THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRISTINE GILLESPIE

#2 Seed NF Field Hockey Makes an Impressive Run to the CIAC State Championship!

The #2-seeded NF Rebels have put together an incredible run through the CIAC State Tournament, earning their spot in the State Championship with three impressive victories!

November 10 – State Tournament Round 1: #2 NF 8, #15 Morgan 1

The Rebels opened the tournament with an explosive 8-1 victory over Morgan! NF came out strong, scoring three goals in the first quarter. Caylin Petzold got things started, followed by a Kate Ciminello assist to Maeve Buttafuoco. The Rebels added three more goals in the second quarter, with Caylin Petzold scoring twice and Chloe Schramm assisting Allison Boniello. Maeve Buttafuoco and Sara Ciminello added goals in the third to round out the scoring. It was an impressive team effort from start to finish, with the entire bench getting an opportunity to contribute to the playoff victory!

November 12 – Quarterfinals: #2 NF 2, #10 Stonington 1

In a pouring rain, high-energy matchup, the Rebels battled their way to a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Stonington. The first half remained scoreless, despite several goals finding the back of the net only to be called back for various reasons. The Rebels stayed resilient! Sara Ciminello opened the scoring in the third quarter on a stroke, but Stonington answered to tie the game. NF continued to fight in the fourth, having two more goals called back before Kate Ciminello connected with Caylin Petzold at the post to finally put the Rebels ahead. It was a gritty, determined performance that punched their ticket to the semifinals!

November 17 – Semifinals: #2 NF 6, #3 Lauralton Hall 0

The Rebels delivered another dominant performance, shutting out #3 Lauralton Hall with an impressive 6-0 victory! Caylin Petzold connected with Sara Ciminello in the first quarter to get NF on the board. Sara added another in the second off a rebound. The third quarter was especially explosive, with Sara assisting Caylin on two goals in just one minute! Allie Boniello added another off a rebound to extend the lead. The Rebels sealed the victory in the fourth with one more connection from Sara to Caylin. The offense was firing on all cylinders, while the defensive unit, led by Brady Morgan, Lilybella Reilly, Kate Ciminello, and Katie Gruetzner, provided tremendous support to secure the shutout.

NEXT STOP: THE CIAC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!

Three victories, 16 goals scored, and an incredible team effort have brought the Rebels one step away from a state title. Let's go, Rebels!

Do you know a **COLLEGE ATHLETE or LOCAL SPORTS PERSONALITY**? If yes please share the news with us at the Town Tribune with a photo. Send to <Sports@the-towntribune.com>

VARSITY FOOTBALL

Varsity Football vs. New Milford Background

By Bill Merritt

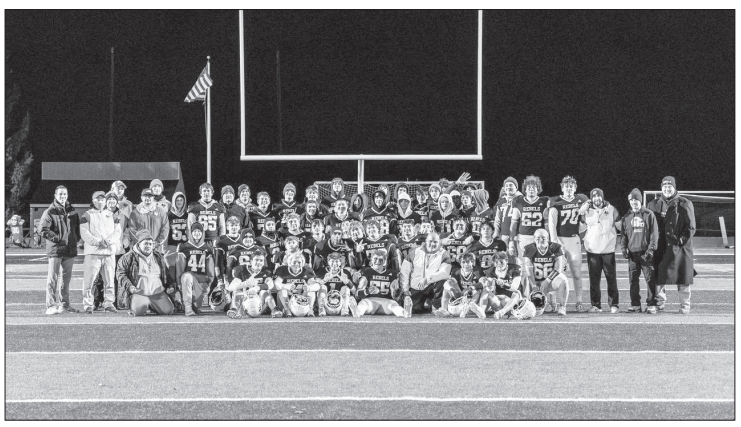
The New Fairfield Varsity Rebel Football team of coach Greg Schwarz was scheduled to travel to play the New Milford Green Wave on Tuesday, 11/24, at 7 pm for the Candlewood Cup.

This was the 42nd meeting between the New Fairfield Rebels and the New Milford Green Wave on the varsity football level and the nineteenth meeting for the Candlewood Cup. The Cup resided at New Fairfield the first three years but New Milford claimed it in 2010 and kept it in 2011. The Rebels brought it home in 2012 with a 31-13 victory and kept it in 2013 with a 33-12 victory. Then in 2014 the Rebels kept it again with a 24-16 victory. The Rebels claimed the cup for the 7th time (against two for the Green Wave). Since then the Rebels have five wins and three losses before Coach Greg Schwarz teams lost the three years before last year.

New Fairfield currently holds a 27-12-2 record against New Milford. Coach Greg Schwarz is 1-3 vs. NM. Coach Anthony Fata was 8-3 in games for the Cup. Coach Andy Buchsbaum went 3-1 against the Green Wave. Coach Jeff Castaldi won his one meeting. Coach Pete Kohut went 5-1 only losing in 1992. Coach Roger Ouellette went 5-1-1 against New Milford. Coach Art Maloney won his one meeting in 1982. Coach John Zinser's Rebel teams went 4-2-1.

Last year in 2025 on Thanksgiving morning NF reclaimed the cup with a 28-21 win. NM scored first but Michael Traynor ran in a 1 yard TD before Caio Ribeiro's kick made it, 7-7. An 8 yard TD pass from Traynor to Jack Riccio saw Ribeiro add a kick but NM led 15-14 with 2:29 left in the 2nd quarter. A 36 yard hook and ladder play from Traynor to Perun who then pitched to Riccio fir a 10 yard TD pass to Jack Perun saw Ribeiro add a kick and NF led 21-15 with 39 seconds left in half. NM caught a 2 yard tipped pass on 4th and goal and scored to tie the game 21-21 with 2:24 left in the contest but the extra point was wide left. Traynor had a 1 yard rushing TD with Ribeiro's kick and NF lea\d 28-21 with 1:07 left in game

In 2024 on Tuesday evening, 11/26, New Milford won 43-15. It was their third win in a row and the longest stretch that they have held the Candlewood Cup.



Varsity football after their win against Weston.

JV FOOTBALL

NFJV Football Loses to New Milford, 45-14

By Bill Merritt



Michael Cusack Jr. 17 raised up in the 2Q

On Thursday afternoon, November 19, the NFJV Football team hosted New Milford and lost 45-14.

After the opening kickoff, NF took over at their own 34. After a 6 yard run by Ryder Hill and 2 incomplete passes, the Rebels punted to the NM 19. NM drove to the NF 42 and threw a 42 TD touchdown pass. NF blocked the extra point but NM led 6-0.

NF took over at their own 43. After a 7 yard rush by Hill and a 12 yard rush by Hill, Gianni Bracco threw a pass to Liam Lindsey for 7 yards, but the Green Wavee had an interception returned to NF 43. NM then had a 43 yard rushing TD with the extra point good to make it 13-0.

NM next recovered an onside kick at the NF 43. The Wave then completed a 40 yard TD pass with the 2 pt conversion and NM led 21-0.

NF took over at their own 46 after a 17 yard pass to Hill, a 15 yard rush by Gianni Bracco, a 10 yard rush by Bracco, a 16 yard rush by Bracco and a 4 yard TD pass to Michael Cusack. The extra point was blocked and NF traoled 21-6.

NM took over at their own 35 and drove down to 10 for a 10 yard TD run but the PAT kick was not good with NM leading 27-6.

NF took over at their own 41. Bracco had an 8 yard run, followed by a 12 yard pass to Hill, a 2 yard pass to Coleman Cynamon-Ferris but NF turned over the ball on downs at the NM 40.

NM had an 18 yard rushing TD but no extra point and led 33-6 at the Half.

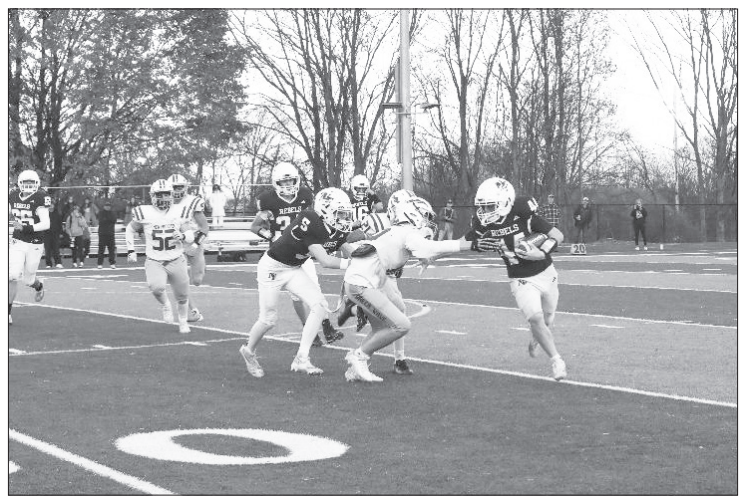
After the 2nd half kick, NM took over at the NF 26 and drove to a 5 yard rushing TD, but the extra point was no good and NM led 39-6.

NF took over at their own 45. After a 7 yard rush by Bracco NF went 3 and out with a punt returned to the NF 46.

NM drove to a 34 yard TD run but NM's extra point was not good. NM led 45-6.

NF's drive started at their own 45. After a 20 yard rush by Hill, a 20 yard pass to Hill, a 10 yard run by Hill, and a 13 yard TD run by Hill, Bracco added a 2 pt conversion run and NM led 45-14.

NM then ran the clock out to end the JV football season.



44 Ryder Hill runs left.



Braydon Hill #11 crosses the goalline.



Coleman Cynamon-Ferris 42 with the tackle



Colin Garrigan 23 attempts the kick

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