

SPORTS

Piedmont takes third in WACC Tournament

Linnane leads with 6 goals against Castro Valley

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's boys' water polo team finished third in the Western Alameda County Conference Championship Tournament after defeating Castro Valley 15-8 on Saturday, October 28 at Encinal, but losing two days earlier in a heated 10-9 overtime match with Berkeley.

"Winning league is nice, but our goal is to win NCS (North Coast Section). That's still in front of us. We played really tough and knew our league had some quality opponents this year. We're going into NCS feeling confident, I want to see how we respond," said first year head coach Rik Krumins.

The loss to Berkeley finished with controversy. Finn Burke drew a foul a few feet in front of net with four seconds left. However, the scorer's desk never stopped the clock when the foul was committed and the referees did not have their eyes on the clock. Before Piedmont could set up for a final play time on the clock had expired.

Head coach Rik Krumins and assistant coach John Savage instantly made their way to the scorer's desk to voice their grievance, but to no avail.

"They (the officials) have a really tough job and this was a great game. with two really evenly matched teams," said Krumins.

Piedmont's defeat means their run of three consecutive league titles is over. The goal for a Division 2 North Coast Section championship is still in front of them. PHS enters the NCS postseason with the No. 4 seed and a first-round bye.

15-8 over Castro Valley

Piedmont ended the first quarter with a 3-2 lead before getting out to a 9-5 advantage by half-time. Castro Valley drew closer 11-7 in the third quarter, but Piedmont added four goals and con-



Staff Photos

Piedmont finishes third in the WACC Tournament and looks ahead to the NCS postseason as the No. 4 seed.

ceded just one in the fourth.

After trailing 1-0, there were back-and-forth possessions before Piedmont's first score by Declan Linnane with a man-advantage at the 2:50 mark. Peter Krumins then scored two straight goals to go up 3-1 with 1:33 left, while CV scored on its next possession.

In the second period, Linnane scored four straight goals to put PHS up 7-2 before conceding the Trojans' next goal. Linnane added one more to make it 8-3 with 1:23 to go, while George Stein scored at the very last second to make it 9-5 going into halftime.

Burke scored 20 seconds into the third, 10-5, but CV scored two to draw closer 10-7 with 2:43 on the clock. Leo Hurwitz scored for Piedmont to make it 11-7 with 37 seconds left in the third. But PHS opened the fourth quarter with three straight goals by Burke, Elles Kreickhaus, and Stein to lead 14-7 with 4:17 to go. CV scored its last goal with 38 seconds left, while Elles Kreickhaus put the exclamation point on the game by scoring with nine seconds left.

Final stats: Linnane scored six goals, two assists, and steals. Stein scored two goals, two

assists, one steal. Burke scored three goals, one steal. Kreickhaus had two goals and two steals. Krumins scored twice and had one assist. Luke McAuliffe had four saves, Gus von Metszch had two saves and three steals.

10-9 overtime loss to Berkeley

The semifinal first quarter ended in a 1-1 deadlock after Burke scored the game's initial goal 45 seconds in. Piedmont got out to a 3-1 lead in the second quarter with goals from Burke and Hurwitz, but the Yellowjackets eventually battled back to tie 3-3 with 3:27 left in the first half. McAuliffe had a big save with 1:05 left to keep it tied, while Hurwitz had a shot trail narrowly high with 48 seconds.

In the third, Berkeley gained the lead after 30 seconds but Daniel Banin scored on a break-away to tie 4-4 with 5:29 on the clock. Berkeley then scored in close distance at 3:36 but Linnane scored on an assist from Hurwitz 20 seconds later, 5-5. Berkeley regained the lead at 3:03, but Krumins scored on a sidearm shot 30 seconds later, 6-6. Stein got Piedmont back out in front 7-6 at 1:23, but Berkeley tied on its next possession.

Piedmont had two chances to score to open the fourth with two shots by Banin ringing against the crossbar. Hurwitz then scored with a man-advantage at 5:03 left on an assist from Stein. Krumins had a shot tipped onto the post 45 seconds later, while Hurwitz had a shot blocked and Linnane had a shot trail wide. Those misses came back to haunt PHS with Berkeley tying the match at 2:51 and taking the lead at 2:08.

The Highlanders then drew another penalty, leading to Krumins scoring on an assist from Hurwitz with 1:33 left, 9-9, leading to overtime.

In the first of two three-minute overtime periods, both sides went scoreless through the first three minutes with both sides having multiple shots miss the target. McAuliffe recorded two saves through the period.

In the second, Berkeley scored after 25 seconds to gain the 10-9 lead, and then sat defensively. Krumins had a shot go wide at 1:42, while Piedmont gained a man-advantage with 1:05 left. Krumins had a shot clang against

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Football team in 1st place entering final game

Highlanders trample American, 52-30

By Jonathan Comeaux

With a football program revived after three years of questions about its survival, Piedmont is on the verge of capturing the Western Alameda County Conference's Shoreline Division title. By defeating American of Fremont 52-30 on Saturday, October 28, Piedmont is 4-1 in league. A victory in its game this week with Newark Memorial would mark its first league title since winning the Shoreline Division in 2015.

Piedmont ended last week in a three-way tie for first place with Kennedy of Fremont and Newark Memorial. Newark, however, lost to Arroyo to push them down to fourth. Kennedy is also 4-1 in league, but PHS controls the tiebreaker after its win over the Titans on October 20. Kennedy will play lowly San Lorenzo, meaning the Highlanders need a win over Newark and the Shoreline is theirs.

It was a big offensive day for both Piedmont and the winless American Eagles with 82 total points. Piedmont led 25-0 before American's first points, as running back Tommy Ashton totaled 172 yards on 10 carries for two touchdowns.

Game Recap

After forcing American to punt, Piedmont scored in just four plays. On 3rd-and-10 from their own 37, Markos Lagios landed a 44-yard bomb to Shelby, followed

by Shelby taking a 19-yard run of tackle into the end zone—making it 6-0 after a missed extra point. PHS then forced another punt, where Shelby received at the right hash mark of Piedmont's 39, cutting to the left sideline to take it 61 yards to the house – 12-0 after a missed extra point. Piedmont forced another punt near the end of the first, leading to Tommy Ashton punching one across at the start of the second at the end of a 50-yard drive—18-0. PHS then forced a fumble recovered on American's next drive, leading to a seven-play series capped off with a 13-yard touchdown run by Lagios – making it 25-0 with an extra point.

American scored its first points on a 28-yard run on their next drive, while Shelby scored on a screen for 32-6, then Piedmont recovered a fumble on American's kickoff return at the Eagles' 38. After two plays, Piedmont scored on a 25-yard screen and run by Brandon Dicke, who switched the field on his reception on the right side, taking it across the field for the score – 39-6. Ashton scored on the first play of the second half on a 55-yard run and a 46-6 lead.

American then scored on a 34-yard pass and got the 2-point conversion, following up with a recovered onside kick, eventually scoring on a short-pass – 46-20. Cash Elmquist scored on the following drive on a screen for a

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Photos by Steve Long

Tommy Ashton led the way with 172 rushing yards and two touchdowns.



Sam Shelby had 3 touchdowns – receiving, rushing, and a punt return.



Goalie Luke McAuliffe stretches to stop a shot by Berkeley.



Leo Hurwitz scored two goals and had two assists against Berkeley.

Boys' Water Polo

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the post with 53 seconds left. After calling a timeout with the ball at 13 seconds left, Piedmont drew up a play. The ball eventually worked toward Burke sitting in the Hole set possession in front of net, and although he drew a foul with four seconds left in the game, the clock never stopped. As Burke sent a pass to set up the play, the buzzer sounded, leaving Piedmont's players puzzled why they didn't have time to pull off a shot.

Final stats: Hurwitz had two

goals and two assists. Krumins had two goals, an assist, and one steal. Burke scored twice. Linnane had a goal and a steal. Stein had a goal and three steals. McAuliffe had seven saves and two steals.

NEXT UP

Piedmont looks ahead to the second round of the Division 2 NCS postseason and will face the winner of No. 5 Newark Memorial and No. 12 El Cerrito on Saturday, November 4.

Football

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12-yard reception, 52-20. American scored 10 more points in the fourth quarter.

Final stats: Lagios completed 11-14 passes for 261 yards and three touchdowns, to go along with 32 rushing yards and a touchdown. Ashton ran for 172 yards on 10 carries for two touchdowns. Shelby had three receptions for 77 yards and a touchdown, 18 rushing yards and one

rushing touchdown, to go along with a punt return touchdown. Elmquist had two receptions for 68 yards and a touchdown. Dicke had three receptions for 40 yards and a score.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (6-2 overall, 4-1 league) travel to Newark Memorial this Friday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.



Markos Lagios passed for 261 yards and three touchdowns, and had a rushing score.

Girls' Water Polo

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mont with five minutes left, but Lick also scored on its next drive. Olson then made it 14-12 with four minutes left, starting a 6-0 scoring run with goals followed by three more goals by Olson, one by Abigail Jacoby, and another by Melian to make it 19-12 with 47 seconds left. Lick scored the game's final goal with 38 seconds left.

Final stats: Melian and Olson both scored six goals, Reardon scored five goals, while Jacoby

and ten Grotenhuis had individual goals.

17-7 loss to Berkeley

Piedmont trailed 3-1 by the end of the first quarter, while the Yellowjackets extended the gap to 6-3 by halftime. Piedmont scored twice in the third but allowed four goals, 10-5, while Piedmont scored twice in the fourth.

Final stats: Melian scored three goals, while Jacoby and Reardon scored twice.

Athletes in College

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mances throughout the season. Zamora's freshman campaign has yet to start with the San Diego State Aztecs, but she's already caught the attention of the Mountain West Conference. She recently was named the conference's Preseason Co-Freshman of the Year with Amarachi Kimpson of UNLV. San Diego State currently is projected to finish fifth in the conference.

Zamora finished her high school career with over 2,000 points and 1,400 total rebounds, becoming one of the most accomplished four-year starters in PHS history. She was the Post's 2022 Honorable Mention for Athlete of the Year, Sophomore of the Year and Freshman of the Year in 2021 and 2020. Zamora was also named to the SF Chronicle's All-Metro first team in 2023.

Flag Football

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But on the 1-point conversion, Leggett looked for her tall receiver, Nemeth, at the goal line. But Berkeley's defender saw the pass coming, leaping in front of Nemeth to swat the ball to the ground with 36 seconds left in the game. Although Piedmont's Greta Schleuning got a sack on 2nd-and-9, the clocked ticked away without another timeout available.

Final stats: Leggett had two touchdown passes, while Gardere had both touchdown receptions. Nemeth had six receptions. Osman had two interceptions and a pass defense. Long had one interception. Maisy Richardson had two pass defenses.

3rd place game with San Leandro

The 3rd place game was played in a standard 80-yard

field with a visible, functioning clock. San Leandro scored on its opening possession on a long 11-play series, capping off with a 2-point conversion to make it 8-0. Piedmont followed with a long, 10-play drive of its own down to the Pirates' 15, but turned over on downs. San Leandro scored on its very first play on a 60-yard bomb from quarterback Jae Orta – converting another 2-point conversion to make it 16-0 with 5 minutes left in the first half.

After back-and-forth possessions, PHS retained the ball with 1:29 left. On 3rd-and-16, Leggett hit Malia Williams for an 18-yard gain to set up 1st-and-Goal from the 18 with 13 seconds on the clock. On 4th-and-Goal from the 10 with just seven seconds left, Leggett hit Miya Fujimoto in the back corner of the end zone. However, officials didn't have

eyes watching Fujimoto's feet and ruled her out of bounds after the far-side line-judge initially called her in. After a deliberation, referees said Fujimoto's other foot was out of bounds.

Piedmont opened the second half with a 12-play drive to the San Leandro 8-yard line, but the drive stopped on fourth down with an interception in the end zone after six minutes of action. PHS' defense forced a turnover on downs, followed by the offense scoring when Osman took a carry into the end zone for a 2-yard touchdown with 6:55 left in the game. However, PHS couldn't convert the 2-point conversion, 16-6.

San Leandro then scored the game's final touchdown with 33 seconds left, making it 22-6 after failing its 2-point conversion.

Final stats: Osman scored a touchdown. Melea Hartford had seven receptions. Long had two pass defenses.

Tennis

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6-3, 6-0 win. Berkeley brought things closer by winning the next two matches, winning 6-3, 6-3 at No. 2 doubles against Samantha Huynh and Maddie Tran, and beating Kate Jumper 6-3, 6-0 at No. 2 singles.

But DeFazio and Eisemon won in straight sets at No. 1 doubles, 6-3, 6-4, with Eisemon winning match point with a smash-volley winner. Kononova won the last match of the day at No. 1 singles in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1.



Samantha Huynh sends a forehand against Berkeley.

4-3 to Bishop O'Dowd

In a highly competitive match, O'Dowd with the Dragons won two of the four singles matches, and won two of the three matches in doubles.

At singles, Romanczuk won in three sets at No. 3, 5-7, 7-5, 6-1. Kortum also won at No. 4 in three sets, 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1. Kononova made a run against Polina Marakhtanova in the second set, but fell at No. singles 6-1, 7-6 (8-6). At No. 2 singles, Jumper lost in three sets, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Tran and Huynh won at No. 2 doubles in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2. DeFazio and Eisemon lost 6-4, 6-4 at No. 1, while Broschow and Inara Mehta lost in three sets at No. 3 by scores of 7-5, 0-6, 7-5.

NEXT UP

Piedmont looks ahead to the 2023 WACC Tournament at Chabot College this Friday and Saturday, November 3-4. Matches start at 10:00 a.m.

Hiking with Jon

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Moss Beach Distillery, Moss Beach

Grab a bite, a drink, a spectacular view, and a haunting story at the Moss Beach Distillery slightly past El Granada and Half Moon Bay. The "Blue Lady" is a story from over 70 years ago, where a young woman had an affair with a handsome piano player at the restaurant, falling in love with

him. The lady in blue was said to have been murdered by her betrayed fiancé while walking on the beach below the restaurant.

Redwood Road Preschool, Oakland Hills

This one is very peculiar. Slightly past the intersection of Pinehurst and Redwood Road, there is a former preschool with

a gruesome history. Legend has it, a knife wielding murder in the early 80s slayed an entire class of preschoolers on the grounds. Other reports from the Gasden Times indicated a man, Alan Robert Baer, was shot by police on the preschool property in 1981. All that is left of the school is the foundation and a lone swing set, while people have reported paranormal experiences of children's laughter, voices, and swings in full-motion as if the school yard was bustling.



Photo courtesy of MossBeachDistillery.com

Moss Beach Distillery is home of the "Blue Lady," who was a woman murdered by her scorned fiancé over 70 years ago.

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