

# SPORTS

## PHS beats Fortuna 42-26, achieves first NCS win since 2017

Highlanders advance to semifinals on Saturday

By Jonathan Comeaux

The Highlanders, the No. 3 seed in the North Coast Section post-season playoffs, beat No. 6 Fortuna 42-26 under the lights of Witter Field on Friday, November 15. They now advance to the semifinals of the first round of the NCS Division 7.

The victory marked the school's first NCS win since 2017 when Piedmont beat Lower Lake in the D4 playoffs.

The program has come a long way since coach Jordan Seiden arrived in 2022 when the varsity program had to shut down midway into the season due to low roster turnout. Now, PHS reaches its first NCS Semifinal since 2014.

"I can never forget meeting with the whole team in the bleachers on that very first day. I keep telling them to think about where we were and where we are now. Look at this, people weren't celebrating like this. It's just an amazing thing to think about," Seiden said.



Xavier Henderson sprints down the sideline to the end zone on a 90-yard kickoff return against Fortuna.

With a 10-1 record, PHS has surpassed the success of 2015 when Piedmont was 9-3. It is their most wins since 2014 when Scott Coats coached them to a 12-1 record and a semifinal appearance.

"It means so much to us. This football program took a bad turn

in 2022, but we put so much time and effort to bring it back. To be a part of this great team win is astonishing to me. Let's keep it going," running back and linebacker Tommy Ashton said.

"This win means everything to me. We were going to the games in middle school and elementary school in 2017, now we're out here dreaming of an NCS title. I'm doing it with the people I love and the guys I've known since kindergarten. To have a home game is amazing, but we're not done yet," mentioned quarterback Markos Lagios.

It marked another three touchdown game for Ashton, marking his second consecutive three-score night.

"Like I said last week, the O-line came to play. I just grab the ball, pick a lane, and shoot it. They did all the work, I really have to thank them" Ashton said.

Helping put the game away was Xavier Henderson at the kick return, bringing a 90-yard kickoff return to the end zone in the third quarter. It was his second kickoff return for a touchdown this season.

"As always, my guys blocked them and created the lanes," Henderson said.

Piedmont will travel 300 miles to Fernwood in Northern California this Saturday to play the No. 2 seed in the NCS semifinals.

### Game Recap

After a couple trades of possession, Fortuna struck first on a carry into the end zone with 4:11 left in the first quarter, making it 6-0 after a missed extra point. But Piedmont responded quickly on a five-play, 53 yard series—capping off with a five-yard touchdown by Ashton, but a blocked extra point made it 6-6 with 2:34 left.

Fortuna then got down to the PHS 13 on a long drive, but Peter Ichimaru jumped on a fumble with 5:45 left in the second quarter. Piedmont didn't waste the takeaway, scoring on a 10-play drive which featured a 37-yard catch by Sam Shelby to the three. Quarterback Markos Lagios punched the ball across on a carry on the next play with 2:45 left before half. The Huskies answered with a touchdown with

See Football on page 29

## Tennis team bows out in NCS Team Championship



Inara Mehta with a forehand smash in her No. 3 doubles win over Marin Academy.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High's girls' tennis team finished their post-season on Friday, November 15, after losing to No. 4 No. 4 Marin Academy 5-2 in the North Coast Section team tennis championships.

As the No. 5 seeded school, the Highlanders opened with a dominant 6-1 win over No. 12 Urban of San Francisco at home at the Corey Reich Tennis Center. After a rain-out on Thursday, PHS wound up hosted the next day in the loss to the Wildcats.

"We had a good win over Urban and only lost one match. We had some close matches against Marin Academy, but could only win one match at singles and one match at doubles," coach Jim Landes said.

Against Marin Academy, the Highlanders battled to a 2-2 draw through the first four matches, but the Wildcats won the remaining three matches.

Of the wins was at No. 3 doubles with Inara Mehta and Abigail Call, winning in three sets, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. The match was Piedmont's second win of the afternoon, which drew the Match Day at two apiece.

"It's very exciting to get an NCS win, but we still need those two more. It kind of puts you on the edge, but its great to get one of the wins for the team," Call said.

Call and Mehta won their first set but dropped the second before turning in a dominant 6-1 in the third set.

"Abby played great in the first set and was picking everything



Faith Chin sends a backhand in her No. 4 doubles win over Marin Academy.



Abigail Call in her No. 3 doubles win against Marin Academy.

up. Second set was closer, but we took the shots we could in the third set," Mehta said.

"We played Marin Academy before and we played really well, so I expected us to get a win. I think we got a little rushed in the second set and we just wanted to finish the third set quickly," Call said.

The loss to Marin Academy essentially ended the Highlanders' tennis season aside from the D2 NCS Individual Tournament on Monday and Tuesday, November 18-19. Looking ahead to 2025, Piedmont will graduate No. 1 singles starter Carolina Romanczuk, No. 1 doubles starter Emma Eisemon, along with Alina Shahid and Call.

See Tennis on page 14



Tommy Ashton run into the end zone against Fortuna. It was his second consecutive game with three touchdowns.

## North Coast Section Div. VII FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

### QUARTERFINALS

Friday and Saturday, November 15-16

- 1 (1) Moreau Catholic (6-4) vs. St. Bernard's (6-4)
- 2 (4) Del Norte (8-2) vs. (13) Kelseyville (9-1)
- 3 (2) Ferndale (9-1) vs. (7) Vallejo (6-4)
- 4 (3) Piedmont (9-1) vs. (6) Fortuna (4-6)

### RESULTS

Moreau 49, St. Bernard's 14  
Del Norte 13, Kelseyville 12  
Ferndale 35, Vallejo 20  
**Piedmont 42, Fortuna 26**

### SEMIFINALS

Friday and Saturday, November 22-23

- 1 (1) Moreau Catholic (7-4) vs. (4) Del Norte (9-2)
- 2 (2) Ferndale (10-1) vs. (3) Piedmont (10-1)

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday or Saturday, November 29-30



The Professional Tree Care Company

SERVING PIEDMONT SINCE 1978

Our services cover all aspects of tree care and removal. We have a 100% recycle policy for all materials generated by our activities. Our certified arborists are licensed and insured.

www.professionaltreecare.com

510/549-3954 or 888/335-TREE



# Piedmont Community Meditation Group

Now offering in-person sessions!

Wednesday morning - Piedmont Center for the Arts  
9:00am - 10:00am

Wednesday evening - online  
7:30pm - 8:15pm

Free ~ No experience needed ~ Drop ins always welcome

For more info and Zoom link:  
Mark Herrick ~ herrickmark@icloud.com ~ 415-706-2000

Ages 12 and older welcome

## Sudoku Puzzle

Sudoku by Myles Mellor

				7			8	
				1		6		
4	2	6						1
7	1							
6					9		2	8
				2				4
				9	5			3
				8	6			
	5	1	2					

## Crossword Puzzle

Colorful by Myles Mellor

1	2	3		4	5	6			7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14		15				
16				17					18				
19				20					21				
22							23						
24				25	26	27		28			29	30	31
				33				34			35		
36	37	38						39	40	41			
42								43					
44				45	46	47		48				49	50
				52				53				54	
				55	56				57	58	59		
60	61							62				63	
64								65				66	
67								68				69	

ACROSS

1. Private

4. Buffoon

7. Halfhearted

12. Actress Dawn Chong

13. "No \_\_\_\_!"

15. Lunar craft

16. "Human Concretion" artist

17. Pantyhose color

18. Music downloader

19. Very dark

22. Name in a Kinks song

23. Let's play \_\_\_\_ !

24. Brings out, a response for example

28. Connected networks

33. PayPal product

35. Language of Lahore

36. Independence Day sight

42. Vicinity

43. Kind of screen

44. "J'accuse" subject

48. Lamp type

52. Enthusiastic about

54. Chinese related

55. Spanish archipelago

60. Weather map feature

62. Fashion magazine

63. Based on instincts

64. "Chill out!"

DOWN

1. Fortune teller

2. Campbell's soup can painter

3. Katmandu native

4. Gas group

5. 76 station

6. Roman meeting places

7. Comes to

8. Cabinet dept.

9. Kind of rock

10. Suffix with infant

11. First half of an Iowa city

14. The start of a tulip

15. Pop music's \_\_\_\_ Vanilli

20. Track for harness horses

21. Baseball club

25. German "I"

26. Cocktail ending

27. Concorde or Tupolev, abbr.

29. Secretly

30. Web address

31. Part of some e-mail addresses

32. Attack legally

34. Baby girl

36. 1980s cool

37. Misinterpret

38. Sandra of "Gidget"

39. "That's nice!"

40. Confidentiality agreement, for short

41. Mavericks' city, on scoreboards

45. Ending

46. Take a piece from

47. Geographical abbr.

49. India leads the world in its production

50. Clothed

51. Part of a mob name

53. Court call

55. Stimulating leaf

56. "That's not \_\_\_\_ idea"

57. French for islands

58. Some cameras, abbr.

59. Former Kingdom of Spain

60. Watson creators

61. Get the picture

Shell Station

Continued from page 1

Piedmont resident Don Dare spoke in opposition to the proposed EV charging station.

health.”

LSA was hired by the City of Piedmont to conduct an environmental review.

The city raised additional concerns that the plans did not include bathrooms, water fountains, or a tire compressor for customers to use.

During the applicant hearing, Shell advocated for 24 hours a day every day for business hours. The Shell representative argued that 24-hour fueling was necessary to offer a “world-class charging experience” as stated by

Shell representative Matt Lions.

The meeting opened to public comment, when six neighbors and community members publicly opposed approval of the Shell permit, pointing out Shell’s reluctance to provide a list of other Shell EV charging sites, as well as the difference between 29 Wildwood Ave and Shell’s EV stations on busy thoroughfares and commercial areas.

Multiple speakers focused on Shell’s EV charging station on 19th Avenue in San Francisco, which Shell had described as

being close to a residential area despite the location being along a six-lane highway. Comparing these two locations “is like comparing apples to oil drums,” said resident Rick Schiller.

In their response time, Shell claimed that the charging equipment would be “virtually silent”, with noise only produced by cooling fans while equipment was drawing maximum energy in very hot weather.

Shell also pushed back against requests for a bathroom, claiming that it would be a security risk with no regular on-site worker present. However, Shell did agree to include an air compressor for refilling tires with air.

Concerns were raised about the security of the proposed EV charging station, specifically if Shell would be able to provide security footage quickly enough upon police request. Shell was open to having a detailed security plan, including quick footage access and posted emergency number signage, as one of their conditions for approval.

The approved plan by the city council is based upon Shell complying with 45 conditions.

The EV charging station, now restricted to operating from the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., would have lights turned off or dimmed when not operating.

Pictured at the Piedmont City Council meeting of November 19 are Planning Director Kevin Jackson (left), City Administrator Rosanna Bayon Moore, Councilmember Jennifer Long, Councilmember Betsy Smegal Anderson, Mayor Jen Cavenaugh, and Councilmember Tom Ramsey.

## Football

Continued from page 12

eight seconds left to make it 13-12 after Vince Arbit intercepted Fortuna’s two-point conversion.

PHS nearly scored on one play before half with Shelby breaking three tackles on a reception, taking it 61 yards to the Fortuna five before being tackled.

Piedmont took less than a few minutes to get its next touchdown, including a 45-yard reception by Shelby to the Fortuna three before Ashton ran it in with

9:10 on the clock. Lagios converted a two-point conversion to make it 21-12.

The Highlanders’ defense then stopped a 4th-and-1 at the Huskies’ 46 thanks to a big tackle by Henderson. PHS followed up with an eight yard touchdown reception by Henderson with 3:36 left in the third—28-12. The Huskies answered quickly a minute later to make it 28-20 after converting a two-point conversion.

Quarterback Markos Lagios sends a pass to his receiver in Piedmont’s victory over Fortuna.

But on the ensuing kick-off, Henderson shook multiple defenders as he legged through the defense on his 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown—35-20 with 2:09 left.

Fortuna scored with 10:20 left in the fourth quarter, but a failed two-point conversion kept a two-possession lead for PHS, 35-26. Ashton scored the game’s final touchdown two minutes later on a 15-yard carry.

*Final stats:* Lagios completed 14-17 passes for 244 yards and one touchdown, to go along with 69 rushing yards on six carries and one touchdown. Ashton had 78 rushing yards on 14 carries and three touchdowns. Shelby had eight receptions for 188 yards. Henderson had two receptions for 24 yards and one touchdown.

Defensively, Henderson had two tackles for loss. Ashton and Shelby had pass defenses. Fischer Veltri had a sack and a pass defense. Miguel Long and Arbit had interceptions.

**NEXT UP**

No. 3 Piedmont (10-1 overall) heads to No. 2 Ferndale on Saturday, November 23 for a 1:00 p.m. game.

See Crossword and Sudoku Puzzle Solutions on page 31.