

Highlanders swat Hornets in 3-0 volleyball shutout

By Jonathan Comeaux

In a big upset at Binks Rawlings Gym on Friday, October 11, Piedmont's girls' volleyball team pulled off a 3-0 shutout over Alameda by scores of 25-13, 25-13, 25-22. The match was a reversal of a 3-0 loss at Alameda two weeks prior.

"We've been really working hard in practice for situations that we were put in today. I think we prepped well from the last time we played Alameda and we committed to the plan," coach Mariah Cardenas said.

Piedmont's win showed great improvement. So far this season, PHS' young roster showed glimpses of their potential with occasional dominant sets, but couldn't seem to stay consistent over the full course of a match. This time, the Highlanders were picking their shots at the net and frequently landed spikes to the floor.

"We were just playing like a team. In the past, we've had moments where we were playing all together, but tonight we were connected on a higher level.

Everyone was executing, we all trusted each other, and stayed disciplined," senior captain Jules DeYoung said.

Junior Stella Wilks was a big part of the victory with eight kills.

"I feel like the whole team just played cohesively. We kept the energy up throughout the whole game, which is essential. In other games, we've had highs and lows, but this game we stayed consistent," Wilks said.

Match Recap

Piedmont came out of the gate strongly by jumping out to an early 7-2 lead, which included gaining points with two kills from Wilks, one by Charli Panico and Sophie Glass, a block by Mira Sachs, and an ace by DeYoung.

From there, PHS extended the lead to 10-4 with kills by Glass and Sachs, followed by the Highlanders pushing their advantage to 14-6 with two spikes by Wilks and two aces by Kalindi Kim. Alameda inched back to a 14-9 deficit, but Piedmont closed the

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Staff Photos
Players celebrate moments after the final point in a 3-0 shutout of Alameda.



Stella Wilks goes up for one of her eight kills.

Highlanders' girls' golf team overtakes Arroyo

By Robert Wallace

The Piedmont High girls' golf season rolled along at Monarch Bay Golf Course in San Leandro on October 9. With temperatures at 80 degrees, the team beat Arroyo 273 to 303.

The result improved the team's record to 5-4.

Mei Assalian was Piedmont's low medalist with a round of 43, followed by Mackenzie Seto-Nguyen with a 54, Gracie Ann Hatchell 57, Peyton Watson 59, and Samantha Ronen 60.

Piedmont will be back on the links on October 16 for the last match of the year, a 3-way home match against Alameda and San Leandro at Lake Chabot Golf Course. The West Alameda County Conference league championships and North Coast Section tournament are coming up on October 21 and October 28.

Flag football falls to Encinal 22-6



Piedmont's flag football team suffered a 22-6 loss to Encinal.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High's flag football team suffered a 22-6 loss at Encinal on Thursday, October 10. It marked Piedmont's second game of the season against the Jets, where they played significantly better than a 69-12 loss on September 17. PHS was notably without top receiver Dorothy Nemeth.

"I thought we played well. We stayed in the game, especially after the first time we played them. They never looked behind and I appreciate that tonight. Dorothy wasn't here and she's a main go-to at receiver, so our quarterback Edie Elmquist found her other weapons," coach Beth Black said.

One bright spot continues to be the pass rushing presence by Elspeth Grippando. She recorded three sacks against Encinal and is proving to be a nuisance for opposing quarterbacks.

"Elpeth keeps getting stronger. She had three sacks tonight and did a great job at riling up at quarterback. She's putting pressure on the quarterback and forcing them to make quick decisions. We didn't do a good enough job capitalizing on that, so if we can change that, that'll be great going forward," Black said.

Game Recap

Piedmont went into halftime trailing 22-0 but didn't allow another point in the second half.

After a couple trades of possession, Encinal scored first with 15:30 left in the first half on a critical 20-yard pass on 4th-and-Goal by skilled quarterback Jazzy Alcantar—going up 8-0 with a successful two-point conversion. Encinal then scored



Alma Ruberto scored Piedmont's lone touchdown in the second half.



Defender Elspeth Grippando had three sacks against Encinal.

again on a pick-six, running an interception 56 yards to the end zone to make it 14-0 after a failed two-point conversion with 8:40 remaining.

PHS' defense shut down Encinal's next drive, including a pass defense in the end zone by Dahlia Osman, leading to a

turnover on downs. However, Piedmont committed another interception to set up the Jets for a 1st-and-Goal at its own 10—leading two a touchdown with just 1.9 seconds left—making it 22-0 after a successful two-point conversion.

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JV football team falls to Hayward

By Colby Hong

After coming off a three-game win streak, Piedmont JV Scots traveled to Hayward High on Friday, October 11 for its first away game of the season. Dealing with multiple injuries, Piedmont lost 28-8 while playing on unfamiliar ground.

The first half of the game was rough for the Highlanders. After being held to no yards on the first drive, the Highlanders were forced to punt. The Farmers scored on their first drive on a pass over the middle. After an interception thrown by Piedmont, the Farmers jumped out to a 21-0

lead by halftime.

Coming out of the locker room, the Highlanders showed energy to try and get back into the game. On the Farmers' first play of the second half, sophomore defensive back Owen Curran snatched an interception, taking it back to the house for a 30 yard pick-six. It marked Curran's third interception on the season and first touchdown.

Starting quarterback Jimmy Lagios had to leave the action in the first half due to a head injury, with backup quarterback Jonah Cha-Foster taking over. He helped convert the two-point conversion on a pass to Max

Fujimoto.

Although the Highlanders had a glimpse of hope, the rest of the second half was not enough to overtake the Farmers. They allowed one more touchdown in the final minutes.

Injuries proved to be a factor: Three of the four captains were forced to sit out most of the second half. George Saunders suffered a wrist injury, and Fujimoto also had to exit the game.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (3-2-1 overall, 0-1 league) heads to Irvington in Fremont on Friday, October 18 at 4:00 p.m.

City Council Q&A

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suffered a setback when a court case nullified the “all-electric” requirement for new construction (homes and ADUs). Please note that REACH Codes pertain only to energy efficiency measures for existing buildings and were not impacted by the recent code changes. Through the City’s REACH Codes, renovations over \$30,000 and \$115,000 trigger requirements for additional energy efficiency measures into the home. In January 2023, the Sustainability Division presented a Climate Action Plan 2.0 priority implementation areas for 2024/2025, including: The development of an Existing Building Electrification Strategy with the help of a community Task Force. The Task Force has been formed and is working to complete this goal.

James Green, Candidate

Piedmont has been and can continue to be a regional leader in sustainability. The City needs to continue to take a multifaceted approach to reduce greenhouse gasses from City-owned buildings and vehicles – and more importantly cars and activities of Piedmont residents. One way to mitigate GHG from new housing is to incentivize install-

ing electric equipment (kitchen range, water heater, EV charger) and renewable energy sources (like solar) to power these appliances. Increasing the number of City vehicles that are EVs should continue to be an area of exploration, although the vast majority of emissions in Piedmont are from personal vehicles, so that effort should be seen as a signal of the City’s commitment to reducing GHG, not as a solution to the problem. Assuming the approval of the conversion of the Shell gas station at 29 Wildwood Ave into a EV charging station, the City should appropriately highlight that business to residents to address persistent concerns about a lack for charging infrastructure.

Lorrel Plimier, Candidate

Whether in water usage for landscaping, recycling and compost practices, or electrification of municipal buildings and the city’s fleet of vehicles, the city must lead by example in sustainability efforts and also provide incentives for residents to follow suit.

The majority of our city-wide emissions are from transportation and residential energy. The individual choices of the residents living in Piedmont are the major

driver for achieving the goals set out in our Climate Action Plan. The city can impact these choices in a number of ways. From a transportation perspective, we can prioritize having walkable and bikeable streets, and work with regional transportation agencies to maintain viable public transportation. We can also provide the community with fast charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.

The city’s Electrification Task Force, made up of community representatives, is perfectly poised to address residential home emissions. The Task Force’s goal is to “better understand existing barriers to home electrification and create a strategic framework for equitably moving Piedmont’s building stock off of natural gas.” There will be additional opportunities for public input on recommended strategies and solutions. I am committed to the work of this task force and the evaluation of solutions over time.

Nancy Bostrom, Candidate

[No response.]

This question was sent to candidates on Thursday, October 10 via email.

The City of Piedmont will hold its General Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Citizens may vote for any two of the four candidates listed above.

Flag Football

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But Piedmont came out strong in the second half, forcing a turnover on downs at the Encinal 36-yard line. Miya Fujimoto took PHS’ first play 17 yards to set up 1st-and-Goal from the Jets’ 19. On 3rd-and-Goal, quarterback Edie Elmquist hit Alma Ruberto for a 17-yard touchdown with 19:30 on the clock. A failed extra point made it 22-6.

After back-and-forth trades of

possession, Piedmont was hard-done by an inadvertent whistle that wiped off a touchdown. On a 3rd-and-11, Fujimoto took a carry and spun around a tackler to hit the open field and begin storming toward the end zone—which would’ve been a 51-yard carry. However, the official blew his whistle when Fujimoto was at the Encinal 30. After that, PHS tossed four straight incompletions

to turnover on downs with 4:10 left in the game.

Final stats: Ruberto had one touchdown on four receptions, along with one tackle on defense. Fujimoto had five receptions and four carries. Grippando had three sacks. Osman had four tackles, and one pass defense. Mary Schickedanze had two pass defenses.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (5-7 overall, 2-3 league)

The Dying Girl

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When Greg arrives, Rachel, resisting, says she doesn’t need a pity-visit. He tells her he’s only there because his mom made him. She’s not sure what is worse. And so it goes. To his surprise, he returns, finding Rachel smart and interesting and facing mostly dark days and months ahead.

Look up the word immortality in the dictionary and you’ll find a picture of an adolescent. When you’re 17, life stretches before you like so many countless luminiscent lights, endlessly bright and beckoning. It’s unimaginable that anything could occur that would

break the strand. And yet, we know it happens though it seems so improbable, so against the rules of the universe as to be rendered unimaginable. Until it isn’t.

For Greg and Rachel, her illness, at least initially, is an abstraction, her life and appearance unchanged. And Greg returns and they hangout together and gradually the imperceptible becomes the perceptible. The disease makes itself known.

Greg reminds the audience that this is not a romance. He’s watched enough movies to know. If it were a standard boy-girl

story there would be music and a kiss (or two) and all that. But this is instead about Greg and Earl (who occasionally joins Greg) and Rachel and a nascent friendship that comes to mean more to Greg than he could ever have anticipated. And there is, of course, that promised happy ending. Unless it isn’t.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl is a thoughtful, touching film. One not to be missed.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl. Directed by Alfonso Gomez-Rejon. Starring Thomas Mann, Olivia Cooke, R.J. Cyler. 1 hr., 45 min. Rated PG-13. Released in 2015.

1883

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reluctantly agrees to travel with but not join Shea’s wagon train, comprised of Slavic and German immigrants, their wagons laden with all that they possess, and incapable of understanding what the journey before them will entail.

At their core all they know is that they will never return to the repression and poverty of their country of origin. Theirs is a desperate dream of “freedom,” their destination Oregon, a name that

is merely an abstraction as are the Great Plains and its unforgiving rivers.

A few comments about the writing: it is remarkable, the story wonderfully imagined, and made manifest in the almost lyrical voice-over by Elsa, 17, who is soon transformed into a young woman, struggling to understand what she sees and experiences. Isabel May’s portrayal is superb. Ditto the performances of Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. Sam

Elliot, as the quintessential, hard-shelled, weathered wagon train boss is remarkable, but then he is always outstanding, no matter the role. And there’s LaMonica Garrett as Thomas Hill, also a veteran of the war, who partners with Shea from the outset to the tragic conclusion.

1883. An episodic origin series. Written and directed by Taylor Sheridan. Starring Sam Elliot, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Isabel May. Rated R. Streaming on Paramount+/apple tv/prime/Fandango

Volleyball

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set by winning 11 of the next 15 points. During that span, PHS gained points with kills by Glass and DeYoung, while Wilks and DeYoung logged individual aces.

In the second set, Piedmont got out to a 5-2 lead with two aces by Wilks, one by Allyson Huynh, and a kill by Wilks. Fiona Olsen and Sachs added kills to make it 7-3. From there, AHS cut the deficit to 11-9, but that’s the closest things got with Alameda only scoring four more points from there. Piedmont went on a 8-2 scoring run to go up 19-11 with two kills by Wilks, two by DeYoung, one by Sachs, and an ace by Wilks. For their final six points, PHS scored one kill by Panico, a block by Glass, while Olsen logged the winning spike, 25-13.

The third set was a much closer battle with seven lead changes. Piedmont opened to an early 6-3 lead with kills by Wilks and Panico, while DeYoung won a block. Alameda then scored five

straight to go up 8-6, followed by three straight points by Piedmont with a kill by Sachs and two aces by Nora Trombi. Both sides traded points until Alameda held a 17-15 advantage.

From there, Piedmont went on a six-point scoring run to help win the match, including kills by Olsen and Sachs, while DeYoung won two aces. After Alameda gained a point via a Piedmont error, the Highlanders scored three straight with a kill by Panico, a block by Sachs, and an ace by Trombi—24-18. Alameda then scored four straight points to bring them within two at 24-22, but Piedmont won its final point when an Alameda spike attempt sailed past the back line.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (3-14 overall, 1-4 league) travels to Encinal in Alameda today, October 16, for a 7:00 p.m. match. They will host Castro Valley two days later on Friday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m.



Jules DeYoung was a big part of the win with several kills, blocks, and aces.

Brave

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To further drive home her wishes to be her own person, she dominates the archery contest with extraordinary skill and accuracy. But when her mother insists that she will accept the best suitor, Merida runs away into the forest. To her surprise she comes upon a cottage inhabited by an old witch, a crone with magical powers who tells the princess that she can, indeed, cast a spell on Elinor. Merida rashly, rebelliously, agrees. She realizes, too late, however, that her decision has some unintended consequences. In other words, be careful what you wish for when

you say, “I want my freedom!” *Brave*, has more than a few Disneyesque life lessons that result in some tender moments between daughter and mother. This is a wonderfully animated tale that is easy to like. And it’s Pixar’s first female lead out of 13 feature films.

Brave. Directed by Mark Andrews, Brenda Chapman. Pixar animation. With voices of Kelly MacDonald, Bill Connolly, Emma Thompson. 1 hr., 33 min. Rated PG. Streaming on Fandango/Prime/Disney+/apple tv. Released in 2012.

Inside Out

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that takes place all of our lives. This may be Riley’s first experience with an unfamiliar spectrum of emotions, but it won’t be her last. And beginning on the journey of dealing with the crew up in the wheelhouse, to include Sadness and Fear and Anger, as well as Joy, she must make choices and sort stuff out. Of course, it’s all a central if imperfect part of life. It’s also the meaning of “growing up” (a

lifelong process). Which Riley eventually comes to realize.

Inside Out is an extraordinary film.

Inside Out. Directed by Pete Docter. Voiced by Amy Poehler, Phyllis Smith, Richard Kind. Pixar Animation and Walt Disney Pictures. 1hr., 34 min. Rated: PG. Streaming on Fandango/prime/MAX/Disney+/apple tv. Released 2015.