SPORTS

Football team moves into 1st place after beating Kennedy 35-29

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's rejuvenated football team pulled off a big 35-29 victory over Kennedy HS in Fremont on Friday, October 20. With Alameda losing to Newark Memorial on Friday – its second loss, Piedmont catapulted itself to the top of the Western Alameda County Conference Shoreline Division.

There's still work to do. Now with a 3-1 league record, there is a three-way tie for first-place between Piedmont, Newark Memorial, and Kennedy. Tiebreakers for the league title go by head-to-head, giving PHS the edge over Kennedy. With PHS playing a winless American HS team this Saturday and Newark facing Arroyo, it sets up an epic season-finale for the Shoreline crown on November 3 between the Highlanders and Newark Memorial.

"Coming from where we were last year to first-place and controlling our own destiny over the next two weeks means a lot," said coach Jordan Seiden. "To come from where we've been, having no home field, it's been a heck of a ride. It's the most memorable season of my coaching career thus far, no doubt,"

The win against Kennedy proved to be another monumental performance by receiver Sam



Photos by Steve Long

Piedmont's 35-29 win over Kennedy of Fremont moves them to the top of the WACC's Shoreline Division.

Shelby, who scored four touch-downs and had had 338 all-purpose yards. Shelby finished with seven receptions for 164 yards and 154 yards rushing, with two touchdowns each. He also converted all five extra point attempts, giving him 29 total points on the day. It marks one of the highest combinations of receiving and rushing yards since Gabe Watson in 2014.

Shelby was nominated for Athlete of the Week by the San

Jose Mercury News on Tuesday.

"The crazy part is it doesn't surprise us," said Seiden. "He's grown from being a skinny kid with not a lot of experience, who is very athletic with his experience in soccer. Sometimes that doesn't translate to football. He is one of the best all-around players I've ever coached."

Other than Shelby breaking long runs to the edge, Piedmont's running game was shut down for the most part. Tommy Ashton only had 10 yards, while quarterback Markos Lagios had 30 yards on nine carries and one score. Lagios hurt the Titans through the air, completing an efficient day with 14 of 18 pass completions for 200 yards and two touchdowns.

"They really stacked the box and stuffed the interior. When you have the speed Sam has and perimeter blocking we have, once Sam gets to the edge it's over," said Seiden.

The Highlanders now look ahead to getting the job done against American High in Fremont this Saturday, October 28. The Eagles are currently 0-8, See Football on page 30



Sam Shelby had a monumental performance with 338 all-purpose yards and four touchdowns in Piedmont's 35-29 win against Kennedy.



Schulte-Sasse wins league cross-country race

Girls team places 3rd, boys team 4th

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's cross country team returned to Oyster Bay Regional Park in San Leandro for its second league meet of the season on Wednesday, October 18.

Xander Schulte-Sasse won the race with a best-ever time, and the girls" team placed third overall in a field of 10 teams. The PHS boys were fourth on a hot 90-degree day. Despite the heat, Schulte-Sasse posted a time of 15:22.89 for the victory.

"The boys and girls all ran very well despite the heat with Xander Schulte-Sasse coming in first place overall with a terrific race. He was in complete control the entire time," said coach Steve Zirkelbach,

A four-year varsity runner, Schulte-Sasse has been in a hallmark year, improving his best time by five seconds on the 3-milec course.

"In our last league meet, I felt like I was just cruising and had a lot left in me when I crossed the finish line. To feel like I could step it up one more notch made me even more excited," said Schulte-Sasse.

The girls' team was without senior Jamie Schwarz, who was preparing for today's Mid-Season Mania 3200M Invitational at Campolindo.

"Jamie was getting some much-needed rest in preparation for the end of the season races. Our varsity runners will be competing at Campolindo High School this Wednesday on the track in a 3,200 meter race," explained Zirkelbach.

Sophomore Skylar Best led the way for the girls' team with a time of 19:31.25, placing fourth in a field of 72 runners. Behind Best

See Cross Country on page 30



Staff Photos

Xander Schulte-Sasse won Piedmont's league meet at Oyster Bay with a PR time on the three-mile course.







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Cross Country

Continued from page 12

were freshman Leighton Mand, 13th in 20:26.80, and sophomore Cora Chun, who was 15th in 20:29.57. Freshman Cora Brozowski-Schrader placed 22nd in 21:18.81, and freshman Gladwin Horsley rounded out the top five in 25th at 21:29.48.

"Everyone is improving so much, so it's really cool to see," said Best. "Everyone puts a lot of work in every day, so it's really motivating to be around them."

Senior Julien Lee was ninth for the boys' team in a field of 89

runners with a time of 16:11.90, and freshman Sebastien Swain was close on his heels in 11th, clocking a time of 16:19.15. Sophomore Noah Sohn was 36th in 17:41.45, and junior Oliver Horsley rounding out the top in 45th in 18:01.88.

NEXT UP

Piedmont competes at the Mid-Season Mania 3200M Invitational track meet at Campolindo HS in Moraga today, Wednesday, October 25 at 4:00 p.m.



Skylar Best led the way for the girls' team, finishing fourth out of 72 runners.



Sophomore Cora Chun helped her team to a third place finish.

Girls' Tennis

Continued from page 13

6-4, 6-3 at No. 2, while Sophie LaForte and Abigail Call won 6-3, 6-3 at No. 3.

4-3 over Alameda

Against the Hornets, Piedmont won three of four singles matches. Kononova defeated Juliana Johnson 6-2, 6-1, who Kononova beat in last year's WACC Tournament finals. Jumper lost a close two-set battle at No. 2 with extra games, 7-5, 7-6 (7-3). Romanczuk returned to No. 3 singles and battled to victory, 6-4, 7-5. Kortum won 6-4, 6-1 at No. 4.

In doubles Tran and Eisemon won again in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2 over Alameda's top pair.

Mehta and Huyhn lost in three sets at No. 2 by scores of 1-6, 6-0, 6-1. Broscow and Call fell 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 at No. 3.

Tuesday vs. Castro Valley

Piedmont hosted Castro Valley on Tuesday, October 24, see next week's Post for match details.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (9-6 overall, 5-1 league) faces Berkeley at the Berkeley Tennis Club today, October 25, at 3:30 p.m. They will host No. 1 Bishop O'Dowd for their regular-season finale the following day, October 26, on Piedmont.

Boys' Water Polo

Continued from page 14

game's outcome and led comfortably 12-1 by halftime. The Highlanders added four goals and allowed one in the third,16-2, while they put up three more and allowed as many in the final going.

Final stats: Banin had five goals and four steals. Stein scored four goals, oe assist, and a steal. Leo Hurwitz had three goals and an assist. Burke and Peter Krumins scored twice. Linnane had a goal and two assists. Scherman had a goal and two steals. McAuliffe had six saves.

Tuesday vs. Encinal

Piedmont faced Encinal in its own pool for the first round of the WACC Tournament, winning SCORE. See next week's Post for tournament details.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (14-8 overall, 6-1 league) competes in the second round of the WACC Tournament on Thursday, October 26. The league finals will be on Saturday, October 28. Game times have not been posted as of Tuesday evening.

Football

Continued from page 12

meaning PHS must avoid any mental lapses to set up a potential pivotal season ending game at Newark Memorial.

Game Recap

Piedmont scored on its opening possession on a 43-yard bomb from Lagios to Shelby on the seventh play of their drive, making it 7-0. The Highlanders had one more chance to score toward the end of the first quarter after recovering a muffed punt by Kennedy's returner at its own 30-yard line. PHS had a long run by tight end Cash Elmquist on a nifty reverse run called back due to a holding penalty.

After forcing a turnover on downs to open the second quarter, PHS scored on an 8-play drive. It included a 30-yard carry by Shelby on a jet-sweep where he cut back his direction downfield. Shelby capped the drive on a 9-yard touchdown, making it 14-0. Kennedy scored after seven plays on its next drive, making the score 14-7.

Piedmont wasted no time, scoring on the first play of its next possession after Shelby turned a 9-yard buttonhook into a 59-yard touchdown reception, breaking a tackle along the sideline before turning his way towards the center of the field and speeding past four defenders for a 21-7 lead.

Kennedy scored on its next drive, missing a two-point conversion to make it 21-13 going into halftime.

Opening the third quarter, Piedmont executed a perfect onside kick through the middle of the field, recovering the ball at the Titans' 49. On 3rd-and-10 at the Kennedy 39, Lagios threw a ball targeting Dash Waters-Worthen over the middle, but it hit off of a defender and was caught by Shelby, who took it to the one-yard line. Lagios punched the ball across on a QB-keeper, 28-13. Kennedy came back once again to score after a series of runs and capped it with a two-point conversion making it 28-21.

After recovering Kennedy's onside kick attempt at the Titans' 49-yard line, Shelby lined up at running back, cutting inside on a zone run to speed by a pack of defenders on his way to the end zone. He scored Piedmont's last touchdown to make it 35-21 midway through the third quarter.

Kennedy scored on its next possession and converted a two-

point conversion to make it 35-29 at the end of the third period. The Highlanders drove to Kennedy's 10-yard line on its next series, but a fumble thwarted their progress. The Titans had a long series of running plays on their next possession, but they were shut down as near Piedmont's 20. Piedmont chose to run out the clock.

Final stats: Shelby had 338 all-purpose yards and four total touchdowns. He also recorded one pass defense as a cornerback. Lagios was 14-18 passing for 200 yards, two touchdowns, and one rushing touchdown. Albert Bellingrath had six receptions for 31 yards and one sack. Brandon Dicke had a forced fumble and a tackle for loss.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (5-3 overall, 3-1 league) head to American in Fremont on Saturday, October 28 at 1:00 p.m.



Quarterback Markos Lagios breaks clear for a run. He finished with 200 passing yards and three total touchdowns.

Girls' Volleyball

Continued from page 13

with 13 of the final 15 points to win 25-15—and you can feel the momentum completely swing inside Binks.

Berkeley led the fourth set

7-3, but Piedmont rallied to tie 7-7. The two sides traded points at 14-11 Berkeley, extending to 22-16 before winning on a defensive error—25-19.



Semior Bauer Peterson looks to make a play.

In a thrilling 15-point fifthset tiebreaker, Berkeley took a 7-4 lead before Cardeñas called a timeout. PHS then scored six of the next eight points to lead 10-9. The Jackets regained the lead at 12-11, then 13-12, before another timeout was called. PHS came out hot, tying the game a Berkeley shot out of bounds and an ace by Wagener to gain match-point at 14-13. Berkeley took another timeout, but the stars wouldn't align for Piedmont,

Walker slammed a kill to tie it at 14-14, while the Jackets scored one more to gain the 15-14 lead. After Piedmont stopped a Berkeley shot, they looked to make an offensive play. But the pass to the outside hitter couldn't connect, and as the ball fell to the floor, so did the heads of PHS' supporters in attendance.

Volleyball and coach Cardeñas return in the spring for the boys' season.

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