Flag football team wins two of last three

By Jonathan Comeaux

Quarterback Edie Elmquist makes a play against Berkeley. *Staff Photos*

Piedmont High's girls' flag football team wrapped up a successful week with two wins out of its last three games. It started with a 14-12 win over San Leandro at Witter Field on Tuesday, September 24 then followed with a 19-14 win over Hayward on the Farmers' home field two days later.

The wins were bookended by a 32-0 loss at Berkeley on Monday, September 30, but the result is accompanied with an asterisk. After Berkeley provided the wrong starting time for Monday's game, PHS was forced to promote a collection of Junior Varsity players to their Varsity starting lineup.

"On our schedule it was 5:30 p.m. and we wound up losing half the varsity squad and JV stepped up. We played tonight with a totally new group. It's not an excuse, but that was the circumstances," coach Beth Black said.

Piedmont's wins over San Leandro and Hayward started its first win streak of the season. PHS defeated the Pirates via a late touchdown by NAME with just nine seconds remaining, while they beat Hayward

Piedmont's record now sits at 3-5 overall and 1-2 against Western Alameda County Conference foes. Qualifying for the North Coast Section postseason requires at least a .500 winning percentage on overall or league records. PHS will get one more chance with Berkeley in the regular-season finale on October 24.

Despite the loss, JV call-up Riley Burton showed she might be ready for the varsity, leading the Highlanders offensively as a running back and receiver, and recording runs of 13, 18, and a 33 yards. Defensive back Bea Nackley made an interception in the first half.

"It was great to see Bea get an interception. She has been really close to getting one on JV and was called up tonight," said Black. "Riley Burton also stepped up and did a great job. After her first run, you could see her confidence build. Not only did she have great runs, but she communication well with our quarterback Edie Elmquist."

PHS has two games in successive days this week. They travel to Mt. Eden in Hayward today, October 2, then host Tennyson on Thursday, October 3.

14-12 win vs. San Leandro

Piedmont had an early 7-0 lead but fell behind 12-7 in the second half and scored the game-winner on the very last possession of the game. With nine seconds left, quarterback Edie Elmquist hit Malia Williams running a flat route. With open space, Williams used her speed to sprint all the way to the end zone.

19-14 win over Hayward

Against Hayward, Piedmont went into halftime holding a 13-0 lead but fell behind 14-13 in the second half. This time, PHS scored the eventual game-winner with 3:25 left in the game when Elmquist found receiver Dorothy Nemeth for her third touchdown reception.

Piedmont's first score came with 17:25 left in the first half on 3rd-and-Goal at the Hayward four when Elmquist found Nemeth in the back of the end zone. Nemeth scored again with 11:40 left in the first half, this time on a 10-yard catch and run from a crossing route underneath—making it 13-0 following a failed extra point conversion.

Hayward broke its drought with an interception return for a touchdown with 17:40 remaining in the second half, converting a 10-yard two-point conversion to make it 13-8. The Farmers then forced a punt and scored with 10:15 left in the game, making it 14-12 following a missed two-point conversion.

PHS retained possession on its game-winning drive with 9:15 on the clock, shaving off six minutes on their way to the end zone. On the winning pass, Elmquist found Nemeth on a cut back route one yard into the end zone on a two-yard pass.

The Farmers had one last drive in the final minute to make things interesting. On the final play, they hurled a pass down inside Piedmont's five-yard line, but Dahlia Osman was there to make the tackle as time expired.

Dahlia Osman makes a touch against a Berkeley player.

32-0 to Berkeley varsity

Without its full varsity roster, Piedmont fell behind 25-0 by halftime and the Yellowjackets added one more score in the second half. Final stats: Osman had four tackles, two pass defenses, and six receptions. Alma Ruberto had four tackles, one tackle for loss, and a reception. Nackley had one interception. Stephanie Lee had a tackle and a pass defense. Burton picked up 50 yards on three receptions and five carries.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (3-5 overall, 1-2 league)

Piedmont falls 3-0 to Alameda

Staff Photos

Piedmont's girls' volleyball team suffered a 3-0 loss to Alameda.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High's girls' volleyball team took a 3-0 loss on the road to Alameda on Wednesday, September 25 by scores of 25-8, 25-8, 25-13. The result brings Piedmont's record to 1-9 entering the final month of play with eight matches left.

Piedmont now looks ahead to visiting Western Alameda County Conference powerhouse, Bishop O'Dowd, next Tuesday, October 8.

Game Recap

In the first set, Piedmont got out to a quick 3-2 lead with kills by Hanley Carling, but the set quickly unraveled. At that point, Alameda went on a 10-0 scoring run to jump ahead 12-3 before Piedmont's Stella Wilk scored a kill. After that, Alameda scored 10 of the next 12 points, including four kills and three aces. Fiona Olsen scored a kill, but alameda finished the set with three straight point.

Piedmont similarly won the opening two points of the second set thanks to a kill by Carling and an error by the Hornets. The two sides traded points, including kills by Wilks and Carling, until Alameda held a one-point 7-6 lead. That's when the Hornets went on another exhausting scoring run, landing eight straight points before Carling scored another spike. Following that, Alameda scored another nine straight points including five kills and two aces. Carling got one more kill before the close of the second set.

The Highlanders were competitive for the first half of the third set before falling behind. Piedmont actually battled to an 8-7 lead thanks to kills by Carling, #11 and Sophie Glass, and an ace by Charli Panico. PHS only briefly held the advantage when the Hornets went on a three point scoring run to go up 11-8.

PHS then scored two points to cut the deficit to one point at 11-10, but the Hornets then went on another long-lasting streak of points. Alameda scored 11 straight points with four kills and four aces to their credit to go up 22-10. Piedmont's Olsen and Wilks slammed in spikes to give Piedmont two straight points, but Alameda closed the game with a pair of kills of its own.

Final stats: Carling had seven kills, Olsen had two kills, Wilk had four, Julia Stokes had one block, Panico had one ace.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (1-9 overall, 0-2 league) will play at Bishop O'Dowd on Tuesday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Hanley Carling (5) had six kills against Alameda. Also pictured is Allyson Huynh.

Stella Wilk had four kills against the Hornets.

PIEDMONT SPORTS SCHEDULE

Some events subject to change. (Revised - 10/2/24)

Date	Day	Sport	Opponent	Loc.	Var.	JV.
Oct. 2	Wed.	XC	WACC Center Meet #2 at Pinole Point	A	3:30	3:30
		FF	Mt. Eden (Hayward)	A	4:30	------
Oct. 3	Thurs.	WP-B	Lick-Wilmerding (San Francisco)	A	4:00	6:00
		WP-G	Lick-Wilmerding	A	5:00	7:00
		FF	Tennyson	H	7:30	6:00
		TEN	Berkeley	A	3:30	------
Oct. 4	Fri.	FB	Dougherty Valley	H	7:00	4:00
Oct. 5	Sat.	XC	Artichoke Invitational (Half Moon Bay)	A	11:25	9:00
Oct. 7	Mon.	VB	Bishop O'Dowd	A	6:30	5:30
Oct. 8	Tues.	WP-B	Encinal	A	5:30	4:30
		WP-B	Encinal	A	6:30	7:30
		FF	Castro Valley	A	5:15	4:00

KEY: H = Home; A = Away; FB = Football; FF = Girls' Flag Football.; WP-B = Boys' Water Polo; WP-G = Girls' Water Polo; XC = Cross Country; VB = Girls' Volleyball; TEN = Girls' Tennis