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A9

Perfection on the line

Northport boys lacrosse looks to complete regular season with undefeated record in League 1 play

A18



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First Responders

Photo by Greg Catalano

Huntington Manor Fire Department wins annual vehicle extrication tournament — **A19**



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A cut above the rest

BY GREG CATALANO
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On May 9, the heat was on, as fire departments from across Long Island competed at the 19th Annual Chuck Varese Vehicle Extrication Tournament. There were 24 teams entered in this highly competitive and spirited live-action contest, which was hosted by the Northport Fire Department at their training grounds on Clipper Drive. All 24 teams were first divided up into four different groups, and then each team was given an extrication task to successfully complete, in which each scenario was designed to simulate a serious motor vehicle accident. Firefighters had to balance speed, precision and teamwork to try and beat the clock, all while safely removing mock victims from damaged vehicles. The team from each group completing the task the quickest was then allowed to advance on to the next round. When the final round was completed, and all the smoke had cleared, Huntington Manor Fire Department was crowned the tournament champion, followed by Commack Fire Department coming in second, with the

RESCUE

Northport Fire Department finishing a very respectable third. A team of officials supervised the timing and also made sure that each team had fully completed their assigned extrication. The entire tournament was coordinated by Northport Fire Department's Robert "Beefy" Varese, who lost his son Chuck Varese to a tragic motorcycle accident several years ago. Varese stated, "when I see how seriously all these teams take the tournament, and how proud the winner is each year to take that winner's trophy back to their firehouse, it makes me very proud of what this tournament represents. It also inspires me when I see how every year this event helps build camaraderie and friendship among neighboring fire departments. It truly makes all the hard work and planning worth it." Gershow Recycling generously supplied the tournament with 30 vehicles, making it possible for the competition to take place. Many family members from the competing fire departments looked on and cheered from the sidelines in support, as each team gave it their best. Many involved also appreciated how this event provided some very valuable and practical extrication and rescue experience to Long Island's very dedicated, skilled and brave first responders.



A member of the Huntington Manor Fire Department uses a hydraulic spreader to widen the passenger-side door. The team won first place this year. Photo By Greg Catalano

Harborfields flag football takes down East Hampton 34-22; 5 TDs for Walter

BY GARY HABER
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Harborfields quarterback Elke Walter threw for 4 touchdowns and ran for another, leading the Tornados to a 34-22 victory in flag football on Saturday, May 9.

SPORTS

Walter tossed touchdown passes to Scarlet Carey, Amaya Price, Gemma Brewster and Tess Carey. Walter also played defensive back, getting an interception and leaping to knock down an East Hampton pass in the endzone with 1:17 left.

"It's one of our last games together as a team and I wanted to take as much advantage of it as possible," Walter said. "We're such a strong team together now, We're doing so well together. It's really a team effort."

Walter, a sophomore, said she's grown as a quarterback, since last season, which was her first.

"I think I'm just more confident," she said. "Last year, I was really hesitant to throw the long ball. I would get in my head. But this year, especially with the girls telling me they know how hard it is or just shake it off, has definitely made me more confident and better as a player."

"She's really developing into an excellent quarterback,"

Harborfields head coach Greg Taylor said. "She's starting to throw the ball really nicely. She's able to read a defense well and she's starting to use her feet a little bit more, which is fun to watch."

"I think the sky's the limit for her in the next couple of years," Taylor added.

Harborfields also excelled on defense, holding East Hampton (3-8) scoreless until 3:42 left in the third quarter.

"I feel like our defense has been playing well the entire year," Taylor said. "I don't think it was just today. We've come to rely on them. Our defense played great, led by Scarlet Carey, Ava Vandor and Kaitlyn Costa."

"We've been working a lot on our defense, working on being really mobile and it's paying off," said Carey, a senior who thwarted a possible East Hampton touchdown drive when she intercepted a pass in the end zone late in the third quarter.

The win keeps Harborfields in the hunt for what would be the team's first playoff appearance in the program's four-year history.

The Tornados played their final regular season game on May 11 under the lights at Harborfields against Eastport-South Manor. They prevailed 13-12, finishing the season with a 6-6 record. It was the first home night game in program history, according to Taylor.



Harborfields quarterback Elke Walter (No. 14) throws a pass in the Tornados' 34-22 win over East Hampton. Walter tossed 4 TD passes and ran for a touchdown. All photos by Gary Haber

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Harborfields **34** • East Hampton **22**