

Last-Second Letdown



**Jared Wilens Carries the Football
During Pleasantville's Crushing Loss
in the Final Moments at Parkway Field
to Section Nine's Port Jervis Raiders**



James Varriano of Briarcliff (left) and Thomas Merritts of Pleasantville battle for control of the ball during the Mt. Pleasant Cup title game. The teams wound up in a 2-2 tie before the Panthers emerged with the victory in an overtime shootout.



Pleasantville senior Jacob Coleman pursues the ball in Saturday's game.



Calum Macphee of Pleasantville controls the ball in the second half of the Mt. Pleasant Cup championship game.



Pleasantville players celebrate after defeating Briarcliff in an overtime shootout Saturday night to capture the title at the 2019 Mt. Pleasant Cup Soccer Tournament.



Sam Fash of Briarcliff tries to maintain possession of the ball as Pleasantville's Daniel Bucci approaches from behind.



Briarcliff players, left to right, Kevin Callaghan, Josh Jacobs, Matt Li and Charlie Renz form a defensive wall in the second half of the Mt. Pleasant Cup title game against Pleasantville.



The Panthers' Daniel Bucci tries to run past Briarcliff's James Varriano during the title game Saturday night at Valhalla High School.



Pleasantville senior goalkeeper Conor Bruder stays ready in front of the net during one of the two 10-minute overtime sessions against Briarcliff on Saturday night.



Luke Scopino of Pleasantville gets possession of the ball after a Briarcliff throw-in on Saturday night. His goal in the overtime shootout clinched the Panthers' victory.



Briarcliff senior James Varriano rises for a header near midfield during Saturday's tournament game vs. Pleasantville.



Briarcliff sophomore Tyler Cho races past midfield with the ball in Saturday night's title game of the Mt. Pleasant Cup Soccer Tournament.



The Bears' Charlie Renz chases after the ball during the second half on Saturday evening.

Last-Second Touchdown Dooms Panthers in Season Opener

By Rob DiAntonio

For 47 minutes and 50 seconds, Pleasantville's defense kept Port Jervis off the scoreboard in the Panthers' season opener.

But one play changed everything.

Port Jervis marched 71 yards in the final 1:19, including a 40-yard touchdown pass down the left sideline to tie the game. The extra point was good, giving the Raiders a 7-6 lead. The host Panthers had one final chance, but their last-gasp pass was intercepted, ending last Saturday's game at Parkway Field.

"Listen, Brennan (McDermott) was making plays all afternoon for us," Pleasantville coach Tony Becerra said of his defensive back about the play that lifted the Raiders of Section 9 to their one-point victory. "He was making great plays and he was there on that one. There's nothing you can do. The kid made a great play. Brennan was there. It wasn't like he blew a coverage. He was there with him the whole time and he looked back. It's just one of those things."

Pleasantville had an opportunity to seal the win and run out the clock, but a fourth-down run came up just short, giving the Raiders their chance.

Missed opportunities were a theme for the Panthers' offense.

On the first play of the second half, Blerim Hoti of the Panthers recovered a fumble at Port Jervis' 33-yard line. Pleasantville, however, couldn't muster much offensively and a 33-yard field goal attempt came up well short.

A 27-yard field goal attempt in the second quarter had plenty of distance, but wide to the right.



Pleasantville senior Jared Wilens runs past Chris Brown of Port Jervis as he returns a kick in the second quarter of Saturday's game at Parkway Field.

On the Raiders' ensuing possession, McDermott recovered a fumble, setting up the Panthers at the Port Jervis 29-yard line. But Pleasantville was unable to capitalize, turning the ball over on downs with nothing to show for it.

"The defense did their thing, but the offense we didn't do our thing," Becerra admitted. "We should have given them more points as a cushion for the defense. But we kept shooting ourselves in the foot with untimely penalties. We can't start drives first-and-15 or first-and-20 right off the bat."

A clock-eating drive by Port Jervis was then stopped abruptly by junior linebacker Harrison Halesworth, who made his first of two interceptions.

Sophomore quarterback Michael LaCapria found senior Jared Wilens on a deep pass to take the Panthers down to Port Jervis' 20-yard line. LaCapria lofted a perfect pass to an open McDermott in the left corner, but he couldn't hang onto the ball. A roughing the passer penalty was called on Port Jervis, though, setting up first-and-goal from the 10-yard line.

The Panthers' Matt May finally broke the scoreless deadlock, zipping 10 yards



Matt May of Pleasantville runs with the football in the first quarter of the Panthers' season opener on Saturday.

right up the middle with 1:19 left in the first half. The extra point was blocked, sending Pleasantville into halftime with a 6-0 lead.

Port Jervis had a touchdown called back due to a holding penalty on its first possession of the game on a swing pass down the right sideline. So the Raiders had to wait until the game's final moments to find the end zone for the first time.

Pleasantville looks to bounce back when it hosts Albertus Magnus at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13 at Parkway Field.

"We just have to take care of the little things," Becerra said when asked what the Panthers need to improve on. "It's not just one thing. It's a lot of little things that we need to clean up. It starts with how they approach their work week."



Junior defensive tackle Jack Collins of Pleasantville sacks Port Jervis quarterback Logan Hammock in the second quarter of Saturday afternoon's season-opening game.



Junior linebacker Harrison Halesworth of Pleasantville takes the ball up the field after making one of his two first-half interceptions vs. visiting Port Jervis.



Pleasantville sophomore quarterback Michael LaCapria looks over the Port Jervis defense before throwing a pass in Saturday's game.



The Panthers' Matt May bursts right up the middle to score a 10-yard touchdown in the first half vs. visiting Port Jervis.



The Pleasantville defensive unit gangs up to tackle Port Jervis running back Trey Wilkerson in the first quarter of Saturday's season opener at Parkway Field.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



2019 U.S. Open champion Rafael Nadal gives fans a thumbs-up as he holds the championship trophy.



Fifth-seeded Daniil Medvedev of Russia smacks a forehand return in the opening set of Sunday's U.S. Open men's championship.



Playing in her first U.S. Open main draw, Bianca Andreescu wound up winning seven matches, capped off by her surprising victory over Serena Williams on Saturday.



Bidding to win his fourth U.S. Open championship, Rafael Nadal was pushed to his limits by fifth-seeded Daniil Medvedev, who rallied from a two-set deficit to nearly defeat the Spanish legend.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Rafael Nadal delivers a serve during the first set of Sunday's U.S. Open championship match inside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

2019 U.S. OPEN

Tennis Championships

Quest for the Title



Bianca Andreescu, the 19-year-old from Canada, reacts near the net on her way to winning the 2019 women's U.S. Open championship.



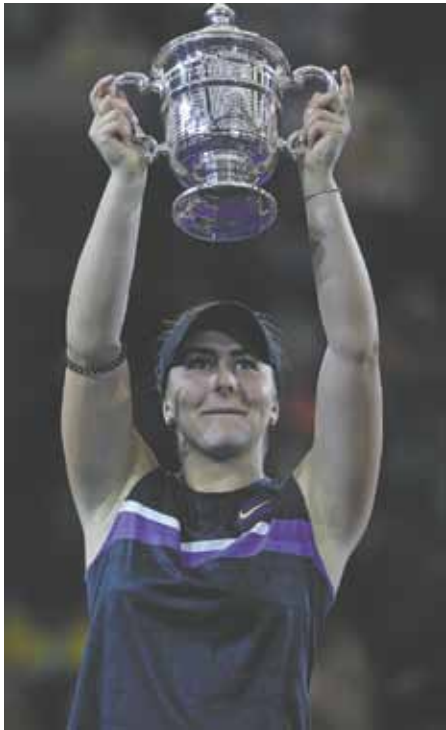
Serena Williams concentrates on a backhand return during her disappointing straight-sets loss in Saturday's US Open title match.



Rafael Nadal was forced to go five sets before finally turning back the challenge from Daniil Medvedev in Sunday afternoon's men's championship at Flushing Meadows.



En route to capturing his 19th Grand Slam title, Rafael Nadal reacts after winning a key point in the fourth set vs. Daniil Medvedev.



Bianca Andreescu, seeded 15th, holds the U.S. Open championship trophy aloft after defeating Serena Williams.



Serena Williams, bidding to equal Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 Grand Slam titles, serves the ball in her easy quarterfinal win on Tuesday evening.



Despite a disappointing finish for him, Daniil Medvedev was still able to smile following his epic final against Rafael Nadal.



Russia's Daniil Medvedev reaches to hit a backhand return in his four-set victory over Stan Wawrinka in Tuesday's quarterfinal match in Arthur Ashe Stadium.



Grigor Dimitrov hits a backhand volley during last Tuesday night's shocking five-set win over five-time Open champion Roger Federer.



Johanna Konta follows through on a backhand return in the second set of her quarterfinal loss on Tuesday.



Elina Svitolina, the women's fifth seed, reacts after defeating Johanna Konta 6-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.



Belinda Bencic, seeded 13th, steps inside the baseline to smash a forehand during her quarterfinal victory over Donna Vekic on Wednesday afternoon.



Swiss legend Roger Federer moves forward to hit a forehand in last Tuesday's quarterfinal match against Grigor Dimitrov.



China's Wang Qiang goes airborne as she serves in Tuesday evening's one-sided quarterfinal match won by Serena Williams.

2019 U.S. OPEN

Tennis Championships

Week Two



Playing perhaps the most inspired tennis of his long career, flashy Frenchman Gael Monfils reached the quarterfinals of the 2019 U.S. Open.



Matteo Berrettini of Italy, the 24th seed, made a surprising run to the semifinals before losing to Rafael Nadal on Friday evening.



Speedy Diego Schwartzman of Argentina races toward the net in Wednesday night's quarterfinal loss to Rafael Nadal, who finally took control after two tight sets.



Donna Vekic of Croatia sets her sights on a backhand return inside Arthur Ashe Stadium in Wednesday's quarterfinal match vs. Belinda Bencic.



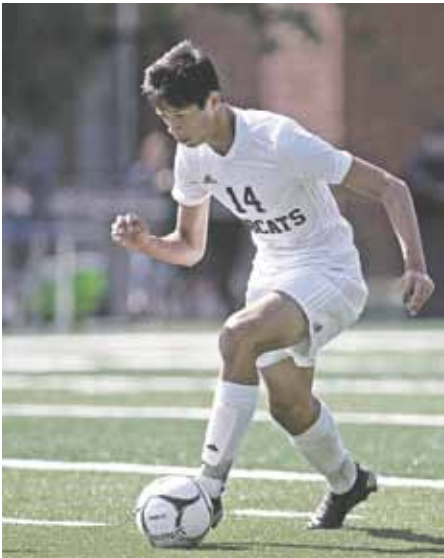
Yusuf Hafez of Byram Hills settles the ball during first-half action in Saturday morning's game at Beacon High School.



Horace Greeley's Jessica Kratz settles the ball late in the first half of Thursday's home opener.



Pablo Perez of Greeley controls the ball in the first half of Saturday's game at Roy C. Ketcham High School.



Byram Hills senior Kalden Harp takes the ball up the field in the Bobcats' 1-0 win over host Beacon on Saturday morning.



Abigail Hanlon of Greeley boots the ball up the field in the opening half vs. visiting White Plains.



Sammi Forster of Horace Greeley runs past a pair of White Plains defenders on her way to scoring the game's only goal last Thursday afternoon.



Greeley junior Owen Parsons controls the ball in the win over Ketcham this past weekend.



Greeley's Ramsey Edson is tripped up near midfield in the Quakers' 1-0 victory over White Plains.

focus on
SOCCER



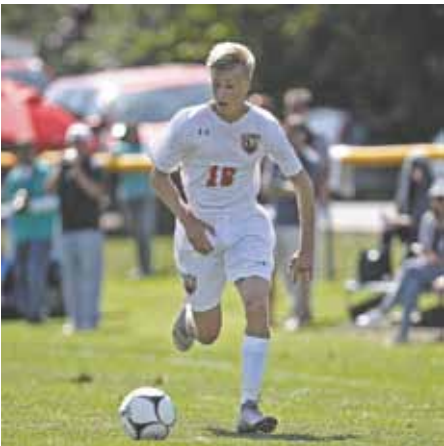
Byram Hills players Nicolas Bisgaier (left) and Max Berman both set their sights on the bouncing ball in the Bobcats' 1-0 victory over host Beacon.



Avery Schwartz keeps her eyes on the ball in Horace Greeley's home win over White Plains last week.



Max Berman of Byram Hills moves the ball past midfield in the first half of Saturday's road victory over the Beacon Bulldogs.



Greeley's Sam Mikesell takes the ball up the left sideline in the first half of the 2-1 victory over the Ketcham Indians.



Horace Greeley's Eli Peretz takes to the air as he tries to gain possession of the ball in Saturday's game at Ketcham. He scored a first-half goal in the Quakers' 2-1 win.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Horace Greeley junior Dylan DeCuffa tries to advance the ball up the field during the first half of Saturday's win over host RCK.



Greeley's Ally Forster moves the ball across the field in the first half of last Thursday's home opener.



Senior Ben Hammond sends a pass to a Byram Hills teammate during Saturday's road game vs. Beacon.



Westlake's Nicole Musial runs in Saturday's Big Red Invitational at Somers.



Avery Skolnick of the Foxes took ninth in D1.



Mark Rogers of Briarcliff finished seventh in D3.



Fox Lane's Meagan Moky finished 20th in the Division 1 race.

focus on
CROSS COUNTRY
Somers Big Red Invitational
Saturday, September 7, 2019



Pleasantville's Adriana Catalano took second in Division 3 at Big Red.



Fox Lane's Zachary Micucci heads up a hill.



Fox Lane's Ensen Sgaglio was sixth in D1.



Emily McKenna of the Foxes heads for the finish line.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

Strong Start



**Ramsey Edson and the Greeley Quakers
Blank White Plains in the Home Opener**