

Football team drops season-opener to Salesian

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High’s football team opened its season on Friday, August 30 with a one-sided 46-14 loss to Salesian in its first game at Witter Field since 2022. After scoring the game’s opening score and clinging onto a 14-14 tie in the third quarter, the Highlanders gave up 32 unanswered points in the second half.

“It was a tough game. We had ample opportunities to take control but it just didn’t happen. Whether it was a variety of play calling, some miscommunication, or bad snaps, we really shot ourselves in the foot,” said PHS head coach Jordan Seiden.

Despite the loss, it was a packed house at Witter and brought together a loud student-cheering section to embrace Piedmont’s renewed football culture.

“It would have been nice to be back at home with a W,” Seiden said, “but, it was nice to see the JV team come out and fight. That was really inspirational just to see how far they have come.”

Although the Highlanders struck first and held a tie into the third quarter, things fell apart as the size and skill of Salesian began to take its toll. PHS was held to one first down following their tying touchdown in the third quarter.

The Highlanders look ahead to another tough test this Friday against Middletown. The Mustangs started their season with a 33-14 win over Piner and finished



Photos by Jonathan Comeaux and Ken DeCrosta
Sam Shelby (2) scores Piedmont’s opening touchdown.

last year with an 8-3 record and advancing to the North Coast Section playoffs.

“Middletown will be a tough, physical game,” predicted Seiden. “They are physical up front, they run a lot of Wing T, run it straight down at you, and have a lot of movement. But we have to come out and play football; it’s not about what the other team is doing, it’s what we’re doing. We have to do our job and give ourselves a chance.”

Game Recap

Piedmont led 7-0 at the end of the first quarter but trailed 14-7 by halftime. PHS tied the game 14-14 early in the third quarter, but Salesian scored five straight touchdowns to put the game away.

The Highlanders struck first after recovering an onside kick to open the game. From the 50-yard line, quarterback Markos Lagios threw a touchdown pass to Brandon Dicke wide open on a broken play. After Lagios reeled in a high snap, he rolled to the right toward the line of scrimmage. Salesian’s defensive backfield didn’t account for Dicke, allowing Lagios to toss a ball over the defense to Dicke—who ran about 20 yards after the catch into the end zone. An extra point by Sam Shelby made it 7-0 after just 21 seconds of play.

PHS forced a punt on Salesian’s opening possession and drove to the Pride’s 14-yard line following a trick play where Shelby threw a pass as a receiver to Dicke for a big 28-yard gain. However, the drive stopped with a turnover on downs at the 10-yard line. Piedmont’s defense then forced a turnover on Salesian’s next possession, where Xavier Anderson punched out the ball on a tackle and Jason Shum recovered.

Salesian tied the game with 10:10 left in the second quarter on a long pass. After forcing a punt, Salesian scored again on another long pass with 5:36 left in the first half to take a 14-7 lead.

In the third quarter, Piedmont scored on their opening possession. Starting at the Salesian 49 after recovering an onside kick, PHS drove to the end zone in six plays, capping off with a nine-yard reception by Shelby on a

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Piedmont’s Xavier Anderson (13) celebrates after the defense forced a turnover.



It was a welcome-back to Witter Field for Piedmont’s football team, playing their first game at their home stadium since 2022.

Highlanders suffer season-opening loss to Las Lomas

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont’s flag football team opened its season on Wednesday, August 28 at Witter Field with a 28-6 loss to Las Lomas. PHS got on the board late in the game, showing improvement after suffering some jitters in the first game of the season.

“Our goal of this game was execution. We’ve built an offensive system and have practiced it. We struggled with it last week at our scrimmage, but we were able to execute today. We looked like a football team, looked tough, and are moving in the right direction,” said coach Beth Black.

The game included a positive performance by running back Kalyani Speickerman and receiver/defensive back Dahlia Osman. Speickerman led the team offensively with several long runs, while Osman had some critical first-downs and led the defense in tackles (flags pulled).

“She picked up a lot of yards. She didn’t play at the running

back spot much last year and mostly caught short passes. She also stepped into the role with our usual starter, Miya Fujimoto, out,” Black said of Speickerman.

Scoring Piedmont’s touchdown was tall receiver Dorothy Nemeth, reeling in a pass from Edie Elmquist.

The Highlanders look ahead to a game at Berean Christian in Walnut Creek on Tuesday, September 10. PHS starts their Western Alameda County Conference league schedule the following week on September 17 when hosting Encinal.

Game Recap

Las Lomas went ahead 6-0 after a few minutes of action and led 14-0 with 1:53 left in the 24-minute first half. Las Lomas extended its lead to 28-0 with 8:10 left in the game, but Piedmont was able to score with 3:05 remaining.

After Las Lomas’ opening score, Piedmont drove into the

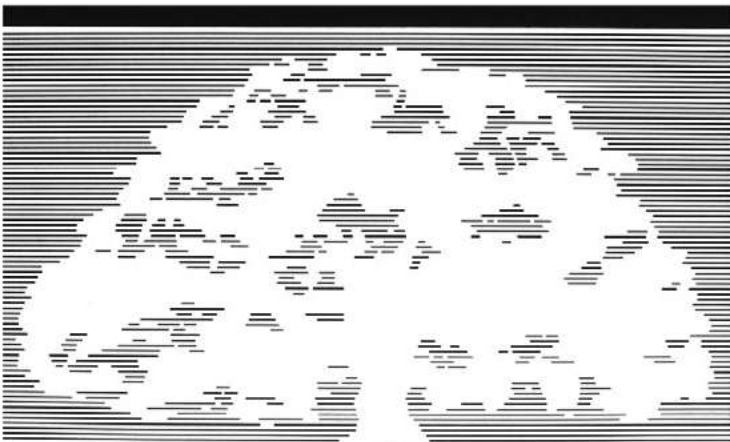
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Staff Photos
Kalyani Speickerman had several big runs against Las Lomas.



Quarterback Edie Elmquist (left) and receiver Dorothy Nemeth celebrate after connecting for a touchdown.



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Flag Football

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Knights' half, but turned over on downs at the Knights' 23-yard line. The Highlanders' defense then forced a turnover on downs, thanks to a big tackle by Edie Elmquist on 4th-and-7, one yard short of the first down. After multiple trades of possession, Las Lomas scored after a long 22-yard run to Piedmont's one-yard line followed by a short TD pass – making it 14-0 after a successful two-point conversion.

In the second half, the Knights forced a turnover on downs then

scored on a four-play drive for a 21-0 lead. The Knights got their final score on an 11-play series, capped off with a touchdown on a 4th-and-goal from Piedmont's four-yard line.

The Highlanders got their touchdown on a long drive with 3:05 remaining.

Kalyani Spieckerman ran for 11 yards on two plays, but faced a 4th-and-9 when Dahlia Osman ran for a first down. Spieckerman then carried for 13 yards, followed by another nine-yard gain by Osman.

Spieckerman ran 17 yards to the one-yard line, and Elmquist tossed a touchdown pass to receiver Dorothy Nemeth. A two-point conversion was unsuccessful.

Final stats were not recorded.

Tuesday vs. University

Piedmont hosted University of San Francisco on Tuesday, September 3. See next week's Post for game details.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (0-1) travels to Berean Christian in Walnut Creek on Tuesday, September 10 for a 4:30 p.m. game.



Piedmont's flag football team suffered a 28-6 loss to open its season against Las Lomas. Staff Photos

Volleyball

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lead to 16-12. However, the Wolverines steadily came back until taking a late lead on their way to a two-point win.

In Piedmont's win of the second set, Wilk led the way for the Highlanders with four kills. Carling helped notch three

spikes, while Olson and DeYoung also had three. As for the third set 27-25 loss, Olson led Piedmont with three kills and a block, Wilks had two kills and a block, while Carling had two spikes.

Deer Valley's 25-23 match clinching fourth set, the two

teams traded points with back-and-forth lead changes. Piedmont held a 16-13 advantage, but Deer Valley stormed back to a 19-17 advantage. PHS then scored three straight points, including spikes from Allyson Huyhn and Wilks, to go up 20-19. Piedmont then led 22-20, but DVHS scored three straight to go ahead 23-22. Carling tied the game at 23-23 with a kill, but Deer Valley gained match point on a Piedmont offensive error, then won the match with an ace.

Final stats: Wilks had 13 kills and two blocks. DeYoung had four kills and one block. Carling had 11 kills. Olson had nine kills.

3-0 shutout by St. Joseph

St. Joseph won 3-0 by scores of 25-15, 25-11, 25-18. Final stats were not provided.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (0-2) heads to Skyline in Oakland tonight, September 4, for a 7:00 p.m. game. They head to Campolindo in Moraga the next day, September 5, at 6:30 p.m.



Sophomore Fiona Olson had nine spikes in a match with Deer Valley.

Religion Corner

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I go for a follow up evaluation in three months. I certainly hope the radiation has done its intended work. There are, of course, never any guarantees. So, my journey continues. I do not see myself as a warrior or conqueror, but as a pilgrim. I walk a well-traveled path, I walk with many friends, I walk with wise guides, I walk with an

unseen presence sustaining me, and I walk toward healing, even if that healing does not include a cure.

Pastor Jim Hopkins is Senior Minister of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, Lakeshore Avenue at Mandana Boulevard in Oakland. jim@labcoakland.org

Football

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screen pass. The TD brought Piedmont even at 14-14 with 10:11 on the clock.

It was the last time Piedmont got on the scoreboard. Salesian's big, bruising linemen took charge, holding PHS to one first-down in the remaining time, which didn't come until their last possession of the game.

Final stats: Lagios completed eight passes for 108 yards and two touchdowns. Tommy Ashton had 60 rushing yards on eight

carries, to go along with seven tackles on defense. Anderson had 24 rushing yards on four carries, in addition to 13 tackles and a forced fumble. Dicke had two receptions for 84 yards, a touchdown, and 12 tackles. Shelby had seven receptions for 57 yards. Cash Elmquist had 10 tackles.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (0-1) hosts Middletown at Witter Field this Friday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Bumblebee

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benign-looking VW transforms and there standing before her is a huge banana yellow bot. It's a meet cute scene that ends with a startled, at-first-disbelieving Charlie naming the Transformer Bumblebee. As she learns, he proves to be a gentle, even timid, giant. And after catching her breath, she and B.B. tentatively bond. Actually, as it turns out, both, in a way, are hiding out (for B.B. the stakes are much higher) and they begin what proves to be a touching friendship.

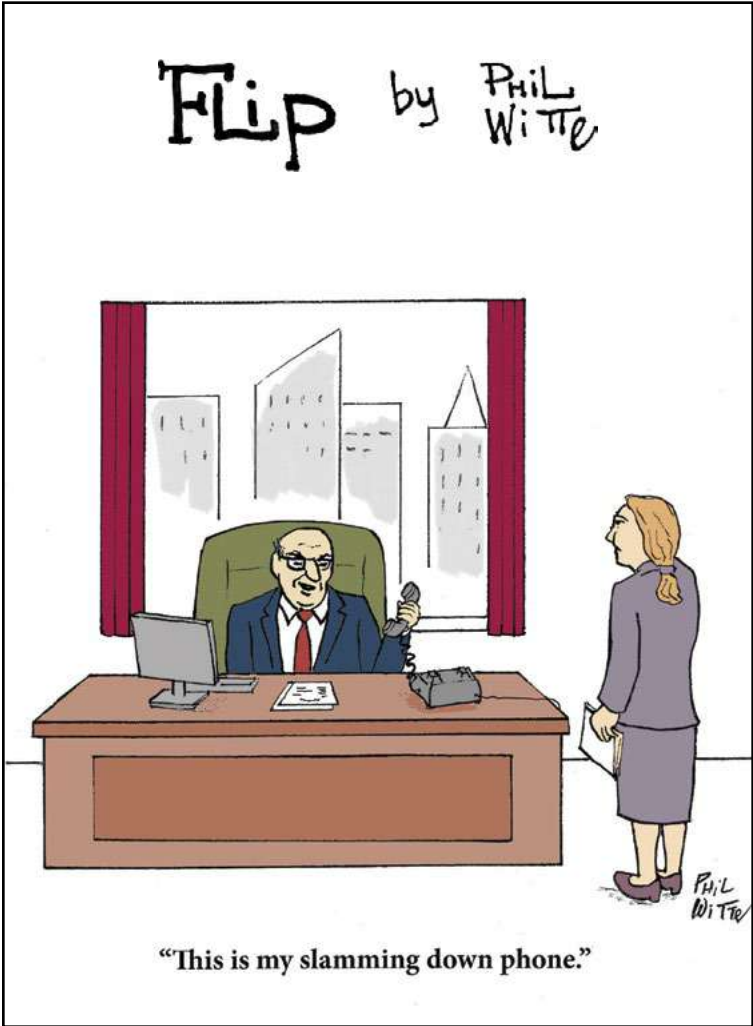
And it's at this point in the story that Charlie's adventure begins. This is a relationship story, and that essence is never lost due to a welcomed absence of a haze of vacuous special effects battle scenes. Even when the Decepticons locate Bumblebee (we learned in the initial set up that he is on a mission for Optimus Prime) the film doesn't drop off a cliff into vacuous violence that became

the brand for the five sequels.

Bumblebee is a genuinely good movie that engages and entertains. It's perfect for those tweens and newbie teens who likely don't have a clue what life was like in 1987 (and have not heard the sound track period songs), but understand what it feels like to discover a bot in the home garage.

The film happens to come along at Christmas and beckons to parents and kids alike to spend two hours with this Hasbro endorsed tale that has the iconic E.T. embedded in scene after scene. It's simply a user-friendly family film.

Bumblebee. Directed by Travis Knight. Starring Hallee Steinfeld, John Cena, John Ortiz. 1 hr., 54 min. Rated PG-13. Released in 2018, Now streaming on Fandango/prime/Paramount/apple tv.



SUDOKU SOLUTION

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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36	U	L	N	A	37	U	N	I	T	E	38	N	E	R	O	
39	S	L	O	W	40	W	I	T	T	E	D	41	G	O	E	R
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57	A	D	U	L	T	58	T	E	A	L	59	S	A	L	E	
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