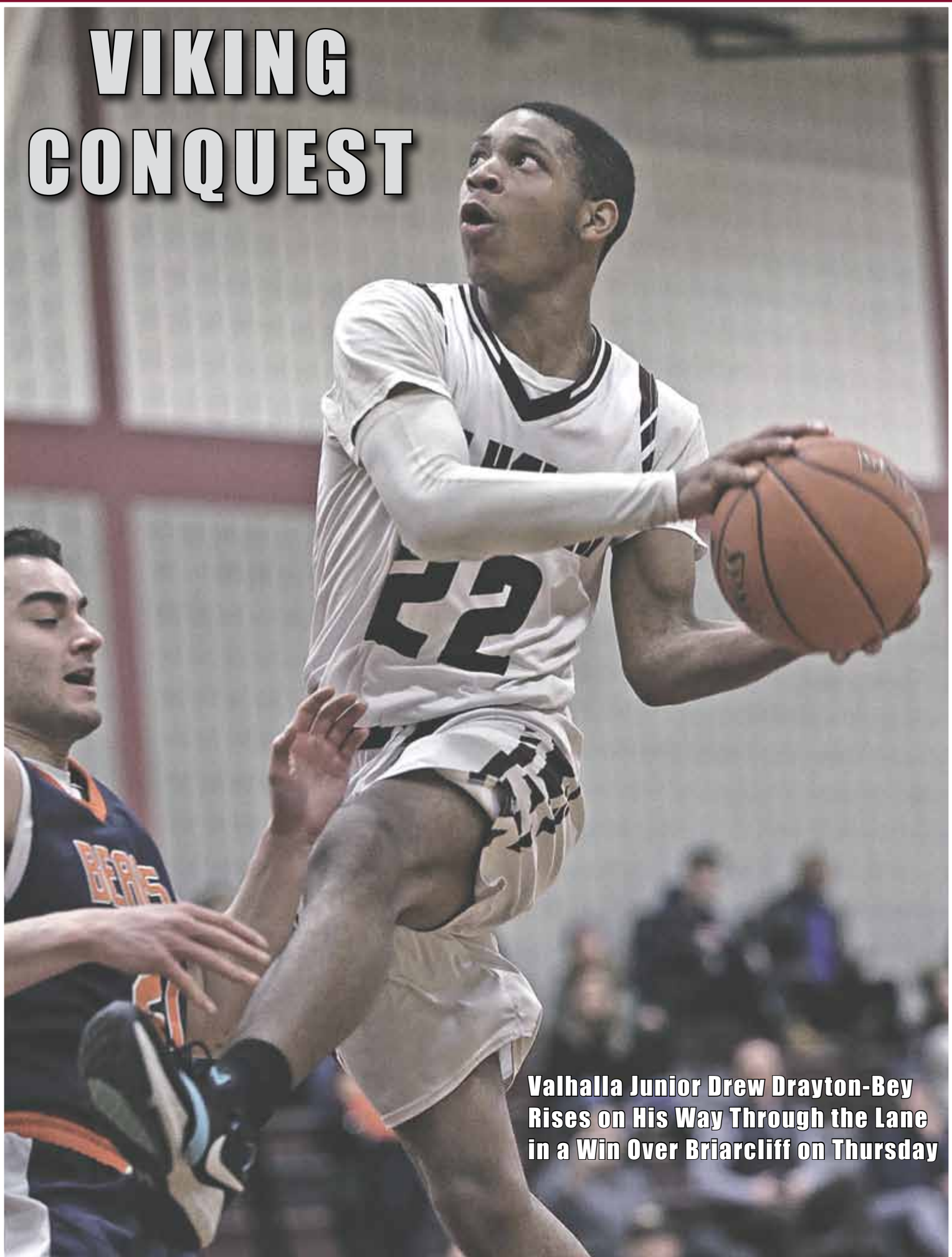


VIKING CONQUEST



**Valhalla Junior Drew Drayton-Bey
Rises on His Way Through the Lane
in a Win Over Briarcliff on Thursday**

Mui's Clutch 3-Pointer Lifts the Bobcats to a Big Win

By Andy Jacobs

It didn't take very long for Byram Hills sophomore guard Jennifer Mui to find redemption on Friday evening.

Just moments after missing a pair of free throws that could have sealed a Bobcat victory over visiting Rye, she delivered a huge 3-point shot to end an 11-0 Garnet run, break the tie on the scoreboard and lift her team to a thrilling 51-47 win in a key league matchup.

"I mean, that's a big shot," said Bobcats head coach Tara Ryan afterwards about the Mui trey from the right elbow that rattled in with nine seconds remaining as the shot clock was just about to expire. "That's a senior shot, someone that has a lot of experience and confidence. And she, being only a sophomore, it's just amazing that she's able to recover, move on, and mentally have it to make that shot."

Mui's clutch basket rescued the Bobcats on a night they shockingly let an 11-point lead with only 2:40 left completely disappear. She had a chance to put an end to the Garnets' late comeback when she stepped to the foul line with 55 seconds to go and the Bobcats leading by four points, but misfired on both of her free-throw attempts.

That opened the door for a rare 4-point play at the other end of the court with 38 seconds on the clock by the Garnets' Bela Krslovic, whose 3-point jumper while getting fouled and subsequent free throw capped the big Rye run and tied the contest at 47 apiece.

Ryan, asked what was going through her mind as Krslovic connected on her improbable shot while falling to the floor, said, "You know, the typical things anyone thinks — why did it happen, why are we fouling? But good or bad, my kids always hear me say, 'On to the next play.' So the foul was called, what are we going to do

next, and that's what we focused on."

For a good portion of the final quarter, it didn't seem as if the Bobcats would be needing any last-second heroics from Mui. They held a 37-30 advantage after three periods and their lead grew to 10 points after Mui provided three free throws in the first 64 seconds of the fourth.

When sharp-shooting forward Maggie Walsh, who finished with a game-high 21 points, drilled her fourth 3-pointer of the game, from the left corner with 4:21 remaining, the Bobcats' margin stretched to 43-32. Byram Hills built its largest lead of the night, 12 points, a minute later on a fast-break lefty layup by Beth Corelli.

But the Garnets' Amanda Latkany soon answered with a 15-foot jumper and Rye proceeded to outscore the Bobcats 13-1 over a two-and-a-half-minute stretch that nearly changed the outcome.

"You know, just a couple mistakes and Rye is a fantastic team and they executed on it," said Ryan. "They kept going inside to number 24 (Latkany) and number 32 (Ava Greto), who are fantastic players. So then we switched our game plan up and we took that away and, what do you know, number 4 (Krslovic) comes out and hits two extremely big shots for them."



Byram Hills guard Jennifer Mui drives to the basket in the first half of Friday night's home game against the Rye Garnets.

Krslovic hadn't scored at all until she made a 3-pointer during the Garnets' huge late spurt, trimming the Byram Hills lead to just six points with 1:40 to go. After her 4-point play, the ball wound up in the hands of Mui, who dribbled near the top of the key as the final seconds ticked off the clock. With the shot clock set to expire, Mui sent her decisive 3-pointer over the Garnets' Julia Bateman. Krslovic then misfired on a contested 3-point shot from the left wing that would have tied the game again, and Walsh sealed the Bobcat win by making one of two free throws with a second remaining.

The Bobcats had seized early control of the game when a Mui 3-pointer that broke a 5-5 tie was soon followed by another one from Walsh. Byram had an 11-7 lead after one quarter, then Walsh started the second with a spinning move toward the left baseline for a bucket. A Walsh 3-pointer from the right wing with 5:52 left in the half extended the Bobcats' edge to 16-8.

The Garnets, though, scored the last four points of the second quarter, and Greto's layup at the buzzer pulled them to within 19-16 at halftime. In the third quarter, Walsh erupted for nine points and Stefana Latella added five as the Bobcats outscored Rye 18-14.

When Rye closed to within 25-24 with 3:12 to go in the third quarter, consecutive baskets by Latella, Walsh and Corelli gave the Bobcats some breathing room again. A pair of layups by Walsh in the final minute of the period enabled Byram Hills to increase its lead to nine points.

"Maggie's a phenomenal player and she's come so far at Byram Hills," said Ryan. "She showed up with her 'A' game tonight and played like the senior we needed and a true leader on the floor. She absolutely did a fantastic job on defense, kept everybody's heads in and then was able to create on offense and let everyone keep their cool."



The Bobcats' Maggie Walsh scores on a fast break for two of her game-high 21 points in the win over Rye.



Beth Corelli moves through the lane for an easy bucket during Byram Hills' 51-47 home victory on Friday night.



The Bobcats' Olivia Picca gets set to pass the ball into the frontcourt in the second half of the win over visiting Rye.



Byram Hills head coach Tara Ryan directs her team in the first half of Friday night's win over Rye.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Valhalla Pulls Out a Home Victory Against the Bears

By Andy Jacobs

For the first 24 minutes last Thursday night, there wasn't much separating the Briarcliff and Valhalla boys' basketball teams. The two squads were tied at halftime, then scored 15 points apiece in the third quarter.

But a fast-break layup by the Vikings' Jordan Rush just over 20 seconds into the final period broke the sixth deadlock of the evening and gave Valhalla the lead for good. With Rush, Sebastian Pacheco and Drew Drayton-Bey all finishing with 10 points, the host Vikings earned a 51-43 victory over the Bears in a key Conference III, League A game played at Kensico School.

"Great game," said Vikings coach Richard Clinchy shortly after his team's 11th win in 14 games this season. "I don't know, I think we had more depth and we tried to play to that all game. It's what we've tried to do all season. Maybe we wore them down."

"It's very disappointing," said Briarcliff coach Nick Friedman, whose Bears dropped to 9-7 with the loss. "I definitely wanted this one. We just need to learn how to close games."

Before the decisive fourth quarter, the lead changed hands nine times. Five of the lead changes came in the third period, which began with the Bears scoring five quick points and the Vikings answering right back with seven straight. An old-fashioned 3-point play by the Bears' Tajion Tribble with a half second left tied the game for the sixth and final time and sent the teams to the final quarter even at 36 apiece.

The layup by Rush, on a dish from Pacheco to start the fourth quarter, was



Briarcliff's Nick Reish is guarded by Valhalla's Rahsean Melvin as he searches for an open teammate in the left corner of the court.

followed by a top-of-the-key 3-pointer by sophomore Rahsean Melvin that gave Valhalla a sudden five-point edge. Two free throws by Tribble with just under six minutes remaining moved the Bears back within three, but then the Viking defense stepped up on four straight Briarcliff possessions by blocking a pair of shots, forcing star guard Miles Jones to miss badly on a jump shot and then drawing a charge against Jones a few moments later.

"I think Drew Drayton-Bey, his defense on Miles Jones, who's a fantastic player," said Clinchy, searching for primary reasons his team emerged victorious. "Many say he's the best player in the league, and I thought that was great defense on his part (Drayton-Bey's). Also, at the end, we ran a few plays that were successful and that gave us a lead. Other than that, it was just a great game."

Jones wound up with a game-high 19 points, but none of them came in the



Valhalla's Jordan Rush slips past Tajion Tribble of Briarcliff to score a basket in the second half of last Thursday's game.

fourth quarter. Still, the Bears closed to within 42-40 on an up-and-under move by Tribble along the left baseline with 2:14 left on the clock. But Pacheco answered with a reverse layup with two minutes to go and Drayton-Bey added another layup 50 seconds later.

A free throw by Rush with 35 seconds remaining stretched the Valhalla lead to 47-40 before Nick Reish gave the Bears a glimmer of hope by connecting on a 3-pointer with a hand in his face with 24 seconds left. A pair of foul shots by Rush with 22.9 seconds to go all but sealed the Viking win and Pacheco provided the final margin by hitting two more free throws with 7.8 seconds remaining.

"Hats off to them, they made a few more plays than we did tonight," said the Bears' Friedman about the Vikings. "That's really what it comes down to. You can do a lot from an execution standpoint and think about strategy, but at the end of the day, if you don't have guys who know how to come together at the end of games, and that's on me as much as it's on them, that's what's gonna happen."

The Bears, trailing 7-6 after the low-scoring first quarter, quickly found themselves facing a six-point deficit when the second period began with Rush making a 3-pointer and Drayton-Bey scoring on a put-back. But then Jones erupted for seven points in one minute to trigger a 10-0 Bear burst. His 3-pointer from the right corner with 2:07 left in the half gave Briarcliff a 21-17 lead before the quarter ended with baskets by the Vikings' Fran Falco and Pacheco that tied the game.

"It was a really good, hard-fought high school basketball game," said Friedman.



Valhalla forward Marlin Wise takes the ball to the basket in the second half of the Vikings' victory against Briarcliff.

"I've got a lot of respect for their program, and they have tough kids. They're tough every year. This year, they have a lot of kids that can put the ball in the hole, too. I hope we see them again. It's always a fun battle when we do."

"That's an excellent team. I don't really wanna meet them a third time," said Clinchy, whose Vikings are 2-0 this season against the Bears. "That old adage, it's hard to beat a team three times. They're defending sectional champs, a defending regional champ, they're a state semifinalist. They may have lost players, but they didn't lose their pride and their toughness."



Briarcliff junior guard Brett Lachtman dribbles toward the midcourt line in the Bears' game at Valhalla.



Briarcliff guard Miles Jones sends up an off-balance shot over Valhalla's Marlin Wise in the fourth quarter of Thursday's game. Jones was called for a charge on the play.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



The Vikings' Sebastian Pacheco dribbles the ball across the 3-point circle in last week's win over Briarcliff.

Olsen Fuels the Foxes with MVP Effort in Dapper Classic

By Rob DiAntonio

Behind 15 points, 10 rebounds and five assists from Josh Olsen, Fox Lane's boys' basketball team defeated Woodlands 47-36 in the finals of the Dapper McDonald Classic on Saturday. Olsen was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Will Crerend added 11 points in the victory by the Foxes, who two days earlier cruised past visiting Port Chester, 63-38, in the opening round of the tournament.

After the Foxes built a 21-6 lead after one quarter last Thursday, the Rams



Trey DiCarlo goes up for a shot in traffic in the first round of the Dapper McDonald Classic.



Josh Olsen of the Foxes goes up for the reverse layup against Port Chester last Thursday.

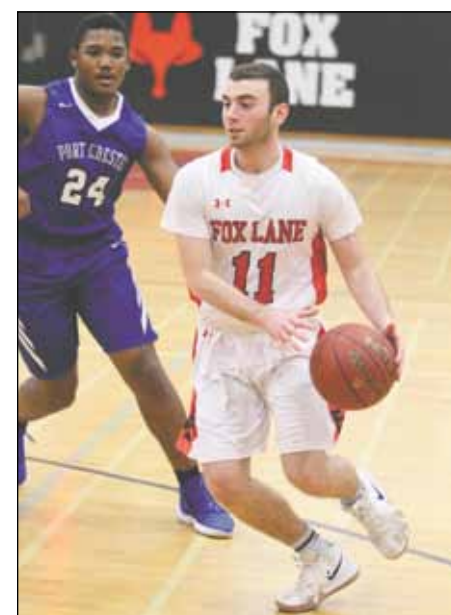
fired back with a flurry of 3-pointers in the second quarter, prompting Fox Lane coach Mike Tomassi to take a timeout.

The refocused Foxes proceeded to go on a 12-0 run to build a 33-13 lead, capped off by a John Rocco Trumpbour drive and finish. Fox Lane took a 33-16 lead into halftime.

"We've just got to be organized," Tomassi said when asked about the message he delivered in the timeout. "I think we get out of character sometimes and try to do things that we don't practice or do things that we're not capable of. We're pretty sound when we run our stuff, are organized and trust the system. That's pretty much what the timeout was. Just get back to being Fox Lane, keep doing what got us that lead and share the ball."



Will Crerend drives to the basket in last Thursday's win over the Rams.



Fox Lane's Samuel Stein makes his move.

It was a slow third quarter for both sides, with the lone highlight a thunderous dunk by Olsen on the fast break. The Foxes led 41-21 and quickly added to their lead behind a strong fourth quarter.

Fox Lane was also celebrating senior day and honored its six seniors: Olsen, Jordan Alvarado, Trumpbour, Samuel Stein, Nicholas Richards and Stephen Myrie.

"They all got in the game and they all contributed tonight, which was nice to see," Tomassi said. "It's a great senior class so it was nice to send them out with a W."

Olsen and Trumpbour paced Fox Lane with 12 points apiece. Oliver Shevick had nine points behind three 3-pointers. James DiBiasi added eight points for a Fox team that had nine different players score.

"That was the goal going in," Tomassi said of getting a number of players



Jordan Alvarado glides in for two in the fourth quarter.



Fox Lane coach Mike Tomassi looks on during the first half of last week's win over Port Chester.

involved in the scoring column. "We're pretty deep. Guys have to come ready to play and if they're not ready to play, somebody's going to step in and take those minutes. That's why practices are competitive. It's nice to see some of the guys get rewarded for all their hard work."

Fox Lane (10-7) travels to Lakeland for a non-league game on Tuesday, Feb. 5. It then welcomes White Plains for a league game on Thursday, Feb. 7. The Tigers defeated the Foxes earlier in the season and are unbeaten in league play. A win over White Plains in the rematch will give Fox Lane a share of the league title.

"We've had a tough schedule and we're a young team," Tomassi said. "We've now rattled some wins off. We're trying to finish strong and be a tough team come playoff time."

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

Bobcats Get Some Revenge With a Win Over Fox Lane

By Andy Jacobs

The Byram Hills hockey team continued its drive toward the sectional playoffs by avenging an early-season loss to Fox Lane on Saturday afternoon.

Ryan Cohen and Jesse Rosenberg each finished with a hat trick as the Bobcats skated to a convincing 10-4 victory over the Foxes in a game at Brewster Ice Arena that was delayed for nearly an hour due to an illegal goalie mask that caught the attention of the officials just before the opening faceoff.

As a result of the late start, the periods were shortened to 15 minutes and there was no extended break for an ice cut before the start of the final period. The Bobcats, playing their second game in 24 hours that had a lengthy delay, jumped in front with two goals in the opening period and never looked back the rest of the way.

"Today it didn't seem to affect us very much at all," said Byram Hills head coach AJ Cloherty, whose players had to endure a long wait before their game with Scarsdale on Friday in Yonkers. "Our game started 45 minutes late in a much colder, open rink at Murray's and it was stopped three minutes early. So we were kind of hoping that wouldn't happen today. The back-to-back games has been a little screwy."

Facing a Fox Lane team that they lost to on a last-minute goal back in December, the Bobcats jumped ahead 10 and a half minutes into the game when a shot by Rosenberg from near the left boards whizzed past goalie Daniel Rojas, whose mask had been the one that needed to be altered. Byram Hills took a two-goal lead with just 58 seconds left in the period as Cohen sent a wrist shot from the left point past Rojas.

Less than three minutes into the second period, Cohen stuffed the puck into the back of the net from the right doorstep, giving Byram a 3-0 cushion. But the Foxes soon found themselves with a two-man advantage for over a minute. Daniel Leader, after two of his lefty slap shots were stopped, finally tipped a rebound past Bobcat goalie Ben Sfarra to get the Foxes on the scoreboard.



Daniel Leader of Fox Lane sends a left-handed slap shot toward the net in Saturday afternoon's game at Brewster Ice Arena.



Ryan Cohen of Byram Hills skates with the puck in Saturday's 10-4 win over Fox Lane. He scored three of the Bobcat goals.

But Sfarra, who finished the day with 28 saves, didn't allow Fox Lane to score again on its long power play and just 70 seconds after the score by Leader it was Cohen again at the other end tormenting the Foxes. He tallied his third goal, enabling the Bobcats to regain their three-goal margin.

"Well, we did 15-minute periods today, so it was 90-second power plays," said Fox Lane coach Charles Berger. "So it's tough to get two (goals) on the five on three. That being said, their goalie played fantastic. I mean, we had a bunch of chances and I think the turning point was all the saves he made. He was great and sometimes you've gotta tip your hat, great job to him."

"We've gotten a lot better at killing penalties," said the Bobcats' Cloherty. "I'm not gonna lie, we're not the most disciplined team. We can't seem to keep ourselves out of the penalty box. So we've had good practice at it. But killing that five on three was big, especially since the guy got out of the box and we pretty quickly scored after that."

The Bobcats soon added goals from Lucca Conigliaro and Rosenberg 31 seconds apart to build a 6-1 advantage. The Foxes' Jared Goldstein got one back



Fox Lane goalie Daniel Rojas stays ready in front of the crease in the third period of Saturday's game against Byram Hills.



Byram Hills' Jesse Rosenberg chases after the puck in the Bobcats' win over Fox Lane. He finished with a hat trick.

on a rush down the left wing with 3:50 to go in the second

period, but just over a minute later Byram won a faceoff on a power play and moved the puck to Conigliaro, who beat Rojas with a shot from the left point. Goldstein scored on a rebound right in front of the net with 25.5 seconds left and the period ended with Byram Hills leading 7-3.

The two teams exchanged breakaway goals in the opening moments of the third period, with Rosenberg completing his hat trick and then Leader scoring for the second time a minute later. The Bobcats added two more goals midway through the period to gain a large measure of revenge after their 4-3 loss to Fox Lane near the start of the season.

"I just think we've made a lot of progress in terms of our play and our teamwork," said Cloherty, whose team began the season by dropping six of its first seven games. "Our players are more used to playing with one another. They're not playing as individuals. We're playing a little bit more as a unit and I think that shows. And we're even missing Ethan Behar today and we still came together and were able to put together a good 45 minutes of hockey."

The Foxes, meanwhile, desperately need to finish strong to have any shot of qualifying for the playoffs.



The Bobcats' Lucca Conigliaro moves the puck toward center ice in the third period of Saturday's game at Brewster Ice Arena.

"I'm not one to make excuses," said Berger. "We happen to have a lot of guys out of the lineup. And we've said it all year, it takes all 19. We've got 19 strong. So when we have 18, or 12, whatever the number is, it just makes it a little more challenging. Next game, Senior Night, we've got Rivertowns, we've got to try to beat them. We've just got to do what we can control, which is win games."

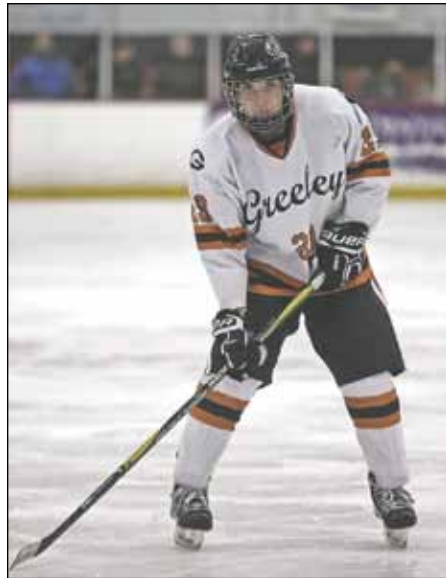


Fox Lane freshman Michael Gallary tries to maintain control of the puck after falling to the ice in the second period vs. Byram Hills.



Horace Greeley senior Ryan Renzulli skates along the left wing with the puck in Friday night's home game against Rye Town/Harrison.

focus on GREELEY Hockey



Will Silberstein stays ready during a faceoff in Horace Greeley's loss to the Titans at Brewster Ice Arena.



The Quakers' Jake Potter passes the puck from the left wing in the third period vs. the visiting RTH Titans.



Greeley senior Alex Milne blasts a shot from the point in the Quakers' game at Brewster on Friday night.



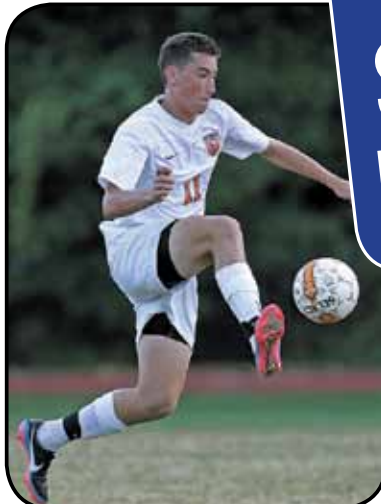
The Quakers' Liam Whitehouse watches for a possible rebound in front of the net in the third period of Friday's game at Brewster Ice Arena.



Greeley freshman Gabe Adams watches from his knees as the puck gets away during Friday's 7-1 loss to Rye Town/Harrison.



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Eugenia Kaltsas of the Foxes competes in the 55-meter dash.



Fox Lane's Michaela Paul tries to clear the bar in the high jump.



Kathryn Hulme of the Quakers runs at last Saturday's sectional meet at the Armory.



Quaker Max Notarnicola runs at the Class A sectionals at the Armory Track and Field Center last Saturday.

Track Sectionals



Tom Ye of Horace Greeley

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS



Byram's Justin Fortugno looks to make his move in the 99-pound divisional final.

SPORTS SCENE



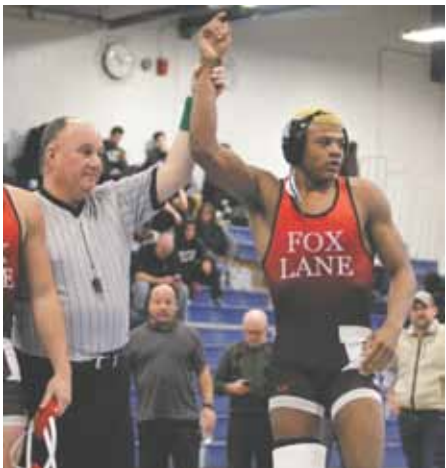
Alex Behar of the Bobcats locks up with Yorktown's Christian Sinagra.



Jake Hoffman of the Foxes competes in the 99-pound final.



Fox Lane's Lucas Friedman won the 152-pound title at divisionals.



Quincy Downes of the Foxes has his hand raised after pinning teammate Ronald Geirum in the 160 final.



Amos Rivera of the Foxes battled Port Chester's Ivan Garcia in a 2-1 overtime loss in the 120-pound final.



Griffin Zegras of the Foxes grabs hold of Nyack's Tybarius Davis.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

Eyes on the Prize



Maggie Walsh of Byram Hills Scores on a Bobcat Fast Break in Friday Night's Win Over Rye

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO