

# The Raider Reporter

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## Rodriguez joins elite 1,000-point club

**TODD SLISS**  
*Boys' Basketball*

Historically, Scarsdale High School has had some incredible boys' basketball teams and players, often coming in waves every four to six years. Among the legends, which includes players who had even better careers in college and those who even played in the NBA, only four Raiders have achieved the 1,000-point scoring milestone.

On Jan. 12 against Mamaroneck, senior Carlos Rodriguez joined John Revelli (Class of 1980), Scott Wallach (1997) and Ted Detmer (2004) in the club.

Revelli helped his team to the New York State finals as a junior in 1979, went on to score 1,592 points at Stanford and was drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1984. Wallach continued his career at Bates, Detmer at Lafayette, both having led their Scarsdale teams to the Westchester County Center as seniors.



Senior Carlos Rodriguez, with his parents and coach Joe Amelio, was honored for scoring his 1,000th varsity point.

Among the notable players not on the list are Bob Kauffman (1964), who was the No. 3 draft pick by the Seattle Supersonics

after playing at Guilford College, where he scored 2,570 points and had 1,801 rebounds; Butch Graves (1980), who scored 2,092 points

*Photo Courtesy of Scarsdale Basketball*

### 1,000-point scorers

*Raider boys:*

- John Revelli, 1980
- Scott Wallach, 1997
- Ted Detmer, 2004
- Carlos Rodriguez, 2024

*Raider girls:*

- Hilary Howard, 1995
- Jessica Conte, 2002
- Whitney Davis, 2003
- Jackie Alemany, 2007
- Shelby Zucker, 2013
- Rachel Cohen, 2016
- Kayla Maroney, 2020

at Harvard and then played in the NBA for Cleveland and Philadelphia; and Patrick King (1988), who played at Bucknell and then nine years professionally overseas. Both Matt Kaitz (2000) at Carnegie Mellon and Ben Rudin (2005) at

*See page 9*

## Relay standouts lead way for track and field team

**TODD SLISS**  
*Track & Field*

In winter track and field there are big meets — good luck trying to find an inch of personal space at the venue — and there are important meets — the ones where elite relay teams and individuals have a chance to advance to even more prestigious meets.

While Scarsdale has had its share of big, crowded meets, the first important meet of the new year was the Millrose Games Trials at the Armory in New York City on Jan. 10. While the up-and-coming boys' sprinters/mid-distance runners in the 4x400-meter relay got a great experience,

the six girls in the 4x400- and 4x800-meter relays ran stellar races to advance to the actual Millrose Games, which will be held back at the Armory on Feb. 11.

The 4x800 relay of junior Eva Gibney, junior Zoe Dichter, senior Shannon Kelly and sophomore Leia Patel took third place in the Invitational race in 9:35.78, breaking the school record that had stood since 1979. Theirs was the eighth fastest time in the country at the time.

Tappan Zee won the race in 9:23.30, with Hunter College Campus Schools edging Scarsdale in in 9:34.53. Hunter is typically one of the best in the country and Tappan Zee blew away the com-

petition with a nation's best time. The Raiders kept chipping away at Hunter, but fell just shy of a runner-up finish.

"The girls ran strong," coach Vinny Modafferi said. "Eva led off. She's been doing mostly pentathlon training, so she hasn't been with the middle distance girls, and she ran a great leg to put us in a good spot. Then it was Zoe, Shannon and Leia. Leia did a great job and ran 2:20. She's been our most consistent runner throughout the season, although the other runners are coming on strong, which is good."

Scarsdale needed under 9:36 to qualify for Millrose and just made the cut, while also hitting the New

York State standard, so they can make states by finishing first or second at the qualifier on Feb. 18.

"We definitely have another 15 seconds we can take off that time," Modafferi said.

The 4x400 team of senior Ari Sobel, Dichter, sophomore Maria Roberts and Patel took fifth in the Suburban race in 4:06.51, to qualify for the Millrose Games for the second straight year. They were not far off the record of 4:05.85 that Gibney, Sobel, Kelly and Roberts set at the Millrose Games in 2023.

Union Catholic from New Jersey won the 4x4 in 3:53.07.

"Ari led off and she was fantas-

*See page 6*

### MORE ACTION INSIDE



# Greeley proves dominant vs. swim/dive

**TODD SLISS**  
Boys' Swim & Dive

Armed with four returning state qualifiers, a trio of divers and a large group of ready-for-prime-time newcomers, the Scarsdale boys' swim and dive team has been among the dominant forces in the top league of Section 1. Following eight wins to start the season, only Horace Greeley has been able to assert dominance over the Raiders.

"The meets that we had prior to Greeley were great," coach Inga DeNunzio said. "The BBPVW and the AHEDI meets I was not ready for those to come down to the last relays. Multiple referees still talk about those meets, the best of the season, they couldn't believe it and they were impressed with how we were able to win those. Those were definitely highlights and it came down to the kids just wanting it and we needed the last relay, they knew that and they did it. It's a testament to them and their desire to win."

Scarsdale and Greeley were supposed to face off early in January, but weather and scheduling changes sent that meet to the very end of the regular season schedule, a showdown to determine the favorite heading into divisionals and sectionals.

By a 105-76 score, Greeley was the clear No. 1 on Jan. 22.

"Because of rain and snow it was rescheduled and it was a little inconvenient, but in the end it was definitely our toughest competition," senior Kevin Jiang said. "It's probably a good thing for us to have that because we needed to see what the best in the section looked like so we could try to be better than that."

As DeNunzio put it, "Greeley was Greeley." They are often the top team in the section, but there are times when they have been unseated, including 2015, when

Scarsdale won it's only Section 1 team title.

"There were a tough couple of events," DeNunzio said. "I knew what they had. The boys weren't quite as up to snuff on that one, so when we were getting hammered it wasn't as surprising, but it hurt just as bad. It hits you hard after going into a lot of meets like we have, starting off like gangbusters and having strong endings. When we never really got to a starting point it was really difficult. Watching them I think they really felt it, but they still swam well. I think we had five best times come out of that meet. Sometimes you need that extra competition."

Diving divisionals were held Thursday, Jan. 25, while swim divisionals will be at Felix Festa Middle School at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27. Sectionals will follow in February.

"We're excited going into these meets for the playoff season," Jiang said. "With the confidence we have being 8-1 I think we can keep these momentum rolling to be better at divisionals, better at sectionals and even more at states."

Scarsdale is set up for a top two or three finish.

"What I have learned in my many years is it doesn't matter how many you bring with you — it's how high they place," DeNunzio said. "Even with a lot of numbers it's the placing. We need to get those top 16s. I'm hoping to be a top three team. That's definitely a goal of mine."

Over the nine-meet regular season, DeNunzio had a chance to get to know the strong crop of newcomers like freshmen Maximus Gao, Orion Kreonidis, Matthew Mialkowski, Theodore Qiao and Raphael Sutiono, as well as see the growth from last year of her returning veterans like seniors Vasilije Dragovic and Alexander Rizk and

sophomores Aaron He, Ethan Isak, Derrick Kuo Dylan Tuchman and Adrian Wang.

"They definitely surprised me," she said of the newcomers. "I definitely learned them a little bit more. I learned they are quite resilient. I put them in a lot of strange things sometimes because of kids being sick or a last minute change, so it was throwing kids into things they were not ready for, but they took it, did it, got through it and swam well."

Jiang, senior Bryan Manheimer and sophomores Avi Stahl and Kieran Lee are the team's returning state qualifiers and they have all qualified in multiple individual events, as well as together in the 400 freestyle relay.

"We have a bunch of state cuts and I'm hoping for another relay," DeNunzio said. "I'm happy with what we have and the boys have swam so well. I'm looking forward to states. I know they are, too. We won't see their fastest probably until then."

DeNunzio is excited to see what her divers — freshman Noam Tiomkin, sophomore Victor Dyakin and senior veteran Harley Koch — can do in the 11-dive meet and sectionals. She called the diving unit her "surprise of the season," and hopes to see Tiomkin vie for a state spot.

"I didn't think I would have three great divers," DeNunzio said. "Harley is a captain, on for four years and I've known what he can do, but Victor and Noam have been a great asset to us. It's funny because everyone's always like, 'Why do you always have the good divers?' Or they say, 'Didn't your diver [Haochen Liu] graduate?' I'm like, 'Yes, and this one is half his height and he's a totally different person.' But his dives are just as beautiful, I have to say. That's good for us into

the next few years."

The upperclassmen are enjoying the influx of talent that will keep the team competitive this year and beyond.

"I feel like this year more than I've ever seen the swim team is underclassman-dominated, so being one of the few guys who has this veteran experience it's really nice to be able to go guide them and give them tips," Jiang said. "I think they're really appreciative of that."

## BOYS' SWIM & DIVE (8-1)

The Raiders opened the new year on Jan. 10 with a road win over Clarkstown, 100-85. Lee, Jiang, Kuo and Manheimer took second in the 200 medley relay in 1:46.61. Wang, Sutiono, Isak and Dragovic placed fourth in 1:56.82, Gao, Tang, Tuchman and Qiao fifth in 1:58.15.

Manheimer and Stahl took second and third in the 200 freestyle with respective times of 1:51.72 and 1:52.59. He finished fifth in 2:00.30. Lee won the 200 individual medley in 2:02.32. Kuo took fourth in 2:11.29, Qiao fifth in 2:31.80.

Jiang hit the New York State cut time in the 50 freestyle in his win in 21.95 seconds. Gao was third in 24.22, Dragovic sixth in 25.65. Scarsdale took the top three spots in diving: Tiomkin at 245.00, Dyakin at 193.25 and Koch at 153.20.

Isak, Sutiono and Ari Maibrunn took third through fifth in the 100 butterfly with respective times of 58.36, 1:05.84 and 1:15.33. Manheimer won the 100 freestyle in 49.33. Gao took fourth in 53.95, Tuchman fifth in 56.17. Stahl took first in the 500 freestyle in 5:04.65. He took third in 5:30.56, Aaron Lichtenstein sixth in 6:37.47.

Gao, Tuchman, Manheimer and Jiang won the 200 freestyle relay

See page 5

## RAIDERS OF THE WEEK



Scarsdale High School's Girls Indoor Track 4 x 800 team of Eva Gibney, Zoe Dichter, Shannon Kelly and Leia Patel ran 9:35.87 to break Scarsdale's school record from 1979. The team also qualified for the prestigious Millrose Games.

## RAIDERS OF THE WEEK



Scarsdale High School divers Harley Koch (senior, captain), Victor Dyakin (sophomore), and Noam Tiomkin (freshman) propelled the team to wins over Clarkstown and Mamaroneck. Noam took first at Clarkstown and Victor led the field at Mamaroneck. Scarsdale is 7-0 in the division with two meets to go.

# Raider Reporter Roundup

## GIRLS'

### BASKETBALL (8-6)

The Raiders split four league games from Jan. 11 to Jan. 22, moving to 8-6 overall on the season.

Scarsdale opened with a tight 41-39 win over Mamaroneck. Ivy Boockvar scored 11 points, Zephyr Connolly 10, Lilly Tessler eight, Claudia Rosenberg and Chloe Paquin four each, Leah Brown two.

The Raiders lost the next two to Ursuline on Jan. 17 and New Rochelle on Jan. 19. In a 63-47 loss to Ursuline, Tessler scored 16, Connolly 14, Boockvar 11, Paquin four, Rosenberg two. Tessler had four three-pointers. Falling 48-40 to New Ro, Tessler scored 11, Connolly 10, Paquin eight, Rosenberg six, Boockvar five.

The girls rebounded with a 50-35 win against Mount Vernon on Jan. 22. Connolly scored 16, Boockvar 10, Tessler eight, Rosenberg and Paquin six each, Brown two.

## BOYS' & GIRLS' BOWLING

Against New Rochelle and Mamaroneck, the boys' bowling team won, while the girls' team fell short.

On Jan. 10, the boys topped New Ro 7-0, 754-433, 686-580, 652-458, 2,092-1,471. Tyler DesChamps rolled 194-140-112, Noah Friedel 158-125-150, Jared Hoffman 135-156-99, Wes Ulrich 145-125, Gabe Levy 140-104, Cole Sperling 187, Luke Kermanshahchi 122.

The girls lost 7-0, 429-333, 456-377, 515-378, 1,400-1,008. Vanessa Thurman shot 103-145-171 to lead the Raiders.

A week later on Jan. 17, the boys swept Mamo, 746-727, 794-784, 792-250, 2,332-2,261. DesChamps shot 124-181-184, Kermanshahchi 137-179-162, Ulrich 201-129-133, Hoffman 156-143-143, Friedel 128-162-170.

The girls got swept, 565-443, 555-477, 572-489, 1,692-1,409. Samantha Goldstein rolled 152-126-119, Thurman 77-104-106. Mirelle Schiamberg and Samara Feuerstein each broke 100 with 115 and 104, respectively.

## BOYS' ICE HOCKEY (6-6)

With three wins in the last four games — including two thrillers in overtime — the boys' ice hockey team has come up clutch in some key games.

Despite being tied 1-1 after two periods at Clarkstown on Jan. 10, the Raiders lost 6-1. Max Siegel made 39 saves in goal, while Harry



Ivy Boockvar, above, shoots a three-pointer for the girls' basketball team. Top, Daniel Zhu has us seeing double for boys' ice hockey.

Wolf scored from Daniel Zhu early in the second period for a 1-0 lead.

Scarsdale bounced back with a 7-0 win over Eastchester/Tuckahoe/Bronxville/Edgemont on Jan. 12. Lucas Kowalski and Lev Mizukovski each scored two goals, Wolf, Alex Horner and Ryan Braff one each. Jack Greco had two assists, Kowalski, Horner, Zhu, Ryan Camhi, Daniel Kuyumjian, Arman Amin and Santi Trelles one assist each. Siegel made 14 saves.

Mizukovski had the game-tying goal, Joe Sharpe the winning goal against Rivertowns on Jan. 17. The final score was 5-4 after the Raiders trailed 3-0.

Greco had two goals, Sharpe, Mizukovski and Zhu one each. Wolf and Kowalski had two assists each, Greco, Sharpe, Mizukovski and Zhu one each. Siegel had 35

saves, Buddy Meiselman two.

Pelham handed Scarsdale a 6-0 loss on Jan. 19. Siegel made 38 saves.

Scarsdale played Broome upstate on Jan. 20 and won in OT once again, 4-3. Greco had three goals, including the game-winner, Zhu one. Mizukovski had three assists, Wolf two, Sharpe one. Siegel made 48 saves in the win.

## BOYS' & GIRLS' SKIING

Scarsdale finally opened the ski season at Mohawk Mountain with a Section 1 slalom autoqualifier on Jan. 18. As a whole the Raiders performed well, with two standouts in particular in Stella Van Arsdale and Elliot Zhang, who qualified for sectionals on their first chance.

Van Arsdale won the girls' race with a best run of 21.05 seconds, beating out Brynn Anthony of Fox Lane (21.14). Jaden Hernandez was 10th for the Raiders in 24.36, Addison Lazarus 11th in 25.28. Sidonie Deharveng placed 17th in 26.18, Etel Malka 21st in 26.72, Kay Fitzgerald 22nd in 26.76, Aubrey Kaplan 24th in 27.98, Caterina DeCataldo 27th in 29.36.

North Salem/John Jay-Cross River/Somers and Yorktown dominated the top 10 for the boys, but two of the top three skiers were from Fox Lane and Scarsdale. John Hamilton of Fox Lane won the boys' autoqualifier in 19.11, followed by James Bysshe of NS/JJCR/S in 19.65 and Zhang in 19.72. Last year Zhang qualified for the New York State Championships.

Ben Cheikin placed 17th for Scarsdale in 22.97, Oliver Kaiden 21st in 24.02, Luke Williams 24th in 24.81, Toby White 25th in 24.99, Liam Mancini 27th in 25.82, Andrew Jeremiah 29th in 26.40, Hunter Frank 36th in 30.93.

The Raiders had their first league race at Thunder Ridge on Jan. 22, though team scores and records were not calculated.

For the boys, Zhang was the runner-up to Hamilton 33.86-34.0, with Bysshe a more distant third at 35.33.

Frank placed 16th in 39.83, Chiekin 18th in 40.07, Cameron Roberts 19th in 41.17, Ellis Crane 20th in 41.27, Will Cavalier 25th in 43.54, Jeremiah 30th in 44.51, Kaiden 32nd in 45.41, White 37th in 48.65, Williams 41st in 50.91. Fifty-two skiers competed.

For the girls, Anthony edged Van Arsdale 28.5-28.79 for the top spot. Hernandez placed 10th in 35.27, Deharveng 11th in 36.01, Lazarus 14th in 36.78, Fitzgerald 16th in 37.49, Malka 21st in 38.07, Remy Weinberg 24th in 38.68, DeCataldo 26th in 40.23, Beldner 31st in 42.38, Soula Scarpelli 33rd in 45.72. Forty-four competed in the race.

## BOYS' SQUASH (2-3)

With a 6-1 win over CitySquash BCSM Boys/Mixed at Fordham on Jan. 11, the boys' squash team improved to 2-3 in the FairWest League.

Aryan Dutta Baruah won 3-2 (10-12, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 11-1) at first singles, Daniyal Naem 3-1 (11-7, 11-5, 11-13, 11-5) at second, Peter Lin 3-1 (9-11, 11-4, 12-10, 11-8) at third. Leo Fried fell 3-1 at fourth (9-11, 11-2, 11-3, 15-13). Noah Zoland swept 3-0 (11-7, 11-6, 11-9), as did Arav Dundon (11-0, 11-2, 11-1) at fifth and sixth, respectively.

— TODD SLISS

# Lippmann overcomes challenges, helps team

TODD SLISS  
Wrestling

Just because he suffered a season-ending injury in the first competition of the season doesn't mean senior captain Jake Lippmann hasn't had a tremendous impact on the Scarsdale wrestling team.

Lippmann, who it should be mentioned for no reason at all co-starred in the 2018 Netflix movie "The Week Of" with Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Rachel Dratch and Steve Buscemi, had a rough 2023, but has rebounded emotionally and physically from each setback along the way. It all started with the passing of his father on Jan. 16, 2023. Mark Lippmann had wrestled for Edgemont and won divisionals as a junior, so Jake Lippmann decided he wanted to match that feat as a junior at Scarsdale last winter.

"I decided I was going to go out guns blazing and win divisionals," Lippmann said. "There was no chance in hell I was winning, but I went out there, I won one match and I was like, 'Alright, next year I'm going to come back and win.'"

Lippmann spent the offseason at GPS Wrestling Club and with a teammate working out, while also training Brazilian jiu-jitsu. "I was putting my all into this," Lippmann said.

In July, however, he broke his ankle at a skateboarding camp and now has a metal rod in his ankle. Once he healed and went through physical therapy, Lippmann began wrestling again in October, training as much as possible to make up for lost time.

"The season rolled around and I was feeling great, I go out for my first match and I was winning 12-1," he said. "It's the third period, I go for a takedown... and I felt something weird happen. I kept wrestling and I pinned him. Two matches later it fully popped out. The doctor said it was a full 360 tear of my labrum, so I had to get surgery and here we are."

Lippmann, who was at 131 pounds, has served as an assistant coach ever since, and was unfortunately joined by senior captain Max Meizlik, 170 pounds, whose arm is also in a sling due to a dislocated elbow, as a coach and motivator for the team.

"The universe throws some crazy stuff at us a lot of times, but it's OK," Lippmann said. "Personally I like helping people, especially in my jiu-jitsu gym. I'm kind of like three levels down from the coach, so I'll help the newer guys learn. I was never really that great at a lot of things growing up and I had to learn stuff on my own like skateboarding especially. I view it psychologically as a way of giving



Photos by Andy Hill

Senior night was special for the Raiders, who had a big crowd against Mamaroneck. Top, Jake Lippmann remained upbeat despite all of the setbacks he faced over the last year.

back to those kids who don't have someone to help them get better. What's really rewarding is when I see a kid do something in a match that I taught them in practice and it worked. If it doesn't work I'm like, 'Jeez,' and we'll rework that technique."

Lippman has learned that everyone is different, so the way he teaches and approaches each wrestler he's working with varies. Not only are Lippman and Meizlik leaving a mark on this year's team, but also influencing the next crop of standouts.

Coach Jeremy Szerlip had high hopes for the team in dual meets, tournaments and as individuals and while that still holds true, losing the two senior leaders was an undeniable setback.

"Having them not on the mat really hurt us, but the other side of that is they've shown up every day to practice with their slings on their arms they're there every day coaching, helping out," Szerlip said. "They can't wrestle, but they're correcting kids. At Her-

ricks what was great is they did a lot of the coaching. [Assistant coach] Tony [Iasiello] and I got to sit back and kind of watch them. They've helped inspire the team. They've done an amazing job pulling the team together even without themselves being on the mat physically. Emotionally they're there, which is important to us."

The Raiders have been competing a full schedule, highlighted by Eastern States Jan. 12-13 for senior captain Matt Hill and junior captain Tommy Iasiello.

At 190 pounds, Hill was 2-2. He won his first match in 3:25 over Shepard Charlton of Benedictine and lost his second in 4:27 to Tavio Hoose of Southwestern. In the wrestlebacks he beat Ben Weinstein of Horace Greeley 15-0 before getting eliminated with a 15-0 loss to Luke Vangorden of Palmyra Macedon.

"Matt Hill had an awesome match against the No. 2 seed in his second match," Szerlip said. "It was in the third period and he was only down 3-1 and then he did

something and the kid caught him on his back, but I think that kid ended up going to the finals.

"He needed that confidence to get where I think he wants to be. He's going to have a tough sectional tournament. I think the kid from Brewster is really good, but this helped him give him the confidence he'll need."

At 138, Iasiello had a bye in the first round and then lost a tough 3-2 decision to Hayden Haber of Seminary. He won his next two wrestlebacks 10-5 over Ivan Duran of Newburgh and 9-4 over Aden Mead of Central Valley Academy. He then lost 7-0 to Joseph Tornambe of Yorktown.

"For Tommy last time he went I think he went 0-2 and this year he was 2-2," Szerlip said. "He wrestled some quality kids and beat them. I think he needed that boost of confidence because he was wrestling a lot of local kids and Section 1 hasn't been as strong lately. When we go outside we see

See page 8

# Greco makes impact on D for girls' hockey

TODD SLISS

Girls' Ice Hockey

The Grecos are a hockey — field or ice — and lacrosse family. Ali Greco is following in the skates and cleats of her older siblings, Maddie (Class of 2023) and senior Jack, playing field hockey, ice hockey and (soon) lacrosse her freshman year.

Though she had been hoping to play boys' junior varsity ice hockey for Scarsdale like her sister and brother had before her, there were not enough players for a competing JV team, so Greco joined the Section 1 East Green Wave girls' ice hockey merger. Maddie had played on that team for one year, and also played on the varsity boys' team as well.

This year is a bit different as Section 1 expanded from two to three girls' teams by carving Westchester County in half, with Scarsdale teacher Stacey Wierl shifting from the East team to start the expansion North Avalanche.

"It's a good experience, great to have girls' hockey this big in this area and they're all playing for their schools," new East coach



Photo by Todd Sliss

**Freshman Ali Greco is playing for the Section 1 East Green Wave girls' ice hockey merger.**

Rocky Lividini-Gilbert said. "It's good competition."

The East merger features eighth graders through juniors from Rye Neck, Rye, New Rochelle, Pelham, Scarsdale, Harrison, Mamaroneck, Ardsley, Blind Brook, Edgemont and Bronxville. First-year coach Lividini-Gilbert also coaches

field hockey and lacrosse at Mamaroneck, which took over for Scarsdale as the lead school of the program.

"It's definitely different because it's a merger team, so it's 11 different schools with almost 25 girls, so it's definitely a different experience," Lividini-Gilbert. "I coach lacrosse and field hockey, also, so it's definitely different than that. It's a great group of girls and it's really nice having them come from all different schools because they get to know each other. They're all coming together to play for the same thing and it's pretty cool they can do that in just a couple of months."

Greco believes splitting into two teams and shifting from Brewster Ice Arena to Hommocks was a boost to the East team.

"At first I thought it was going to be difficult and kids might already have friends on the team," Greco said. "As the only player from Scarsdale I hadn't really met that many people, maybe three of them. But everyone is friends on the team, so it's a lot of fun."

The East and North teams have a nice rivalry going this season.

After tying in their first meeting the Avalanche scored in the third period on Wednesday, Jan. 24, to break a 2-2 tie. The final few minutes of the game saw a barrage of quality chances for Green Wave, but Avalanche held on for the win.

Greco was in the thick of the action as a second line defenseman.

"I think I've improved playing defense and maybe with my shot a little bit," Greco said. "It's also just a lot of fun. I'm normally on the second line, so I see a lot of time."

Lividini-Gilbert is pleased with what Greco has brought to the team this winter and is excited to see her growth over the years should she stick with the girls' team.

"Ali has been great," Lividini-Gilbert said. "She's one of our defensemen. She's really fast, super coachable. We've been working hard with her on her shot and different things to help her learn. She's young, so there's a lot of girls that are older than her on the team, but she's adjusted really well and plays a big role."

North and East, which is 5-5-1, will face off in the regular season finale on Jan. 29 to decide the top seed for sectionals.

## Swim/dive team chases Greeley, more state cut times

From page 2

in 1:34.93. Isak, Qiao, Sutiono and Wang were third in 1:41.73, Christian Camaj, Tang, Dragovic and Rizk fourth in 1:42.70. Isak, Kuo and Kreonidis took third through fifth in the 100 backstroke with respective times of 1:00.89, 1:02.37 and 1:10.96.

Jiang hit another state cut in the 100 breaststroke, winning in 1:01.15. Lee was the runner-up in 1:05.90, while Tang was fifth in 1:12.48. Tuchman, Kuo, Stahl and Lee were second in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:44.79. Rizk, Wang, He and Sutiono were third in 3:56.33, Dragovic, Nakil Saxena, Maibrunn and Lichtenstein fourth in 4:21.14.

Scarsdale topped visitor Mamaroneck 100-81 on Jan. 11. Lee, Jiang, Sutiono and Manheimer won the 200 medley relay in 1:45.13. Kreonidis, Tang, Dragovic and Qiao took fourth in 1:55.81, Camaj, Mialkowski, Maibrunn and Rizk fifth in 1:59.03. Manheimer placed third in the 200 freestyle in 1:54.87, He fourth in 1:58.22, Lichtenstein fifth in 2:10.22.

Jiang and Lee went one-two in the 200 individual medley in state cut times of 2:00.21 and 2:00.49, respectively. Sutiono placed fourth in 2:25.23. Gao won the 50 freestyle in 24.47. Qiao was third in 25.03, Rizk fourth in 25.09. Dyakin won diving with 197.35 points, while Koch was second at 167.25.

Jiang won the 100 butterfly in 54.64. Kuo placed third in 1:00.56, Dragovic sixth in 1:04.32. Manheimer took first in the 100 freestyle in 51.79. Gao and Qiao were third in fourth with respective times of 54.66 and 58.82. Stahl won the 500 freestyle in 5:17.79. He placed fourth in 5:28.88, Mialkowski sixth in 6:44.64.

Gao, Dragovic, Qiao and Manheimer finished first in the 200 freestyle relay in 1:36.22. Sutiono, Rizk, Kuo and Wang were third in 1:46.60, Camaj, Lichtenstein, Maibrunn and Tang fourth in 1:48.70. Kuo was third in the 100 backstroke in 1:00.31, Kreonidis fourth in 1:09.34, Wang sixth in 1:11.07. Lee and Tang took the top two spots in the 100 breaststroke with respective times of 1:11.26 and 1:12.41. Lichtenstein placed sixth in 1:29.51.

Jiang, Isak, Stahl and Lee won the 400 freestyle relay in 3:47.36. Dragovic, Rizk, Camaj and He took third in 4:00.52, Sutiono, Wang, Gao and Kuo fourth in 4:03.15.

On Jan. 18, Scarsdale beat North Rockland 95-83. The Raiders won the 200 medley relay in 1:52.26 and also took fourth and sixth places. Manheimer won the 200 freestyle in 1:55.63. Maibrunn was fifth in 2:28.13, Bryan Chung sixth in 2:30.00.

The Raiders swept the 200 individual medley: Jiang in 2:23.18, Qiao in 2:23.94 and Sutiono in

2:27.80. Gao won the 50 freestyle in 24.09. Dragovic placed third in 25.36, Rizk fifth in 25.76. Tiomkin won diving with 226.75 points, while Koch was third with 161.85, just getting edged for second by .1.

Tuchman won the 100 butterfly in 59.36, with Kuo the runner-up in 1:02.19. Lichtenstein took fourth in 1:12.65. Gao won the 100 freestyle in 52.60, with Qiao third in 57.72, Saxena sixth in 1:09.26. Manheimer won the 500 freestyle in 5:27.21, with He the runner-up in 5:40.89.

Scarsdale took second (1:40.10), third (1:47.37) and fifth (1:52.96) in the 200 freestyle relay. Kuo won the 100 backstroke in 1:02.62. Sutiono and Kreonidis were third and fourth in 1:08.88 and 1:12.80, respectively. Jiang won the 100 breaststroke in 1:07.55. Tang was third in 1:12.78, Mialkowski fifth in 1:21.59. The Raiders took first (3:59.26), second (4:05.23) and fourth (4:31.69) in the 400 freestyle relay.

Against Greeley on Jan. 22, Jiang, Lee, Stahl and Manheimer took second in the 200 medley relay in 1:46.12. Wang, Kuo, Isak and Sutiono finished fourth in 1:52.47, Kreonidis, Mialkowski, Lichtenstein and Maibrunn sixth in 2:06.47. Manheimer was the 200 freestyle runner-up in a state cut time of 1:47.58. Stahl was fourth in 1:51.42, He sixth in 2:06.50.

Lee was third in the 200 individual medley in 2:05.96, Isak fourth in 2:12.93, Tuchman fifth in

2:15.30. Greeley swept the 50 freestyle. Gao, Qiao and Dragovic took fourth through sixth with respective times of 23.89, 24.23, 24.64. Tiomkin won diving with 283.05, with Dyakin taking third in 191.25.

Jiang won the 100 butterfly in a state cut time of 53.29. Isak and Tuchman took fifth and sixth in 59.58 and 1:01.64, respectively. Scarsdale took fourth through sixth in the 100 freestyle following another Greeley sweep. Gao (52.75), Rizk (56.81) and Qiao (56.89) competed for the Raiders. Stahl and Manheimer were second and third in the 500 freestyle with respective times of 4:57.64 and 5:12.51. He took fifth in 5:33.48.

Tuchman, Qiao, Kuo and Gao were third in the 200 freestyle relay in 1:40.37. Dragovic, Camaj, Tang and Sutiono placed fifth in 1:45.50. Rizk, Maibrunn, Lichtenstein and Wang were sixth in 1:57.84. Greeley swept the 100 backstroke with Sutiono (1:05.50), Wang (1:07.45) and Kreonidis (1:09.25) taking fourth through sixth.

Scarsdale swept the 100 breaststroke: Lee in 1:01.93, Jiang 1:05.59, Kuo 1:06.23. Scarsdale edged Greeley in the 400 freestyle relay with both teams hitting state cut times 3:16.69-3:16.95. Manheimer, Stahl, Lee and Jiang hit the cut for the Raiders. Isak, Dragovic, Camaj and Tang were fourth in 3:57.96, Tuchman, He, Gao and Qiao fifth in 4:05.52

# Scarsdale shows strength at Millrose Trials

From page 1

tic,” Modafferi said. “She’s our short sprinter, but she’s our 400 expert. She put us in a great spot. Then Zoe ran pretty strong. Then Maria was third and she did a fair job keeping the baton close to the lead because we needed to be able to win the heat to be able to go and then Leia just had a lights out race where she walked down New Rochelle to run 59 again.”

Dichter and Patel were impressive in that they had about 45 minutes between races to recover and reset themselves both physically and mentally. “They listened to their coaches, did what they needed to do between races and they did well under pressure,” Modafferi said.

“It’s definitely tricky because I’m tired and there’s not that much time between the races,” Dichter said. “The coaches talk about getting out of that mindset of saying you’re tired or thinking you can’t do as well in the second one. It’s about starting fresh and running well in both legs. We’ve done it a lot now, so we’re kind of used to it.”

Modafferi expects Scarsdale to focus on the 4x8 at Millrose because the 4x4 competition is “tremendous” with times far ahead of what the Raiders are currently running. Dichter and Patel likely won’t be running the 4x4 at Millrose, so the coaches will introduce new runners to that race for the experience. The team will focus on the 4x4 in other upcoming meets to then decide to how to proceed for the state qualifier. The team also a stellar sprint medley relay team that will be looking to make All-American at nationals, for which all three relays have qualified in the Championship races.

Modafferi credits team leadership for the growing and continued success on the girls’ side. “Our juniors and seniors are unbelievably supportive of anyone who comes in, even if they’re vying for the same spot on a relay,” he said. “They all just want to get faster.”

For Scarsdale, team camaraderie and pushing each other in training are more important than unhealthy rivalry within the team. Modafferi credited veterans like Sobel, Dichter, Gibney, Kelly and senior Sydney Geringer for setting the tone.

“I think that’s what’s special about our girls’ team,” Modafferi said. “They’re all supportive of one another. They all want to get better and they’re dreaming big. Once they start believing in their abilities and take chances we’re going to start to see something special. It just happens that more and more girls are stepping into



Photo Courtesy of Scarsdale Track & Field

**The Millrose Games-qualifying 4x400-meter and 4x800-meter relay teams consist of Eva Gibney, Maria Roberts, Zoe Dichter, Shannon Kelly, Ari Sobel and Leia Patel.**

that role and it’s been because we’ve had two years of good leadership and buy-in in the program for those kids to develop. They’re kind of passing the torch down from one to the other and it’s been working well. It’s partially what we’re doing as a coaching staff, but you’ve got to have the right kids in place for it to actually build momentum.”

Over the years the team’s goals and expectations have risen.

“When I was a freshman I thought we were really good — and we were good — but we’ve gotten so much better since then,” Dichter said. “We want to qualify for big meets. Last year the 4x4 went to Millrose and the 4x8 went to states. We’re hoping to qualify for more big meets for both of them, not just one or the other.”

Not letting down after last year’s success was key for Sobel.

“We just wanted to continue from where we left off last year and we have really great 4x400 and 4x800 runners,” she said. “A lot of the girls run events interchangeably, so we just wanted to drop a good time.”

With underclassmen and upperclassmen working together for the sake of the team makes for a smoother transition for one year to the next to keep the momentum going.

“I’m a senior, so it’s nice to know there are many, many runners who can continue the legacy that me and Shannon were helping to build,” Sobel said. “We have many juniors and underclassmen with a wide range of talent between the sprinters and the

mid-distance girls. It’s reassuring to know that even when one person is injured we have a back-up.”

The boys got their feet wet and set a precedent going forward to be at the Millrose Trials by placing 20th in the 4x400-meter relay in 3:40.31 with sophomore Parker Lyn, senior Darius Toosi, senior Etai Pollack and junior Brandon Cascade running and winning their heat.

Lyn was new to running competitive 400s on a big stage and ran a strong 56-second first leg coming off the vacation weeks. Modafferi said Lyn “put everybody else in a good position to do well in their leg.” Toosi turned the jets on for a 54-second leg to bring the team into the lead, Pollack helped pull away in 55 seconds and Cascade had a “great” anchor leg of 53 to win by one second.

Modafferi expects to see those 400 leg times drop to 52 seconds as the weeks go on. The group is actually better at the 4x200 and broke that school record of 1:37.00 from 2009 this season.

“They’re powerful kids, they’re quick and they enjoy the 4x2 much more, so we’ll probably be doing that for the remainder of the season, especially because it caters to what Parker is good at,” Modafferi said. “They also have some confidence since they broke the school record and they want to keep lowering that.”

Scarsdale is celebrating moments of all sizes — personal bests to qualifying times to setting records — this winter to build a sense of personal and group

achievement and importantly trying to get to a place where the boys and girls are “both firing on all cylinders.”

The League 1B Championship meet was a tough one as it took place while Scarsdale had a two-week vacation and most other schools were only off for a little more than a week. Still, those who were able to work out over break and attend the Jan. 3 meet at the Armory — the “skeleton crew” — had some strong finishes and performances.

For the boys, Toosi did well in the 300-meter, placing sixth in 37.43, and soccer player Connor Meschewski, a sophomore, continues to make strides as a runner, taking 14th in the 300 in 39.75. Modafferi sees the tall competitor doing well in the longer sprints if he continues to compete in the spring. Once Meschewski gets over some injuries he’ll start seeing even better times going forward.

Another soccer player, freshman Julian Zlomislac, has been a “workhorse” during the winter season. He placed fourth in the 1,600-meter in 5:05.20.

“Every workout from the first day of winter track he just goes after it,” Modafferi said. “He jumped in with the top guys and he tries to crush every single workout. I don’t think he’s had his best race yet. A 5:05 in his first mile at leagues is pretty darn good and he’ll probably run it again at sectionals. He’s also doing well in the 1,000 and he’ll do that at the county meet.”

See page 7

# Track girls' and boys' teams building depth

From page 6

Sophomore Jack Sheridan, a starter during cross-country, has been improving his racing tactics and is expected to make big time drops as he continues to put in strong workouts. His base mileage is the best on the team and he did well in the 3,200-meter at leagues, his first time in the event, in 11:09.97.

Sophomore Jake Saxon won the 55-meter hurdles in 8.65 seconds and was seventh in long jump at 17-10.5. He's been working with coach Lesleigh Hogg and seeing it pay off. Lyn was fourth in long jump at 18-2.

The 4x200-meter relay team of Lyn, Saxon, Meschewski and Toosi placed third in 1:38.10.

For the girls, Sobel was third in the 55-meter dash in 7.61 seconds.

"Ari Sobel is a staple," Modafferi said. "She hasn't had a bad race all season, even when she's been sick."

Kelly won the 600-meter in 1:42.99, Patel the 1,000-meter in 3:07.81. They both pulled away at the end and will continue to drop times in meets where there is more competition for them.

Senior Mili Fukada jumped 4 feet in the high jump, taking eighth, but had a 4-6 in practice, so her expectations are growing.

The girls' 4x400-meter relay of Sobel, Kelly, senior Sofia Mirafzali and Patel won in 4:19.68.

Modafferi and coach Carlos Bedoya continue to work a fine-tuned, rigorous training and competition regimen before tapering off for championship season to have everyone prepared for the important meets ahead.

"We have a smaller team than we've had in the past, but it's mostly kids who are dedicated to the program, which is the direction we've been going," Modafferi

said. "Our standards are high. We try not to let too much fly with our team and with that numbers naturally shrink before they start growing again. We're starting to have more success in some of the areas that were weaker in the beginning of the season like jumping and novice kids who are running faster to try to qualify for meets."

## BOYS' & GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

Also at leagues for the girls, Mirafzali was 18th in the 55-meter in 8.09, Jazlene Johnson 56th in 8.87, Jalen Johnson 64th in 9.01. Esha Mehta took 33rd in the 300-meter in 51.46, Jalene Johnson 53rd in 56.14, Jazlene Johnson 57th in 56.51, Charlotte Aldridge 58th in 56.77, Maria Popazoglu 60th in 56.83. Catherine O'Connell took 14th in the 1,000-meter in 3:50.26. The 4x200-meter relay of Isabella Nwokeji, Aldridge, Jalene Johnson and Jazlene Johnson finished seventh in 2:19.69. Deanna Matula-Osterman was 10th in long jump at 13-6.5, Fukada 11th at 13-5.75. Matula-Osterman placed sixth in the triple jump at 28-5.

At the Stanner Games at the Armory on Jan. 14, boys' varsity: Meschewski tied for 163rd in the 55-meter in 7.53. Toosi was 30th in the invitational 300-meter in 38.10. In the 300-meter, Cascade was 17th in 38.07, Pollack 27th in 38.45. Tyler Hogan and Faris Amin were back-to-back in 129th and 130th in the 600-meter with respective times of 1:46.53 and 1:46.61. Jonah Bansal was 144th in 1:57.83.

Nate Lynch took 93rd in the 1,000-meter in 3:01.82, Max Dinkin 101st in 3:03.95. Zlomislic placed 87th in the 1,600-meter in 5:05.81, Sheridan 96th in 5:09.66, Joning Wang 125th in 5:24.02.

The 4x200-meter relay team of Lyn, Pollack, Cascade and Toosi placed 11th in 1:36.61. Saxon placed 18th in the long jump at 18 feet, 8 inches. Labrowne Brown was 39th at 17-11.5, Matthew Wong 52nd at 16-10.

Girls varsity: Nwokeji took 75th in the 55-meter in 8.26, Mirafzali 89th in 8.38, Fukada 105th in 8.57, Aldridge 144th in 9.29, Papazoglu 146th in 9.31. Sobel took 14th in the invitational 300-meter in 42.79, Roberts 33rd in 44.80. Alice Nicassio was 23rd in the 300-meter in 45.74,

Dichter finished 12th in the 600-meter in 1:43.90, Morgan Greco 28th in 1:47.79. Geringer placed 38th in the 1,000-meter in 3:25.15, Camryn Culang 69th in 3:31.95, Alexandra Kiley 75th in 3:36.58. Lilly Streicher was 23rd in the 1,600-meter in 5:43.80. Patel placed eighth in the invitational mile in 5:28.58. Rachel Rakower finished 11th in the invitational 3,000-meter in 11:08.88. Gibney crossed 13th in the 55-meter hurdles in 9.48.

The 4x200-meter relay team of Mirafzali, Camryn Brosgol, Nwokeji and Emilia Gomez placed 18th in 1:57.07. The 4x400-meter relay team of Sobel, Gibney, Kelly and Patel won in 4:06.09. The 4x800-meter relay team of Kiley, Casey, Greco and Dichter took 20th in 11:19.31. Matula-Osterman placed 33rd in the long jump at 14-2.5, Fukada 45th at 13-3. Matula-Osterman was 37th in the triple jump at 29-3.

At the Jan. 19-20 Armory Officials Hall of Fame Invitational, girls varsity: Casey took 19th in the 1,000-meter novice race in 3:33.00. Rakower was 12th in the 3,000-meter en route varsity race in 11:17.45, Streicher 21st in 11:27.35, Culang 46th in 12:19.01. Rakower placed 12th in

the 2-mile in 12:02.18, Streicher 19th in 12:10.86, Culang 45th in 13:06.52.

Geringer, Greco, Kiley and Nicassio took 16th in the 4x400-meter relay in 4:23.04.

The 1,600-meter sprint medley relay team of Sobel, Gibney, Kelly and Patel was third in 4:16.89. Gibney tied for seventh in the high jump at 4-10. Matula-Osterman tied for 38th in the long jump at 14-8. Fukada tied for 49th at 13-8.5. Patel was 13th in the 1,000-meter varsity gold race in 3:04.28, Kelly 16th in 3:06.11, Dichter 19th in 3:07.82.

Mirafzali placed 14th in the 55-meter varsity silver race in 7.964, Nwokeji 29th in 9.063. Sobel was 26th in the 300-meter varsity silver race in 42.31, Gomez 177th in 49.90. Rakower took 11th in the 1,000-meter varsity silver race in 3:13.45, Greco 32nd in 3:20.11, Geringer 38th in 3:21.73. Matula-Osterman took fourth in the 55-meter varsity bronze race in 8.21, Aldridge 61st in 9.13. Kiley was third in the 1,000-meter varsity bronze race in 3:19.84.

Boys' varsity: Dinkin placed 29th in the 1,000-meter novice run in 2:59.45, Faris 69th in 3:18.88, Basal 90th in 3:35.81. Sheridan took 91st in the 3,200-meter en route varsity race in 10:48.9. Lynch was 74th in the 2-mile in 10:42.12, Sheridan 90th in 10:51.77. Saxon tied for 43rd in the long jump at 18-7.5.

Wong went 35-5.5 in the triple jump to place 49th. Saxon tied for 35th in the 55-meter hurdles varsity gold race in 8.499. The 4x200 relay team of Pollack, Meschewski, Cascade and Toosi took 29th in the varsity gold race in 1:36.95. Cascade placed 58th in the 300-meter varsity silver race in 37.805, Toosi 59th in 37.807. Pollack placed 150th in 39.913, Meschewski 157th in 40.41.

## COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS



Photo Courtesy of Maroon & White  
The Village of Scarsdale, Scarsdale High School and Maroon & White have been partnering to improve fields throughout Scarsdale. One of the latest projects includes upgrades at Supply Field, where the varsity softball team plays. Maroon and White donated the first ever scoreboard that was recently installed.



Photo Courtesy of Scarsdale Boys' Ice Hockey  
On Jan. 12, the Scarsdale boys' ice hockey team held its first Hockey Fights Cancer game against Eastchester/Tuckahoe/Bronxville/Edgemont. In addition to winning 7-0, the Raiders raised \$3,900 for HFC and sported alternate purple jerseys for the event.

# Wrestlers focus on upcoming postseason

From page 4

the other kids are so good. He saw those kids and beat them and that's the confidence he needs to go get ready for the state tournament and sectionals. He'll have tough matches at sectionals, but should be OK. He needs the hard matches so that when he gets to sectionals they're not hard matches."

Szerlip is extremely focused on divisionals and sectionals coming up in February. It's less about team wins and losses.

"That's what we're gearing up for," he said. "I keep telling kids it's not about these duals meets. Everything we do now is getting us ready for divisions and to qualify for sections and see if we can make a run at states. We're trying to individualize our practices, focusing on what each kid needs to do for them to get to sectionals. We want to see if we can get five to seven guys make sectionals and then see if we can get some All-Section kids. That's our push the next week and a half or so."

The Raiders also saw some big performances at their home Scarsdale Tournament Jan. 13 and the Herricks Highlander Tournament Jan. 20.

Sophomore Andre Duval made the finals at 152 pounds.

"He wrestled a kid he had already wrestled earlier in the year," Szerlip said. "The kid pinned him in their first match and he wrestled much better this time. I think he's gaining on the kid every time he wrestles, which is good because they'll definitely see each other in sections. Hopefully the third time will be the charm."

Instead of relying on defense like he had earlier in the season, Duval has made great strides and gained confidence in his shots, which will come in handy in postseason.

"At Herricks he wrestled the state champ, so just getting that experience is what he needs, to see where he wants to be and how to get there," Szerlip said. "He's so competitive. He's absorbing everything he's, watching what other kids do, he loves the sport. I think he's going to have a great year and I have great hope for him for next year as a kid who is going to know what to do to get there."

Herricks was not your typical December dual round robin or January bracketed tournament. Instead, each wrestler was put in a pool and guaranteed three to five matches, which makes it an attractive late-season event for coaches. Szerlip was impressed with the performances of wrestlers like senior Tyler Pierro, sophomore Jack Harrison, Hill, sophomore Benjamin Xiao and both Iasiellos, Tommy and freshman Luke.



Photo by Andy Hill

After senior night, the Scarsdale wrestling team is preparing for divisionals and beyond.

## WRESTLING

Scarsdale began the new year with a tight 37-33 loss to New Rochelle on Jan. 10. Wins came from Harrison at 138 pounds, Tommy Iasiello at 145, Duval at 152 and Xiao at 170, in addition to a pair of forfeits.

At the 47th Annual Scarsdale Tournament, with Tommy Iasiello and Hill at Eastern States, the Raiders were 13th of 20 teams with 71 points. Shoreham-Wading River won with team title in the crowded field with 205.5 points.

At 101 pounds, Luke Iasiello placed fifth. He won his first match 18-1 before falling in 1:02 in the quarterfinals to Red Hook's Jameson Kessler. Iasiello won his final three matches in 40 seconds, 32 seconds and 1:47.

Pierro had two byes and went 0-2 in the matches he wrestled at 124 pounds, falling 5-3 and in 3:00. At 131 pounds, Tate Grewal was 0-2, while Ethan Finger was 1-2, winning his lone match 8-4.

At 138 pounds, Harrison placed fifth. After a bye, Harrison lost his first match 11-6 to Jack Frenchman of Rye before sweeping through and winning his next four matches after another bye. Harrison won the fifth place match 4-2 over Gabriel Guillet of Mamaroneck. Also at 138, Asher Millman was 0-2.

Henry Sperling at 145 pounds lost his opening match 13-11 after a bye and then after a bye won his next match in 4:00. He lost his next match 9-2.

Duval took second place at 152 pounds. He won 24-9, 9-4 and 10-5 en route to the finals, where he lost 8-3 to Clarkstown North's John Roden. Also at 152, Matthew Rothenberg was 0-2.

Ben Chase had a bye at 160, lost his opener in 1:40, had a bye, won 5-0 and then lost in 1:19 to end his run. Xiao won his opener after a bye in 4:30 and then lost his final two matches in :53 and :59 at 170.

Leo Green won his first match 15-8 at 190, lost his second in 3:56 to Jack Anderson of Rye, had a bye and then fell in 2:14 in the consolation round. Arbri Gjyriqi and Henry Koevary were 0-2 at 215 pounds.

The Raiders beat Mount Vernon 63-9 on Jan. 18. After winning three straight forfeits, Pierro won in 2:45 at 124 and Millman won 10-5 at 131. Duval won at 152 in 5:00, Xiao won at 170 in 1:11 and Gjyriqi won at 215 in 1:30.

At Herricks, Luke Iasiello was 4-1 at 101 pounds, Joshua Kossion 2-3 at 124, Pierro 5-0 at 124, Ethan Finger 2-2 at 131, Grewal 3-2 at 131, Millman 3-1 at 131, Harrison 5-0 at 138, Henry Sperling 2-3 at 138, Tommy Iasiello 5-0 at 145, Octavio Albuquerque 2-2 at 145, Rothenberg 3-0 at 152, Duval 2-2 at 152, Chase 3-1 at 160, Adrien Colombel 1-3 at 160, Xiao 5-0 at 170, Hill 5-0 at 190, Green 1-3 at 190, Max Florin 3-1 at 215, Gjyriqi 3-1 at 215, Koevary 2-3 at 285.

On senior night against Mamaroneck on Jan. 22, the Raiders

won 54-24 in front of a big crowd as varsity wrestled alongside modified and the parents put together incredible free entry raffle prizes like Drake, Olivia Rodrigo and Yankees tickets, among other prizes.

Luke Iasiello pinned Nobu Homma (M) in 2:34 at 101 pounds. Izzy Nesser (M) pinned Grace Liebman in 1:30 at 108 pounds. Rich Lomanaco (M) pinned Daisy Bennett in 1:15 at 116. Gabe Kraut (M) pinned Pierro in 2:43 at 124.

The Raiders got on a roll starting with Millman at 131 as he pinned Angus Queen (M) in 3:00. Harrison pinned Nick McDonald (M) in 4:47 at 138, Tommy Iasiello pinned Henry Cerasoli (M) in 3:00 at 145, Duval pinned Griffin Morgan (M) at 152, Rothenberg pinned Owen Lonegro (M) in :33 at 160, Xiao won by forfeit at 170, as did Hill at 190. Florin pinned Luke Jakic (M) in 1:33 at 215 and Justin Morales (M) pinned Koevary in 3:19 at 285.

"The energy was awesome," Szerlip said. "We will keep alternating senior nights with Mamaroneck. It's weird. We are one of the only sports, wrestling, where we all get along. We have a very respectful relationship with the Mamo wrestling team. I don't know if our other sports have that. They're great, a class act and having them there makes it even better because they're really good about it and honored our seniors as well. It was a really good event for all the kids."

# Rodriguez, hoops team have sights on title

From page 1

Middlebury, scored 1,000 points in college. Caleb Krohn came close at Scarsdale with 951 points in three full years on varsity.

Rodriguez helped lead his team to the Section 1 Class AA finals as a junior last winter, and is hoping to win Scarsdale's first gold ball since 1992, and fourth (1979, 1988, 1992) overall.

Having scored over 400 points in each of his sophomore and junior years, reaching 1,000 points was just a matter of time for Rodriguez. What was surprising to Rodriguez was that he was on the fourth male in SHS history to achieve the feat. "Oh really?" he said. "Wow, I didn't know that."

Scoring No. 1,000 actually took a bit longer than expected. It didn't happen in San Diego as Rodriguez missed a game due to illness and then he fouled out in a one-point loss to White Plains at the county center. He thought it might come at home against Mount Vernon, but that game was delayed. Finally Rodriguez scored the final nine points he needed at Mamaroneck on Jan. 12, tallying 17 points in a 60-53 loss in which teammate Jake Sussberg also put up 12 points.

"When I got it I didn't realize I got it until a few seconds after the shot," Rodriguez said. "It was nice making it, but it didn't even really hit me until the day after."

Last season and this season, especially, in addition to a tough league schedule, coach Joe Amelio has challenged his team with games in San Diego, against Catholic League teams like Stepinac and Xaverian, and other area powerhouses, so there are very few games where Rodriguez isn't earning his points, especially when opposing teams are double- and triple-teaming him, notably this season as injuries have played a role in the team's success.

Rodriguez was honored with a commemorative basketball prior to the team's next game, which was a big home 49-46 win over New Rochelle on Jan. 19. Rodriguez added eight more points and 10 assists in the win, while junior Daniel Hoey came up big with rebounds and free throws in the final possessions to seal the game, sophomore Andrew Roseman had four points, five rebounds and four blocks in 15 minutes, and seniors Oscar Langford and Sergio Vittori had some key plays with senior A.J. Booth still injured and junior Brandon Gibbons out sick.

"It was a personal goal and when we had that ceremony the last game it was a positive for everybody," Rodriguez said. "I looked up and down the court at my teammates and for us to then beat New Rochelle that day was kind of a turning point for us."

Rodriguez credited his teammates with being a key part of his success and the team's success. "I wouldn't be able to score without my teammates," he said. "They have to score as well, otherwise they'd just be focused on me. It's a combination of my teammates and I. Last year Asher [Krohn] was such a big help. We need the whole team to get to the playoffs and the finals to get a chip. It's everyone as a team. Everyone's name is on the ball because they contributed to me accomplishing this goal."

Rodriguez returned from freshman and partial sophomore year stints at Stepinac and Iona Prep just in time to start the season at Scarsdale as a sophomore. Amelio knew Rodriguez was a unique player from his middle school days. He was a hard worker with developing skill, and he continues to improve himself on and off the court as a player and a leader.

While scoring is key, there's more to it for the Raiders as they have been building a program where the strengths of all players are used to form a cohesive unit that can dictate play on both sides of the ball.

"In order to become the team we want to be and have the accolades of a champion, Carlos has accepted and understands that he doesn't just need to score to help us win," Amelio said. "He's become a better defender. He's also become more vocal as a leader, especially in our practices and our scouting and film room. He's also been more understanding that we have other players that he can make better day in and day out and he's been truly accepting of that role."

Rodriguez has always been a capable ball-handler and with Booth, Hoey and Gibbons out he's touching the ball a lot this season. That has changed the team's dynamic compared to the expectation during preseason.

"We're anticipating having everyone healthy and cleared over the next few weeks and I think that's going to help serve Carlos wonders as well to be able to play off the ball and to be able to exhaust less of his energy every play as he

dribbles the ball down the court to put us into our offense," Amelio said. "We have the tools to put him off the ball a little more and I know both him and I are going to be excited to do that."

The Raiders are 4-8 this season, making the final eight games of the regular season crucial not only for seeding, but getting healthy and making sure the team is firing on all cylinders heading into sectionals. Should the team's roster be fully armed for the first time since the first game of the season, Scarsdale should have the depth needed to make a run in the new version of Class AA (most of the Class AA teams from last year are now in Class AAA).

"It's enabled me to put a lot more trust in guys who may not have been able to showcase themselves otherwise," Amelio said. "It's only going to make us stronger, make us a deeper team with a lot more depth at the guard position especially. We struggled last year at the end in terms of our depth. I think this year come playoff time the coaching staff and the payers will trust each other a lot more."

Amelio has been pleased with the play of junior Finn Miller, senior Noah Grossberg and Langford in different and changing roles as he's been looking to bridge various gaps depending on the opponent and the situation.

Miller stepped up "in a complete fashion," according to Amelio, following the Hoey injury at Stepinac, helping the team win a big game against Ossining in December.

"He's been a great lift in and out of the starting lineup depending on matchups," Amelio said. "He's definitely pushed into more rotational minutes. He's earned those steadily in January and the plan would be to keep those coming in February."

Grossberg has earned starts and made some big shots, including the home win against New Rochelle. "He's becoming more confident in his ability to shoot the ball and in his defensive presence," Amelio said.

Langford is the most under the radar Raider at this point.

"He's a true winner from volleyball and he's really been instrumental in keeping our team together, accepting accountability when he makes mistakes, and I think it's really brought the team together the last few weeks," Amelio said. "He may not show up as much in

the stat sheets, but he's been just as valuable."

Rodriguez looks forward to having all of his teammates back on the court for the stretch run to bolster the bench.

"Knock on wood everyone can be healthy and we should have our full team for the first time since our second game very soon," Rodriguez said. "That's going to be nice to have, especially with everyone on the bench having helped us so much. That's going to make us even better. It's going to be the biggest stretch for us at 4-8, but as a team we're very confident going into these games that we can get wins."

Amelio is less focused on the team's record and more on the growth of each player and the team as a whole, which is why he creates such a challenging schedule.

"I may have been a little humbled by the first 12 games of the season and understanding of where I was as a coach and where our team was both individually and as a team and I think we've made some necessary adjustments as a coaching staff and as players and as a team that are going to help us trend in the right direction to become a very, very difficult team to beat in the playoffs," Amelio said. "Ultimately it's always the team that's hottest in February that can really cause a lot of noise in the playoffs. That's what we intend to be."

Rodriguez is looking to play at the highest level now and in college and said he expects to make his decision soon after the season ends. He said he has an offer from Manhattan College and is waiting to hear from other schools.

"It's been real fun," Rodriguez said of the recruiting process. "It's what I want to do. I love playing basketball. All of this — 1,000 points, recruiting, winning, losing — is part of basketball and it's all been fun. My biggest goal now is just to have as much fun as I can and win the championship."

Having Rodriguez as one of the key players he's built around these past few years has given Amelio faith — remember the game-winning, off-balance buzzer-beating three-pointer at Ossining in the playoffs sophomore year? — the basketball is in good hands.

"I've never seen Carlos back down from a challenge and I'm confident he never will," Amelio said.

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*While scoring is key, there's more to it for the Raiders as they have been building a program where the strengths of all players are used to form a cohesive unit that can dictate play on both sides of the ball.*