

Clash of the Champions



**Jack Howe Moves Toward the Cage
in Pleasantville's Seesaw Battle
With Visiting John Jay on Saturday**

Briarcliff Rallies Past Valhalla in the Seventh Inning

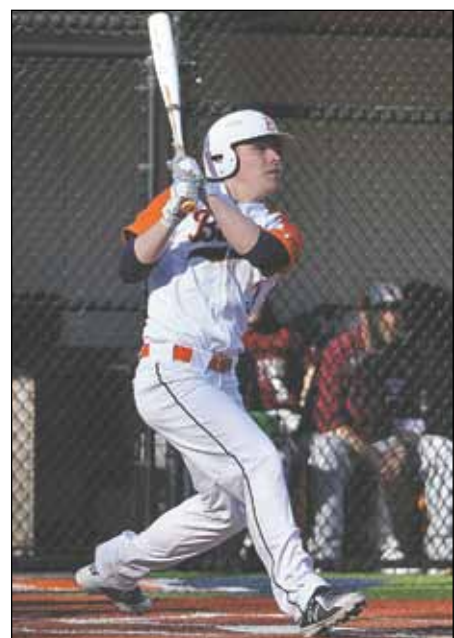
By Rob DiAntonio

Trailing by two runs heading into the bottom of the seventh inning, Briarcliff coach John Schrader gathered his team in the dugout to deliver a message. He wanted his Bears to be patient at the plate and make Valhalla work on the hill.

Briarcliff heeded his advice, rallying for three runs to pull off a 5-4 walk-off league win over the visiting Vikings last Wednesday afternoon.

"Being down by more than a run in the bottom of the seventh, we've got the leadoff hitter up and you've got to take a strike and make the pitcher work, which we did," Schrader said of what he relayed to his team. "We worked pitches, got guys on base and got another pitcher in there. We got some timely hits. That was a big fiasco at the end. Sometimes, you get things in your favor and you just go with it."

On a failed squeeze bunt attempt with one out, Jackson Mauro was caught in a rundown but was able to avoid the tag and scurried home for the winning run.



Dan Huegel of the Bears connects.



Valhalla's Michael Giuliano drives a base hit.

Valhalla coach Josh Wolfson didn't agree with the call.

"My catcher tagged him," Wolfson said. "[Mauro] stopped. If he didn't tag him, [Mauro] wouldn't have stopped and he would have thrown the ball home because we had our first baseman coming down from first base. My catcher said to me that he clearly tagged him on the back. I think the umpire saw their runner just get up and run and made the judgment of, 'Well, if he's running, he must not have been tagged.'"

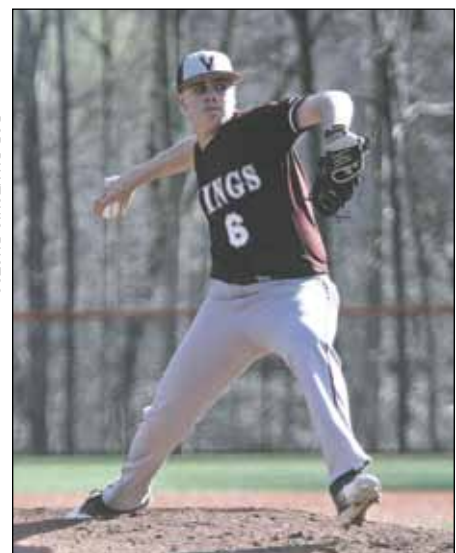
Jason Oppong started the rally for the Bears when he legged out an infield single. Joe Scanga notched an infield single of his own and Michael Hardy was hit by a pitch to load the bases with no outs.

Patrick Poggi, who started the game on the mound, walked on four pitches to cut the deficit to 4-3. Brett Ostrover grounded out, but a run came home to tie the game up, setting the stage for Mauro's crafty base running.

"I have full confidence in my kids," Schrader said. "It wasn't necessarily the conventional way to come back in a game, but we did it. Sometimes you win games like that and you just chalk it up and move on to the next game."

Robert Carbone's double drove in Patrick Gleason (3 for 4) to give the Vikings a 1-0 lead in the first inning. Gleason went 5.2 innings on the hill while striking out seven and allowing two earned runs and two walks.

"Pat got stronger as the game went on," Wolfson said. "Unfortunately, he hit the 105-pitch limit which I'm not really



Valhalla's Patrick Gleason delivers.



Left-hander William Henshaw delivers for the Bears.

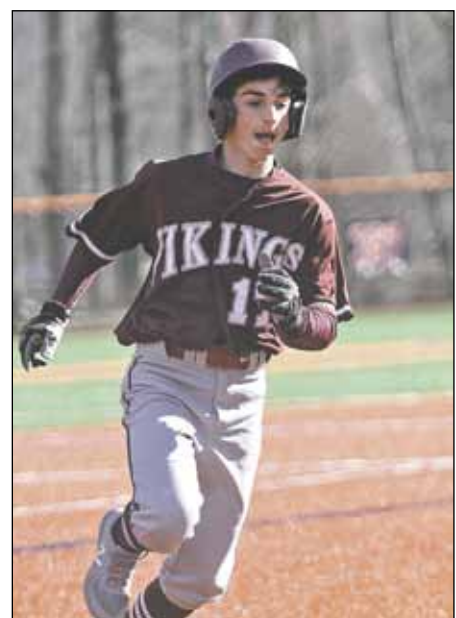
in favor of. But that's the rule, so we're going to go with it. Pat is our workhorse, he's our ace. In a rivalry game, he had everything working and unfortunately he ran out of pitches."

Valhalla threatened again in the second inning. Preston Williams doubled off the left-center-field wall, but Jordan Rush was thrown out at the plate after a perfect relay throw from left fielder Aaron Rotter to shortstop Scanga to Hardy behind the plate.

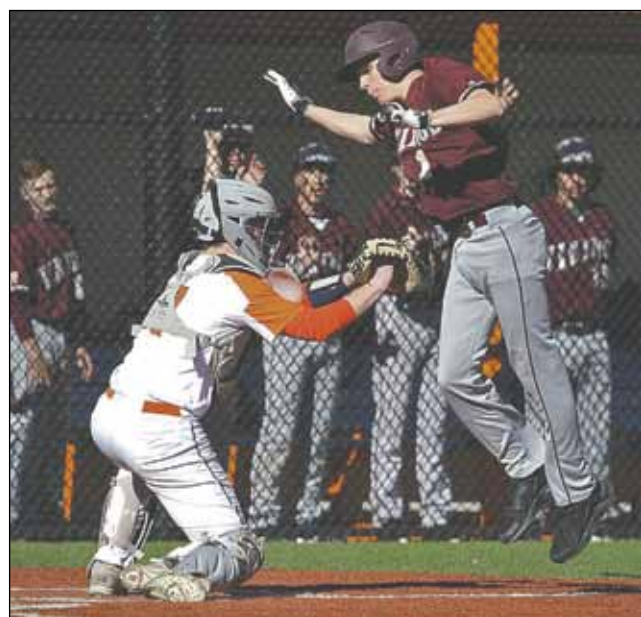
The Vikings loaded the bases in the third inning with no outs. Joe Pecora's RBI single increased the lead to 2-0.

But disaster ended the Vikings' bid for a more runs. After a strikeout, the Vikings then had two players tagged out in a rundown, ending an inning that could have broken open the lead.

"That was a turning point in the game," Wolfson said. "They picked off the back runner and the other guy got hung up as



Jake Sekinski heads for third base.



Bears catcher Michael Hardy applies the tag to a leaping Jordan Rush of the Vikings.

well. If we get a base hit there, it's a 4-0 game. We left a lot out there today."

Schrader said rundowns are something the team consistently works on.

"Every single day in practice we do rundowns, situations, bunt coverage and pickoffs," Schrader said. "The little details is what's going to help you win games and be successful."

Briarcliff quickly took advantage of the momentum swing when Scanga's two-run single drove home William Henshaw and Oppong to tie the game.

"At Briarcliff, I'm kind of used to a lot of balls going over the fence," Schrader said. "We have a little different team this year, but they're just as good and I love them just as much (as past teams). We play a lot of small ball. Whatever it takes to win."

Valhalla regained the lead with Carbone's RBI ground out in the fifth inning. It added another run in the sixth on Michael Giuliano's RBI single, increasing the lead to 4-2.

"We're a very young team," said Wolfson after the Vikings dropped to 3-2-1 with the loss. "To be honest, if I was told before the season that we would be 3-2-1 through our first six games, I'd probably take it. But the way we lost today was a little disappointing. We'll get better and hopefully we'll be playing our best baseball come the end of May."

Briarcliff and Valhalla don't have to wait long for a rematch. The teams will square off again this Saturday, April 20, at Valhalla.

Briarcliff defeated Sleepy Hollow 5-2 last Friday in the opening round of the 16th annual Briarcliff Booster Club Tournament. Joe Murray tossed the first five innings for the win with Alex Benson coming on for the save. But the Bears (5-2) fell to Hendrick Hudson 6-5 in the championship game the next day.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

John Jay's Late-Game Comeback Stuns the Panthers

By Andy Jacobs

Saturday afternoon's boys' lacrosse showdown between Pleasantville and John Jay turned out to be a game of runs.

Unfortunately for the host Panthers, the last and decisive one came from the Indians.

Overcoming a three-goal deficit in the final quarter, John Jay erupted for five unanswered goals to emerge with an 11-9 victory and hand the stunned Panthers their second loss of the 2019 season. Despite a dominant second period and three goals apiece from Pat Doherty and Matt May, Pleasantville dropped to 3-2.

"We got a couple unlucky things that happened in the second half that didn't go our way," said Panthers head coach Chris Kear shortly after the fourth-quarter turnaround by the Indians changed the outcome. "John Jay's a good team, so you can't make big mistakes against them."

John Jay's Bryce Ford scored the go-ahead goal with exactly four minutes remaining and Luke Mercer provided an insurance one just over 90 seconds later as the Indians completed their final-quarter escape from a 9-6 deficit. The Panthers, trailing 5-2 after the opening 12 minutes, had seemingly been in command since outscoring Jay 5-0 in the second quarter.

In a matchup of defending Section One champions, Pleasantville extended its halftime lead to 8-5 when Doherty scored for the third time midway through the third quarter. Their sixth straight goal of the sunny and mild afternoon left the Indians teetering and Kear hoping the knockout blow would soon be dealt.

"Yeah, something we talked about in one of the timeouts was patience on offense and making sure we get a good shot," he said. "If we could get a four- or five-goal cushion, we could probably pull it off. And we just couldn't get that next goal."

Instead John Jay closed to within 8-6 on a goal by Ford with 95 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Even though May's third goal of the day with 9:14 left in the game restored Pleasantville's three-goal lead, it wouldn't be long before all the momentum belonged to the team in purple. Tyler Wishart, who finished with



The Panthers' Jack Howe gets past Tommy Feinstein of John Jay during Saturday's game.

a hat trick, began the Indians' five-goals-in-five-minutes burst with 7:34 to go.

It was Wishart who finally got the Indians even, picking up a rebound just left of the cage and sending a shot past Panther goalie Brian Wilson. That set the stage for Ford's game-deciding lefty shot from straightaway just 22 seconds later after the two teams had struggled for possession of the ball on the key faceoff.

"Penalties and turnovers on the offensive end," said Kear about what cost his team in the last quarter. "We weren't getting quality shots and then we would turn it over and go back on 'D' and they would capitalize. Ray Raefski, our faceoff guy for today, did a great job but every single faceoff was a battle. It was a 50-50 ground ball just about every time. We were getting 'em early, and then in the second half we weren't getting them as often as we hoped for."

The Panthers' last gasp came when a lengthy Jack Howe shot from left of the cage with 1:25 left was stopped by goalie Aidan Koff. John Jay took possession and was able to run out the clock.

"That was not the shot I was hoping for," said Kear. "I was hoping for a little more patience, for us to get a little closer to the goal. You know, it's a learning experience



Pleasantville's Matt May, who scored three goals, tries to dodge his way around John Jay's Ben Konak in Saturday's showdown between defending sectional champs.

for other big games down the road."

It was nearly a year ago that John Jay handed the Panthers the only loss of their magical state championship season. This time around, the Indians jumped ahead 90 seconds after the opening faceoff and stretched their lead to 5-2 when Bobby Chang finished on a fast break with 47 seconds left in the first quarter.

"The biggest concern was our lack of patience on offense," Kear said. "We had a few short possessions where we took a quick shot and it got saved and we went down on defense again. So the message between quarters after the first quarter was to make sure that we just got better possessions and we got the best shot, not the first shot. And it seemed to help us a little bit in the second quarter."

Just two minutes into the second period, Jack Halloran got the Panthers on the board again, cutting the Jay led to 5-3. Pleasantville soon tied the score with a pair of goals 50 seconds apart. First Doherty worked his way to the cage and faked a shot before firing to beat Koff and then Jake Coleman came around from the back of the cage and converted from the left doorstep.

With 5:53 left in the half, Howe cut to his left, then passed the ball to May in front for the goal that gave the Panthers



Pleasantville's Jack Royce gets set to pass the ball from behind the cage.

their first lead of the day. With 1:44 on the clock, a missile by Howe found the back of the net, enabling Pleasantville to grab a 7-5 halftime advantage.

"No, probably not," said Kear, asked if his team could play any better than it did in the second quarter. "I felt like if we continued to play even close to that level, we could probably win the game. I think once we started our run in the second quarter, we really started to believe we could do it."

Right up until the game's final seven and a half minutes, it seemed the Panthers were going to get some sweet retribution after last year's 13-10 defeat at John Jay.

"Yeah, some of the guys who were on the team last year did want to get revenge for that game," said Kear. "We could almost taste it, but it just slipped through our fingers."



Pleasantville goalie Brian Wilson is pressured by John Jay's Tyler Wishart as he tries to throw an outlet pass.



The Panthers' Pat Doherty sets his sights on the back of the net while preparing to fire a shot in the second half of Saturday's game.



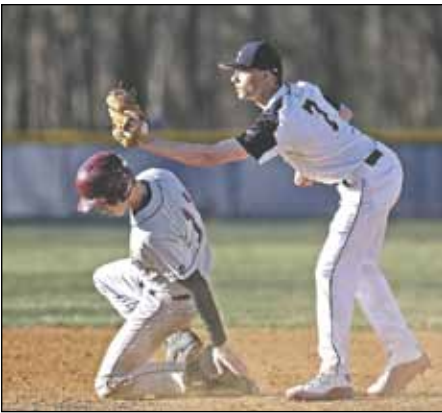
Jack Halloran controls the ball behind the cage in Pleasantville's home game vs. the Indians.



Carson Frye delivers a pitch to the plate in the 3-1 win by Byram Hills over visiting Harrison last Wednesday.



asantville's Reilly Byrne tries to maneuver her way around the side of the cage in the Panthers' home game vs. Bronxville last Thursday afternoon.



Byram Hills shortstop Jared Cohen awaits the umpire's decision after making a tag at second base in last Wednesday's victory over the Huskies.



Westlake junior Jessica Lomurno belts a pitch toward right field during the Wildcats' game at Fox Lane.

SPORTS SCENE



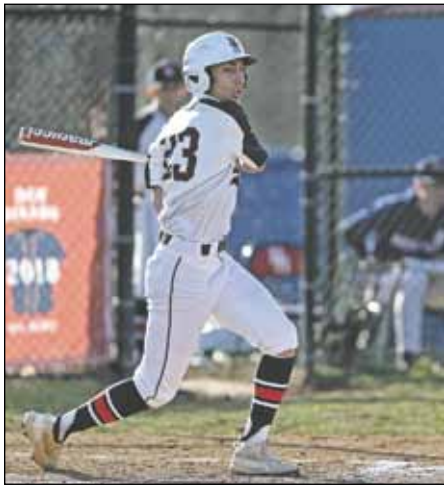
Jenna McAllister of Pleasantville gets set to pass the ball in last Thursday's game against the visiting Bronxville Broncos.



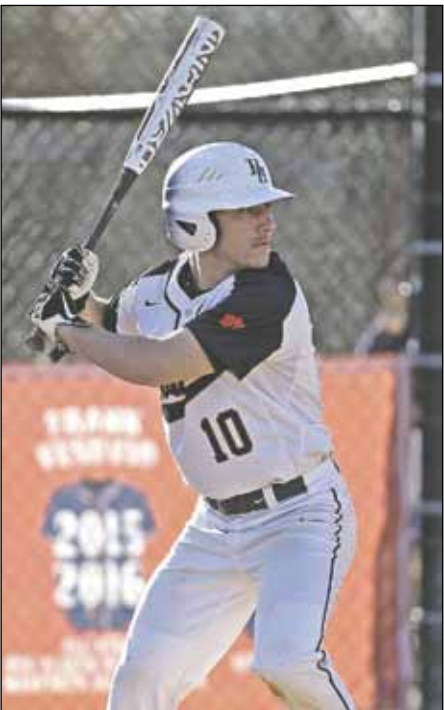
Matt Fliegel of Byram Hills runs toward third base in the home win over Harrison.



Rowan Kennedy of Pleasantville searches for open teammates during last week's game against Bronxville.



Byram Hills' Brandon Fonte sends a pitch down the right-field line during last week's home win over Harrison.



Byram Hills second baseman Gianluca Nelson awaits a pitch as he bats vs. visiting Harrison.



Pleasantville's Lauren Drillock prepares to fire a shot on a free-position opportunity in the Panthers' home loss to Bronxville.



Horace Greeley second baseman Jake Andersen tracks a pop fly in the Quakers' recent home game against the John Jay Patriots.



Horace Greeley's Tanni Prasad fires a pitch to the plate in last Wednesday's game at Byram Hills.



Greg Cafaro of Westlake is closely guarded by Pleasantville's Jack Collins during the second half of Thursday's game.



Byram Hills' Jake Stumacher leaves a pair of Edgemont players behind as he runs the ball past midfield during the 18-6 Bobcat victory.



Ben Mautner, who wound up with six goals and three assists, dodges his way to the cage in Friday afternoon's rout of the Edgemont Panthers.



Freshman Maddie Nero delivers a pitch in Byram Hills' home victory over Greeley last week.



Westlake's Dylan Donnelly comes around the back of the cage with the ball in the Wildcats' home loss to Pleasantville last Thursday afternoon.



Horace Greeley first baseman Charlotte Noto stays ready in last Wednesday's road game.



Nick Sarro of Byram Hills runs the ball up the field in the Bobcats' 18-6 rout of visiting Edgemont on Friday afternoon.



Drew Zimmerman of Byram Hills controls the ball in the first half of Friday's home victory over Edgemont.



Greeley center fielder Emma Hart pursues a fly ball during last Wednesday's game at Byram Hills.



Westlake's Nick Gorman moves the ball across the field in the second half vs. visiting Pleasantville.



Byram Hills' Casey Begleiter runs toward the cage in Friday's win vs. Edgemont. He had four goals and five assists.

Briarcliff Defeats Rival Panthers for First Victory

By Rob DiAntonio

With rival Pleasantville on the schedule last Friday afternoon, Briarcliff's softball team had all the motivation it needed to battle for its first win of the young season.

The Bears did just that, rallying from a deficit to grind out a 6-3 victory over the visiting Panthers.

Trailing 1-0, Briarcliff erupted to score four runs in the fourth inning, all coming with two outs. Gianna Galiani (3 for 3) and Shennah Preble gave Briarcliff the lead with back-to-back RBI singles. Anna Albert followed with an RBI single of her own, then Arianna Vizcaino capped off the big inning with a rip to right center.

"We've been focusing a lot on mental toughness," Briarcliff coach Lindsay Zekus said. "Yesterday, we had a pretty bad injury to our senior catcher (Gabriella Dolgetta). She broke her nose in practice. We came out and said that we were going to get that inning for her and play strong. We just kept hitting and kept the bench alive."

Pleasantville coach Gina Perino said that starting pitcher Ashley Rosen was leaving some pitches up in the zone and Briarcliff was able to capitalize.

"They just put the bat on the ball," Perino said. "It's as simple as that. Once it gets up there, anybody can kind of just take it and drive it. They did a nice job with that and pulled ahead. My kids don't give up, but our bats weren't here today."

Pleasantville answered in the top of the fifth inning when Gillian Gallo's RBI single cut the Bears' lead to 4-2. The Bears, though, tacked on two more runs in the sixth inning. Katherine Gomez had an RBI and Amanda King scored a run on an error.

In the seventh, Jacklyn Sicignano's RBI double down the left-field line narrowed the deficit to three runs for the Panthers, but it was too little, too late.

King, pitching for Briarcliff, was able to get out of jams in almost every inning. In the third, Pleasantville loaded the bases. A walk to Alexandra Broege forced a run home, but King struck out the next two batters. Right fielder Preble then made a tough catch to get Briarcliff out of the inning without any further damage.

"It just comes back to the mental



Briarcliff's Arianna Vizcaino can't get the tag down in time on Panther Avery Manna.

toughness," Zekus said. "I think we had three innings where they had the bases loaded. A couple of them there were no outs. We fought and we fought and we fought to get the outs. Amanda King pitched phenomenal today. She was hitting her spots. Defensively, we were making the plays."

With one out in the fourth and the bases loaded again, King induced a pop out and struck out the next batter looking to escape another jam.

"All season long we've been hitting, but our bats didn't show up today," Perino said. "Their pitcher, King, did a nice job, but we were looking at strike three. I can't even go back to the book and see how many runners we left in scoring position. It was just one of those days. Briarcliff played well and we didn't show up today."

King exhibited another Houdini escape in the fifth inning. With the bases loaded yet again, a ground ball was hit back to King and she threw home to catcher Barbie Vallejo for the force. Vallejo then fired to first base for a double play. Pleasantville did manage to plate a run

after that, but King then fielded a ground ball and threw to first to get out of the inning.

Vallejo, an eighth-grader, was starting in place of Dolgetta, the injured catcher.

"Barbie came in and she did phenomenal," Zekus said. "That double play was unbelievable. As an eighth-grader, she stepped up and knew what to do. Get the ball, throw to first and get that bang-bang double play. That was huge."

King struck out eight batters and scattered nine hits through her seven innings of work. She also was 2 for 3 with two runs scored. Rosen pitched six innings and struck out five with no walks for the Panthers.

Pleasantville, which dropped to 5-2, is off this week and returns to action when it travels to Hendrick Hudson on April 23.

"They never take Briarcliff lightly because it's a rival, but they kind of were going on their past games and running with that a little bit," Perino said of the



Briarcliff pitcher Amanda King makes the throw to first.

loss. "Briarcliff played very well today and you've got to show up. We'll go back and refocus. Sometimes when you lose a game like this, because we were kind of out of it, it can help you for the rest of the season."

Briarcliff travels to Solomon Schechter for a 4:30 game on Tuesday, April 16. The Bears then welcome Port Chester for a 10 a.m. contest on April 20. For a couple of days at least, they can savor the victory over the Panthers.

"This is our rival," said Zekus. "So getting our first win against them and our first league win is huge."



Alexandra Broege of the Panthers makes the catch at first.



Pleasantville's Avery Manna drops a bunt.



Arianna Vizcaino, Shannah Preble and Julia Barbalato run off the field after Preble made a big catch to escape a third inning jam.



Arianna Vizcaino gets the force out at second but decides not to make the throw to first.



Pleasantville's Jacklyn Sicignano locks in on a pitch.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS



Pace University Johnna Leone searches for an open teammate as she controls the ball behind the cage in Saturday's 13-9 home win over Bentley.



Pace's Carlyn Mucci, who scored four goals Saturday, greets teammate Johnna Leone with open arms after a Setter first-half goal.

PACE

Women's Lacrosse



Kayla Conway of Pace controls the ball in the home victory over Bentley.



Amanda Dickerson moves across midfield with the ball in Pace's 13-9 win on Saturday afternoon.



Pace freshman Aleya Corretjer eyes the cage as she cuts across the field in the first half vs. visiting Bentley.



The Setters' Mary Kate Lonegan takes the ball up the field in a hurry during the first half of Saturday's game at Pace Stadium.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



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PACE Softball



Action from Pace University's home game against New Haven on Thursday afternoon included, clockwise from top left, Niyah Brown hitting a pitch toward right field; shortstop Briana Ryan trying to run down a pop fly over second base; Emma Carruth watching the ball jump off her bat; Raechelle Seil racing home with the only Setter run in the 3-1 loss; second baseman Arielle Acosta trying unsuccessfully to tag out New Haven's Rachel Crafts; first baseman Annie Carberry poised to make a play in the second inning; third baseman NancyAnn Revilla guarding the hot corner; pitching ace Emma Bernet firing to the plate; and left fielder Jillian Gartner tossing the ball back to the infield after a New Haven hit.