the top finisher for the Briarcliff girls in 16th.



Ryan Dirgins of the Panthers head down a hill.



Jennifer Mui led Byram Hills by placing 16th in Class



qualified for states with a third-place finish in Class C. She crossed the finish line in a time of 20:21.1.



Westlake's Gabriella Borello runs in the Class C

Setters Hoping New Offense Leads to a Successful Season

By Andy Jacobs

A year ago, Lauren Schetter and Jackie DelliSanti were the top two scorers for a Pace women's basketball team that lost eight of its final 10 games to finish a disappointing 10-18.

To avoid a repeat of 2018-19, Setter head coach Carrie Seymour asked both frontcourt players to spend their offseason expanding their skills and reinventing themselves as offensive weapons other teams would struggle mightily to deal with.

"Jackie and Lauren, they've done a good job," said Seymour. "Last spring, we told them that their goal was to play like big guards, not short forwards. And they did a lot of work this summer, and they both increased their range, they're both more confident with their ball handling, and they're tough matchups now. Prior to this, post players could guard them."

Seymour had just watched as the two of them each made six of 11 shots from the field on Sunday afternoon and finished with a game-high 16 points, leading the Setters to a 57-41 victory over visiting New York Tech on the second day of the 2019 Conference Challenge at the Goldstein Fitness Center. Pace went on a 9-0 run over the final three minutes of the third quarter to break open a close game and improve to 2-0 this season.

"First weekends don't really mean a whole lot," said Seymour after the curtain had risen for her 28th season at the Setters' helm. "It's nice to win, it's nice to get off 2-0, but it's not indicative of how your season's gonna go. Our conference is gonna be tough, it's gonna be really tough."

With the start of Northeast-10 Conference play still a week and a half away, Seymour at least has an idea now how much better her two returning forwards are. On Saturday afternoon, in the season opener, DelliSanti



Sophomore point guard Lauren Hackett sets up the Pace offense in the first half of Sunday's game.



Pace junior forward Lauren Schetter will be a key offensive contributor for the Setters once again this season.

all but rendered previous scouting reports on her useless. She made 13 of 19 shots and wound up with a career-high 31 points in just 27 minutes of a 78-56 rout of Mercy.

"You know, she was very determined," said Seymour of the senior from Long Island. "I think she caught them off guard. I think they scouted her off last year and she didn't have the kind of range that she showed yesterday. She's quicker this year, she's in better shape. She just got on a roll and then things were falling for her and she just took advantage."



Naya Rivera of Pace handles the ball near the top of the key during Sunday's home win.



Pace University guard Brianna Wong drives through the lane early in the second half of the 57-41 win over New York Tech.

On Sunday, DelliSanti and Schetter combined for a mere 12 points against New York Tech in the opening half, which ended with the teams tied at 23-apiece after the Setters were outscored 11-5 over the final six minutes.

"I think we went on a very erratic pace in the second quarter," Seymour said. "We were forcing a lot of shots. I felt like we were getting out of position on defense. I think the excitement of the game, we're tired from the day before, it kind of got to us and we weren't really mentally involved enough. So I think the break at halftime was good."

Schetter's conventional 3-point play with 6:50 left in the third quarter gave the Setters a lead they never relinquished. A couple of buckets in the paint by DelliSanti in the midst of Pace's 13-2 spurt to close the period left the Bears trailing 41-29 heading to the final quarter. Schetter's put-back with 2:22 remaining in the game gave the Setters their largest lead of the day, 53-35.

The biggest highlight for the fans came with just over a minute to go when sophomore point guard Lauren Hackett delivered a behind-the-back pass to Iliana Krasniqi for a fast-break layup. It was the fourth assist of the game for Hackett, who only turned the ball over once in her 35 minutes on the court and figures to be a key part of the Setters' new-look, fast-paced offense.

"She's starting to understand how to play with more tempo," said Seymour. "Last year, she played everything with one speed. You know, it was 100 miles an hour. Now she's playing with more tempo and she's picking and choosing when she's attacking. She's using her speed more effectively and it's helping. We're getting people the ball."

When they took command against New York Tech in the third quarter, the Setters held the Bears to just 2-of-13 shooting from the floor. But even though Pace's first two opponents struggled to make shots, Seymour is convinced the Setters' fortunes in 2019-20 will be determined by what they do at the offensive end.



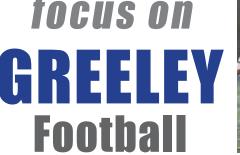
The Setters' Jackie DelliSanti tries to score inside during Sunday's home victory over New York Tech.

"We've got to score," she said. "That sounds kind of obvious, but we have to really push the offensive tempo. We have to play like five big guards out there. Last year, we played a lot of grind and half court, too much back to the basket, and that's not really gonna be our strength at all. But I feel like we can be competitive and I'm excited to get it going again tomorrow."

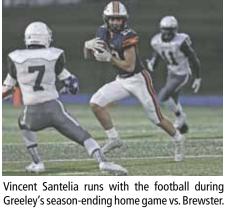


Kelsey Quain will provide the Setters with reliable outside shooting during the 2019-20 season.

focus on









The Quakers' Thomas Brennan finds some running room in the first half vs. visiting Brewster.



Sophomore quarterback Ryan Wohl gets set to throw the ball in Greeley's season finale vs. Brewster.



Ethan Glynn of Greeley cuts across the field in the Quakers' 28-12 loss to visiting Brewster in a Friday night game the day after Halloween.



The Quakers' Jackson Goldblatt returns a kick in the recent home game against the Brewster

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Horace Greeley senior quarterback Rosendorf searches for an open receiver.



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Fox Lane star running back Michael Washington carries the ball at midfield in the Foxes' 27-12 season-ending win over the Clarkstown North Rams



Fox Lane junior Jordan Sauro carries the ball in the win over the Rams.



The Foxes' Marcial Vasquez returns a kick in the season finale two weeks ago.



Thomas Olsen tries to elude Clarkstown North tacklers during Fox Lane's home victory at Memorial Stadium.

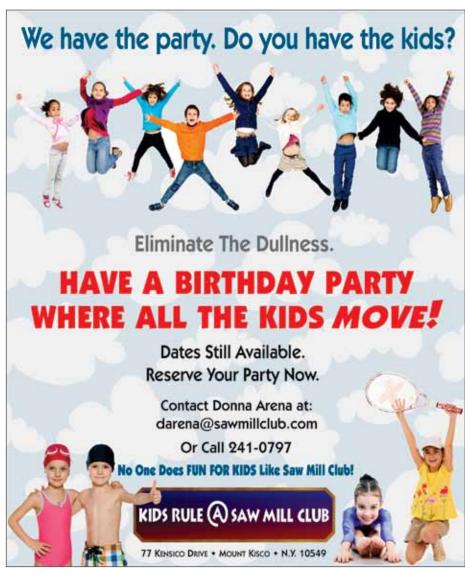
FOX LANE FOOTBALL



Fox Lane senior quarterback Spencer Rowley sprints out of the pocket as he searches for an open receiver vs. visiting Clarkstown North.



Pedro Silva of Fox Lane surveys the field as he runs with the ball vs. visiting Clarkstown North.





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