

SPORTS

Highlanders win WACC Mission Division title

Football team moves on to NCSS playoffs as No. 3 seed



Staff Photos

Piedmont players celebrate following their WACC Mission Division clinching win over Newark Memorial.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Friday, November 8 marked mission accomplished for Piedmont High’s football team. It concluded its regular season with a resounding 31-7 win over Newark Memorial under the lights at Witter Field. The result solidified the Highlanders winning the Western Alameda County Conference’s Mission Division title, and winning its second consecutive banner after going undefeated in league.

“It’s hard to complain about being 9-1,” said coach Jordan Seiden. “I can nitpick about certain things but, if you ask me, we were the second-best team in the entire WACC. Once our offense gets rolling, it’s pretty hard to stop. I’m excited to see where we go from here.”

It was a big night for running back Tommy Ashton who recorded three touchdowns on 11 carries for 92 yards.

“The offensive line did a heluva job. I can always count on them. They did all that work for me. Cheers to them,” Ashton said.

On the defensive side, it marked the fifth time Piedmont allowed one score or less.

“We knew Newark was going to run the ball a lot with their Wing-T. The defense knew we had to come to play, and oh my

gosh, we started off so strong. We had multiple three-and-outs,” linebacker Cash Elmquist said.

Making a huge impact was defensive end Jordan Alemania, who had three QB sacks and another tackle for loss. He suffered an injury late in the game and was unable to return.

“Jordan Alemania’s presence was felt immediately. He was everywhere. He’s a warrior and a trooper. People like that are the keystones to our defense,” Elmquist said.

In the North Coast Section’s new ranking system, Piedmont was placed in the small school Division 7 bracket as the No. 3 seed. They will host No. 6 Fortuna this Friday night at Witter Field, and will face the winner of No. 2 Ferndale vs. No. 7 Vallejo

on November 22 or 23.

“I always tell our guys; it’s not about the other team, it’s about what we’re doing. If we’re doing our job, executing, and staying on point with the fundamentals, we’re not worried about anyone else. If we come out and execute, we’ll take care of business,” Seiden said.

Game Recap

After forcing a punt on Newark’s first possession, Piedmont scored in six plays, which included a long 50 yard carry by quarterback Markos Lagios to the Cougars’ 15-yard line on a 3rd-and-14 situation. Ashton capped off with a three-yard carry into the end zone with 7:30 left in the first quarter.

Newark missed a 42-yard
[See Football on page 27](#)



Staff Photos

Tommy Ashton ran for three touchdowns against Newark Memorial.



Photo by JC Curran

Jordan Alemania had three quarterback sacks against Newark.

Cory Johnson elected to Basketball Hall of Fame



Cory Johnson (right) stands with Dennis Page, owner of SLAM Magazine, which was recently inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont resident Cory Johnson recently saw a distant dream become a reality. Over 30 years ago in the early 1990s, Johnson became the Founding Editor in Chief of the renowned SLAM Magazine alongside Dennis Page. Being a major piece of the foundation of journalism circling the NBA, SLAM Magazine was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in August, forever holding a piece of professional basketball’s foundation.

“It’s super exciting, it’s just so out of the left field bleachers. Dennis and I started the magazine 30 years ago; I went on to do many different things, but Dennis stayed at SLAM Magazine throughout. He told me about their 30th anniversary, then told me the magazine was being inducted and he wanted me to be at the ceremony,” Johnson said.

Sitting in a room filled with NBA greatness, Johnson reflects on the night of SLAM’s induction.

“Pat Reilly comes in with his wife. Vince Carter and Chauncey Billups were being inducted and were there. Michael Cooper was there and then I look and see James Worthy—then Magic Johnson comes in and says hello. Then Larry Bird comes in, then Dr. J [Julius Erving] comes in, and you’re like holy crap. Then there’s more commotion and in comes Michael Jordan. But the coolest moment of the thing was I was looking at Rick Barry and I notice Dr. J was looking at me and waves. I’m looking around like, do you mean me? Then he waves again and says, ‘Yeah, you hi.’ I couldn’t believe he remembered me, it was so cool,” Johnson said.

SLAM Magazine was a publication ahead of its time in the world of sports journalism. Instead of the Xs and Os behind sports, they focused on the lesser told story of basketball’s culture rising out of the playgrounds of New York City. It featured hip

hop, fashion, and language on the zestier side than what you would find in Sports Illustrated.

“The idea was how we would treat language, images, names of the sections, and the pace you’d go through as you read it. In the first issue, we devoted 2-3 pages to Letter to the Editor, and they were all fake letters. No one was reacting to SLAM Magazine yet because we didn’t exist; we just so much wanted to have a connection to the readers. I wanted the readers to be a part of the magazine, just like comic books were for me when I was a kid,” Johnson said.

SLAM was a major part of a culture shift in sports in the 90s. They never wanted to act in the traditional sense, which is what Johnson thinks helped propel them to the top of NBA media.

“The notion of journalism should be to tell the stories that aren’t being told and to connect with people through those stories. Our goal wasn’t to tell the story of Michael Jordan 50 different ways, the goal was to tell a story of people in the world through the lens of basketball. That meant the playground, high school, and college,” Johnson said.

“It’s hard to imagine how racist was American institutions were in the 90s. Rolling Stone didn’t have hip hop coverage, MTV wasn’t playing hip hop... Back then, the league didn’t want anything to do with us. So when we started talking players about music instead of missing a layup, it was to tell the story of a culture. The result was us connecting to the players very quickly,” he added.

The magazine became a trendsetter away from the court and journalism. Its cover art became a hallmark of its place in basketball culture; like Allen Iverson on the cover in June 1997 with his hair picked out, or the LA Clippers’ Elton Brand, Lamar Odom, and Darius Miles sporting their jerseys on backwards in February 2002.

[See Cory Johnson on page 27](#)



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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

GRAND AVE. PAVING PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bids shall be uploaded electronically to the BPX Printing & Graphics City of Piedmont planroom via the “Submit Bid Docs” tab on the Project page until the hour of **2:00 p.m., on the 5th day of December 2024** (no bids will be accepted after 2:00 p.m.) for the construction of the following project:

Grand Avenue Paving and Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project

Complete bid packages, including project plans, technical specifications, bid forms and contract documents may be secured from BPX Printing & Graphics by logging on to: www.piedmontplanroom.com or by calling 510-559-8299 or by email: Richmond@blueprinting.com There is a non-refundable fee of \$100 per set for a printed or electronic package, plus shipping and handling. As the project is being bid through BPX Printing & Graphics, any changes via addenda will be available on the BPX website for this project.

Bids shall be **uploaded electronically** to the BPX City of Piedmont planroom via the “Submit Bid Docs” tab on the Project page before **2:00 p.m., December 5th, 2024**. Bids will be publicly opened via an online Zoom meeting at 2:30 p.m. on December 5th, 2024. The Zoom meeting login information can be found in the bid documents.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code the Director of Industrial Relations for the State of California has ascertained the current general prevailing rate of wages for employer purposes, in Alameda County, State of California. Not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for work of a similar character in Alameda County and not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for holiday work fixed as provided in the California Labor Code shall be paid to all workers engaged in performing the project.

The City of Piedmont has obtained from the Alameda County Housing and Community Development, the Federal Wage Decision listing the general prevailing wages and fringes in the County in which said work is to be performed for each craft and type of worker or mechanic needed to execute the contract. A copy of the Federal Wage Decision is included in the bid documents. The successful Contractor shall post said prevailing wage rates in a prominent place at the job site. If there is a discrepancy or difference between the state prevailing wage rate and the federal prevailing wage rate, the higher rate will apply.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1771.1 of the California Labor Code, A contractor or subcontractor shall not be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Section 4104 of the Public Contract Code, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, as defined in Chapter 1 of Part 7 of Division 2 of the California Labor Code, unless currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Civil Code Section 1725.5. **Please note: It is not a violation of Section 1771.1 for an unregistered contractor to submit a bid that is authorized by Section 7029.1 of the Business and Professions Code or by Section 10164 or 20103.5 of the Public Contract Code, provided the contractor is registered to perform public work pursuant to Section 1725.5 at the time the contract is awarded.** Any bids submitted without proof that Bidder and any listed subcontractor(s) are currently registered and qualified to perform public work, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5, shall not be accepted by the City.

In accordance with California Civil Code Section 1771.4, the project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 3300, a valid class A California contractor’s license is required to bid on the project.

The City of Piedmont reserves the right to postpone the date and time for the opening of proposals at any time prior to the date and time announced in the advertisement in accordance with applicable law.

The City of Piedmont reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any defects or irregularity in bidding in accordance with applicable law. In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 20103.8, if the City elects to award a contract for performance of the project, the contract will be awarded in accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 20162 and other applicable law to the responsible bidder submitting a responsive bid with the lowest total bid price for the base bid without consideration of the bid price for any additive or deductive items. All bids will remain valid for 90 days after the bid opening. Except as permitted by law and subject to all applicable remedies, including forfeiture of bidder’s security, bidders may not withdraw their bid during the 90-day period after the bid opening.

By order of the City Council of the City of Piedmont, Alameda County, California.

Daniel GonzalesNov. 4, 2024

Public Works Director
City of Piedmont
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611

Football

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field goal on its next possession after a long 12-play drive, which led to Sam Shelby converting a 37-yard field goal with 9:32 left in the second quarter. Piedmont maintained a narrow 10-0 lead at halftime after a few trades of possession.

Piedmont scored on the opening drive of the third quarter, where Elmquist scored on a 45-yard streak over the middle—making it 17-0 with 9:05 on the clock. Both teams went back and forth with the ball until PHS scored again in the fourth.

Cory Johnson

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This writer, who was in middle school at the time of the Clippers’ cover release, fondly remembers kids flipping their jerseys backwards as the latest fashion trend.

“Rolling Stone readers hated the fashion coverage, but they used athletes in their images. It was the only place to find athletes in Rolling Stone, I looked at that as a chance to do some documentary journalism,” Johnson said.

It enabled Johnson to cover influential athletes in NBA and basketball history, like the original “Steph”. Not Stephen Curry, but Coney Island legend Stephon Marbury.

On an 11-play drive, the Highlanders scored on a nine-yard carry by Ashton with 8:41 left in the game. Newark Memorial scored with 2:59 remaining, making it 24-7. But PHS had an answer after just four plays with a long 42-yard carry by Ashton, making it 31-7 with 1:10 left.

Final stats: Lagios completed 14-23 passes for 178 yards and one touchdown, to go along with 57 rushing yards on five carries. Ashton had 11 carries for 92 yards and three touchdowns, to go along with two tackles for

loss. Elmquist had four receptions for 80 yards and a touchdown. Shelby had six receptions for 54 yards, three carries for 33 yards, and converted all four extra points and one field goal attempt. Henderson had three receptions for 35 yards.

Alemania had three sacks and a tackle for loss. Fischer Veltri had one sack and a tackle for loss. Adrian Kondakov and Brandon Dicke had a tackle for loss.

NEXT UP

No. 3 Piedmont (9-1 overall) hosts No. 6 Fortuna at Witter Field on Friday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m.

and Asia. Basketball has now traveled from the playground of Rucker Park in Harlem and projects of Coney Island to nurturing international stars like Serbia’s Nikola Jokić and Slovenia’s Luka Dončić.

“It makes perfect sense to me and wasn’t a surprise at all. It’s not just one of the greatest games in the world, but its one of the most accessible games. It’s a game for everyone; rich and poor. A Piedmont High School basketball game can be absolutely as fun as a Warriors finals game. That’s because sports is great and basketball is so joyful,” Johnson said.

The Post would like to wish big congratulations to Cory and SLAM Magazine.

The Highlanders will get things started with a scrimmage against San Leandro tomorrow, November 14, at Witter Field. They’ll play their first regular season game against Campolindo next Tuesday, November 19 at Witter Field.

Boys’ Soccer

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Markopoulos, Jacques Saldanha, Max Goldfarb, among others.

“Bosco helps the attack, we’ll have Max at center back, and Lucas Malecki coming in at

goalkeeper has a lot of quality. There are a lot of boys who have played together for several years, so hopefully we can utilize that,” Russell said.

Max Goldfarb

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ing how Max would start practices with “Catch me if you can!” warm-ups. In one legendary practice, Max challenged the team to a scrimmage—10 players against just him. He out-sprinted the Mutt pack and passed the ball up the field... to himself. “It was incredible to watch,” Kramer remembers. “The kids loved every second.”

Max’s impact on the Mutts extends beyond soccer drills and

halftime huddles. He shows up to practices with Halloween treats and finds a way to connect with each kid on the team.

“Max has never given up on us,” said team member Zeke Stein. Sammy Sohn calls him “awesome and kind,” while Ramon Fierro appreciates that Max “is patient with us, even when we’re a little crazy.” Ben Callaway calls it “Max magic,”

adding, “he’s turned us into better players, and we’ve had so much fun along the way.”

Sunday’s final game marked a bittersweet end of an era. The Mangy Mutts are already planning their first road trip to visit Max in college next year, while parent-coaches lament the void he’ll leave behind. The Mutt Force has resolved to play on next season. Max is a hard act to follow, but they’ll welcome other high-energy high schoolers who can help keep the dream alive.

Forgive Me

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selling lacks even a sentence of the personal, the prose seemingly a bit pedestrian. She takes the hint and begins adding her own postscripts to letters she creates.

Suddenly Lee has a few dollars to spend, pays her arrears rent, takes her much loved cat to the vet, and begins to make the rounds of rare book dealers, selling forgeries she types out on a half dozen typewriters, adding to each a practiced signature. Of course she brings to bear her talent for very readable exposition. She’s all in and *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* turns into a delightful forger’s procedural.

Lee also meets at the outset a charming New York denizen who she encounters seated on a familiar bar stool. He is Jack Hock (Richard E. Grant), irrepressible and chron-

ically broke with a hint of living by his wits. He offers a wonderful contrast to Lee, whose heart is hidden behind revetments of hurt and rejection. Jack simply refuses to be less than upbeat, despite her sharp-tongued observations of a world she finds barely tolerable.

They meet often in some of New York’s seediest bars and consume copious amounts of whiskey, Lee’s monologues are awash in cynicism, much to the delight of Jack whose smile triumphs.

Ever curious, always in the hunt for a hook, Jack gets Lee to disclose her new gig. Following his own amoral compass he joins her in a life of crime and hustle, taking his charm and her finely crafted forgeries to rare book dealers as well. The only question is, will they get caught?

Both McCarthy and Grant deliver exceptional performances. Hers is amazing, against type, and nuanced to perfection. McCarthy inhabits Lee Israel, her stocky shape hidden in a perpetual grey-brown overcoat and a pageboy haircut. Every scene demonstrates that she is an exceptional actress who can embrace a role to perfection. Grant is equally perfect as he portrays Jack, the friendly foil who is undependable and self-indulgent, yet decidedly appealing.

Can You Ever Forgive Me? will likely earn both McCarthy and Grant Oscar nods, they are that good.

Can You Ever Forgive Me?
Directed by Marielle Heller. Starring Melissa McCarthy, Richard E. Grant and Dolly Well. 1 hr., 47 min. Rated R. Streaming on Fandango/prime/apple tv. Released in 2018.