

WEEK IN REVIEW

FOUND THE TROUGH

BASKETBALL

Iwem Okoro scored 15 points, and **Gabe Burdette** chipped in with 15. **Raymond** defeated **St. Ray's** on Friday.

Ravens broke a nine-game skid and improved to 10-13 for the season. **St. Ray's** will now play **Hallows** in the quarterfinals of the CHSAA Division 'AA' playoffs on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at **St. Michael's**.

Ramapo won the CHSAA Division 'AA' championship, finishing the season with a 16-5 record. **Staten Island** finished second in the championship. **St. Michael's** played at 6 p.m. in the semifinal.

ACK

Haywood and **Ethaniel** finished 1-2 in the jump competition at the Bronx borough girls championships on Thursday at the Armory, keying to its second Bronx borough title.

Wood jumped 36 feet, **Ann** leaped 33 feet in the jump competition, finishing a dominant performance by the Governors. **Wood** also claimed the Bronx crown, **Fatoumata** won the 100-meter run and **Brittany** finished first in the 100-meter put as Clinton outpointed second-place **Ramapo Science**.

BASKETBALL

Staten Island saw its 12-game winning streak end on Friday, falling to **Moore** 58-52, in Staten

Island by junior **Tia** and **Diego** Pilots (18-4) held their lead throughout the game but they never could take control, struggling with **Staten**. **Spellman** was our points, 56-52, refuses to play in the quarter, but **Moore** hit some late free throws to preserve the



Conor O'Brien (from l.), Andrew McClain, Kevin Baum and Christian Cholhan lead Fordham to Metro title on Sunday. Photo by Richard Harbus

FIGHT TO THE FINISH

BY MATT CAPUTO

JUST as the bus that brought Fordham to the Metropolitan Collegiate Hockey Conference title game was beginning to get warm in the Rye Playland parking lot, the Rams started to get going on the ice.

Fordham stunned Columbia, 6-5, on Sunday, exploding for four goals in the game's final seven minutes. Ben Zabatinio scored the eventual game-winner as the Rams rallied from a game-long two-goal deficit to claim their second Metro Conference title in five years.

The game was tied, 5-5, with 3:30 to play when Zabatinio rushed to the net and met a pass from senior Christian Cholhan to give the Rams a 6-5 lead.

"I busted my you-know-what to the net and just put it in," said Zabatinio.

The Rams trailed, 4-2, early

Fordham hockey team uses late rally to down Columbia and claim Metro crown

in the third, but Jim Brolly scored to make it 4-3, and Conor O'Brien tallied to tie things at 4-4. Columbia later reclaimed the lead, but the Andrew McClain tied the score at 5-5, setting up Zabatinio's heroics.

"It was our never-quit attitude," said Fordham coach Tim Collins. "The guys always talk about how they never want to lose, and today they lived it."

The "Maroon Six" closed the regular season 14-1 and atop the conference standings, and Kevin Baum and Cholhan led the league in scoring.

"Early on, we went on a road trip and we came together as a group," said Collins, noting that his team holds a combined grade-point average of 3.6.

"When we came back, we won our first 11 league games."

Fordham scored 30 seconds into Sunday's game when Baum beat Columbia goalie Chris George, but by the end of the second period, Columbia had a 4-2 lead.

The Rams, who participate as a club team, posted non-league victories over Lafayette and Hofstra. They also beat second-place St. Thomas Aquinas two times down the stretch. "Our seniors were a big part of our success," said Collins. "Whenever we needed a goal or some extra effort, it came from a senior."

The Rams were led by a trio of upperclassmen who produced 130 points over the 20-game season. Baum, a Towson Univer-

sity transfer, tallied 19 goals and 33 assists for a league-best 52 points. Cholhan contributed 20 goals and 25 assists, and McClain added 19 goals and 14 assists.

"I've got good linemates and for a while, (they) were the second and third leading scorers behind me," said Baum, an Iona Prep product who scored two goals on Sunday. "We all make things happen for each other."

Sunday's win gives the Rams, who finished the year at 17-3, their second championship since the club was formed in 1967.

"When the score was 3-1, I didn't think they would come back," said Andrew Malo, the HCHC president and 26-year-old general manager of Fordham's hockey team.

"I think the 2005-2006 championship team had more depth," he added. "But this team had more heart."

STARS OF THE WEEK



WHITNEY FOUNTAIN Columbus

The Clemson-bound senior broke the PSAL 55-meter dash record on Thursday, finishing in 6.89 seconds at PSAL Bronx borough girls indoor champion-

STEPHEN McNAMARA Bronx Science

McNamara placed in the top three in three events at the PSAL Bronx indoor championships, helping the 4x800-meter relay to a victory, then claiming first place in the 3,200-meter run and third place in the 1,600.

BONNIE CECIL, Dalton

The senior reached the 1,000-point milestone on Friday, scoring 22 points in Dalton's 48-39 win over Riverdale. Cecil, who is the third 1,000-point scorer in school history, also contributed nine assists and six steals in the effort.