

Highlanders finish fourth in season-ending tourney

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont’s flag football team, in its first season of scheduled games, fought to the end, but finished fourth in the Western Alameda County Conference Tournament in Hayward on Saturday, October 28. PHS opened with a nail-biting 13-12 loss to top-seeded Berkeley, but fell 22-6 to the No. 3 seed, San Leandro, in the battle for third place.

“From the beginning of the season to the end, the girls had fun and enjoyed it. This season

was a win because of what we created, It was a win because we got better with every game,” said PHS coach Beth Black.

Despite the score with the Pirates, it was a tight battle in both games. PHS had a touchdown controversially wiped out at the end of the first half.

In the previous round against Berkeley, the Highlanders rallied from a 13-0 deficit to make it 13-12 with 36 seconds left but fell short on its 1-point conversion. Piedmont’s last drive started after Dahlia Osman nabbed an

interception for a takeaway in PHS’ own end zone, leading to a 22-yard touchdown pass from Mia Leggett to Erinn Gardere down the sideline, recording an incredible contested catch in one-on-one coverage.

“The girls love to fight. We got so close in the end and wish we could’ve turned it around all the way,” said Black.

PHS wraps up its first season of flag football as a varsity sport with a 4-6 overall record. They had the largest roster within the league by a considerable margin, showing how popular the sports can be even in a small-enrollment school.

The team was coached by Black, head of the high school English Department, defensive coordinator Hayley Adams, and Athletic Director Bradley Smet as offensive coordinator.

Alameda, the No. 2 seed, won the league title, beating Berkeley, 20-6.

Semifinals vs. Berkeley

The first league semifinals were played on a 40-yard field and a clock wasn’t available. Berkeley scored on a 4th-and-5 situation on a successful hook-and-ladder, where Jaima Harrison ran underneath the initial receiver on a short-pass—taking a pitch to the house for a 25-yard score. On the ensuing drive, Piedmont drove to the Berkeley 9-yard line, but a pass targeting Dorothy Nemeth was intercepted in the end zone. After the two sides traded possessions again, Berkeley scored on another hook-and-ladder, for a 13-0 lead.

In the second half, PHS’s Lizzy Long recorded an intercepted on the Yellow Jackets first possession. The Highlanders scored on an eight-play series, featuring Nemeth converting a 4th-and-5 with a nine-yard reception, while Leggett landed a pass in traffic to Gardere. A failed 1-point conversion made it 13-6.

After back-and-forth possessions, Berkeley drove to Piedmont’s 9-yard line, but Osman snatched an interception away from the Jackets’ receiver in the back of the end zone, setting up a critical final drive for PHS with one minute to play.

The series started with passes to Nemeth, setting up 3rd-and-2 at the 22-yard line. That’s Leggett threw a bomb down the sideline to Gardere, who leaped to reach out with one hand to trap it between her and the defender. She corralled the pass as she crossed the goal line making it 13-12 in the waning seconds.

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PHS tennis team wraps up regular season

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont’s tennis team completed its regular season last week, defeating Berkeley 5-2 on the road at Berkeley Tennis Club on Wednesday, October 25, but for the second time losing to rival Bishop O’Dowd 4-3 to O’Dowd at home the following day.

The Highlanders celebrated its three seniors on the roster: Tanya Kononova, Cecelia DeFazio, and Ellie Broschow.

Kononova came to the school in the summer of 2022 as a refugee from Ukraine and instantly stepped into the No. 1 singles role.

“I’m going to miss the team a lot. When I moved, it was the first thing that I really did. It’s going to be a really good memory for me,” said Knonova. “I’m going to be missing these guys, because they are the best,”

DeFazio is a three-year starter and was paired with junior Emma Eisemon to become the team’s No. 1 doubles squad. They’ve continued to improve every year on the courts and will likely step into the WACC tournament among the top seeds.

“It’s a weird milestone, because I remember my first year on varsity and senior night for those girls. Now it’s my senior night and I feel almost out of place, I don’t want the season to be over. I’m not ready for this to be the last game,” said DeFazio.



Staff Photos

Tanya Kononova split her last two matches, playing the final regular season match of her high school career in Piedmont.

“We just have great chemistry on the court,” added Eisemon. “We talk to each other after every point. If we give up a point we try to figure out what went wrong so we can improve.”

5-2 win vs. Berkeley

Carolina Romanczuk started the day with a 6-2, 6-2 win at No. 3 singles, and Arianna Kortum finished a clean 6-1, 6-2 win at No. 4 singles. No. 3 doubles team of Inara Mehta and Abigail Call made it 3-0 for Piedmont with a

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Staff Photos

Quarterback Mia Leggett prepares to launch a pass against San Leandro.



Erinn Gardere (middle) celebrates a critical touchdown against Berkeley alongside Mia Leggett (left), Dorothy Nemeth (#32), and Miya Fujimoto.



A photo of Miya Fujimoto’s reception in the end zone against San Leandro. After initially making the grab with her left foot down, referees ruled that her right foot came down out of bounds.



Cecelia DeFazio (left) and Emma Eisemon are stepping into their final matches as Piedmont’s top doubles pair.

PIEDMONT SPORTS SCHEDULE

Some events subject to change. (Revised - 11/1/23)

Date	Day	Sport	Opponent	Loc.	Var.	JV.
Nov. 3	Fri.	TEN	WACC Individual Tournament at Chabot College (Hayward)	A	10:00	-----
		FB	Newark Memorial	A	7:00	4:30
Nov. 4	Sat.	TEN	WACC Individual Tournament Finals at Chabot College	A	10:00	-----
		XC	WACC Championship (Hayward High)	A	9:00	-----
		WP-B	North Coast Section Second Round vs. TBD	A	TBD	-----
Nov. 7	Tues.	TEN	NCS Team Tournament	A	TBD	-----

KEY:

H = Home
WP-B = Boys’ Water Polo

A = Away
FB = Football

TEN = Girls’ Tennis
XC = Cross Country



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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.

ADVERTISE IN THE POST

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.