

## Prepping for the Playoffs



**Lauren Drillock and the Panthers  
Cruise Past Visiting Eastchester  
to Close Out the Regular Season**



# Freshman Duo Leads Briarcliff Past the Wildcats

By Rob DiAntonio

Briarcliff coach Al Meola has six freshmen on his boys' lacrosse team and several of the young Bears made a big impact in a win over Westlake last week.

Matt Waterhouse netted four first-half goals, while fellow freshman Jack Ricciardi dished out five first-half assists and scored a goal to help lead Briarcliff to a 9-7 win over the visiting Wildcats last Thursday.

"They're special players and they couldn't be nicer kids," Meola said. "They're hardworking, respectful and all the boys just love them. They've made a huge impact and all the guys have welcomed them with open arms. It's been nice."

Westlake took a 5-4 lead midway through the second quarter after back-to-back goals from Dylan Donnery. But Briarcliff responded with two deep rips from Waterhouse with Ricciardi assisting both. His second goal gave the Bears a 6-5 lead with 4:31 left in the first half.

"He's a very good player," Westlake coach Mark Castellano said of Waterhouse. "We just weren't doing the things that we were supposed to. We knew we had to press

out on him and we just weren't doing it."

Ricciardi closed out the first half with a goal of his own with 31 seconds left to send Briarcliff into halftime leading 7-5.

It was more of a defensive-minded second half. Noah Benson increased the Bears' lead to three goals with the assist going to Waterhouse midway through the third quarter.

Nick Gorman scored on the doorstep for the Wildcats to cut the Bears' margin to 8-6. Greg Cafaro then had the momentum swinging Westlake's way when the big man went over the middle, absorbed a hit and scored to trim the Bears' lead to 8-7 with 3:54 left in the third.

Kyle Proctor received a cross-field pass, shot high and scored to give the Bears some insurance and a 9-7 lead with 8:27 to play.

"It's been great this year," Meola said. "Our scoring has been really spread out between the offensive guys. They're taking care of the ball way better than they did in the beginning of the year. It's showing."

The momentum from the end of the third quarter didn't carry over to the fourth for Westlake.

"We just weren't doing the things that we usually do in the fourth quarter," Castellano said. "Their pressure kind of got us a little out of whack. We've just got to learn from it. It wasn't the result that we wanted, but we know what we've got to work on. [Briarcliff] threw us for a little loop. [Al Meola] has always been a zone guy and coming out in man kind of confused us a little bit. We'll go back to the drawing board and figure it out."

Westlake had a man-up opportunity with three minutes left, but Briarcliff goalie Evan Van Camp (5 saves), another



Westlake's Jack Simon and Briarcliff's Andrew Kanovsky battle for a ground ball.



Westlake's Andrew Llamas wins a face-off.

season with a 21-14 senior night win over Croton-Harmon on Monday. Cafaro (7G, 2A), Dylan Donnery (6G, 4A) and Ryan Donnery (5G, 8A) led the way. Ryan Donnery notched his 100th career goal.

Castellano thinks the Wildcats can make some noise in sectionals. Westlake was competitive with some of the top teams in Class D, suffering two-goal losses to Bronxville and Briarcliff along with a 10-7 defeat to Pleasantville.

"The good thing for them is that they know they can hang with these teams," Castellano said. "A lot of people keep overlooking us, talking about Pleasantville, Bronxville and Briarcliff. I think now we know that we can play with these guys."

key freshman, made a big save with 2:20 remaining.

"That was important to us because [Westlake] scored on their first man-up pretty easily," Meola said. "We didn't rotate properly. But that time we got the rotation properly and we saw what they were doing. Through scouts and stuff we kind of saw where the looks were going to be. We tightened it up."

Dylan Donnery led Westlake with three goals. Cafaro (1A) and Gorman netted two goals apiece. Ryan Donnery and Matt Sardo had an assist each. Jack Simon picked up five ground balls. Justin Avella made seven saves in the cage.

Benson finished with three goals for the Bears. Spencer Rockmore had two assists.

Briarcliff (12-4) won its seventh straight game by crushing Ardsley 14-1 on Saturday to close out the regular season. Proctor and Elias Hoffner tallied two goals and an assist each. Ricciardi dished out five assists. The Bears are projected to be the No. 2 seed in Class D and will open the sectionals this week.

Westlake (11-5) closed the regular



Westlake's Greg Cafaro controls.



Westlake goalie Justin Avella clears.



Westlake's Nick Gorman looks to make his move while Briarcliff's Nicholas Reish defends.



Briarcliff's Spencer Rockmore runs the offense.

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Matt Waterhouse of the Bears scored four first-half goals in a win over Westlake.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS



# Briarcliff Closes the Regular Season Losing to the Foxes

By Andy Jacobs

Briarcliff girls' lacrosse coach Jess McDonough knew it might require some positive reinforcement to convince her players they could compete at the same level as Fox Lane on Saturday afternoon.

"We're D and they're B," she was saying, "and I think there's always that little bit of you get a little timid when you see the difference in the school sizes."

For a while, the Bears showed they could indeed match the Foxes, fighting back from an early four-goal deficit to tie the contest. But when Fox Lane opened up another four-goal lead, it proved to be too much. Despite a game-high four goals from Samantha Kilman, the Bears lost to the host Foxes' 12-9 in the final game of the regular season for both teams.

"Yeah, we definitely battled back," said McDonough. "But the turnovers at the beginning of the game, when you put yourself in that hole, you've got to dig out. We can't let a team like that come out and jump out on us."

The Foxes, now 12-4, needed just 52 seconds to get on the scoreboard first. Natalie Bazyk picked up a ground ball in front of the cage and deposited the first of her two goals. Briarcliff, hampered by its



Fox Lane's Eugenia Kaltsas tries to run past Briarcliff's Kelly O'Donnell in the first half of Saturday's game.

early turnovers, managed to get even with 17:55 to go in the half as Kelly O'Donnell set up Kilman, who then ran to the cage and tied the game at a goal apiece.

Only 53 seconds after the goal by Kilman, Fox Lane regained the lead with Alex Riley receiving a short pass, spinning to her left and firing the ball past goalie Charlotte Baer. Nearly two minutes later, Olivia Dey, who finished with three goals, ran to her right before sending a low one-hopper into the net to increase the Fox Lane lead to 3-1.

A big save by the Foxes' Maeve Luparello led to a possession that ended with Eugenia Kaltsas scoring with 11:54 remaining in the half. Fox Lane's lead grew to 5-1 65 seconds later as Dey took the ball behind the cage and found a cutting Riley right in front for a point-blank shot that wound up in the back of the net.

After a timeout, Briarcliff immediately responded by winning draw control, leading to O'Donnell racing up the middle of the field and passing left to Kilman, who flipped the ball past Luparello just 10 seconds after the goal by Riley. Kilman's second goal turned out to be the last one of the half. Neither team scored over the final 10:39, mostly because they each turned the ball over five times during a dizzying five-minute stretch.

"At halftime," said McDonough, whose



Kelly O'Donnell of Briarcliff and Natalie Bazyk of Fox Lane battle for possession of the ball in Saturday's game won by the host Foxes.

team trailed 5-2, "we discussed let's keep to the simple things: the ground balls, our communication, just throwing and catching. The big, big focus was the ground balls."

Her players apparently got the message because when play resumed they erupted for three goals in 45 seconds, knotting the game less than a minute and a half into the second half. The goals came from Julia Dalessandro, Ashley Goldstein and O'Donnell.

The Bears seemingly had all the momentum, but it didn't last long. Just over a minute after O'Donnell tied the game, Kaltsas converted for the Foxes on a free-position shot. Once again, though, Briarcliff got even as O'Donnell, who finished with four assists, set up Dalessandro's one-hopper from the right doorstep with 20:11 left on the clock.

Briarcliff had one opportunity to grab its first lead of the day, but turned the ball over. That led to Bazyk racing down the left sideline and eventually firing a shot into the far side of the cage with 19:29 remaining, giving Fox Lane a 7-6 lead it never lost.

"Yes, we got those quick goals," said McDonough. "But we could never get ahead. So I think, mentally, we just needed that one go-ahead goal and maybe would've been able to carry it off."

The go-ahead score by Bazyk was soon followed by another from Jada Singleton, who came around the back of the cage, then spun to her right and sent the ball into the far side of the net from left of the cage. A goal by Quinn Alami opened up a 9-6 Fox Lane lead with 16:31 to go.

Goals by Kilman and Dalessandro, sandwiched around one from Fox Lane's Emma Greene, narrowed the Bears' deficit to 10-8 with just over 13 minutes left. But



Quinn Alami of Fox Lane searches for open teammates as she takes the ball behind the cage with Briarcliff's Ashley Goldstein defending her.

back-to-back goals by Dey, just over a minute apart, gave Fox Lane its second four-goal cushion of the day.

The score didn't change for well over seven minutes until Kilman tallied her final goal of the game with 3:15 remaining. Unfortunately for the Bears, they lost the ensuing draw and never got the ball back again. Fox Lane played keep away the rest of the game, even resisting the temptation to shoot into the cage intentionally vacated by Baer.

"It is frustrating," said McDonough about watching the Foxes run out the clock. "Fox Lane played an awesome game. They're very disciplined, they're well coached."

The Bears, 10-6 in the regular season and seeded fourth in the Section One playoffs, now turn their attention to a first-round matchup against 13th-seeded Valhalla.

"It's a clean, blank slate," said McDonough. "We're just gonna survive and move on. That's our motto."



Julia Dalessandro of Briarcliff races past midfield with the ball in the second half of Saturday's game at Fox Lane's Memorial Stadium.



Briarcliff's Molly Hirsh is pressured by Fox Lane's Olivia Dey behind the cage during Saturday afternoon's final game of the regular season.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

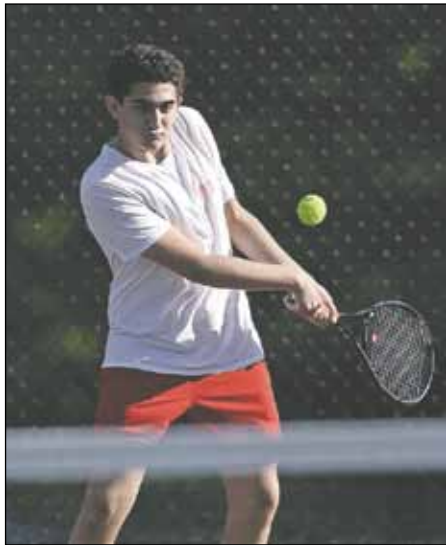


Fox Lane's Natalie Bazyk is chased by Briarcliff goalie Charlotte Baer as she tries to run out the clock in the final moments of Saturday's 12-9 Fox victory.



Fox Lane goalie Maeve Luparello looks to clear the ball after making a save in the 12-9 victory over Briarcliff.

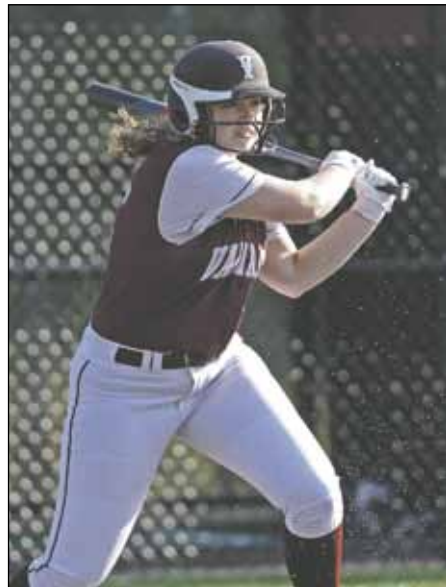




Briarcliff's David Levitt hits a backhand return during his match at first singles vs. Irvington last Wednesday.



Greeley's Ryan Pohly searches for an open teammate during the Quaker win over Carmel.



Olivia Dillon of Valhalla sends a pitch into right field during last Tuesday's game against the Ardsley Panthers.



Long stick middle Kyle Gelber of Greeley takes the ball across midfield in the second half of Friday's easy win over visiting Carmel.

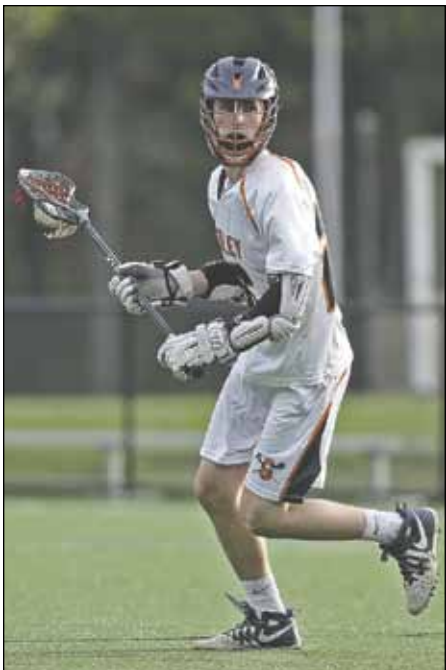


William Najarian of Briarcliff tracks a lob as he retreats from the net in his second-singles match last week.



Horace Greeley senior attackman Spencer McGowan controls the ball behind the cage in the Quakers' rout of Carmel on Friday evening.

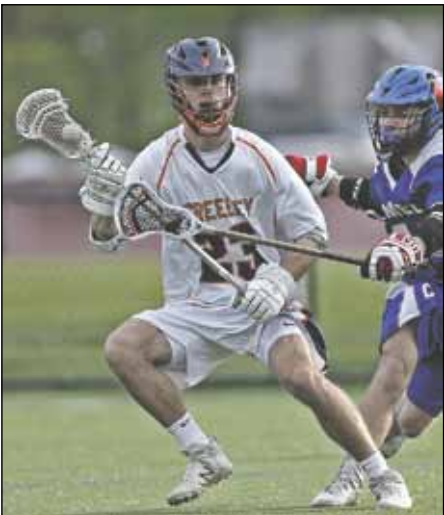
# SPORTS SCENE



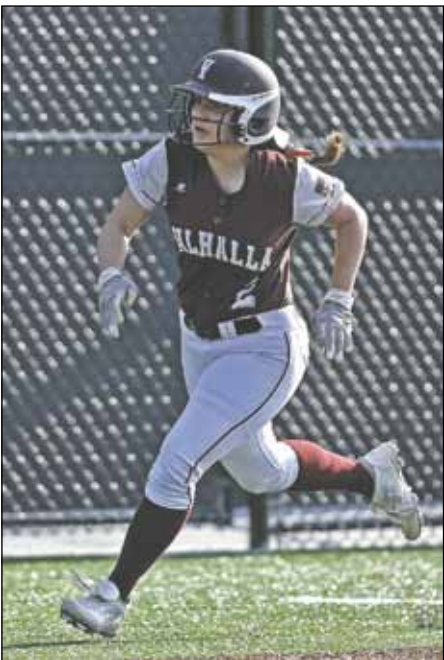
Bryce Gell of Greeley sets his sights on the back of the net as he holds the ball in Friday's home game.



Valhalla pitcher Jillian Caldarola delivers to the plate in the Vikings' home game vs. Ardsley.



Greeley senior midfielder James Allen puts on the brakes as he carries the ball vs. the Carmel Rams.

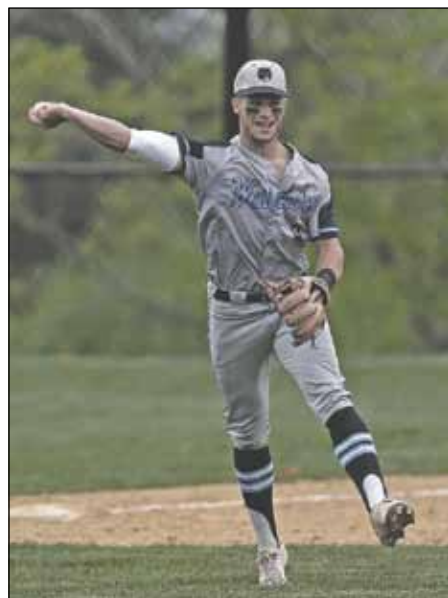


Valhalla's Christina Ferraro comes around to score a run in the last inning of the Vikings' loss to Ardsley.





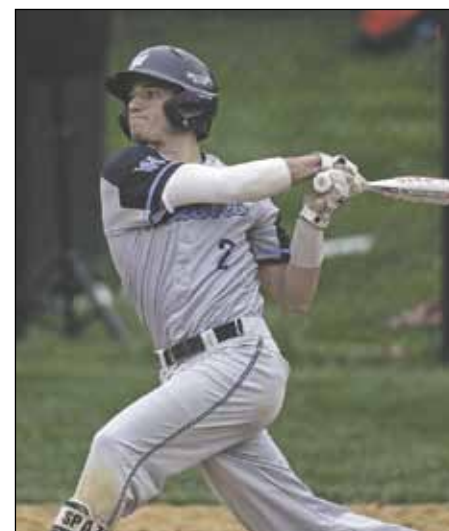
Pleasantville's Grace Capko races toward the cage in Friday's Panther victory over Eastchester.



Westlake third baseman Tom Carpenter makes an off-balance throw to first for an out vs. the Valhalla Vikings.



Jenna McAllister of Pleasantville runs across the field with the ball during the Panthers' 20-7 rout of visiting Eastchester.



Vincent Spaziente of Westlake takes a mighty cut at a pitch during the Wildcats' road win over Valhalla.



Fox Lane's Ken Dorazio serves the ball during his match at first singles against visiting New Rochelle.



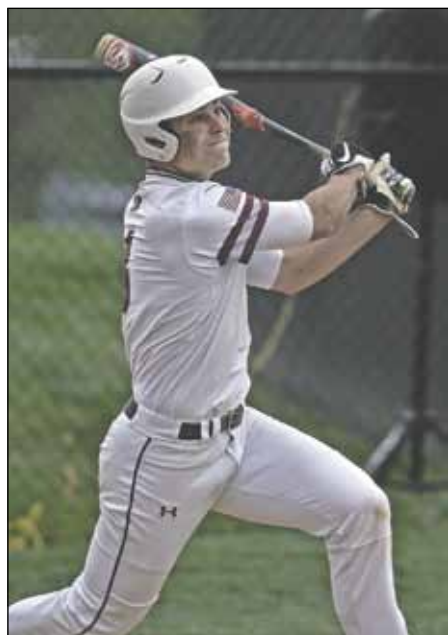
Danny Melillo of Pleasantville fires to the plate in the Panthers' win over Valhalla at Parkway Field on Friday afternoon.



Westlake's Richie Petrillo delivers a pitch in the Wildcats' 11-1 victory over host Valhalla last Thursday.



Jeremy Tettenman of Fox Lane reaches to make a lunging backhand return during his second-singles match last Thursday afternoon.



Joe Pecora of Valhalla hits the ball the opposite way in Thursday afternoon's home game against Westlake.



Pleasantville's Grace Hammond controls the ball in the first half of Friday's regular-season finale against Eastchester.



Pleasantville senior Brendan O'Neill passes third base on his way to adding to the Panthers' lead over Valhalla on Friday.



Valhalla's Robert Faller gets set to swing the bat in last Thursday's home game against rival Westlake.



# Pleasantville Gets Some Revenge Against the Bears

By Rob DiAntonio

Back in April, Pleasantville went on the road and suffered an upset loss to rival Briarcliff. It didn't sit well with the Panthers.

Host Pleasantville got some revenge when it cruised to a 16-1 six-inning win over the Bears on senior day last Wednesday afternoon.

"We didn't show up over there, which was disappointing," Pleasantville coach Gina Perino said of the first meeting. "Briarcliff showed up and we were already in vacation mode. It upset me. We swore that we would come back and play our kind of game. We woke up and I think all the kids wanted to win it for the seniors too."

It was just a one-run game heading into the bottom of the fourth inning. But Pleasantville pounced for three runs in that inning to take a 5-1 lead. Mary Grace O'Neill's single up the middle started things off. She later scored on a wild pitch and an error brought home the third run.

"They were being patient," Perino said of the key offensively to breaking the game open. "That one inning when we went down one, two, three and it was 2-1, I'm like, 'Girls, you've got to make her work a little bit and also swing at pitches that are viable.' You hit a high pitch and pop it up, of course they're going to catch it. It's one of those things where we could have a little more patience and be selective, but also some kids need to get the bat off their shoulder. I'm a coach that wants them to swing the bat."

The floodgates opened up in the fifth inning when the Panthers scored eight runs to go up 13-1. Alexandra Broege's RBI single made it 6-1. Grace O'Neill then roped an RBI double to left-center field. An infield single from Jacklyn Sicignano brought home Broege. Another run scored on a passed ball. Kaycie Budd's RBI groundout made it 10-1. Avery Manna and Lena Freeberg notched RBI singles and another run scored on an error to close out the big inning.

"I think we kind of fell apart on defense," Briarcliff coach Lindsay Zekus said. "We just came off a nice game against Sleepy Hollow and during that game we were errorless. It makes a big difference. When



Pleasantville's Ashley Rosen delivers against the visiting Bears.

you make errors, it makes your pitcher have to work harder. Unfortunately, that's what it came down to. We also weren't able to string together any runs."

Grace O'Neill kept her hot hitting going when she laced a ball to right center and raced around the bases for an inside-the-park home run to start the bottom of the sixth. She finished 4 for 4 with three RBI and four runs scored.

Bridget Giglio's infield single made it 15-1. Manna then ended the game via mercy rule with an RBI single to score Charlotte Goralski.

Ashley Rosen went the distance for the Panthers to earn the win. She scattered five hits and struck out three Bears.

"This is one of the better games I've seen her throw," Perino said. "Her change was working nicely and she was hitting her spots. My catcher (Budd) did a nice job too controlling her. I really saw some growth from her today. She's only a freshman."

Zekus said it's difficult to make a transition against a pitcher "that's a little bit more off-speed" like Rosen.

"I think we've been playing against some other teams that have had a little bit quicker pitchers," Zekus said. "So I think it was a little bit harder for our team to adjust. A lot of us were out in front and hitting the ball off the end of the bat, which didn't give us our solid hits that we've been having."

Sicignano, who made some dazzling plays in the field at shortstop, went 4 for



Briarcliff catcher Barbie Vallejo can't get the tag down in time as Pleasantville's Mary Grace O'Neill scores.

4 with two RBI and three runs scored for the Panthers. Rosen walked four times, scored two runs and had an RBI. Manna went 3 for 5 with two RBI while Broege was 2 for 4 with three runs scored and an RBI. Chloe Pagnozzi scored twice and had two hits.

Sicignano and Broege, the Panthers' lone seniors, were honored for the team's senior day.

Briarcliff's lone run came in the top of the fourth inning on a solo home run from Ashley Sutton (2 for 3). Katherine Gomez had two hits for the Bears.

The Bears bounced back by winning their annual Booster Club Tournament. They pounded out 16 hits in an 18-3 six-inning win over Irvington last Thursday in the first round. Briarcliff led 6-1 after three innings and put the game away with an eight run fifth inning.

Shannah Preble earned the win, striking out six batters while allowing just four hits and no earned runs. She walked one.

Leading the offense were Julia Barbalato (2 for 4, 4 RBI, 2 runs), Allison Labick (2 for 3, 3 RBI, 2 runs), Preble (2 for 2, 2 RBI, 2 runs), Arianna Vizcaino (RBI, 2 runs), Sutton (2 hits, RBI, run), Amanda King (3 for 5, 2 runs), Gomez (2 for 4, 4 runs,



Jacklyn Sicignano, a Panther senior, connects with a pitch on her senior day.

RBI) and Gianna Galiani (2 for 3, 3 runs, 2 RBI).

Briarcliff (6-10) then routed Alexander Hamilton 14-3 in the championship game on Saturday. King, who was named tournament MVP, went the distance on the hill for the win. She gave up just three hits and no earned runs. Vizcaino (2 hits, 2 runs), Barbalato (3 for 4, 3 runs, 2 RBI, all-tourney), Barbie Vallejo (RBI), Sutton (3 for 5, 3 RBI, 2 runs), King (run), Galiani (3 for 5, 3 runs, 2 RBI, all-tourney), Labick (3 for 5, 4 RBI) and Gomez (2 runs) led the offensive onslaught.

"We just want to finish strong heading into the postseason and hope for the best," Zekus said.

Pleasantville improved to 10-8 with a 12-4 win over Solomon Schechter last Thursday. Sicignano was 3 for 4 with three RBI and also got the win on the hill. Grace O'Neill also went 3 for 4 with a triple.

"This was good softball right now," Perino said of the win over the Bears. "We've kind of been like a rollercoaster team. So if they can really take this and ride with this, it would be good because it's always good to start to peak right now. I'm hoping that's what happens."



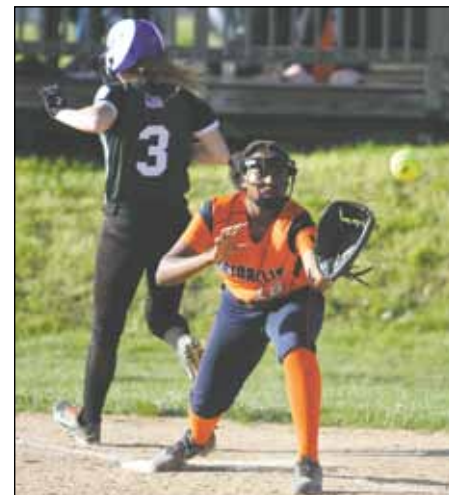
Amanda King pitches for the Bears in last week's game at Pleasantville.



Charlotte Goralski of the Panthers makes it to third base before Briarcliff's Katherine Gomez can get there for the force.

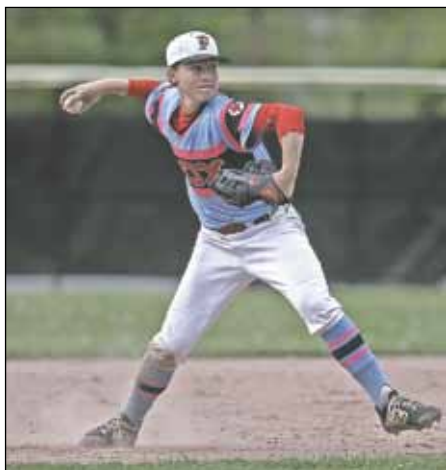


Panther Chloe Pagnozzi heads for third.



Pleasantville's Jacklyn Sicignano beats a late throw to Ashley Sutton at first base.





Fox Lane shortstop Kyle Furst throws to first for an out in the Foxes' home game this past weekend.



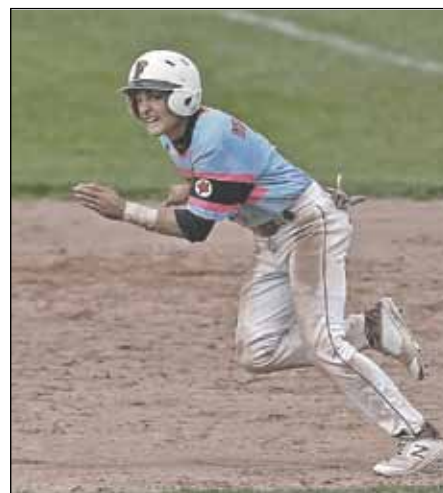
Andrew Lanzilotti awaits a pitch as he bats late in the game vs. the Indians on Saturday.

## focus on **FOX LANE Baseball**



The Foxes' Dean Massari races down the third-base line vs. John Jay. He had three hits, raising his batting average to .512 this season.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Jack Williamson is off and running toward second base in the Foxes' 6-4 loss to John Jay on Saturday afternoon.



Nick Bronico delivers a pitch in relief during Saturday's home game vs. the John Jay Indians.



Fox Lane catcher Dean Massari makes the tag at the plate to prevent a John Jay run after a strong throw from left fielder Nick Giattino.



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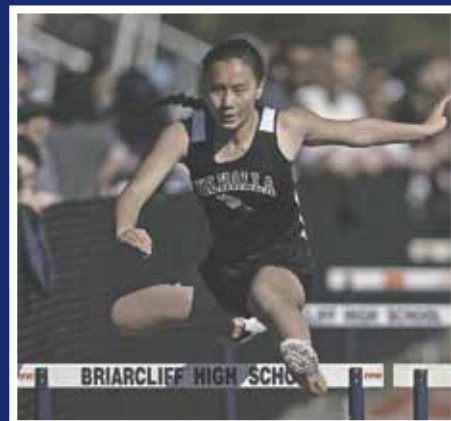
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# ExaminerSports

## Track & Field



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Action from last Wednesday's League 3A Championships at Briarcliff High School included, clockwise from top left, Valhalla's Mekhi Miller turning the corner in the 200; Pleasantville's Isabelle Kapoor competing in the 400 meter hurdles; Briarcliff's Lauren Rogers running to a third-place finish in the 1500; Pleasantville's Christian De Jesus and Westlake's Eric Nieves running side by side in the 100 en route to finishing second and third, respectively; Valhalla's Kailing Zhu clearing a hurdle; Aidan Lynch of Pleasantville on his way to second place in the 1600; Mary Henry of Valhalla running the 1500; Westlake sprinter Marabel Jaime running a heat in the 200; Pleasantville freshman Adriana Catalano winning the 1500; and Briarcliff's Alex Hong competing in the 400 meter hurdles.