

# Highlanders win 2 more to wrap up regular season



Declan Linnane scored six goals against Bishop O'Dowd.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's boys' water polo team reeled in two more wins last week to close out its regular season, defeating Bishop O'Dowd 15-10 on Tuesday, October 17, and beating Lick-Wilmerding the previous day, 19-5.

The Highlanders are now preparing for the second round of the 2023 Western Alameda County Conference Championship Tournament on Thursday, October 26, and the finals on Saturday, October 28.

"The league is really good. Berkeley High is good, Castro Valley is really good, Alameda as well. We still need to work on some things, I don't think we've seen the best of us just yet," said coach Rik Krumins..

## 15-10 over Bishop O'Dowd

Piedmont ended the first quarter holding a 4-2 lead and went into halftime still holding a two-goal, 8-6 advantage. PHS exploded in the third quarter to score four goals without allowing any, leading 12-6 entering the fourth. From there, PHS scored three in the final going, allowing four.

In the first quarter, O'Dowd scored an early goal, but George Stein tied at the 4:30 mark, while Finn Burke put PHS ahead with 2:52 left. Piedmont never relin-

quished the lead from then on, adding goals by Stein and Declan Linnane to end the first.

Burke scored after just 14 seconds into the second, but O'Dowd got one back with a man-advantage—5-3. Linnane scored on the ensuing possession, but so did O'Dowd on theirs. The two sides traded points all the way until halftime with goals by Burke and Stein.

In the third, PHS piled on four unanswered goals with Linnane after 30 seconds, who sent in another with 3:12 on the clock, then landed one more after another minute. Spencer Barlow sent one in with 1:35 left, while Linnane scored once more after Piedmont forced a quick turnover 14 seconds later—12-6.

PHS added goals in the fourth quarter by Linnane, Evan Dickason, and Leo Hurwitz with 13 seconds left in the game.

Final stats: Linnane had six goals, three assists, and three steals. Stein scored three goals, two steals, and an assist. Burke also had three goals. Daniel Banin had a goal, assists, and three steals. Hurwitz had a goal, assist, and a steal. Dickason had a goal.

**19-5 over Lick-Wilmerding**

Piedmont jumped out to a 6-0 lead to end any suspense of the

*See Boys' Water Polo on page 30*



Finn Burke had three goals against O'Dowd and two in the win over Lick-Wilmerding.



Peter Krumins looks to make a play against Lick-Wilmerding. He scored twice.

# Piedmont falls to San Leandro

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's flag football team took a tough 26-6 loss to San Leandro on the road at Burrell Field on Thursday, October 19. Piedmont trailed 12-6 with less than five minutes left in the game.

"We were just a couple of yards away from scoring on a couple of occasions, it's now happened to us several times," explained PHS coach Beth Black. "We're so close in connecting all the dots. We had a really physical game. The score may not reflect that we're jumping to new levels."

The result brings Piedmont's record to 3-4 entering its final week of the season. PHS will host Hayward for the regular season finale tomorrow, October 26, before competing in the first Western Alameda County Conference Championship Tournament at Hayward High on Saturday, October 28.

In Piedmont's losses to Alameda, Berkeley, and San Leandro, the Highlanders were in scoring position multiple times and the defense showed it could thwart each of their opponents' attacks.

A strong performance by San Leandro quarterback Jade Orta was the difference. She is a competitive player outside of school at the club level. She was a game-changer for the Pirates, using her speed and agility to weave around defenders for long runs, while also having a cannon of an arm.

"She was amazing. She was so evasive, you put a rush on her and she can evade, leaving an opening. It took her a long time to find her passing options and that seemed to frustrate her. But when she could run, she took advantage of it, and she was fast," said Black.

## Game Recap

After both teams traded possession through the first four drives of the game, San Leandro retained the ball with 9:30 left in the half after forcing a turnover on downs at its own 35-yard line. On 3rd-and-5, the Pirates completed an 18-yard pass to the 17 before Orta ran in a touchdown. A failed two-point conversion made it 6-0 with 5:30 remaining in the half. However, San Leandro nabbed an interception on a long pass down the sideline and returned it to Piedmont's 31. Orta then ran the ball to the PHS 5 before tossing in a touchdown, 12-0 with Piedmont retaining possession with 1:51 on the clock.

On the Highlanders' 2-minute drive, they converted a 4th-and-2 when Mia Leggett found tall receiver Dorothy Nemeth for a 10-yard gain to the San Leandro 32. Leggett then hit Nemeth again on 3rd-and-10 for a 15 yard gain to the 17. With the seconds ticking away, Leggett found Miya Fujimoto for a 15-yard catch and run to the two-yard line, but without a timeout, the clock hit zero before Piedmont could get the play off.

The two teams traded possessions to open the second half, while Piedmont had another opportunity to score on its next drive. Starting at San Leandro's 36, Leggett hit Lucy Wheeler for a 17-yard gain to the 19 to make it 1st-and-Goal. Leggett then connected with Fujimoto for a 14-yard gain at the 5. But



Receiver Dorothy Nemeth had a touchdown reception against San Leandro.



Quarterback Mia Leggett takes a snap from Malia Hartford with Lucy Wheeler in at running back.



Miya Fujimoto runs around a San Leandro defender.

on 3rd-and-Goal, the Pirates grabbed an interception on a pass targeting Lucy Wheeler in the end zone.

The PHS defense forced a punt with 10:30 on the clock, scoring after 10 plays to make it 12-6 with 4:30 left. During the series, Leggett and Nemeth converted a 3rd-and-10 situation on a 14-yard reception to SL 36-yard line. On 3rd-and-9 at the 21, Leggett found Malia Hartford for a 12-yard gain to the 9. After a four-yard gain by Fujimoto, Leggett hit her tall receiver, Nemeth, on a high pass at the goal line.

However, San Leandro's offense couldn't be stopped on its next drive with Orta hitting her receiver for a 25-yard gain, followed by a 17-yard scamper by the QB. The Pirates scored on 2nd-and-Goal with a 14-yard pass making it 20-6 with 1:30 left. San Leandro got another interception on PHS' next drive, which led to a long touchdown pass with eight seconds left—26-6.

**NEXT UP**

Piedmont (3-4 overall, 3-3 league) hosts Hayward at Hum-

phries Diamond tomorrow, October 26 at 4:30 p.m. They will compete in the inaugural WACC Championship Tournament at Hayward High on Saturday, October 28.



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