

SPORTS

Piedmont blanks Mt. Eden 35-0 in 3rd week of season

By Jonathan Comeaux

Friday night's football game was a one-sided affair in Piedmont High's third game of the season, shutting out the visiting Mt. Eden Monarchs 35-0 under the lights at Witter Field on Friday, September 13. It wasn't the fastest start for the Highlanders in a scoreless he first quarter and relinquishing its opening two possessions without a score before breaking the deadlock late in the second quarter.

"I kind of had a feeling we would come out slow. A football saying is, 'You can't play with your food.' Mt. Eden played hard, but we've dominated this team in our last two meetings. When you get used to that, it can make people lackadaisical a bit. It was just a sloppy start but we cleaned things up," coach Jordan Seiden said.

Piedmont's defenders were in Mt. Eden's backfield frequently for the entire night, recording 11 tackles for loss. Inside linebacker Cash Elmquist wreaked havoc on the Monarchs, constantly lining up over center and shooting between Mt. Eden's offensive line.

"We were confident coming in but we weren't happy with that first quarter. We changed up a little with five down linemen and our defense just started eating; a lot of tackles for loss and almost had a couple of interceptions," Elmquist said.

One new player, Xavier Anderson, has also made an impact on both sides of the ball. The junior transferred to Piedmont from Oakland Tech, lining up at outside linebacker, running back, and can reel in a reception as a receiver—recording his first touchdown for Piedmont.



Xavier Anderson tackles a Mt. Eden running back for a loss.



Quarterback Markos Lagios flattens a Mt. Eden defender with a stiff-arm.



Linebacker Cash Elmquist led the team with 11 tackles. Staff Photos

"We started a little slow, but coach had some words in the locker room that fired us up. We just had to come out and execute. But that was my first touchdown in the 'P'; it feels great, I love it. I'm happy to be here, it's a great culture," Anderson said.

Piedmont has two games left in its pre-league schedule – Encinal this Friday and Dougherty Valley on October 4, both at home. Seiden knows it's important for PHS to remain healthy before taking on its Mission Division competition in the Western Alameda County Conference. Piedmont's schedule with league teams starts October 11 at Hayward.

"We need to just stay healthy. That's not to say we're overlooking anyone, but we know we have to stay healthy over a full season to compete for league and NCS," Seiden said.

Game Recap

Piedmont and Mt. Eden ended the first quarter in a 0-0 tie, but the Highlanders got rolling in the second quarter and held a 14-0 lead at halftime. PHS scored three touchdowns in the third

quarter to put the game out of reach at 35-0.

Both teams traded possession until Piedmont assumed a short field at the Mt. Eden 32 following a botched punt in the second quarter. PHS scored in seven plays to make it 7-0 with 4:53 left in the first half when quarterback Markos Lagios scored on a four-year touchdown run.

PHS forced a punt on Mt. Eden's next series then scored after just five plays on a 55-yard drive. It started with a big 26 yard carry by Lagios, then hit Shelby on a pair of 13-yard gains. Tommy Ashton then ran the ball into the end zone on a five-yard carry with 1:32 on the clock.

Piedmont started with the ball in the third quarter, scoring on a 70-yard series of plays within three minutes. It started with a 24 yard carry by Ashton, then Shelby had receptions of 25 and 18 yards to make it 1st-and-Goal at the five. At the one-yard line, Lagios found Anderson on a play-action pass—21-0 with 9:10 on the clock.

The Highlanders' next touchdown came on just one play, where Shelby took a reception 77 yards to the house to make it 28-0 with 7:17 left in the third. On the play, Shelby initially caught the ball on the left side, switching the field to sprint down the right side-line into the end zone.

After another Mt. Eden punt, Piedmont scored its final touchdown with 2:16 left in the third on a 10-play, three minute series. They capped it off on Lagios' second touchdown run, this time on a four-yard scamper.

Final stats: Lagios completed 12-19 passes for 208 yards and two touchdowns, to go along with 44 rushing yards and another two touchdowns. Ashton had 61 rushing yards on 12 carries and a touchdown. Shelby had 10 receptions for 202 yards and a touchdown, to go along with 29 rushing yards on three attempts. Anderson had one touchdown.

Defensively, Elmquist had three tackles for loss and a pass defense. Jordan Alemania also had three tackles for loss. Anderson, Rehan Mumtaz, Nick King, Brandon Dicke, and Bill Ashton also had individual tackles for loss.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (2-1) hosts Encinal at Witter Field this Friday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Piedmont completes first meet of season at Ed Sias Invitational

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High's cross country team completed its first meet of the season at the Ed Sias Invitational at Hidden Valley Park in Martinez on Saturday, September 14. The girls' team finished seventh of 11 schools while their boys placed 11th of 20.

"All of the runners dug deep and tried hard. This was our first meet and the first real test to see how our training is working to develop the fitness and speed of the runners," coach Steve Zirkelbach said.

Junior Skylar Best led the Highlanders by finishing 17th of 100 runners with a time of 13:50. Behind Best was sophomore Amalia Gray in 22nd in 13:54.54.

"Skylar Best led the way and only 4.6 seconds behind Best was Amalia Gray. She had a terrific race and shaved 1:11 off her time from last year," Zirkelbach said.

Piedmont's next three runners rounded out the school's five scoring runners. Sophomore Gladwin Horsely was 33rd in 14:15.52, junior Cora Chun was 34th in 14:15.80, then senior Carolina Taylor was 35th in 14:15.84.

"The second through sixth varsity girls came through the first mile together, separated by only 1 second," noted Zirkelbach."This type of great team-



Photo by Jenni Tsoi

Skylar Best led the way for Piedmont's girls' varsity cross-country team, placing 17th of 100 runners at the Ed Sias Invitational in Martinez.

work and close finishing is what can win team races, and our both of the girls squads really understand this and continually work together and run as a strong pack, helping and pushing each other to be competitive,"

Aside from the varsity race, Piedmont's girls' frosh/soph won its event in a packed field of 17 schools. Making her mark was

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Oliver Horsley (left) and Thomas Ero helped the boys' team finish 11th of 20 schools.



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