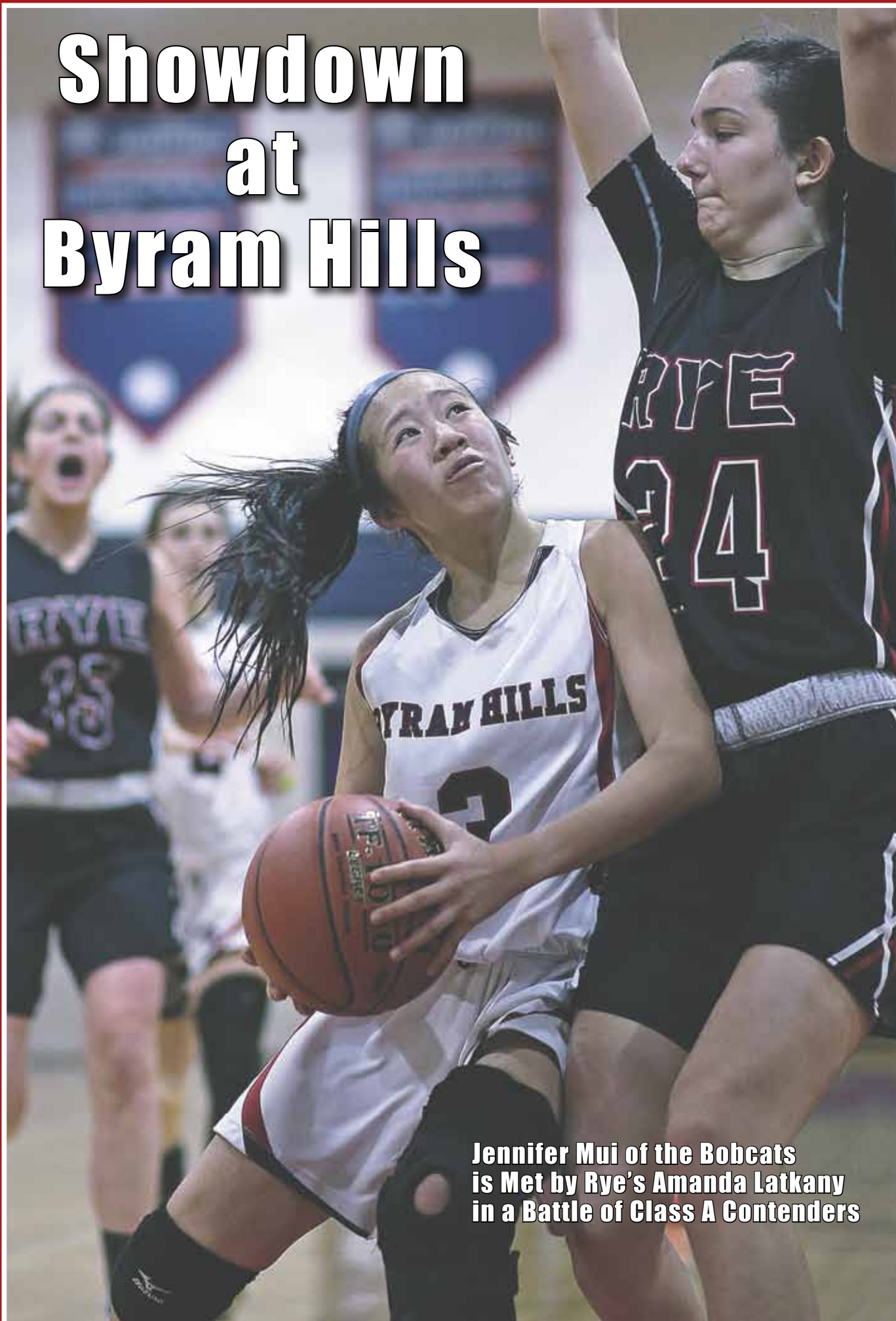


## Showdown at Byram Hills



**Jennifer Mui of the Bobcats  
is Met by Rye's Amanda Latkany  
in a Battle of Class A Contenders**



# Byram Hills Girls Lose to Rye in a Class A Showdown

By Andy Jacobs

It's very crowded at the top of Class A girls' basketball in Section One this season and two of the teams with their sights set on a sectional title, Byram Hills and Rye, provided an early glimpse on Friday night of just how competitive the playoffs could be in a couple of weeks.

The Bobcats and Garnets, both 12-3 at the start of the evening, were tied with less than two and a half minutes remaining before a 10-2 run to close the game lifted visiting Rye to a 62-54 victory in a key league matchup. Despite 17 points from guard Jen Mui and 13 from forward Stefana Latella, Byram Hills lost for just the second time in its last nine games.

"I'm definitely very proud of what our team did tonight," said Bobcats head coach Tara Ryan afterwards, even though a comeback bid from a 10-point deficit after three quarters fell a bit short. "That's the type of effort we want to see from them. Rye has a fantastic crew and I think we played very well against them."

Byram Hills managed to trade early baskets with the Garnets in the opening moments of the first quarter and tied the game for a third time on a layup by Sophia Villani with 2:27 remaining in the fourth. But Rye never trailed all night, building an eight-point lead three minutes into the second period and then a 10-point cushion three minutes into the third quarter.

Led by the inside-outside duo of Amanda Latkany and Teaghan Flaherty, who wound up combining for 40 points, the Garnets began the fourth quarter with a 48-38 cushion. But the Bobcats rose to the challenge, outscoring Rye 14-4 over the first five and a half minutes of the final period to tie the contest.

Unfortunately for Byram, Latkany answered with a short jumper with just under two minutes remaining that gave Rye the lead for good. The Garnets sealed the outcome by making seven free throws over the final 41 seconds, four of them by Flaherty. The Bobcats' only points over the final couple of minutes came on a pair of free throws by Villani with 27 seconds left that cut the Rye lead to 58-54.

"We did really well at moments," said Ryan. "We've got to work on our execution at other times, but that's how basketball



The Bobcats' Beth Corelli eyes the basket from the left baseline in Friday's game.

games go. Ups and downs. I think it's fair enough to say our team had a little bit of jitters. It's a big game. It could possibly be a preview of a Class A final or somewhere down the line. We haven't had a game of this magnitude yet this season and I'm really happy about how we performed and were able to push through when we were down."

The Bobcats, who had rolled to home wins over Dobbs Ferry and Eastchester earlier in the week, found themselves trailing Rye 14-6 late in the first quarter before Mui provided a conventional 3-point play on a drive from the right baseline with 7.4 seconds left. Two baskets by Latella, sandwiched around a short jumper from eighth-grader Grace Corelli, cut the Garnets' lead to just 16-15 early in the second quarter.

A 3-pointer by Flaherty with five minutes left in the half capped a 7-0 Rye spurt that opened up an eight-point margin. But by halftime, the Bobcats had closed again to within 29-26. Villani's layup 12 seconds into the second half moved Byram to within one point before Rye went on an 11-2 burst, capped by Flaherty's left-corner trey, to build its first double-digit lead.

Byram Hills got a driving basket from Mui, then a pair of free throws by both Beth Corelli and Mui, to narrow the Rye advantage to 42-38. But the third quarter ended with six straight points by the Garnets and the Bobcats started the fourth again down by double digits.

Olivia Picca provided a 3-pointer from the right elbow with 5:40 left and a put-back bucket with 3:05 to go, helping the Bobcats go on the 14-4 burst that tied the game with less than two and a half minutes remaining. But Byram never got



Byram Hills point guard Jen Mui takes the ball to the basket in the second half vs. visiting Rye.

another basket after Villani's layup while falling to the court tied the score at 52 apiece.

"It's always a great rivalry with Rye," Ryan said. "So can't wait to see them later on and what the playoffs bring. I would love to see them at the County Center. I think that would be a great Class A basketball game."

Friday night's showdown might have already proved that, and Ryan figures her Bobcats have just as good a chance as anyone to be running up and down the famed court in White Plains in a few weeks.

"I think it'll be really great in Class A this year," she said. "It's a very unique year where, if you look, everybody is doing fantastic. Everybody is probably going to finish with 12 wins or more and it's anybody's ballgame. So that's what we keep putting in the minds of our kids. This could be our year."



Olivia Barry of Byram Hills battles Audrey Porter of Rye for position as they await a rebound during Friday night's Class A showdown.



Senior forward Stefana Latella shoots the ball in Byram Hills' home game against the Garnets.



The Bobcats' Sophia Villani fires a 3-point shot from the left corner in the second half vs. the Rye Garnets.



Olivia Picca of Byram Hills drives the right baseline as Rye's Teaghan Flaherty defends in Friday's game won by the visiting Garnets.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



# Briarcliff Earns a Milestone Victory Against the Vikings

By Andy Jacobs

Not even the absence of his best player could prevent Briarcliff girls' basketball coach Don Hamlin from reaching a lofty milestone last Tuesday afternoon.

With leading scorer Alana Lombardi sidelined by a recent ankle injury, the Bears still managed to defeat the visiting Valhalla Vikings 43-35 to remain unbeaten this season and enable Hamlin to collect the 400th victory of his coaching career.

"I never think about personal stuff," said Hamlin shortly after watching his shorthanded team hang on to beat the Vikings. "It's really nice, but it means I've been here a long time and I've had some great players."

Junior center Jordan Smith provided the Bears with 16 points, 12 rebounds and eight steals, while Cat Carrafiello added 13 points. Valhalla, 5-9 with the loss, was led by Shelby Sekinski and Lauren Alley with 12 points apiece.

Asked afterwards how difficult it would have been to get to 400 wins if he always had to coach without his best player in the lineup, Hamlin wasted no time answering.

"Oh, it would've been impossible," he said. "We've certainly had our fair share of injuries. I think there was a seven-year or eight-year stretch where our top scorer was injured, and significantly injured. The kids that were next up did a good job, like today. They did a great job today."

Lombardi twisted her right ankle driving through the lane 30 seconds into the fourth quarter of the Bears' narrow win over Croton just four days earlier. Without her on the floor, Briarcliff is a bit less imposing for opponents.

"It makes everything a little more difficult," said Hamlin. "Everybody looks at Alana's scoring, but she also has, like, six or seven steals a game, 10 rebounds a game. Her presence gets other people open. It's a whole big difference in kind of everything

we do."

With Alley sparking Valhalla by connecting on a trio of 3-point shots, the teams were tied at 10 apiece after the first quarter. But the Vikings outscored the Bears 11-5 over the first three minutes of the second quarter to open up a six-point lead. Briarcliff answered with a 17-footer from Kaitlyn Ryan, a 3-ball from Carrafiello from the right elbow and a fast-break layup by Smith before a bucket by Allison Langlois gave the Vikings a one-point edge with 2:50 left in the half.

Alley's fourth 3-pointer of the opening half with 36 seconds remaining provided Valhalla with a 26-25 lead. But Carrafiello, in the starting lineup due to Lombardi's injury, drained another 3-point shot with 14 seconds on the clock and the Bears took a 28-26 lead at the break.

"Yeah, she's done that all year," said Hamlin about the contribution he got from Carrafiello, just a freshman. "She's been a great addition off the bench. She's a scorer, so she comes in and gives us a lift."

Two inside baskets by Smith in the first 90 seconds of the third quarter stretched the Briarcliff lead to six points. The Vikings closed to within 32-29 on an 18-foot jumper by Sekinski, who became the school's all-time leading scorer a few days later. But Smith added two more buckets and Dylan Zednick provided a put-back with 1:17 left in the third quarter, enabling the Bears to take a 38-31 lead into the fourth.

Both teams struggled mightily to score in the final period. Briarcliff finally got a pair of free throws by Julia Dallessandro exactly three minutes in and Valhalla ended its drought with two Sekinsky foul shots a minute later. A short lefty pop near the foul line by Sophie Sproul moved the Vikings within 40-35 with 2:17 left in the game.

But Valhalla could get no closer and a basket by Carrafiello with 1:49 remaining



Briarcliff freshman Cat Carrafiello tries to drive past Valhalla's Shelby Sekinski in the second half of last week's game won by the host Bears.



Briarcliff's Julia Dallessandro shoots the ball over Valhalla's Sophie Sproul in the second half of last Tuesday's game.

all but sealed the outcome. The Vikings went scoreless the rest of the way after the bucket by Sproul and dropped their fifth straight game.

"All in all, it was a good effort by our girls," said Vikings coach Stephen Boyer. "They played very hard. They played very well defensively. We have trouble scoring, but I thought we did a decent job and took away their main weapon, which was the big girl in the middle (Smith). We just kind of struggle at times when teams take away Shelby. It's tough for us to have a consistent second or third scorer, and that's the issue."

After the final buzzer, the Bears, currently 16-0 this season, presented Hamlin with a trophy honoring his milestone victory and posed for photos. If his players were feeling any pressure trying to get the win for him,

Hamlin wasn't aware of it.

"I don't know," he said. "We didn't talk about it. It's kind of embarrassing to tell you the truth, so we never talked about it. I didn't know if they were aware of it or not. Didn't bring it up in practice or before the game."

Boyer has known Hamlin a long time and wasn't that upset to be the victim on his special day.

"Don coached football for me 35 years ago," he said. "It's a great achievement and he's done a great job with this program."

For Hamlin, the significance of his 400 wins is secondary to some intangibles along the way.

"Coaches, we don't score baskets," he said. "We don't grab a rebound. We just try to help kids out, and we were successful doing that a few times."



Allison Langlois of Valhalla gets inside for an easy basket in the Vikings' road game vs. Briarcliff.



Valhalla junior Lauren Alley dribbles across midcourt as Briarcliff's Cat Carrafiello chases in the second half of last Tuesday's game.



Valhalla's Shelby Sekinski goes up for two points during last Tuesday afternoon's game at Briarcliff.



Briarcliff head coach Don Hamlin watches his Bears defeat Valhalla for the 400th victory of his career.





The Quakers' Charles Spar looks to clear the puck.



Matt Maitland is congratulated by Evan Scott and a host of Quakers after his second-period goal.



Jake Porter sends a pass in Greeley's 6-3 loss to Lakeland/Panas last Friday at Brewster Ice Arena.



Ben Cohen of the Quakers celebrates a third-period goal.



Joseph Lamb heads up the ice in Greeley's loss to the Rebels.

*focus on*  
**GREELEY**  
**Hockey**



Greeley's Ben Cohen looks across the ice for a teammate.

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Fiona Mullen shoots the ball over the outstretched arms of Franklin Pierce's Freya Cooney.

*focus on*  
**PACE**  
**Women's Hoop**



Pace University's Lauren Schetter has her path to the basket blocked by Izzy Lipinski of Franklin Pierce in last Wednesday's 69-59 home loss.



Pace junior forward Iliana Krasniqi tosses up a shot in the lane in the second half of last week's game vs. the Franklin Pierce Ravens.



The Setters' Jackie DelliSanti drives through the lane in last Wednesday's home loss to Franklin Pierce.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

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# Vikings Overwhelm Briarcliff in the Second Half to Win Easily

By Andy Jacobs

A close game at halftime quickly turned into a rout when the Valhalla Vikings turned up the intensity in the third quarter last Tuesday evening.

Outscoring visiting Briarcliff by a lopsided 17-4 margin, the Vikings opened up a 19-point lead heading to the final quarter and went on to a convincing 66-41 victory. Sebastian Pacheco finished with a game-high 20 points and Marlin Wise added 12 as Valhalla won its third straight game following back-to-back losses to Hastings and Scarsdale a week ago.

"We did make some slight changes on defense that allowed us to cut down on the two things that they were doing well," said Vikings coach Richard Clinchy after his team had improved to 12-3 this season. "Defense is always the key. Everybody knows that."

Playing for the second consecutive day, the Vikings found themselves trailing 14-13 after the Bears' Ryan Panitz connected on

a 3-pointer in the waning seconds of the first quarter. A layup by Francesco Falco nearly two minutes into the second quarter broke a 17-17 tie. Nick Reish's jumper from the right baseline evened the score for the fourth and final time before Wise converted on an old-fashioned 3-point play to give Valhalla the lead for good.

But the Vikings only held a 31-25 lead at intermission against a Briarcliff team they had defeated by 20 points on the road

in early January. Just 20 seconds into the second half, though, Drew Drayton-Bey drained a 3-pointer. He followed that with a baseline drive and then Pacheco made a steal and went coast to coast for a layup. With 5:50 left in the third quarter, the Valhalla lead was suddenly up to 13 points.

The Bears' Jayden Larregue ended the run with a layup, but then another 8-0 burst by the Vikings all but ended any doubt about the outcome. Briarcliff went scoreless for four and a half minutes before a basket by Luke McCann in the final minute of the quarter ended the drought. Pacheco added to the Bear despair when he scored on a runner in the lane just as the buzzer was sounding to end the period.

"They're a good team, they score in spurts," said Briarcliff coach Nick Friedman. "So we know that about them because that's what they'll do to you. You've got to play really well for four quarters if you want to beat them. Definitely that's what they're good at. So I have a lot of respect for their press and the way they play that way. But I think a lot of the time we just put the pressure on ourselves."

Trailing 48-29 at the start of the fourth quarter, the Bears quickly saw their fading hopes completely disappear as Valhalla



The Vikings' Marlin Wise dribbles around Briarcliff's Aidan Murnane in the second half of last Tuesday's game.



Valhalla's Sebastian Pacheco sends up a runner over Briarcliff's Nick Reish in last Tuesday's game.



Valhalla guard Sean Kelly takes the ball to the basket in the Vikings' 66-41 rout of Briarcliff.



Luke McCann of Briarcliff shoots the ball in the first quarter of the Bears' game at Valhalla.



Briarcliff senior guard AJ Panarese tries to drive past Valhalla's Mahari Davis Jr. during last week's game hosted by the Vikings.

erupted for 10 straight points in the opening two minutes. A pair of 3-pointers by sharpshooter James McAndrew highlighted the burst and delighted the Vikings' large student section.

Briarcliff didn't score its first points of the final quarter, two free throws by AJ Panarese, until there was just 4:21 left on the clock. With the outcome hardly in doubt, the teams traded baskets over the final four minutes and junior Christian Rossi provided one final highlight for the Valhalla fans when he connected on a 3-point shot from the left corner with 48 seconds remaining.

"Our guys just played really well in the second half," said Clinchy. "That start of the third quarter is key. You come out and

you get that first one (a basket) and it just does give you that jolt of electricity. There's no doubt about it."

The loss dropped the Bears' record to 6-8 and left Friedman searching for answers.

"To me, the problem wasn't their defense," he said. "It was our defense. And it got masked, the fact that we weren't playing our brand of defense. We were scoring a decent amount of points in the first half, so we were able to keep it close. But we didn't look like us on defense the whole time and that dominoes because it lets them set up their press, and that's what they're really good at."



Rahsean Melvin of Valhalla shoots the ball in the Vikings' 66-41 win over visiting Briarcliff last week.



Aidan Murnane of Briarcliff fires a jump shot against the Vikings.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



# Miraculous Shot at the Buzzer Lifts Pace to a Big Victory

By Andy Jacobs

With the final precious seconds ticking off the clock last Wednesday evening, Pace University's Tyrone Cohen Jr. caught a pass from teammate Bryan Powell along the left sideline, took one dribble across the midcourt line and launched a nearly 40-foot heave toward the basket that was destined to be remembered.

In an instant, Cohen Jr.'s desperation shot just before the buzzer sounded wound up banking off the backboard and right through the rim, sending the entire Setter team spilling on top of him in a wild celebration that would soon be replayed on television sets across the nation — duh-duh-duh, duh-duh-duh — as ESPN SportsCenter's # 2 play of the day.

The 3-point fling from Cohen capped a Pace comeback from a 15-point second-half deficit and provided the Setters with a 75-72 victory over the visiting Franklin Pierce Ravens at the Goldstein Fitness Center. Trailing by five points with under 90 seconds remaining, Pace closed the contest on an 8-0 run to improve to 14-7 this season and even its record in the Northeast-10 Conference at 6-6.

"I'm just really proud of our guys for staying the course," said Setters head coach Matt Healing shortly after his team had completed its huge comeback. "That was a tough game against a really good team. They've been playing really well, coming off a big win. They beat Adelphi by 30 points last game. So we knew we had our work cut out for us."

Cohen Jr. had been just two for seven from the field before his game-winning basket. The Setters went scoreless for the first five minutes of the second half, missing all four of their shots and turning the ball over three times, and soon found themselves facing a 53-38 hurdle with 14



Pace forward Peyton Wejnert rises over Sean Bresnan of Franklin Pierce for a shot in the lane during last Wednesday's game.

minutes remaining. But a 22-7 Pace run that began and ended with buckets from Austin Gilbertson eventually tied the game and set the stage for the heroics to come.

"We could've folded, and we didn't," said Healing. "It's easy in a game like that, against a good team, down by 15. We did the things we needed to do to win the game. Obviously people will talk about that last shot for a long time. But we put ourselves in that position with good defense, with great teamwork, staying tough. I just think about big deflections, big jump balls that kept us in the game. Just the small things that added up to get us in position to win the game."

After six lead changes in the opening 20 minutes, the Setters found themselves trailing 38-35 at halftime. But the Ravens scored the first nine points of the second half and their run became 15-3 following

back-to-back 3-pointers from Doyin Fadojutimi and Falu Seck. The Pace revival finally began when Gilbertson slipped into the paint for a layup with 13:15 remaining.

The Setters soon got another layup by Christian Adams and then Peyton Wejnert, who finished with game-highs of 19 points and nine rebounds, cut backdoor for a basket that made him the ninth Pace player to reach the 1500-point plateau. A pullup jumper by Gilbertson near the foul line cut the Franklin Pierce lead to 53-46 with 11:38 to go.

Pace managed to draw even when Adams converted on a pair of free throws with 8:21 left on the clock. Gilbertson's short jumper 30 seconds later tied the game again at 60 apiece before the Ravens rattled off six straight points to seemingly take control once more. An acrobatic fast-break layup from Fadojutimi gave the Ravens a 68-63 lead with 3:35 remaining after Wejnert, battling for offensive rebounds, had twice been denied underneath at the other end and Gilbertson came up empty diving headfirst for a loose ball.

Franklin Pierce, 12-6 at the start of the evening and second in the NE10's Northeast Division standings, still held a five-point margin after a basket by Seck with 92 seconds left. Wejnert made two free throws with 1:20 to go, and then his old-fashioned 3-point play with 32.5 seconds on the clock tied the game at 72-72.

With possession of the ball and just a two-second difference between the shot and game clocks, Franklin Pierce had a big advantage. But Isaiah Moore spun



Tyrone Cohen Jr. of Pace fires up his game-winning 35-foot shot at the buzzer that lifted the Setters to a thrilling 75-72 win over visiting Franklin Pierce.

into the lane a bit too early and his shot with five seconds left caromed off the rim. The Setters' Powell grabbed the rebound, quickly dribbled up the floor and found Cohen Jr. ahead to his left.

With one bounce of the ball, the lefty-shooting Cohen moved past midcourt and sent the ball sailing toward the basket from well beyond the 3-point arc as the final buzzer was sounding. When the ball banked off the glass and into the basket, he was immediately greeted by his giddy teammates, who all went sprawling like dominoes onto the floor in their instant euphoria.

"We had a timeout there," said Healing about a last-second huddle that never happened. "To call a timeout when we were on the run, to let them set up a defense, it's just a tough scenario that you've got to kind of read on the fly. And obviously it worked out for us."

In the aftermath of the remarkable finish, Healing wasn't quite sure where to place the win over the Ravens among his most important since coming to Pace five years ago. Right now, he's more concerned about the postseason implications of the victory.

"Obviously we'll all think about the game-winning shot at the buzzer," he said. "Those are priceless. You remember the buzzer-beaters, for sure. It's a big one for our guys in the course of the season. We're in a playoff hunt and jockeying for position and seeding within our conference. Maybe at the end of the year you'll be able to kind of savor where this one ranks in the grand scheme of things. But a win's a win. It's a special one. It's a hard-fought one. It's a gratifying one. A fun night here on campus, and hopefully our fans enjoyed it."

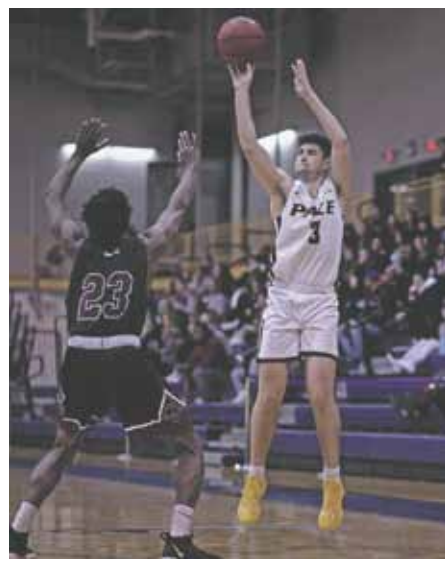


The Setters' Bryan Powell goes strong to the basket during last week's win over the Ravens.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

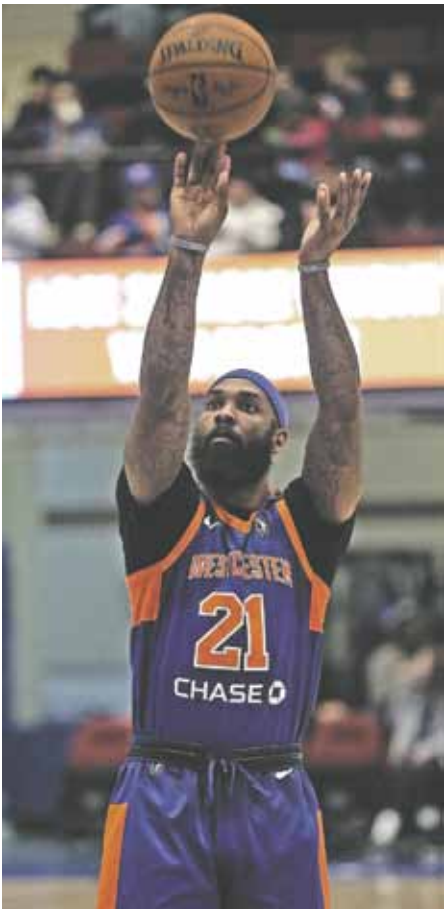


Pace University guard Brandon Jacobs tosses up an off-balance shot in the second half of the dramatic win over Franklin Pierce.



Pace junior Austin Gilbertson launches a 3-pointer over Doyin Fadojutimi of Franklin Pierce at the Goldstein Fitness Center.





JJ Moore of the Westchester Knicks shoots the ball from the foul line.



Ignas Brazdeikis, on assignment from the New York Knicks, takes the ball to the basket in Westchester's home game vs. Long Island on Saturday night. He finished with 31 points.



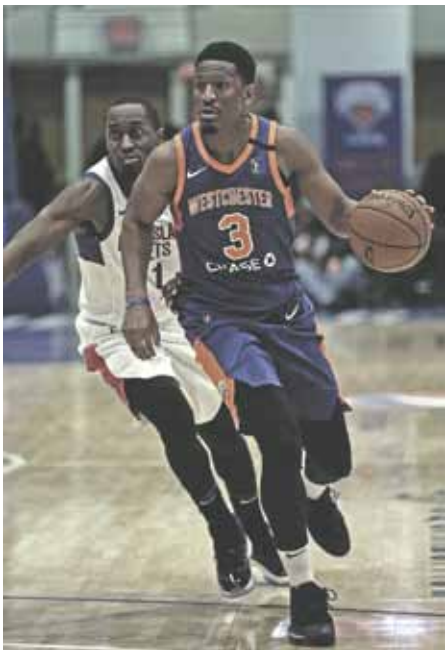
Long Island guard Jaylen Hands, a second-round pick in the 2019 NBA Draft, tries to dribble past Westchester's Amir Hinton at the County Center.



Long Island's Devin Cannady is met at the rim by Westchester's Tim Bond during the first half of the Nets' road win over the Knicks in G League action on Saturday.



Dzanan Musa, the first-round pick of the Brooklyn Nets in 2018, drives to the basket on Saturday night. He scored a game-high 34 points as Long Island won 116-111.



Westchester's Andrew White III dribbles past Theo Pinson of the Long Island Nets at the County Center.

*focus on*  
**NBA G LEAGUE**  
**Westchester**  
**vs. Long Island**  
**Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020**



Long Island Nets guard Chris Chiozza rises for a reverse layup as Westchester's Ivan Rabb defends in Saturday night's game.



Zak Irvin handles the ball in Westchester's home game vs. Long Island.



Westchester forward Ivan Rabb gets set to make his move around Long Island's Jonathan Kasibabu in Saturday night's game at the Westchester County Center.



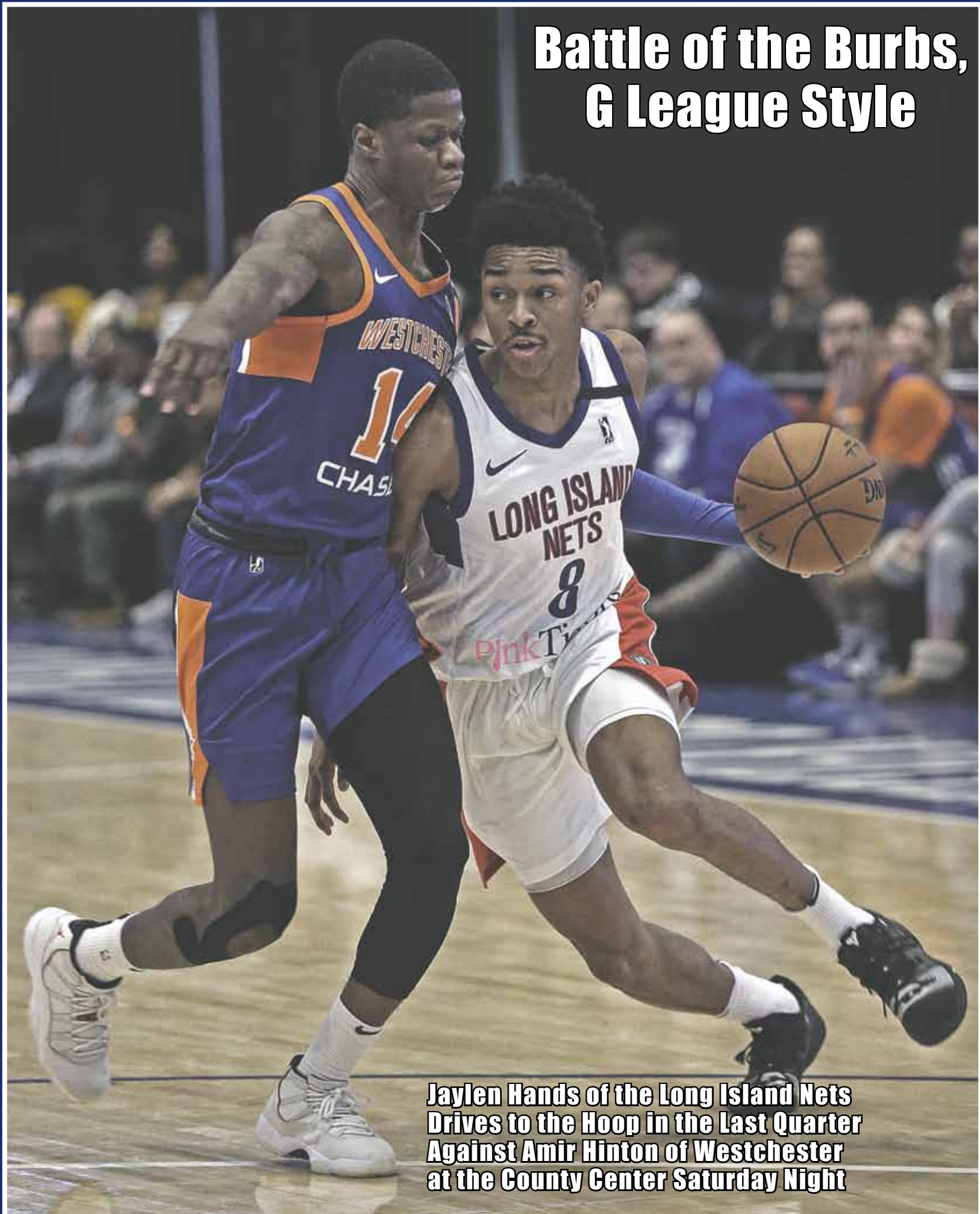
Jonathan Kasibabu of the Long Island Nets (center) battles for a rebound with Westchester's Ignas Brazdeikis and Andrew White III on Saturday night.



Justin Anderson of Long Island gets free under the basket in the 116-111 win over the host Westchester Knicks.



## Battle of the Burbs, G League Style



**Jaylen Hands of the Long Island Nets  
Drives to the Hoop in the Last Quarter  
Against Amir Hinton of Westchester  
at the County Center Saturday Night**