

BOBCAT BLOWOUT

**Junior Matteo Sinon
Gets Inside for Two
as Byram Hills Cruises
to the Tournament Title
at Panas High School**

Third-Quarter Burst Helps Lift Byram Hills Past the Hornets

By Andy Jacobs

Just when it was needed, the Byram Hills girls' basketball team caught fire on Thursday afternoon.

With a rapid array of 3-pointers, the Bobcats quickly overturned a nine-point third-quarter deficit and went on a big run that carried them to a 62-55 win over the visiting Lakeland Hornets. Point guard Jen Mui finished with 18 points and Beth Corelli added 13 as the Bobcats earned their first victory of the 2019-20 season and evened their record at 1-1.

"Lakeland played extremely well," said Byram Hills coach Tara Ryan afterwards. "It was definitely a difficult first half. They went into a 1-3-1 and we had to make some adjustments going into the second half. So I'm very proud of the team. Everybody took accountability and we changed our defense up and we made a couple of switches to our offense."

The first half featured three lead changes in the opening quarter and six more in the second, but Lakeland scored three straight baskets to close the half and take a 28-22 advantage at the break. An old-fashioned 3-point play 40 seconds into the third quarter stretched the Hornets' lead to nine points before the Bobcats began their comeback with an assault from beyond the arc.

It started with a 3-point shot from Mui and a trio of others was soon to follow. After Lakeland's Hannah Devane, who wound up with a game-high 25 points, drove the left baseline for a layup that gave the Hornets a 33-25 lead, Byram Hills responded with 14 consecutive points over the next four minutes, beginning with a Stefana Latella inside bucket.

Olivia Picca soon followed with a 3-pointer from left of the key, then Gabby Ripka, taking advantage of a Hornet turnover, connected on a trey from the



Byram Hills guard Jen Mui takes the ball to the basket in the second half of Thursday's home win over Lakeland.

left corner to tie the game. With 4:23 remaining in the third quarter, Mui drove to the basket for a scoop shot that gave Byram the lead. Corelli drained a 3-pointer from straightaway on a second-chance opportunity and the huge spurt concluded with a free throw by eighth-grader Grace Corelli.

"Yeah, our shots started falling and then also with that we started attacking the basket," said Ryan, whose Bobcats had crushed Lakeland in the opening round of last season's sectional playoffs back in February. "We were able to calm down and hit some open shots and keep driving the lane. It all starts with us on defense. When we get some defensive stops, it lets them push the ball. That's kind of our game. And the girls did a great job in transition today."

A short jumper by Sofia Portante late in the third quarter brought the reeling Hornets, who were outscored 18-3 over a six-minute span, to within 43-38 heading to the fourth. Lakeland then used a 7-0 run



The Bobcats' Beth Corelli shoots the ball from the left baseline during the 62-22 victory over the visiting Lakeland Hornets.

early in the final period to tie the score at 45 apiece. With just under three minutes remaining, the Hornets retook the lead, 51-50, on a right-corner 3-pointer from Tyler Hormazabal.

But Ryan's Bobcats are a seasoned group, led by a core of backcourt players who have been together for quite a while, and they stepped up in the waning moments to secure a win. A 15-foot pop from Picca near the foul line with 2:35 on the clock gave the Bobcats the lead once again and they never lost it, closing the contest by outscoring Lakeland 12-4. Five of the points came from Mui at the free-throw line over the final 66 seconds.

"We want the ball in Jen's hands at the end of the game," said Ryan. "We have a great crew of phenomenal guards on this team and they keep pushing each other every single day. Jen, along with some others, have been on this team already for four years. They've been on the team since eighth grade, so they're comfortable with being uncomfortable at the end. And they know it comes down to foul shots."

A highlight of the new season awaits the Bobcats this coming Saturday morning when they face Walter Panas in a



Gabby Ripka fires up a 3-point shot from the left corner in the second half of the Bobcats' home game against Lakeland.

'Challenge Game' of the 2019 Slam Dunk Tournament at the Westchester County Center, a place Ryan would love to take her team again when the sectionals arrive. But the playoffs are still a long way off and Ryan is content for the moment awaiting more of the same stiff challenges from opponents that Lakeland presented in the home opener.

"We've got a lot of things to keep working on, a lot of learning," she said. "We have one of the toughest schedules coming up, I think, in the section. This is all preparation for playoffs. We're gonna play the hardest teams we can. So the win-loss (record) might be a little different this year, but we're sure gonna be ready for playoffs."



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Byram Hills' Olivia Barry gets the ball in the paint after slipping past a pair of Lakeland defenders in last Thursday's Bobcat win.



Eighth-grade guard Grace Corelli of Byram Hills drive past Lakeland's Tyler Hormazabal along the left baseline.



The Bobcats' Stefana Latella and Lakeland's Hannah Devane await a potential rebound in the first half of last week's game at Byram Hills.

Olivia Picca of Byram Hills searches for an open teammate in the Bobcats' home opener last Thursday.

Fox Lane Falls in the Final of the Boosters' Tip-Off Tournament

By Andy Jacobs

It wasn't the first time and likely won't be the last that Fox Lane head coach Mike Tomassi banished his entire starting five to the bench the way he did a couple of minutes into the third quarter on Saturday evening.

Call it bold or call it rash, but for a few brief moments Tomassi's decision paid immediate dividends. His second-unit Foxes went on a 12-2 tear to grab a one-point lead and fire up the spirited student section that hadn't had much to cheer earlier in the night.

Unfortunately for the Foxes, the visiting Alexander Hamilton Red Raiders soon recovered from the unexpected tenacity of Tomassi's reinforcements and regained control of the contest. Led by the inside play of Jourdan Belcher, who finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds to earn MVP honors, the Red Raiders escaped with a 54-46 victory in the championship game of Fox Lane's second annual Booster Club Tip-Off Tournament.

"Yeah, I did that a couple times last year," said Tomassi about his mass substitution early in the second half. "You know, we've got a talented group of kids, 15 guys, and I've got to be fair to everybody. It's not easy subbing, but if you're not gonna play hard and you're not gonna compete for the team I've got to give other guys opportunities. And I thought tonight they deserved the opportunity."

The Foxes never had the lead in the first half and fell behind by seven points on two occasions. But they only trailed 29-25 at halftime despite the bigger Red Raiders' dominance on the glass. When the third quarter began with two buckets and five quick points from Hamilton's Brandon Harris that stretched the Fox Lane deficit to nine points, Tomassi had seen enough.

He summoned five new players into the game and, just moments later, began reaping the rewards of his decision. Franz Depra ignited the big 12-2 burst by connecting on a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Pedro Silva followed with a steal and fast-break basket and then freshman Charlie Shevick chipped in with a toss in the lane on a second-chance opportunity for the Foxes.

A put-back basket by Hamilton's Belcher momentarily slowed the Foxes' surge, but Shevick soon answered with a runner in



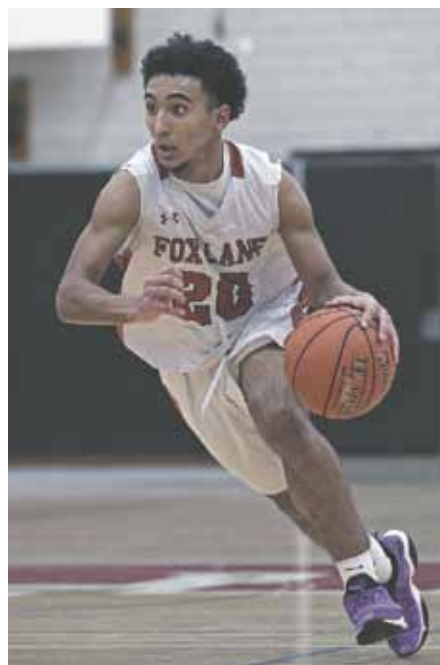
The Foxes' Oliver Shevick collides with Hamilton's Jourdan Belcher as he takes the ball toward the basket in the second half of Saturday's game.

the lane. When another second-chance opportunity led to a 3-pointer from right of the key by Chris Bodine, the Foxes suddenly had a 37-36 lead with 2:35 remaining in the third quarter.

"It was great," said Tomassi about the spark provided by his bench. "Those guys came in, worked hard. You know we always preach that your minutes are earned in practice. Those guys got an opportunity today and they definitely earned some more minutes."

But the magic from the Foxes' second unit didn't last. After the 3-pointer by Bodine, Fox Lane went scoreless the rest of the third quarter. Two more baskets from the burly Belcher gave Hamilton a 40-37 edge heading to the final quarter and the Foxes never caught up again.

Bodine, named to the all-tournament



The Foxes' Pedro Silva drives near the top of the key in Saturday's title game of the Booster Club Tip-Off Tournament.



Franz Depra goes into the lane for a shot in Fox Lane's game against the Hamilton Red Raiders on Saturday evening.

team, supplied three straight Fox Lane baskets in the fourth quarter. His final one, with just under five minutes remaining, cut the Hamilton lead to 45-43. With 3:19 left, Aidan Hicks drilled a 3-pointer out of the right corner just before the shot clock was about to expire, moving the Foxes to within 49-46. The Foxes, though, then went through another scoring drought and the last five points of the night all came from the Red Raiders at the foul line.

"We didn't win, but it paid off," said Tomassi about his decision to turn to



Fox Lane guard Justin Allen dribbles across midcourt in the title game of the Foxes' second annual Tip-Off Tournament.



Fox Lane's James DiBiasi rises for a jump shot in the first quarter vs. visiting Hamilton.

five new players when the Foxes were struggling. "Talent will take you only so far. If you're not gonna compete and play together as a team, defend and work for the best shot possible versus a very good team, it's gonna be tough. And I thought the group that came in in the second half, at least energy-wise, met them and gave us a chance to compete."

The Foxes, now 3-2 this season, had advanced to the tourney final with a 63-45 victory over Peekskill in the opening round, led by Will Crerend's game-high 24 points, 17 of them coming in a spectacular first-quarter performance. But their inability to follow it with a win over the Red Raiders left Tomassi searching for answers.

"Unfortunately, if you don't take away other teams' strengths or make them adjust, you're not gonna win," he said. "Our game plan going in was limit them in transition and limit their second-chance points. And I thought we didn't do that very well. Losses are tough, but they do make you better in the long run."



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Freshman forward Charlie Shevick shoots the ball over Hamilton's Aiden Bond in the second half of the Tip-Off Tournament title game at Fox Lane.

Fox Lane Defeats the Bobcats With a Third-Period Eruption

By Andy Jacobs

A barrage of goals from the Fox Lane hockey team early in the third period proved to be the difference on Sunday evening. Three in rapid succession broke open a game that had been tied after two periods and carried the host Foxes to a 6-2 victory over Byram Hills at the Brewster Ice Arena.

The Foxes, winners now of three straight games, got a goal each from half a dozen different players as they overcame a 1-0 deficit. Daniel Leader's tip-in goal from just left of the crease on the rebound of a shot from the right slot just over 90 seconds into the final period gave Fox Lane a 2-1 edge and set the stage for two more goals that quickly followed and all but sealed the outcome.

"We kind of went into the locker room after the second period feeling like we had pretty good control of the game," said Fox Lane coach Dan Mulvey, whose team outshot the Bobcats by a whopping 11-3 margin in the second stanza. "The scoreboard wasn't reflecting it. We knew we were gonna continue getting our chances and hopefully things were gonna turn around. And fortunately they did."

For Byram Hills coach AJ Cloherty, the Bobcats' struggle in the third period was nothing new and kept them winless after three games this season.

"Our third period is our Achilles heel," he said. "If you look at our last two scores, we come out and we give up a goal in the first 90 seconds or less and then we give up goals



The Foxes' Daniel Leader eyes the back of the net as he skates in from the left wing during Sunday's 6-2 win over Byram Hills.

in bunches in the third. This game, we gave up a goal in under 90 seconds and then we gave up two more in the next 90 seconds. So that's what kills us. When we're down, we just don't get over it and they kind of pile it on."

After a scoreless first period in which the Foxes outshot Byram 8-4, it was the Bobcats who got on the board first as Austin Carlin, at the end of a two-on-one break, received a drop pass and sent the puck past Fox goalie Max Rauch just 66 seconds into the second. The Foxes soon managed to kill off a pair of Byram Hills power plays and tied the game on Michael Gallary's blast from right of the goal with 4:39 left in the period.

"Our players have been doing this pretty much all season," said the Foxes' Mulvey after watching them deny the Bobcats despite being shorthanded for three straight minutes. "In a tough spot, we've been able to step up time after time. The key is to not put ourselves in bad situations. But we're really proud of the guys. When they're faced with some adversity, they've been able to rise to the occasion."

Bobcat goalie Ben Sfarra, who wound up making 29 saves, was under constant siege late in the second period and the Foxes,

despite being down a man, nearly grabbed the lead just before it ended when Leader skated up the left wing and sent a cross-ice pass to the waiting Adam Maiorano, who couldn't quite get enough of the puck on a one-timer at the right doorstep.

But Fox Lane's two periods of frustration were about to end. When play resumed in the third, the Foxes quickly grabbed the lead and then immediately extended it. Leader's go-ahead goal was followed by another from Jake Wollman, whose shot from the left point came on a counter rush after the Bobcats' Jesse Rosenberg had made a coast-to-coast foray up the ice the other way.

Wollman's goal was followed just 58 seconds later by one from eighth-grader Henry Della Penna. Suddenly, not even four minutes into the third period, the Foxes had built a 4-1 cushion. Less than 50 seconds later, the Bobcats' Lucca Conigliaro beat Rauch with a shot from straightaway, but Fox Lane quickly answered with two more goals just 18 seconds apart. Maiorano had the first one, stuffing home a rebound on a second try, and Henry Wallace provided the last one of the night from just right of the crease with 7:55 left in the game.

"It's still early in the season, so we're confident that we can get things straightened out," said the Bobcats' Cloherty, anxiously awaiting the return to the ice of sidelined defensemen Joe Cipriano and Owen



Jesse Rosenberg of Byram Hills tries to maintain his balance as skates around Fox Lane's Daniel Leader in Sunday's game at Brewster Ice Arena.

Fleischer. "It's just finding a way to get over giving up a goal and coming on stronger in the third. Those are two things that we're not good at, admittedly. And those are two things we should be able to control."

Meanwhile, the Foxes, now 3-2, don't play again for nearly three weeks. The victory over the Bobcats, according to Mulvey, will make the long break a lot more tolerable.

"To walk out of here tonight with a loss would've been tough," he said. "We'd have been sitting on that for a long time. So it's gonna feel a lot better going into the holiday break with a winning record."



Michael Gallary of Fox Lane is about to score the Foxes' first goal of the game in Sunday's win over Byram Hills at Brewster Ice Arena.



Fox Lane's Adam Maiorano moves the puck past James Seiferheld (left) and Austin Carlin of Byram Hills in the second period of Sunday evening's game.



Fox Lane's Henry Della Penna gathers the puck near center ice in the home win over the Bobcats.



The Bobcats' Daniel Fontana controls the puck vs. host Fox Lane.



Byram Hills goalie Ben Sfarra makes one of his 29 saves in Sunday's game vs. Fox Lane.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Byram Hills Routs Panas in the Championship Game of the Panthers' Own Tourney



Bobcat junior guard Matteo Sinon improvises in midair as he's met by a pair of Panas defenders in the first half of Saturday night's title game.



Jon Trongone dribbles the ball across midcourt in the 88-38 Byram Hills rout of host Walter Panas on Saturday night.



Nick Ferrante does some celebrating during the dazzling third-quarter performance by Byram Hills that quickly turned Saturday's title game into a rout.



Byram Hills forward Mike Parrotta sends up a shot in Saturday's final at the Panas holiday tournament. He scored 34 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to earn MVP honors.



The Bobcats' Benji Hammond drives toward the left baseline in the first half of the championship game of the holiday tournament at Walter Panas.



Nic Picca of Byram Hills takes the ball past the 3-point arc during the Bobcats' lopsided victory over the host Panas Panthers.

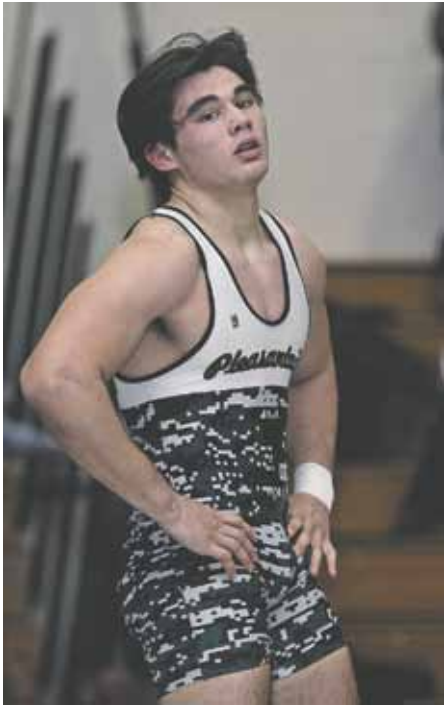


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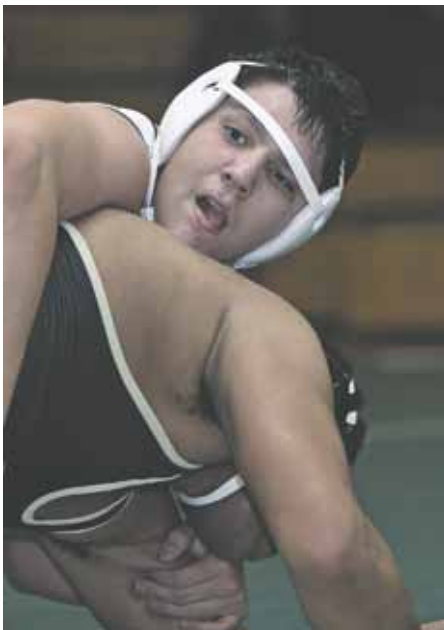
Ho! Ho! Ho! A Jolly Good Time



The Fox Lane student section turned out Saturday night in seasonal garb to watch their boys' basketball team battle for the title of the 2nd annual Booster Club Tip-Off Tournament.



Harrison Halesworth shows his frustration after his pin at 170 pounds in the final match of the day still left the Panthers trailing Nanuet 42-39.



Nick Wynn wrestles Nanuet's Darius Palmer at 285 pounds.



Pleasantville coach Bob Bernarducci looks on during Friday afternoon's title match.

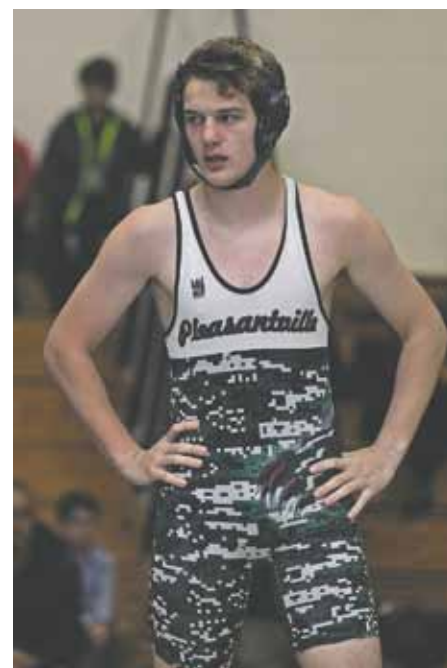
focus on **WRESTLING** Division II **Dual Meet Championship Pleasantville vs. Nanuet Friday, December 13, 2019**



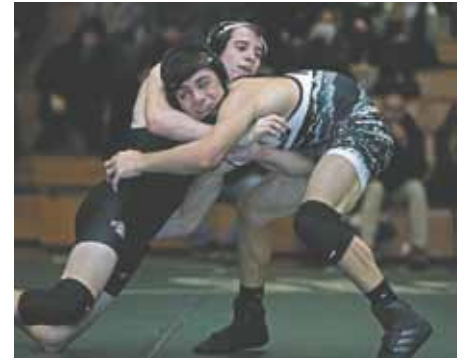
The Panthers' Len Balducci is about to pin Nanuet's William Shin late in the second period at 126 pounds.



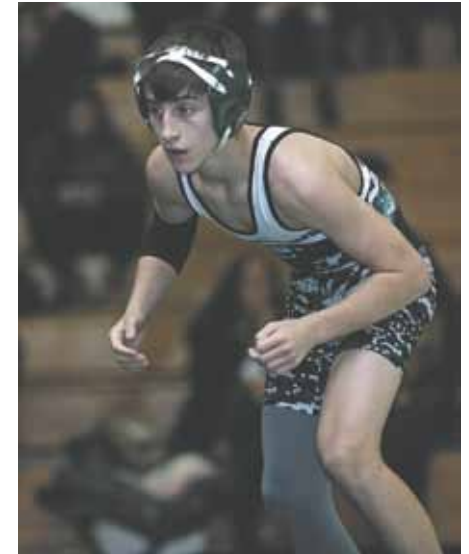
Liam Dillon of Pleasantville pinned Nanuet's Chris Moscatello at 182 pounds to open up the dual-meet championship showdown with the Golden Knights.



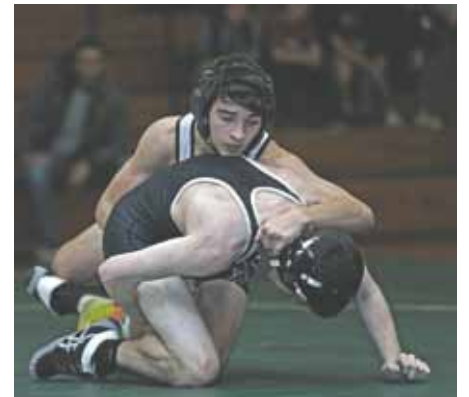
Joe Keating catches his breath during a break in his pivotal match at 160 pounds.



Pleasantville's Michael Balducci and Nanuet's Tyler Nicholson struggle for control at 145 pounds.



The Panthers' Christian Perleshi won a 14-3 decision over the Golden Knights' Riley Stemmerman at 113 pounds.



Quinn Egan was a winner with a first-round pin at 120 pounds in Friday's Division II Dual Meet Championship.



The Panthers' Chad Sarragonda looks for a takedown as he wrestles Nanuet's John Kiernan at 195 pounds.



Setter freshman forward Bryan Powell goes up for two of his team-high 22 points in Saturday's win.



Point guard Brandon Jacobs drives to the basket in Pace's 94-54 win over the College of Staten Island. He finished with 15 points and 12 assists.



Pace junior Austin Gilbertson fires a jump shot in the second half of Saturday's home game.

focus on

PACE Basketball



Pace University guard Ray Montilus passes the ball into the post as Andrew Kartalis of the College of Staten Island defends.



The Setters' Martin Mann tries to score inside despite the defense of the Dolphins' Joseph Zieris in Saturday afternoon's game.



Jordan McAllister rises for a shot near the foul line in the first half of Saturday afternoon's game at the Goldstein Fitness Center.



Pace senior guard Tyrone Cohen Jr. goes up for two of his season-high 20 points in the Setters' rout of visiting Staten Island this past weekend.



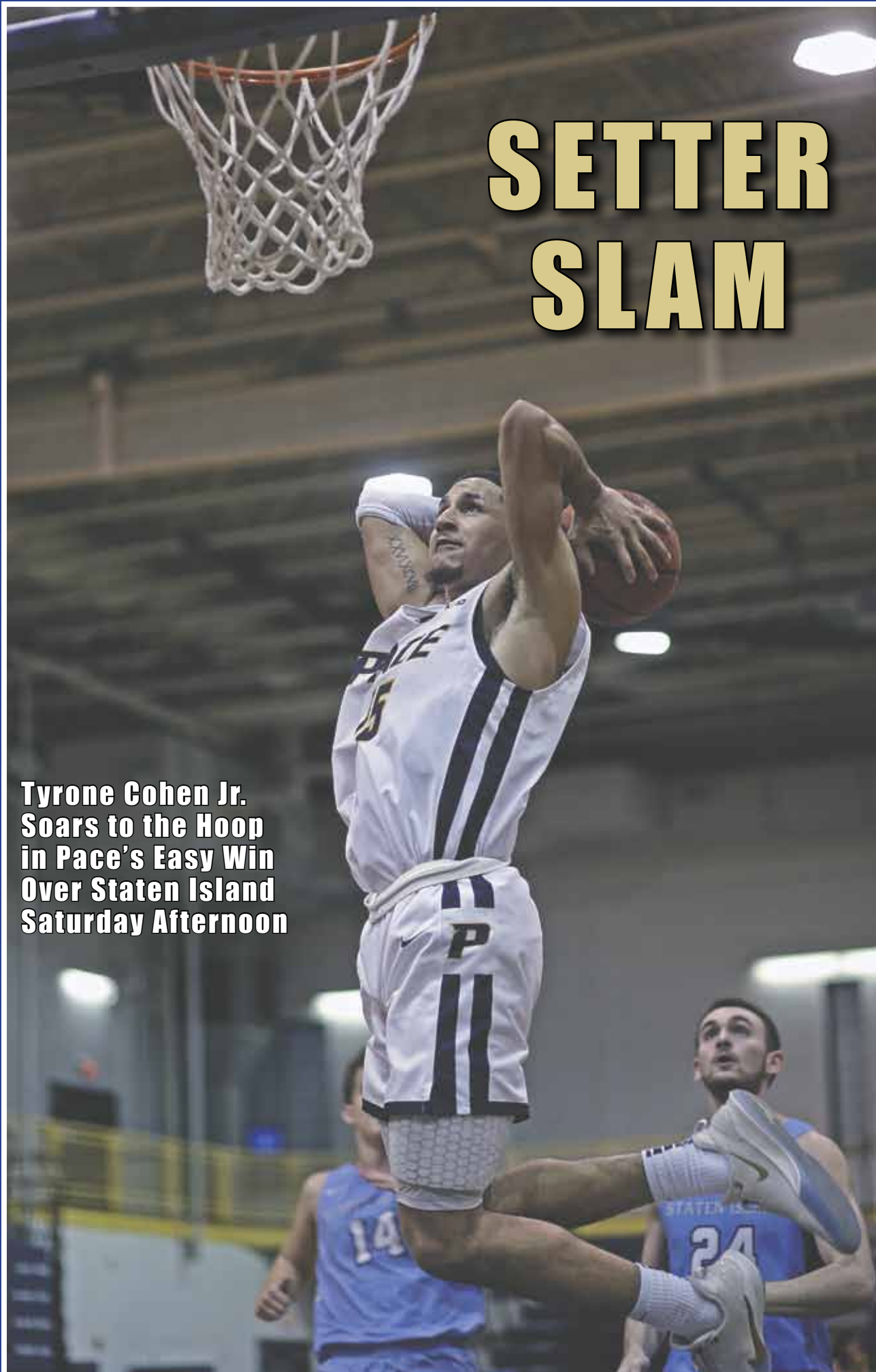
The Setters' Chris Matthews handles the ball vs. the visiting Dolphins from the College of Staten Island.



Sophomore forward Martin Mann shoots the ball in Pace's easy home win over the College of Staten Island.

SETTER SLAM

**Tyrone Cohen Jr.
Soars to the Hoop
in Pace's Easy Win
Over Staten Island
Saturday Afternoon**



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO