

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. Tie-breakers 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 touchdowns 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-mile 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.

A young boy wearing a grey hooded raincoat and glasses is holding a large, green Christmas tree. The background is blurred, showing other people and trees.

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