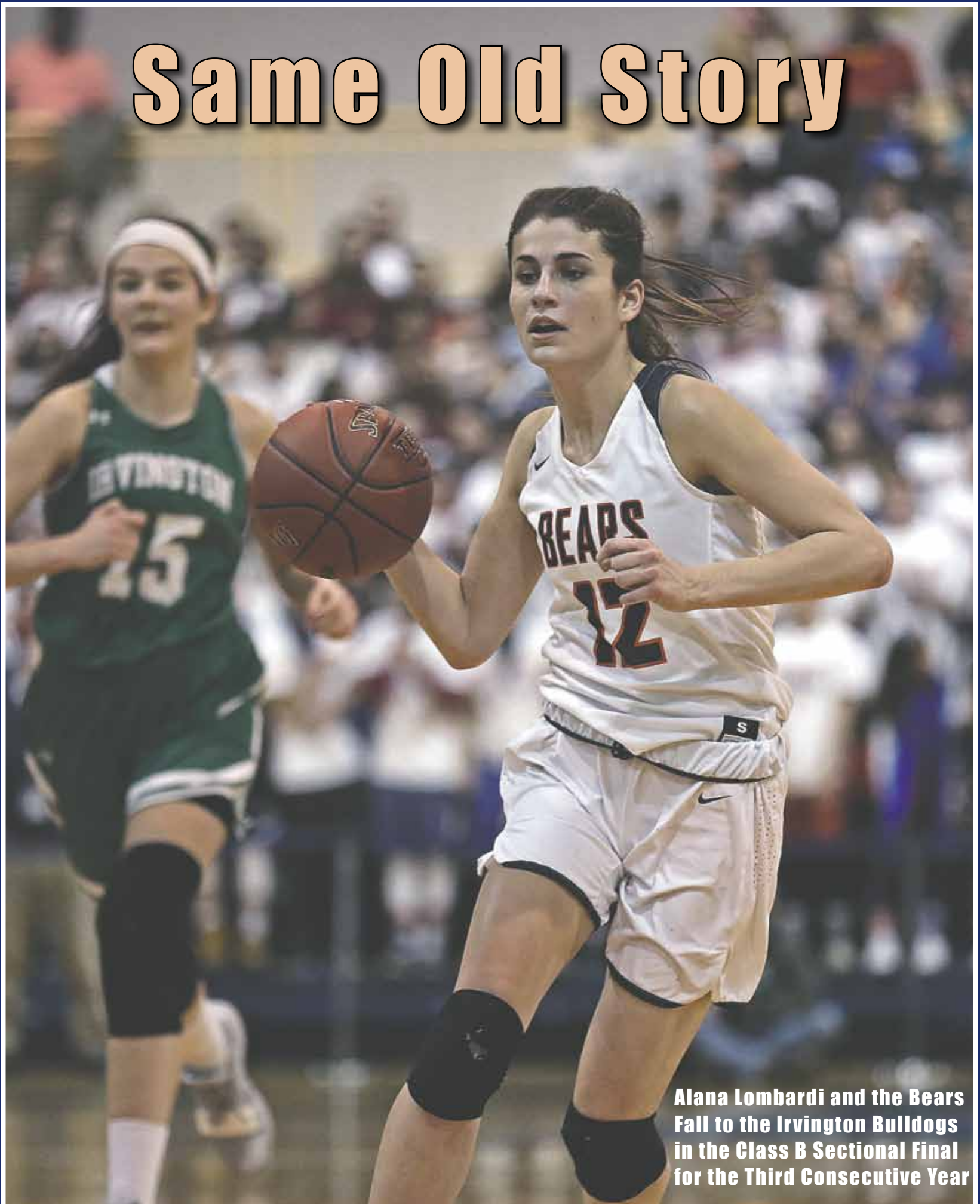


Same Old Story



**Alana Lombardi and the Bears
Fall to the Irvington Bulldogs
in the Class B Sectional Final
for the Third Consecutive Year**

Briarcliff's Quest for a Title Ended by the Bulldogs Again



Briarcliff star Maddie Plank scored a team-high 18 points in the final game of her standout varsity career.

By Andy Jacobs

The Briarcliff girls' basketball team waited 365 days for what was widely considered its last chance at redemption after losing to Irvington in the Section One, Class B championship game the past two seasons.

On Friday evening, in front of an overflowing, boisterous crowd at Pace University's Goldstein Fitness Center, the waiting finally came to an end. Unfortunately for the Bears, the disappointment did not.

Their comeback bid from a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit fell just short as two potential game-tying 3-point shots in the final seconds went awry, enabling the



Briarcliff junior Alana Lombardi scores on a scoop shot in the lane in the third quarter of Friday's Class B championship game against Irvington.

four-time defending champion Bulldogs to escape with a dramatic 52-49 victory and hoist the coveted Gold Ball for the ninth time in the last 10 years.

"After the game, it was brutal because I've been with some of these seniors since the second and third grade and not coaching them is gonna be, I don't know, impossible," said Bears head coach Don Hamlin shortly after his top-seeded team had been denied yet again by the Irvington dynasty. "For the game itself, we got hammered on the boards. We got killed on the boards and it's hard to win a game like that when you don't rebound the ball."

Irvington, led by tournament most valuable player Grace Thybulle's game-highs of 20 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots, wound up outrebounding the Bears by a whopping 28-14 margin over the final two quarters. The second-seeded Bulldogs, who lost to Briarcliff at

home early in the season, were able to capitalize on the absence of sophomore center Jordan Smith, lost for the season a few weeks ago with a torn ACL.

"Yeah, obviously we missed Jordy today," said Hamlin. "You know, she would've definitely helped us on the boards an immense amount. But I thought that if we did a little better job of boxing out, we probably would've been OK."

The Bears, just 18 of 50 from the field for the game, and nine for 16 from the foul line, actually couldn't have asked for a better start to the contest. They kept Irvington off the scoreboard for more than three and a half minutes and jumped out to a 5-0 advantage thanks in part to an early 15-foot jumper by star senior Maddie Plank and then a layup from Kelly O'Donnell.

But the lead quickly changed hands as the Bulldogs answered with three straight layups over a one-minute burst. Five consecutive points from Alana Lombardi gave the Bears a 10-7 edge with two minutes left in the opening quarter, and then Kacey Hamlin's long 3-pointer from the left elbow put Briarcliff ahead 13-11 just over a minute later.

Plank, who led the Bears with 18 points in the last game of her Briarcliff career, sank a pair of free throws with 32.8 seconds to go in the first period, stretching the margin to four points. The Bulldogs, though, closed the quarter with a pair of baskets to tie the score at 15 apiece and the Bears never held the lead again the rest of the night.

The second quarter began with back-to-back inside buckets from the 6-foot-2 Thybulle and Irvington was able to open up a seven-point cushion late in the half as guard Abby Conklin connected on a



The Bears' Kacey Hamlin gets set to shoot her potential game-tying 3-pointer in the final seconds of the Class B championship game.

3-point shot. Lombardi, the junior wing player who will assume most of the Bears' scoring load next year, connected on a 3-pointer from the left corner with 2:43 remaining and Plank's short jumper in the lane two minutes later concluded the first-half scoring and narrowed the Irvington lead to 26-24 at intermission.

"We changed defenses like, I don't know, six or seven times, just trying to figure out how to shut 'em down inside," said coach Hamlin. "Grace was a force. When she went to the basket, their back-side girl was rebounding the ball. So it made it really difficult for us."

The Bears did manage to tie the score twice in the third quarter, but after a pair of free throws by Julia Barbalato knotted the contest at 30-30 with 5:13 left in the third quarter Irvington answered with a 13-4 blitz over a four-minute span that left Briarcliff playing from behind the rest of the contest. In the middle of the Bulldog spurt, Hamlin, the Bears' senior point guard, drained a 3-pointer that cut the

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Junior guard Julia Barbalato finds her path to the basket blocked by Irvington's Grace Thybulle in Friday night's title game.



Ashleigh Fortunate of Briarcliff connects on a jump shot in the fourth quarter of Friday's Class B championship game at Pace University.



Briarcliff head coach Don Hamlin signals to his team in the second half of the Section 1, Class B championship game.

continued from previous page

deficit to 36-34 and turned out to be the last basket of her five-year varsity career.

But just as the Bears' large student section began chanting her name, Irvington answered with a 3-ball from Mia Mascone, who followed up with two more baskets in succession that opened up a nine-point lead for the Bulldogs. The third quarter ended with Irvington in front 44-36.

The prospect of a Briarcliff victory seemed to be fading fast as the final period began with a put-back bucket by Bulldog freshman Katie Lebuhn and then two free throws from Conklin. Suddenly the Irvington lead was up to 12 points.

"Yeah, we put ourselves in a big hole," said Hamlin, who decided to summon sophomore guard Ashleigh Fortunate off the bench in his search for answers.

Fortunate's insertion into the game quickly provided dividends for the desperate Bears. Her 17-foot jumper from the right wing shortly after entering the game ignited a 12-2 Briarcliff burst that turned the huge deficit into a two-point game in the final minute. She scored on a pair of layups off nice passes from Plank 18 seconds apart to move the Bears within 48-44 with 3:35 remaining.

"I probably should've put Ashleigh in a little bit sooner," conceded Hamlin. "She really did give us a good lift. She did a beautiful job of picking us up when we needed it."

When Barbalato drove down the right



Briarcliff senior Kelly O'Donnell tries to score in the paint in the fourth quarter vs. Irvington.



Julia Barbalato tries to drive to the basket during the third quarter of Friday evening's championship game against Irvington.

side of the lane and somehow tossed the ball in off the glass while getting fouled, the Bears were within 50-48 with 53.2 seconds on the clock and their fans were delirious. Just eight seconds later, though, Mascone made the first of two free throws and her miss on the second try caromed off the hands of Lombardi.

But Hamlin wound up stealing the Bulldogs' inbound pass and raced past midcourt intent on getting to the basket. She was fouled with 41 seconds on the clock and converted the second of her two foul shots, cutting the Irvington margin to 51-49. With 13.1 seconds to go, a free throw by Lebuhn left Briarcliff again trailing by three points.

That set the stage for the wild and frantic finish that nearly sent the game into overtime. The Bears came out of the timeout and the ball soon wound up in the hands of an open Lombardi deep in the left corner. Her 3-point shot with six seconds left barely grazed the rim and the Bulldogs' Eva Gilbert grabbed the rebound.

Lombardi then deflected a pass and the ball happened to bounce, quite fittingly, right to Hamlin, the veteran backcourt playmaker whose presence on the Briarcliff team began over a decade ago when she sat and watched as her older sisters were helping the Bears to sectional glory. With time just about to expire,



Head coach Don Hamlin consoles his daughter Kacey after her last-second 3-point shot failed to drop in the Bears' 52-49 title loss to Irvington.



Briarcliff coach Don Hamlet goes over some strategy with his players during a timeout in the final quarter of the Class B championship game.

Hamlin took one dribble to her left and rose in the air to fire what she knew would either be the biggest shot of her career or the last one.

As it turned out, her 3-pointer from more than five feet beyond the arc nearly dropped. But it caromed off the right side of the rim as the buzzer sounded, sending the jubilant Bulldogs into another championship celebration while Hamlin fell to the floor in despair over misfiring.

"Yeah, we had two good looks to try to tie it," said coach Hamlin. "Didn't knock 'em down. I don't know. I've never been more disappointed with any other outcome."

"Irvington's a fabulous team," said Plank, the Princeton-bound southpaw who, along with Lombardi, was named to the all-tournament team. "I knew it was gonna be close. Just not having the Gold Ball hurts more than anything. Irvington's amazing. They have nothing but all of my respect. I've lost to them three times and every time I've said they outplayed us."

If the Bears are going to make a fourth straight appearance in the title game a year from now, they'll have to do it



Maddie Plank tries to shoot the ball in Briarcliff's 52-49 loss to Irvington in the sectional championship game on Friday night.

without Plank, Hamlin and O'Donnell, the backup center who replaced the injured Smith in the starting lineup.

"I don't even want to think about that right now," said coach Hamlin. "I mean, I'm gonna miss them immensely. It's gonna be weird not coaching my daughter and it's gonna be weird not having Maddie there. I've been with them a long time."



The Bears' Alana Lombardi fires a jump shot as Irvington's Miranda Farman (left) and Abby Conklin defend in the Section 1, Class B championship game at Pace's Goldstein Fitness Center.



Briarcliff senior guard Kacey Hamlin sets up the Bears' offense in the first half of the sectional final vs. the Irvington Bulldogs.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Quakers' Bid for a Gold Ball Halted by Tappan Zee

By Andy Jacobs

No, the Horace Greeley boys' basketball team didn't quite complete its mission to bring a Gold Ball back to Chappaqua this year. Instead the Quakers had to settle for a consolation prize — a ton of respect from everyone who saw them last Thursday evening rise to the challenge of trying to win a road playoff game at one of the most difficult venues in the region.

In an epic Section One, Class A semifinal showdown that won't soon be forgotten by many fortunate enough to witness it, the Quakers wound up falling to undefeated Tappan Zee 67-60 in double overtime. Despite 25 heroic points from junior forward Chris Melis, playing with an injured left shoulder, third-seeded Greeley had its 18-game winning streak snapped and its season ended by the second-seeded Dutchmen.

"We knew we were gonna come into a hostile environment with all the attention this game has garnered," said disappointed Quakers head coach Felix Nicodemo shortly after his team got outscored 8-2 over the final two decisive minutes of the second overtime session. "These kids played their hearts out. They left it all out on the floor and that's what we said the plan was gonna be going in. And that's what we felt when we walked off the court."

There was no surprise for the Quakers that the Dutchmen were the semifinal opponents awaiting them following last week's quarterfinal victory over Beacon. What they didn't anticipate was the Tappan Zee decision, as the higher seed,



Despite playing with an injured shoulder, Chris Melis led Greeley with 25 points in Thursday night's Class A semifinal game at Tappan Zee.

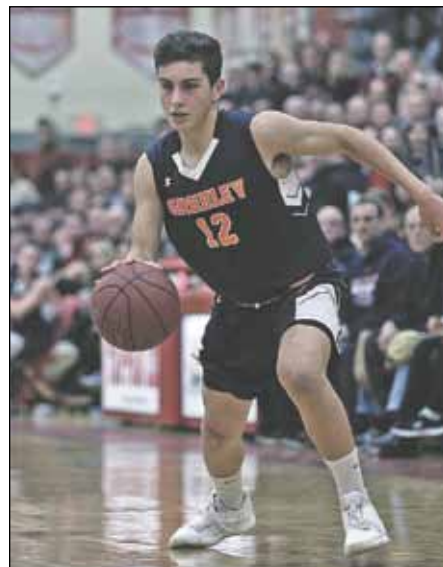
to play the game on its own home floor rather than at the iconic Westchester County Center.

"There was no better place for this game to be held than at the mecca," said Nicodemo, voicing an opinion shared by many others. "There would've been probably double the number of people at the County Center. If it was there, at a neutral site, more people would've had access to watch this classic."

So instead of a trip to the venerable white building on the side of the Bronx River Parkway, the Quakers stepped onto Tappan Zee's much smaller court that was filled well beyond capacity and hosted by its large sea-of-red student cheering section.

"I think once they found out they weren't gonna be able to play there, they looked at coming in here as a challenge," said Nicodemo about his players' reaction to playing instead across the river. "They knew this was setting up for a special type of game, and it was."

With nearly every inch of the gym filled by fans, the Quakers jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead as Melis made a jumper near the foul line and then Christoph Sauerborn connected on a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Greeley never trailed in the opening quarter and took a 13-9 edge when Michael Salore drilled a 3-point shot from the left wing with 47 seconds



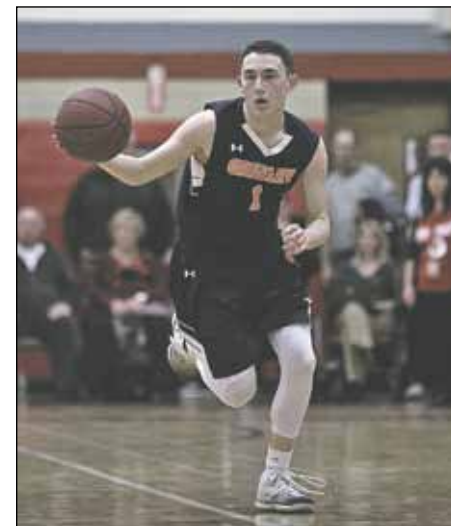
The Quakers' Christoph Sauerborn dribbles the ball toward the 3-point line in the first half of last Thursday's semifinal showdown with Tappan Zee.

to go.

A layup by Charlie Garrison moved Tappan Zee to within 13-11 after one quarter, but back-to-back baskets by Nick Townsend early in the second extended the Quakers' margin to 17-13. Unfortunately for Greeley, the Dutchmen then went on a five-minute rampage, outscoring the Quakers 14-2 and grabbing a lead they hung onto all the way to the latter stages of the fourth quarter.

The Quakers were trailing 27-19 before Sean Dunleavy drained a 3-pointer from right of the key to close the first-half scoring. Melis, scoreless in the second quarter, erupted for four baskets in the third quarter, but Greeley found itself trailing 37-27 after a pair of free throws by Danny Linehan, the junior guard who led the Dutchmen with 25 points.

Tappan Zee was still ahead by 10 before Melis scored on a layup with a minute left in the quarter and then stole the ball and raced in for a two-handed dunk just before the buzzer to bring the Quakers



Greeley senior Michael Salore pushes the ball toward midcourt in the Quakers' double-overtime defeat at Tappan Zee High School.

within 39-33 heading to the final period.

"He didn't practice for the past two days," said Nicodemo about Melis. "I can't say more about the heart and the mental attitude and discipline that that kid showed tonight. You know, he wasn't at 100 percent, but you'd never have known it."

The fourth quarter began ominously for the Quakers as TZ's Garrison, after having his shot blocked, grabbed the ball and scored on a layup while being fouled. He added the free throw, extending the Dutchmen's cushion to 42-33. Greeley then got a big lift from an unexpected source as Seth Brail provided five quick points, igniting an 11-3 spurt with 7:17 left in the game and then adding another inside basket two minutes later.

Townsend, the impressive freshman center held to just six points over the first three quarters, provided three buckets in the fourth. Two of them came at the end of the Quakers' big burst and cut the Tappan Zee lead to 45-44 with just over four minutes left in regulation. A straightaway 18-foot jumper by TZ's Linehan right over Townsend increased the Dutchmen's margin to five points with

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Greeley's Nick Townsend tries to score inside in the Class A semifinal game.



Greeley point guard Noah Shar brings the ball up the floor in the second half of the Quakers' season-ending semifinal loss to the Tappan Zee Dutchmen.



Horace Greeley head coach Felix Nicodemo pleads for a call from the officials during the second half of last Thursday's dramatic Class A semifinal game.

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2:37 on the clock.

But five straight points from Melis finally got the Quakers even for the first time since early in the second quarter. Tappan Zee had a chance to take the lead in the final 10 seconds of the fourth quarter, but Linehan misfired on a fall-away jumper as the shot clock was about to expire and Townsend blocked a put-back attempt.

That left the Quakers 5.1 seconds to try to set up for the winning basket. They nearly did as Salore got a pass in the left corner and drilled a 3-pointer. But the ball was still in his hand as the final buzzer sounded and the game headed to a four-minute overtime knotted at 49 apiece.

"I think he did get it off late, after the buzzer," said Nicodemo. "But we had the momentum going into overtime and we were OK with that."

The lead changed hands a couple of times in the first overtime session. An old-fashioned 3-point play by senior point guard Noah Shar gave the Quakers a 52-50 lead just 37 seconds in and a Melis spin through the lane for a layup put Greeley ahead by two again with 55 seconds to go. Garrison made both ends of a 1-and-1 opportunity to tie the score with 30 seconds left and then Connor Maloney gave the Dutchmen the lead by stealing the ball and sailing in for a layup.

But the Quakers, after two previous inbound passes from under their own basket were deflected out of bounds, got the tying basket on their third try as Melis received the ball and quickly sliced his way to the rim with 1.7 seconds remaining. The teams headed to a second overtime period even at 56.

Regrettably for the Quakers, Tappan Zee's Garrison spun along the right baseline for a basket 35 seconds into the second overtime and the Dutchmen never trailed again. A jumper by Linehan



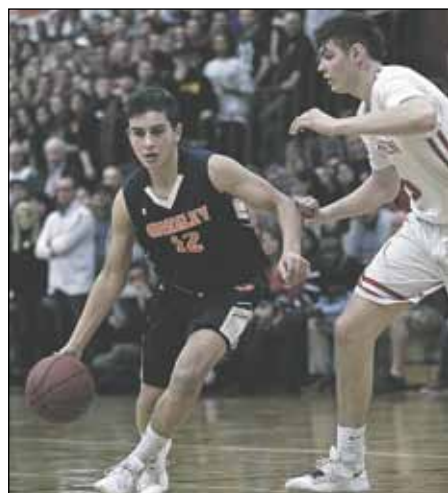
Junior forward Seth Brail came off the bench to provide five big points in the fourth quarter for Greeley in the Class A semifinal vs. host Tappan Zee.



Noah Shar tosses up a shot in Greeley's double-overtime playoff game.

and then a put-back by Garrison built a 63-58 TZ lead with exactly a minute left. A steal and coast-to-coast layup by Salore narrowed the Quakers' deficit to three points with 30 seconds remaining, but Greeley's last gasp came when Salore couldn't connect on a 3-point shot from the right elbow with 19.5 seconds to go. Two free throws by Linehan stretched the TZ advantage to seven points and sealed the Quakers' doom.

"You know, I said no matter what happened, after this game everyone was gonna be different," said Nicodemo. "They were a part of something special that doesn't happen very often. So I tried to keep telling them throughout the game to embrace this. Take a moment because



Junior guard Christoph Sauerborn dribbles toward the top of the key during the second half of Greeley's 67-60 double-overtime loss to the Dutchmen.



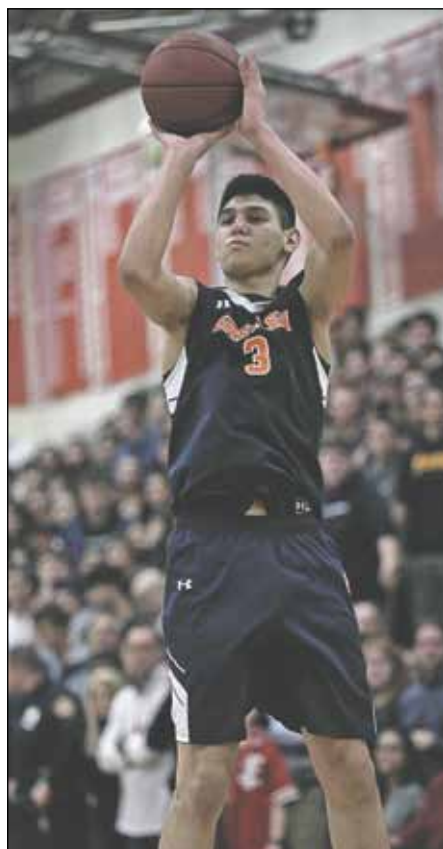
The scoreboard tells the sad story as Greeley's Chris Melis embraces teammate Sean Dunleavy with last Thursday's semifinal outcome all but decided.

it doesn't happen often. I just didn't want them to have any regrets, and they didn't."

The Quakers finished 20-3 and came within a millisecond of reaching the Class A championship game, won by the top-seeded Poughkeepsie Pioneers over Tappan Zee two days later.

"Today I'll remember the atmosphere and how it felt to be a part of this game," Nicodemo said. "But, more importantly, how these players conducted themselves and kept their poise. They answered the

call every single time and I'm so proud of that. We knew we were gonna be coming in with all the cards stacked against us, but I told them whatever happened we were gonna leave it all out there."



The Quakers' Chris Melis rises for a jump shot in the second half of the sectional semifinal game at Tappan Zee.



Greeley freshman Nick Townsend sends up a one-hander from just outside the lane in the Class A semifinal playoff game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Pace Baseball 2019 Season Preview

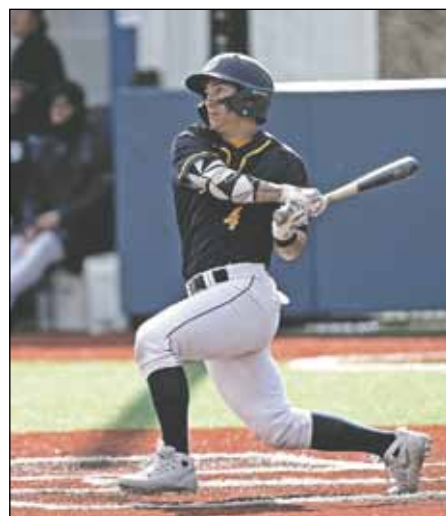
Last Friday marked the start of both a new month and a new sports season. The Pace University baseball team began the 2019 campaign on Friday afternoon, taking on LIU Post at 1 p.m. at Finnerty Field. Prior to the first pitch of the year, here were the storylines for the Setters that set the stage for the new season.

A Look Back At Last Year:

The Setters come off a 16-22-1 season in 2018. Sporting a 10-14 record against the Northeast-10 Conference, Pace made a fourth-consecutive NE10 Tournament, where they fell to Le Moyne in a first-round matchup.

Return of Wirchansky:

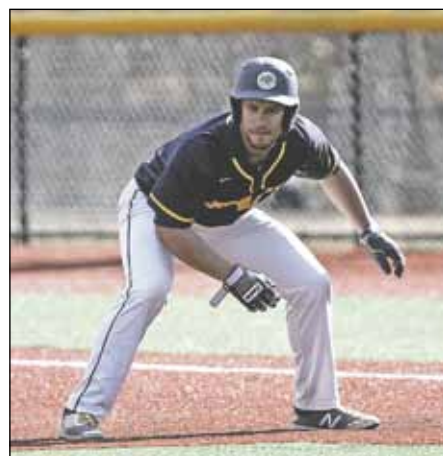
Dan Wirchansky (Stony Point, NY/ North Rockland/RCC) is back on the mound for the Setters for his senior season following a historic 2018. The starting southpaw went 5-1 over six starts last season, leading the nation with a 0.71 ERA. Over 51 innings of work, Wirchansky recorded 63 strikeouts and held opponents to a .140 batting average while walking just five batters all season. Following numerous accolades last season, Wirchansky picked up his first recognition of 2019 as an NCBWA Preseason All-Region First Team selection in January.



Pace's Michael Salmonese swings the bat.

Rounding out the Rotation:

Joining Wirchansky back on the mound this season are Lorenzo Russo (East Northport, NY/Commack), Thomas Ippolito (Randolph, NJ/Randolph), and Alex Busby (Landing, NJ/Roxbury / County College of Morris). Russo pitched mostly out of the bullpen last season and finished second on the team with a 3.45 ERA. Ippolito went 3-4 during his rookie season, making eight starts and posting a 3.83 ERA. Busby comes off a



The Setters' Felix Camacho takes a lead off of first base.

4.91 ERA junior season where he pitched in 13 games, starting three. While the trio and Wirchansky figure to be amongst Pace's top starting arms, a group of four freshmen and three transfer pitchers offer additional depth to both the rotation and pen.

Senior Sluggers:

The Setters return four batters as members of their senior class that each hit .255 or better last season. Michael Salmonese (Waldwick, NJ/Waldwick) was one of Pace's top hitters in 2018 with his

third consecutive season of hitting .300 or better, ending the year with a .309 batting average and a team-high five triples. Alex Pia (Guilford, CT/Xavier) hit .270 across 19 games last year, while the catching tandem of Michael Barbato (Sparkill, NY/Tappan Zee) and Felix Camacho (Bronx, NY/St. Raymond's High School for Boys / Westchester Community College) enter their senior seasons looking to follow up their strong years at the plate in 2018.

No Place Like Home:

Pace has 23 games scheduled at Pleasantville's Finnerty Field this season. The Setters had their most success last season at home, going 11-8 at Pace in 2018. With a five-game homestand to open up the season and a stretch of seven straight at Finnerty Field later in the year, Pace looks to build off last year's success of defending their home turf.

Preseason Poll:

The Setters were voted to finish fourth in the NE10's Southwest Division in the conference's preseason poll. Pace placed fourth in the division last season.

How to Follow:

For all information regarding Pace University baseball, log on to www.PaceUAthletics.com and follow Pace Baseball on Twitter (@PaceUBaseball).

Pace Women's Lacrosse 2019 Season Preview

Entering the program's fifth season and the second under head coach Tricia Molfetta, the Pace University women's lacrosse team gears up for the 2019 campaign. The New Year got underway on March 3 when the Setters crushed Caldwell University 20-2 at Pace Stadium.

A Look Back at Last Year:

The Setters are coming off the most successful season in the program's young history, playing to a 14-5 record. After appearing in the Northeast-10 Conference Championship Tournament in both 2016 and 2017, the Blue and Gold were able to secure their first-ever postseason win last season by defeating No. 20 Bentley 18-10 in the quarterfinal round. Pace ultimately fell to No. 4 Le Moyne in the NE10 semifinals.

2018 Departures:

Pace bid farewell to 10 players as part of the Class of 2018. Amongst them were four of the team's top-five goal-scorers from last season (Casey Gelderman (Farmingville, NY/Sachem High School East), Stephanie Chadnick, Angela Kelly (Garnerville, NY/North Rockland), and Abby Haimson (Montville, NJ/Montville)) and starting goalkeeper Jillian Oross (Bay Shore, NY/Bay Shore). In their place, a new core of 11 freshmen make their way



The Setters' Mary Kate Lonegan heads toward the cage.

to Pleasantville this season looking to pick up where the program's founders left off.

Offensive Output:

Despite the large roster turnover, the Setters still return a number of attack generators from last year's team. Emma Rafferty (Bay Shore, NY/Islip) enters her sophomore season after appearing in all 19 games as a freshman, scoring 22 goals. Juliana Marcolini (Warwick, NY/Warwick Valley), Mary Kate Lonegan (Brewster, NY/Brewster), and Carlyn Mucci (Cortlandt Manor, NY/Walter



Emma Rafferty of Pace University gets set to fire a shot on goal.

Panas) are all coming off double-figure point seasons as well.

Defensive Dominance:

The Setters ranked third in the conference last season with a 10.79 goals-against average. The success on the defensive end resulted from a combination of strong play in net as well as a defense that caused an NE10-leading

242 turnovers last season. Alexa Punzone (Lake Ronkonkoma, NY/Sachem North) and Taylor Rossi (Wantagh, NY/Wantagh) appeared in all 19 games on the Setter backline in 2018, while Alexandra Maitland-Ward (Hampton Bays, NY/Hampton Bays) played in 15. The defending trio figure to be amongst Pace's top options in shutting down opposing attacks this season.

Home Sweet Home:

The Setters were a perfect 10-0 at Pace Stadium last season. Pace will look to carry that home field success into March when the Blue and Gold host top-ranked Le Moyne (defending NCAA National Champions), along with No. 2 Adelphi.

Preseason Polls:

The Setters were ranked No. 14 in the IWLCA DII Preseason Poll last month, as well as being slotted 18th in the Nike/US Lacrosse Magazine Preseason Poll earlier in January.

How to Follow:

For all information regarding Pace University women's lacrosse, log on to www.PaceUAthletics.com and follow Pace Women's Lacrosse on Facebook (@PaceUWLax), Twitter (@PaceWLax), and Instagram (@pacewlax).

Greeley Opens Fitness Center to Help Athletes and Student Health

By Martin Wilbur

Horace Greeley High School has long been known for its academic prowess. Now it has made strides to help its athletes achieve optimum performance and all of its students improve their health.

Last week, Chappaqua district officials unveiled the new fitness and athletic center that not only puts it on par with that of any other school but probably some private health clubs as well.

The school recently received a \$600,000 grant from the defunct Twin Oaks Swim & Tennis Club, which sold off its property and assets to pay creditors and other obligations and had money left over to help the school. The Chappaqua School Foundation also chipped with a \$50,000 grant.

Together, the money paid for buying the roughly 600 pieces of state-of-the-art gym equipment along with reconfiguring the spaces inside the building to house the new center.

"It puts us on par with what's happening in our curriculum center," said Jason Semo, the district's director of physical education, health and athletics. "So we're really fortunate to provide these types of learning experiences not only for athletes but for our entire student body."

The project features a repurposed 5,000-square-foot space that houses



Horace Greeley High School's fitness and athletic center, which attracts an average of 150 students after classes every day. The facility was paid for by a \$600,000 grant from Twin Oaks Swim & Tennis Club and a \$50,000 contribution from the Chappaqua School Foundation.

cardio equipment, including ellipticals and treadmills, a turf area for speed and agility training, free weights and audio-visual equipment. The area, which opened in early January, had been an auxiliary gym, Semo said.

There is also the Mind-Body Studio, a 2,800-square-foot space that had been used for storage. It is outfitted with 20 stationary bikes for spin classes and will also host sessions for yoga and Pilates and other movement disciplines. It opened to students last Wednesday.

The final piece of the project is the upgraded main gym, which is now



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

The stationary bikes in the new Mind-Body Studio at Horace Greeley High School. The space will also be used for yoga and Pilates.

equipped with a multipurpose high-tech video, score and media board, six modern basketball systems and multiple divider nets.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman said the facility is not just for the athlete but it will allow the school to offer exciting physical education for everyone.

"We're able to reform our PE instruction for our students as well as our afterschool program for our kids and our adults that take advantage of our distance learning," Ackerman said.

Since the fitness and athletic center opened to students, Semo said there are

about 150 students after every school day to take advantage of the facility.

Twin Oaks Swim & Tennis Club, which was located on Whippoorwill Road, opened in the 1950s after other clubs in town refused to accept members who were Jewish, said Jeff Gugick, a Twin Oaks board member who spoke just prior to the ribbon cutting. It operated successfully until the Great Recession about 10 years ago, he said.

While there was disappointment that it had to be closed and its land and assets would be sold, Twin Oaks board members were determined to use the money for recreation.

"The execution of the plan was so successful that we were left with a huge windfall," Gugick said. "A lot of hard work and love went into the process that preserved the notion that the spirit of Twin Oaks would be channeled into other recreational causes to benefit our community."

Jillian Pohly, president of the Chappaqua School Foundation, said the organization is thrilled it has been able to help.

"The importance of this space can not only be measured in dollars and cents, but rather on the impact it will have on the well-being of Greeley students for generations to come," she said.



The Briarcliff High School student section watches the girls' basketball team battle for the Class B sectional championship against Irvington last Friday night at Pace University's Goldstein Fitness Center.

**WAIT
'TIL
NEXT
YEAR**

**Greeley Freshman Nick Townsend
Closes His Breakout First Season
With a Rebound Against Tappan Zee
in the Class A Sectional Semifinals**