All Eyes on the Prize

Will Meyers Has Inside Position and Hits the Winning Shot as Fox Lane Hangs On for a Big Win Against Horace Greeley
A Late 3-Pointer Saves the Foxes in a Win at Greeley

By Andy Jacobs

For nearly 11 minutes in the second half last Thursday evening, the Fox Lane boys' basketball team couldn't make a shot, and its lead over host Horace Greeley that once was as large as 14 points had completely disappeared.

Then Will Meyers saved the Foxes.

The senior guard rose in the left corner, just steps away from the visiting cheering section filled with his classmates, and drained a crucial 3-pointer with 33 seconds left on the clock. The shot by Meyers broke the final tie of a tension-filled fourth quarter and lifted the reeling Foxes to a 41-38 victory over the Quakers.

"You know, Will was struggling all game," said Fox Lane coach Mike Tomassi shortly after his team, now 10-5, had found a way to survive the second-half comeback by the Quakers. "But he came through with a big three at the end of the game."

Meyers was limited to just five points by the Quakers and his only other basket came all the way back in the early moments of the second quarter. Still, the Foxes were able to go on a 16-1 run bridging the second and third quarters to turn a one-point deficit into a 28-14 cushion and appeared well on their way to turn a one-point deficit into a 28-14 advantage.

The Quakers outscored Fox Lane 14-5 over the final six minutes of the third quarter, starting with a reverse layup by Ryan Flanagan and ending with an old-fashion 3-point play by freshman Chris Melis on a put-back with 37.5 seconds left. They began the fourth quarter trailing only 33-28.

"Our defense was great in the first half," said the Foxes' Tomassi. "We came out in the second half and I think lost a little of that intensity, kind of let them get in a rhythm. And we got out of a rhythm and were in for a tough game."

Things got even tougher for the Foxes when Greeley began the fourth quarter with an 8-1 run, limiting them to a lone free throw by Olsen and taking a two-point lead with 2:52 to go on a backdoor layup by Jack Baron on a pass from Justin Abrams out of a timeout.

Two foul shots by Rosati tied the game for the last time with 2:40 on the clock and set the stage for a wild sequence at the other end of the floor in which the Quakers missed five consecutive shots in the lane and soon a pair of free throws with 1:05 remaining. Then with the shot clock winding down, Meyers delivered the biggest basket of the night, as his long corner jumper from beyond the 3-point line rattled in.

"I can't say enough about my kids," he said. "Being down 14 and coming back to tie the game and then lose on one shot. A typical Fox Lane-Greeley game right to the wire. I'm proud of my kids. I'll say it over and over again. I feel bad for them. I wish there was something I could've done. Something maybe I could've figured out. The way we played tonight, we should've come out with a victory."

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A Big Fourth Quarter Lifts the Vikings Over Westlake

By Andy Jacobs

For the second time this season, the Westlake boys' basketball team got the better of Valhalla in the first half on Friday evening.

Once again, though, it was the Vikings who got the last laugh.

They outscored the host Wildcats 16-4 in the final four minutes to emerge with a 66-60 victory on “Rival Night” before a raucous capacity crowd that packed the bleachers and spilled onto the corners of the court. Ethan Bartlett scored a game-high 22 points and Kevin Kelly added 20 as the Vikings defeated their archrivals for the second time this month and improved to 9-6.

“We’ve played them twice and it’s been the exact same game twice,” said Vikings coach Mike Auerbach afterwards. “We were down to them a few weeks ago by seven or eight at halftime, the same type of game. And then we came out strong in the second half, kind of the same way we did tonight. I don’t know what it is. I wish we would play like that in the first half and not make it so close at the end.”

There were nine lead changes in the game’s opening quarter, a fast-paced eight minutes in which the teams delighted their fans by combining to make seven 3-pointers. Terence O’Brien, who led Westlake with 16 points, had a couple of the treys to help the Wildcats build a 19-15 lead heading to the second period.

“We’ve played ’em twice and we’ve been up seven and, now, 10 at halftime both times,” said Wildcats first-year head coach Chad Charney, echoing the Vikings’ Auerbach. “Been up after the half and not make it so close at the end.”

With just over a minute and a half left, Clarke for a layup to tie the game at 56-56. Thomas made a steal and fed Orlando Clarke for a layup to tie the game at 58-58. They were still leading by nine after Ben Y amuder made a pair of free throws with 1:32 left in the third quarter. But back-to-back 3-point shots by Bartlett and Kelly narrowed Valhalla’s deficit to just 47-44 heading to the final period.

Valhalla had only managed to make four of its 13 free throws in the opening half, but got plenty of extra practice over the final eight minutes. The Vikings went to the line 19 times and scored their first nine points of the quarter from the charity stripe. Their first basket of the period, on a steal and coast-to-coast layup by Ricky Thomas, came with only 2:38 left on the clock and cut Westlake’s lead to 56-53.

With just over a minute and a half left, Thomas made a steal and fed Orlando Clarke for a layup to tie the game at 57-57. A free throw by Bartlett with 1:21 to go gave the Vikings their first lead since the first quarter. A foul shot by the

minutes remaining in the contest. Westlake took its first double-digit lead of the night, 31-21, when senior forward David DeLoughry drove the right baseline for a layup in traffic 16 seconds before halftime.

“We’ve played ’em twice and we’ve been up seven and, now, 10 at halftime both times,” said Wildcats first-year head coach Chad Charney, echoing the Vikings’ Auerbach. “Been up after the half and not make it so close at the end.”

The Wildfires built their largest lead, 13 points, when sophomore forward Tyler Tsiakaros nailed a 3-pointer 35 seconds into the second half. They were still leading by nine after Ben Y amuder made a pair of free throws with 1:32 left in the third quarter. But back-to-back 3-point shots by Bartlett and Kelly narrowed Valhalla’s deficit to just 47-44 heading to the final period.

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Valhalla senior guard Kevin Kelly shoots from the foul line in Friday night’s Viking win.

Wildcats’ Camron Amerson tied the game 12 seconds later, but Valhalla grabbed the edge for good when guard Nick Petrilli, the Vikings’ youngest player, hit a 3-point shot with 35 seconds remaining.

“Yeah, Nick’s our only sophomore,” said Auerbach. “He’s kind of like our sixth, seventh guy, plays about six or seven minutes a game coming off the bench. Nick’s a good shooter and that’s why he’s in there. We were kind of going offense for defense with him and Kevin Williams. And I told him midway through the third quarter, ‘If your shot’s there, take it because we need five guys on the court contributing.’ A lot of times we rely on our big-three guys too much and the other guys get passive.”

“To a Kelly layup just as the final buzzer sealed the victory by making two free throws on the line, giving the Vikings a 66-60 victory.

“You’re not gonna win with that recipe, that’s for sure.”

Orlando Clarke of Valhalla takes the ball to the basket in the second half against host Westlake.

S-3
Valhalla Steps Up on Defense to Rout the Wildcats

By Andy Jacobs

The last time the two neighboring rivals met, just over three weeks earlier, the Valhalla girls’ basketball team had needed overtime to finally prevail over Westlake. This time, though, the outcome was all but decided by late in the third quarter.

With junior center Sam Morillo scoring 23 points and freshman Shelby Sekinski adding 14, the Vikings coasted past the host Wildcats 53-28 late Friday afternoon in a dominating performance coach Stephen Boyer can only hope serves as a springboard to a big finish for his team.

“I’m so happy,” he said shortly after witnessing perhaps the most impressive outing from his 11-5 Vikings all season. “The girls played fantastic. They played hard, they played fast and they played smart. I’ve got to give a lot of credit to my girls. I’m so proud of them.”

Valhalla opened the game by scoring the first eight points and never trailed the rest of the way. Morillo, who had at least two baskets in all four quarters, got the Vikings on the scoreboard a minute into the contest with a layup. She finished the first period with seven points and the Vikings led by a 14-9 margin.

“We were able to make good entry passes,” said Boyer, “and Sam was squaring her feet up and making baskets, which is big for us.”

Morillo scored three put-back baskets in the second quarter, which ended with a 7-0 Viking burst highlighted by the first of Sekinski’s four 3-pointers. Westlake was limited to just five points, all from Viktoria Hudd, and left for the locker room at intermission trailing 25-14.

“The second half, we were lucky it was still a game,” said Wildcat coach Sean Mayer. “We were only down 11 at the end of the first half. I think we made five baskets. And then, in the second half, I think we made a total of seven. So you’re not gonna win a game like that.”

Just 15 seconds into the second half, Sekinski connected on a 3-pointer from the top of the key. But Westlake senior guard Natalie Alfieri, who was limited to only eight points, managed to provide a pair of 3-point baskets that narrowed the Wildcats’ deficit to 30-20 midway through the third quarter.

Unfortunately for Westlake, the Vikings then closed the period on an 11-2 run to open up a 19-point cushion. The Valhalla spurt included a 3-pointer from Sofia Mazza and two medium-range jumpers by Cassie Petretti. By the start of the fourth quarter, it was apparent the Wildcats were headed for their fourth loss in 15 games this season.

“The game wasn’t lost on our defense,” said the Wildcats’ Mayer. “We just didn’t make a basket. You know, we struggled. We didn’t have one girl score off the bench. We didn’t have one girl in double figures. We didn’t have one quarter in double figures. So it just wasn’t our game, offensively.”

Nothing changed in the fourth quarter as the Vikings outscored Westlake 12-6 and opened up their largest lead, 27 points, on Sekinski’s final trey of the day with just under four minutes remaining. Just moments later, Mayer emptied his bench and began the task of getting his starters to put their disappointing performance behind them.

“I told them immediately to ‘pick your heads up and move on from this game,’” he said. “We tried. It just wasn’t our night. I told the girls, ‘That game is not gonna dictate our season. You’re having a great season. We’re gonna move on from this game immediately.’”

Boyer, meanwhile, was relishing the Vikings’ attention to detail after reminding them time and again that Westlake had hurt them in the previous game with a dazzling bombardment from 3-point range.

“We extended our defense,” said Boyer. “We worked the last seven or eight days on closing out on shooters. I think the first game we didn’t close out great and they had 15 threes. Well, guess what? It changed. Our girls learned and they played defense. We talked about it, that’s where we have to win, on that end of the floor. And I think we did a great job, all of them.

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Pleasantville vs. Briarcliff

**GIRLS’ HOOP**

Rivalry Games

Katherine Guttridge of Pleasantville takes the ball to the basket in the fourth quarter of Saturday afternoon’s game.

Greeley’s Brianna Gadaleta gets to the basket from the left baseline during Thursday afternoon’s game vs. Fox Lane.

Fox Lane eighth-grade guard Natalie Pence looks for a teammate to pass to in the fourth quarter of Thursday’s win at Greeley.

Briarcliff freshman Alana Lombardi tries to dribble past Pleasantville’s Lila Donahue in Saturday’s game, won easily by the Bears.

Maddie Plank of Briarcliff sends up a shot at the end of a fast break in the fourth quarter of Saturday’s game at Pleasantville.

Briarcliff guard Kacey Hamlin fires a jump shot during the Bears’ road win over Pleasantville this past weekend.

Katy Mitchell scores inside during Fox Lane’s win over host Greeley.

Pleasantville’s Amanda Skopetos lines up a 3-point shot from the left corner vs. visiting Briarcliff.

Fox Lane guard Lucy Gerend passes the ball in the second half of the Foxes’ win against Greeley last Thursday.

Julia Canner of Horace Greeley is pressured as she passes the ball in Thursday’s home game vs. the Foxes.
**focus on**

**BYRAM HILLS**

**Ice Hockey**

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**East Coast Panthers**

**SPRING 2017**

**Basketball AAU Tryouts**

**YOUTH**

Boys - Court 1 • Girls - Court 2

**February 12**

3rd & 4th Grade: 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
5th & 6th Grade: 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
7th & 8th Grade: 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

**February 26**

3rd & 4th Grade: 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
5th & 6th Grade: 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
7th & 8th Grade: 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**February 26**

Girls 9th, 10th & 11th Grade: 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM

**February 27**

Boys 9th Grade: 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM
Boys 10th & 11th Grade: 8:15 PM - 9:30 PM

**March 1**

Girls 9th, 10th & 11th Grade: 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM
Boys 9th, 10th & 11th Grade: 8:15 PM

**eastcoastpanthers.com**

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Tryouts are $25 per child, we have several dates for your convenience but only one tryout is required. Tryouts are being held at The Masters School, 49 Clinton Ave, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Registration is at the door. For any questions, please feel free to contact Coach Chris DiCintio at coachdicintio@optonline.net

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Michael Salandra of Byram Hills slips the puck past the goalie for one of his five goals in Friday night’s 12-4 Bobcat rout of the Rebels.

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The Bobcats’ Robert Lunder, who scored four goals and added two assists, moves toward the net in Friday night’s 12-4 victory.

Byram Hills’ Nicholas Salandra chases after the puck in the corner during the Bobcats’ easy win over Lakeland/Panas.

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Ethan Behar attempts to put the puck in the net during a penalty shot in the 12-4 win by Byram Hills over Lakeland/Panas at the Brewster Ice Arena.

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Byram Hills’ Matthew Behar moves the puck up the left wing in the third period of Friday’s game vs. the Lakeland/Panas Rebels.
Pace Women’s Basketball Drops Close Contest at Home to SNHU

The Pace University women’s basketball team dropped a 63-55 decision at the Goldstein Fitness Center on Saturday afternoon to Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) in a Northeast 10-Conference matchup.

HOW IT HAPPENED

1ST QUARTER
- Sophomore Stephanie Svoboda got the Setters on the board to start off the game with a layup.
- Sophomore Alexandra Monteleone (Cold Spring, NY/Haldane) made a 17 foot jump shot at the 5:54 mark to give the Setters a 6-5 lead.
- The Penmen then made three straight three-pointers, followed by a layup to take a 16-6 lead.
- Freshman Italee Brown-Smikle (Farmingdale, NY/Farmingdale) found graduate student Jaclyn Oskam (Glenmont, NY/Bethlehem Central / Quinnipiac University) wide open in the corner, where she drained a three to halt the Penmen run.
- SNHU’s Catherine Stinson made a layup off a fast break with just seven seconds left to give the Penmen a nine-point lead.
- Svoboda then tossed up a prayer from before the half-court line, and banked it in as the buzzer sounded for three more points to get Pace within six heading into the second quarter.

2ND QUARTER
- At the 7:28 mark, Monteleone finished at the basket to score the first points of the second quarter and to chip away at the Penmen lead.
- Late in the period, Monteleone drained two free throws to get Pace back within two with just 25 seconds left in the half.
- SNHU’s Kylie Lorenzen made two from the free throw line as well to give the visitors a 30-26 edge heading into the locker room.

HALFTIME STATS
- Monteleone and Svoboda led the Setters with seven points each at the half.
- SNHU was led by Sara Ryan, who had 10 points at the break.

THIRD QUARTER
- Stinson opened the third with a three right off the bat to give SNHU a seven-point lead.
- Monteleone then cut it back down to five with a jumper, and senior Christina Rubin (Staten Island, NY/Moore Catholic / Iona College) made back-to-back threes to put the Setters on top by one at 34-33 with 4:40 left in the third.
- SNHU’s Brianna Camara made 1-of-2 from the charity stripe to tie the game, but after Aaliyah Paxton grabbed the offensive rebound, Camara was able to make a triple to put the Penmen back up by three.
- Another three by SNHU’s Molly Terry left Pace down by eight, but Rubin hit her third three-pointer of the quarter with 1:07 left to make it a 46-41 game in favor of the Penmen heading into the final period.

FOURTH QUARTER
- The Setters fought back to get within three after going on a 9-0 run, but SNHU got back on the board with two free throws by Lorenzen to stay on top by five.
- Rubin then made her fourth long ball to make it a two-point contest, but Ryan responded with one of her own to once again make it a five-point game with just 2:43 on the clock.
- The Setters were once again within five with just 26 seconds left, but a trio of free throws down the stretch for SNHU wrapped things up.

SETTER STATS
- Monteleone tied for the game-high with 13 points and added three rebounds on the afternoon.
- Rubin was close behind Monteleone with 12 points on four threes.
- Senior Kirsten Dodge (Fabius, NY/ Fabius-Pompey) led all players with four blocks and added seven points.

PENMEN LEADERS
- Lorenzen matched the game-high with 13 points, also pulling down a game-best eight rebounds to go along with four assists on Saturday.
- Sara Ryan collected four steals, six rebounds and two assists after scoring 13 points of her own.
- Victoria Dean and Jennifer Shelp each added nine points in the Penmen victory.

RECORDS
- Pace: 10-12 (4-10 NE10)
- SNHU: 9-12 (4-10 NE10)

WHAT’S NEXT?
- The Setters travel to play the nationally-ranked No. 14 team in Adelphi University on Wednesday, Feb. 1 in Garden City, N.Y. Tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m.

For all information regarding Pace University women’s basketball, log on to www.PaceUAthletics.com and follow Pace Women’s Basketball on Facebook (Pace Women’s BBall), Twitter (@PaceWBB) and Instagram (@PaceWBB).
Michael Salandra Scores Five Goals as Byram Hills routs Lakeland/Panas on Friday Night at Brewster Ice Arena