THIS WEEK IN

SPORTS



SPORTS EDITOR
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Field Hockey Wins States!

The New Fairfield Rebels defeated Joel Barlow in the Class S CIAC State Championship, capturing their **second state title in program history,** with the first coming in 2008!

I t was a hard-fought, defensively intense battle from start to finish. Barlow controlled possession for much of the game, keeping the ball in the Rebels' defensive end nearly 75% of the time. However, New Fairfield's defense stood strong, refusing to back down. In the third quarter, a fast break sparked by a pass from senior captain Caylin Petzold sent junior Sara Ciminello driving into the circle for the game's first goal, putting the Rebels ahead 1-0.

Sophomore goalie Lizzie Cook came up HUGE throughout the afternoon, recording two diving saves and a full-split save to keep Barlow off the scoreboard. With just six minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, Barlow managed to find the equalizer, sending the championship into overtime.

Overtime brought even more drama. Barlow broke through on a fast break and fired a high reverse chip toward the goal, but Cook made an incredible jumping save, getting a touch on the ball as it clipped the top crossbar and sailed out. The save kept the Rebels' championship hopes alive. New Fairfield quickly regained possession, drove down the field, and earned a penalty corner.

And then came the moment everyone will remember — **the Ciminello sister act!** Kate Ciminello and Sara Ciminello connected for the championship-winning goal in overtime, sending the Rebels into celebration and securing their place in New Fairfield field hockey history!

This championship would not have been possible without an extraordinary defensive effort. Defensive MVP and sophomore goalie Lizzie Cook was outstanding, while defenders Kate Ciminello, Brady Morgan, and Lilybella Reilly delivered a lights-out performance when it mattered most.

A championship built on heart, determination, teamwork, and an unbreakable defense. The New Fairfield Rebels are officially **TWO-TIME STATE CHAMPIONS!**



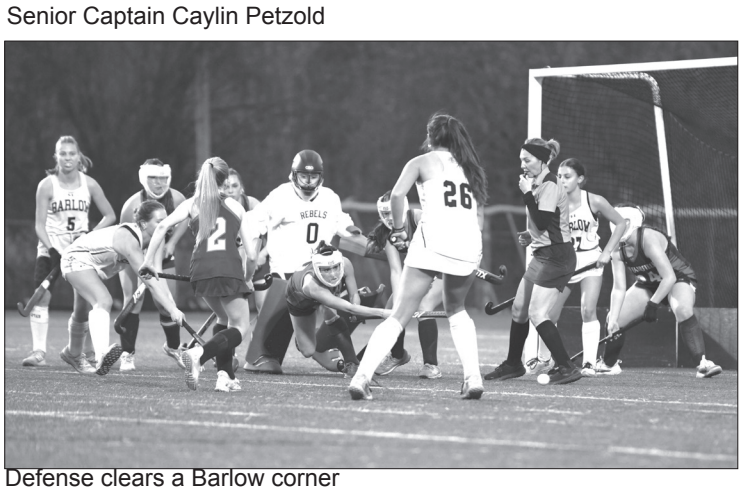
The FH team raises their plaque after their victory!



Senior Captain Caylin Petzold



The FH team with their banner and plaque



Defense clears a Barlow corner



Coaches Sydney Ordway & Melissa Busnel. This is Sydney Ordway's 50th win in 4 seasons as head coach.



Maeve Buttofuco



Senior Captain Lilybella Reilly



Senior Allison Boniello



Senior Tiffany Belmont