Examiner Sports

On the Felipe Side!

Ossining Hopes to Get Payback on Port Chester after 7-2 Loss







ROB DANTONIO PHOTOS

Ossining G Marie Felipe gets some serious hang time and makes a first-half save in the Pride's 7-2 loss to host Port Chester last Saturday when Section 1 athletes took the field for the first time since early March due to the COVID-19 pandemic... see Sports



Boys' Soccer Roundup

Eagle Flies High in Byram Hills' 3-0 Win over Greeley

Big Week on Tap: White Plains vs. Ossining, Yorktown vs. Somers, P'Ville vs. Briarcliff

By Ray Gallagher Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Byram Hills used its pent up energy as a catalyzing force in its season opener against host Horace Greeley last Saturday, using the last seven months of COVID-19-induced inactivity to spark the Bobcats to a 3-0 league win over the Quakers on the first day of Section 1 competition since the pandemic struck in early March.

Byram Hills junior midfielder Ross Eagle scored in the game's 24th minute and then hit for another late in the second half for a 3-0 lead. Junior forward Nico Bisgaier added pair of assists for the Bobcats; one to Eagle and another to Owen Fleischer in the 42nd minute.

"I thought our kids played pretty well today," Byram Hills Coach Matty Allen said. "We lost two starters yesterday and two in the game today, so I think the bench really stepped forward. We got great minutes from Aiden Heffner and Owen Fleischer, who made their debuts on the field today. We have practiced well, got used to the masks and I think being in school since September 1 certainly helped. We talked a lot about the distractions just to get them ready for it."

Defensively, Kalden Harp was a beast for the Bobcats and keeper Aidan Cogan (three saves) filed his first clean sheet of the season

"I think with the energy we showed today and throughout our practices, you can definitely see that our boys feel the same way and like you said the energy was there," Harp said. "We've been putting in a lot of work this off-season whether it be doing individual workouts or socially distant practices. Coach Allen does a great job of motivating us to be better and to constantly be pushing ourselves to be better so a big part of that is definitely credit to him. One of the great things about our team this year is we



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Byram Hills players hit up Owen Fleischer (R) in the 42nd minute after his goal gave Bobcats a 2-0 lead in 3-0 win over Greeley Saturday.

have a very strong lineup all around, and all of our players including the players coming off the bench are capable of playing a large part for the team."

At Byram Hills, they are always ready for

opening day, using the ceremonial outing to end what might become a two-game skid when coupled with the season-ending loss of the previous season. A perennial power-house, the Bobcats have only lost two games in a row twice since 2006, a remarkable feat under Coach Allen.

"We always treat opening day as a day to

"We always treat opening day as a day to stop the streak," Allen said. "It builds a bond within the program and a connection to the graduates. Every senior texts me after game and said 'You stopped the streak'. We didn't want to lose two in a row, so we challenged the kids with that. Have to give the boys credit; they rose to occasion. I think Greeley will get better as year goes on: Seems that way every year. Losses build character and without question, Coach Camp will have them ready."

The Quakers were hard-pressed to stop the combination of Eagle and Bisgaier up top. The crafty duo worked outside-in and inside-out to produce results and force the issue

"They are good players with great motors," Allen said. "Eagle has such pace to him and his communication is phenomenal with Nico. Both are juniors, so we're really

lucky there."

In Greeley's pre-game prep talk, the captains were overheard challenging the unit for energy and intensity. After the long delay to open the season, the Quakers seemed too tame, almost nonchalant in their approach.

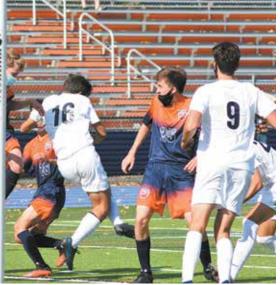
"We were a little hesitant and that's on me," Quaker Coach Camp Shropshire said. "We're not a rah-rah bunch this year, so we better get it done with our feet! Also, our midfield was all new and they will adapt and improve as they gain confidence."

Greeley had seven new starters in the lineup, so the coach is expecting bigger and better from his squad as the season progresses.

"We don't like the loss, but I saw a lot that went well, so I am hopeful and look forward to growing with the boys," Shropsire said. "Byram was very good at attacking the ball right away and kept at it."

The Bobcats will visit Fox Lane today (4:30 p.m.) and host Ardsley Friday (4:15 p.m.). Looking to bounce back the week, Greeley will host Ardsley Wednesday (4:15) and host Edgemont Friday (4:15 p.m.).





Byram Hills and Greeley players assemble en masse in Bobcats' 3-0 league triumph of host Quakers Saturday.

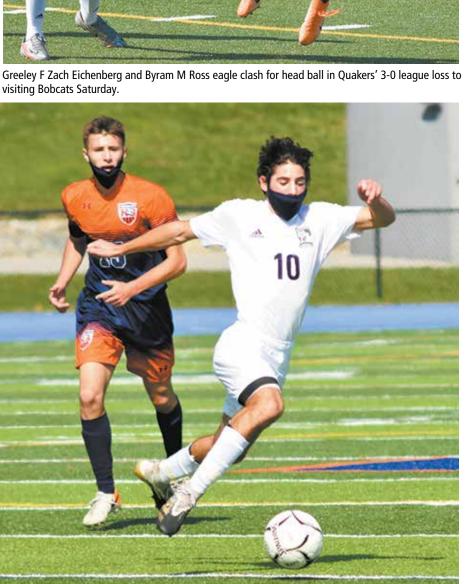
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Boys' Soccer Roundup



visiting Bobcats Saturday.



Byram Hills senior M Bailey Goldstein on the fly in Bobcats' 3-0 season-opening win over host Greeley Saturday.



Byram Hills junior M Evan Boekel skies for header in Bobcats' 3-0 win over host Greeley Saturday.



Greeley D Alexander Mancini heads ball out of zone in 3-0 league loss to Byram Hills Saturday.

Boys' Soccer Roundup

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Greeley D Owen Parsons soars above the field to clear a Byram Hills shot on goal in Quakers' 3-0 loss to Bobcats Saturday.



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO

White Plains G Thomas Pisapia and Tigers will be put to the test Thursday vs. reigning Section 1 Class AA champ Ossining.



Greeley's Jared Damon (L) and Byram Hills' Nicolas Bisgaier tangle for 50-50 ball in Quakers' 3-0 loss to visiting Bobcats Saturday

ON DECI

WHITE PLAINS is set to kick off a highly anticipated season with three games this week, including the mother of all challenges against league rival and defending Section 1 Class AA champion **OSSINING** Thursday at 4:15 p.m. The "O" will be jam packed with as many people as legally allowed by COVID-19 restrictions, so the Tigers will be entering hostile territory after opening the season at Eastchester today (4:15 p.m.). The week's action will conclude with a home opener Saturday (1 p.m.) against Fox Lane.

"We are looking forward to an early road test against the defending league and section champs," Tigers Coach Mike Lambert said. "The playoff loss to Ossining still sits fresh in our minds. A different bounce or two at the end of that game could've had us advancing last year. We will be ready to go on the road against one of Section One's best. The boys are ready to show the section and, specifically Ossining, what we will bring this season."

What Ossining will bring is

senior forward Kevon Evans (9G, 7A), quick along the wing and lethal in space. He led the Pride to a Section 1 Class AA title by scoring both goals in a 2-1 win over Mamaroneck. White Plains will counter with solid defense led by senior keeper Thomas Pisapia and senior MF Eric Ramirez.

The White Plains field hockey team was also set to be put to the test today (5 p.m.) in a season- opening tilt against sectional runner-up Mamaroneck, arguably the best Class AA program in Section 1 the past decade.

Girls' soccer was set to open Wednesday against visiting Port Chester (4:30 p.m.), followed by a Friday (4:30 p.m.) game against host Scarsdale B.

SOMERS, which is widely considered the Class A favorites this season after a runner-up campaign in 2019, opens Wednesday at PANAS where All-Section senior striker Tristan Phillips lurks. Phillips is sure to see a whole lot of Somers senior D Derek Marques, an Oneonta-bound stud. The Tuskers will also host Yorktown on Friday (5 p.m.) on senior night where Husker junior M George Popovic and co. will try to hold Somers in check.

LAKELAND was set to host **PUTNAM** VALLEY Wednesday (6 p.m.) and Panas Friday (5 p.m.) in a couple of border wars.

BRIARCLIFF was set to host **PLEAS-ANTVILLE** today in a local barn-burner between two of Class B's finest.







Ossining Drops Opener at Port Chester, 7-2

Class AA Mahopac set to Host Class A Somers Saturday in Battle of Sectional Runner-Ups

By Rob DiAntonio & Ray Gallagher

Coach Rodrigo Vargas and the Ossining girls soccer team were hoping for a different outcome than a 7-2 league loss to host Port Chester, but the Pride were also happy to have the chance to return to the field for their season opener on Oct. 10.

The start of the season was delayed by over a month due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is great and the girls and coaches were all excited to be here," Vargas said. "It's super important that these girls get back to their athletics and being able to compete like this. I think they're demonstrating that they can do it safely and they're being responsible about everything. We would have wanted the win, but it's exciting to be on the field."

Ossining jumped out to a 1-0 lead less than three minutes into the game on a goal from Amanda Rios but an aggressive Port Chester squad responded by rattling off four goals to take a 4-1 lead into halftime. The Rams scored two goals in less than a 30-second span to go up 3-1 and added another goal on a breakaway with 5:50 left in the half.

"We just went flat and we weren't playing as clean as we normally do," Vargas said of the first-half woes. "The first touch could have been better. Port Chester was able to break down our backs a little. Our positioning wasn't down but in the second half we started tightening that up a little bit more. We made a couple player changes and we were able to defend their counter a little bit better. On the flip side of that, we had a lot of opportunities even after the first goal that we scored. The ball was just rolling across the mouth of the goal and we just didn't capitalize on it."

Port Chester extended the lead to 5-1 on a steal and quick strike with 13:58 to play. Ossining answered when Lily Pawliczak drilled a free kick goal from over 25 yards out. The Rams closed out the game by adding two more goals.

Vargas saw some positives in the secondhalf effort.

"We were trying to take it one goal at a time," he said. "We came off at that mask break and they were like, 'OK, we're doing this better and this better.' We're making that step forward. It's going to happen. We're going to turn this around and I think next time we face them it's definitely going to be a much tougher game and they'll find a different Ossining team."

Andrea Flores torched the Pride for three goals while Katherine Espinoza added two tallies.

Marie Felipe, a junior captain, had a busy



Ossining's Amanda Rios jockeys for position while chasing after a loose ball in the Pride's 7-2 season opening loss at Port Chester.



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO

Ossining's Alexandra Kantrowitz looks to clear during Pride's season opener.

day in net for the Pride and finished with 10 saves.

Ossining returns to action when it travels to Fox Lane for a 4:30 p.m. league game on Friday, Oct. 16.

BYRAM HILLS won its league home opener, 2-0, over Ardsley last Saturday. Alexa Jindal snapped a scoreless first half with a goal and an assist, setting up Elizabeth Corelli after the halftime break.

ON DECK

SOMERS has a very interesting week upcoming with three big battles against visiting **YORKTOWN** today (6:30 p.m.),

host WALTER PANAS Thursday (4:30 p.m.) and a doozy with host MAHOPAC Saturday (2:30 p.m.). The 2019 Class AA runner-up Indians and and 2019 Class A runner-up Tuskers have always found ways to challenge and bring out the best in each other, so we suspect another vigorous effort from both. Mia Klammer (18G, 14A) and Hailey Pereira (10G, 11A) will ensure the Indians have the scoring pop to run with Tusker seniors Emma Kittredge, Dahlia Pepe Noelle DeMarinis, Kayli McMorrow and co.

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Ossining's Christina Conte, a senior captain, controls possession in the midfield.

The Indians were also set to travel Arlington Wednesday (4:30 p.m.) in a season-opening battle between two of Class AA's upper crust.

BRIARCLIFF was set to host defending NYS Class B champion PLEASANTVILLE yesterday in a war for the roses between the two bordering powers, but the game was called due to foul weather. Surely, this game, which will be rescheduled for a later date, will tell us a ton about the powers that be in Class B this fall. The Bears will also host Westlake Friday (4:30 p.m.) and visit Irvington Saturday (noon).

The Panthers will visit Valhalla Wednesday (4:30 p.m.), host Blind Brook Friday (4:30 p.m.) and travel to North Salem Saturday (11 a.m.).





Freshman striker Adrienne Kantrowitz leads a break for Ossining.



Nayasha Nyoni of the Pride comes up to defend in 7-2 loss to Port Chester.



Ossining's Lily Pawliczak scored on a free kick in the second half.

Section 1 Should Reconsider, Allow Mom, Pop on Visiting Campuses



By Ray Gallagher Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

So it was over 30 years ago when, as a budding cub reporter (Ha!) at the now defunct North County News, I coined the acronym A.B.G., which stood for #AnybodyBut-Greeley (pre hashtags), which I now regret due to my malfeasance as a small fish in an even tinier pond.

Remember, I was pandering to the Yorktown/

Lakeland/Somers crowd at the time. And a lot of it had to do with the beatdowns the Quakers had put on my Lakeland Hornets in the wee '80s, including the time Colgate-bound and ninth-round Steelers draft pick Rich Erenberg handed me my first concussion-like symptoms on the grid, along with the 100-plus points Greeley put on us on the hardwood that winter in a 104-44 Quaker

triumph. The A.B.G. deal was deep in roots because we simply couldn't touch the Quakers my senior year.

Whatever it was, I had my unobjective, personal reasons for being upset with the Quakers back in the day. But it sure as

heck felt good to be at Horace Greeley last Saturday when the Quakers hosted neighboring Byram Hills on the soccer pitch after seven months of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has kept the state's student athletes on the sidelines since last March.

The last Section 1 sports event prior to Greeley-Byram Hills soccer – a 3-0 Bobcats win – was Putnam Valley's 66-49 New York State regional win over Section 9 champion Marlboro in the girls' basketball tournament way back on Mar. 12, when Tiger freshman Eva DeChent wowed a near-empty gym (no fans were allowed) by draining a career-high



39 points, grabbing 12 rebounds and four steals.

Who knew that would be the last time we would see a Section 1 team compete in any way, shape or form when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and World

Health Organization told us it would take two weeks to flatten the curve and get hospitals back in order in an effort to stop the spread of coronavirus (as if!)? I feel like politics have played a major part in all of this, including the lockdowns, which the WHO has now back-

flipped on, calling for world leaders to stop locking down their countries and economies just last week.

More than 200 days since the pandemic struck, we still don't have a firm grip on the situation, which is why I checked the Section 1 BOCES athletics website right up until I got in my car last Saturday, expecting the worst and hoping for the best.

"Obviously, it's great to be back on the field, especially after having been off from playing soccer and being stuck at home quarantining for months," Byram Hills senior Kalden Harp said.

As the "Fall I" sports campaign began this week, nearly half the games originally scheduled for Saturday were canceled due to a variety of reasons, including canceled practices that led to unsuitable practice time and COVID-related school closures.

"We've gotten used to the masks and I think being in school since Sept. 1 certainly helped here in Byram Hills," Bobcat Coach Matty Allen said. "We've talked a lot about the distractions just to get the kids ready for it. I have to give the boys credit; they rose to occasion."

Additionally, there is a dark cloud hovering over our winter season, which is scheduled to start in a month, due to the fact that all basketball, track and field and wrestling events take place indoors and the concerns around the recent spikes in coronavirus in

several nearby counties and cities. We're all holding out hope for a winter session, including our school boards and administrators, but nobody wants to come on the record regarding the impending doom.

"We're very concerned about the winter sports and the prospect of competing indoors," one local athletic director said, perhaps speaking for the majority. "I'm very worried."

Yeah, it could be a long winter if varsity high school sports are put on hold again in one month, which is why I was so thrilled to be out and about in Hillary's 'hood last Saturday. The sad part is I was almost alone out there, and Lady Hillary was nowhere to be found. There were very few fans in orange and blue, and visiting parents are prohibited by Section 1 from attending all Section 1-sanctioned sports, which is simply overkill if you ask me. I get that student sections like Yorktown's #Crop and the #MahopacManiacs are barred from gathering en masse, that's another story.

I've been in and about towns all over Westchester and Putnam counties since mid-June when summer travel baseball leagues opened up, and there were no spikes in COVID-19 anywhere throughout these regions.

I get it, school districts fear lawsuits should someone contract the virus on school grounds. But there's plenty of space for the Momma and Poppa Bobcat to visit Greeley and pop by campuses across the section, so long as they wear face coverings and socially distance. Let parents and families make the decision to either see Junior play in person or stay at home and watch on Kevin Devaney's Local Live network (shameless plug for my boy K.D.). We can't live in this kind of fear.

I mean, masks either work or they don't, so put one on, keep your distance, wash your hands often and go about life. At the very least we should allow Mom and Pop to watch their kids in person – as visitors – and drive them home if need be.



The new normal, including face coverings and/or distancing is something players & coaches will have to get used to as we battle the pandemic.



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Eagle Eye!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Byram Hills Junior Snipes Pair of Goals in 3-0 Win over Greeley