

# SPORTS

## HOMECOMING GAME Piedmont falls 16-13 to Alameda in controversial finish

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High’s football team suffered a devastating 16-13 loss on the road to Alameda on Saturday evening, October 7 at Thompson Field. Though it was Piedmont’s Homecoming game, it was played in Alameda due to Piedmont’s Witter Field being unplayable due to construction.

With Piedmont driving to the 1-yard line and the clock ticking down to the final seconds, on a 3rd-and-inches situation, the Highlanders called a dive play for running back Tommy Ashton. Although Ashton appeared to have stretched the ball several inches past the goal line, the referees called the Highlanders’ running back short and the game over.

It marks the second straight game in which Piedmont was come out on the wrong end of an official’s decisions. In a game with Arroyo on September 23, receiver Sam Shelby was



Tommy Ashton ran for 134 yards on 20 carries against Alameda. He was stopped short of the goal line for the potential game-winning touchdown in a controversial decision by the officials.

Photos by Steve Long

wrongly ejected in the second quarter by the same official who called Ashton short in Saturday’s game. It’s a situation that has left a sour taste for PHS coach Jordan Seiden.

“The clock was going from to

2 to 1 and Markos handed the ball off to Tommy. You could see on film that Tommy’s body is half-way across the goal line and our entire offensive line is in the end zone with the ball. According to them, we came up an inch short. Heartbreaker,” said Seiden.

It leaves a dark cloud over what was a great game under the lights. The game was considered the Western Alameda County Conference’s Shoreline Division championship game with Alameda undefeated at 5-0 and Piedmont was surging after three straight wins at 3-2.

“It was the heart of heartbreakers. It was awful, that one really hurt. It felt like a league title game, that’s what the sentiment was. Never mind that they were undefeated, Alameda hadn’t played with a deficit all season. We definitely felt like it was a game, while incredibly competitive, that we had a great chance to win,” said Seiden.

After the first quarter with both teams deadlocked at 0-0, Alameda struck late in the second quarter on a drive capped by a 25-yard touchdown carry by the Hornets’ running back.

Alameda was driving once again at the end of the second quarter, but Ashton intercepted a pass at the Piedmont 13-yard line with 13 seconds left in the half. Quarterback Markos Lagios threw a quick screen to Shelby, where the receiver made a move to inside before darting down the sideline speeding past defenders, typing the game at 7-7 at half-time.

The Highlanders surprised Alameda by taking the lead 13-7 in the third quarter on a long touchdown run by Lagios. The extra point was blocked. Alameda tied the game later in the third period 13-13, after they also missed their extra point attempt.

Piedmont had a chance to take the lead in the third quarter on a field goal, but Shelby’s attempt was blocked. Alameda regained the lead midway through the fourth quarter on a field goal.

On the game’s final possession, Piedmont drove down to within Alameda’s five-yard line. With the clock showing 26 seconds left in the game, Seiden took

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## PHS girls 3rd at Artichoke Invitational; boys 5th

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont’s cross-country team traveled to Half Moon Bay for the Artichoke Invitational on Saturday, October 7. The girls’ team had a good day and placed third out of 11 teams. The boys’ team was fifth in a field of 21 teams. The races were designed for smaller enrollment schools at 2.3 miles.

It was the first race since the season-opener on September 9 at the Ed Sias Invitational. Poor air quality canceled their league meet on September 20.

“It had been a while since the team raced. The team was excited to test themselves again after several weeks of intense training,” said coach Steve Zirkelbach.

It was an impressive race for senior Xander Schulte Sasse with a fourth-place finish in a large field of 145 runners with a time of 12:35.

“Xander did his best to go out with the leaders and give them a run for their money, holding on strong, finishing in 4th place overall. He led the male harriers to 5th place as a team,” said Zirkelbach.

On the girls’ side, senior Jamie Schwarz led the way, placing eighth of 87 runners, with a time of 15:49. Sophomore Skylar Best was 15th in 16:15.

Freshman Leighton Mand made her varsity debut, impressing with a 16:47 to place 25th as Piedmont’s third best runner. Rounding out Piedmont’s top-



Senior Jamie Schwarz placed eighth in a field of 87 runners to lead the girls’ team.

five was sophomore Cora Chun clocking a 16:55 and placing 27th, while junior Carolina Taylor placed 33rd in 17:20. Mand is joined by classmates Gladwin Horsley and Amalia Gray on the varsity roster.

“This team of girls is a very tight unit; they are very supportive of each other in practices and races, By staying so close to each other, they were able to achieve another podium finish,” said Zirkelbach. “All of our freshman girls have been training hard and showing up in races with impressive focus.”

### Boys’ results

Behind Schulte-Sasse was freshman Sebastian Swain in

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Senior Xander Schulte-Sasse placed fourth of 145 runners at the Artichoke Invitational in Half Moon Bay.



Freshman Leighton Mand (left) and sophomore Cora Chun compete in the Artichoke Invitational cross country meet.



Sam Shelby (#2) had seven receptions for 114 yards and a touchdown, including an 80-yard scamper down the sideline.

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# PHS Homecoming

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athletes.

“Our fans in this program are incredible. Last year when we had home games, they were always packed and ready to go. It’s exciting,” he said.

In addition to homecoming sports spirit, school-day spirit will be enlivened this week, the school’s official Homecoming week, with fun daily dress up themes for the student body.

“Barbie World” was unan-

imously chosen as the theme for Wednesday, one spirit day remained for each PHS and MHS ASB to determine, “Jersey vs. Jersey Shore” and “Celebrity Day” were selected.

“We like to keep changing and trying to make good ones [spirit days] so that more people are dressing up,” said Associated Student Body president Jack Cramer.

The homecoming rally this Friday, October 13, will finalize

spirit week in the “purple out” student rally including events such as student vs. staff and student sibling competitions.

Sophomore class president Jack Meyes is excited for his first homecoming as an ASB member. Meyes hopes Friday’s rally will be a positive experience for his classmates.

“I just want the sophomores to have a great time and make sure they are being respectful to everyone. I want everyone to really feel included in this rally,” said Meyes.



Photos by Sophie Hess

Piedmont High students wore purple to show support at the Homecoming Game, which was held in Alameda on Saturday, October 7.

# Football

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a time out. PHS called a screen to receiver Cash Elmquist, who was tackled near the one-yard line. On second-down, Lagios attempted



Piedmont looks to regroup before its next league match at San Lorenzo on October 14.

a quarterback keeper but was stopped short of the goal line.

With the clock ticking from two-seconds down to one, Lagios snapped the ball and handed off to Ashton. The referees called Piedmont short, once again, and the game was over – with PHS coaches, players, and fans in the stands wondering what had just transpired.

Final stats: Lagios completed 11-17 passes for 150 yards, and ran for 82 yards and a touchdown. Shelby had seven receptions for 114 yards and a touchdown. Ashton had 20 carries for 134 yards. Elmquist recorded an interception.

**NEXT UP**

Piedmont (3-3 overall, 1-1 league) heads to San Lorenzo on Saturday, October 14 for a 3:15 p.m. game.

# Cross Country

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17th place in a large field of 145 runners. Sophomore Noah Sohn placed 44th in 14:14, junior Henry Horsley was 60th in 14:43, and junior Oliver Horsley was 65th, 14:48.

“Sebastian continues to show his formidable talent and composure during races as a freshman,” said Zirkelbach.

Piedmont looks ahead to its first official Western Alameda County Conference meet of the season at Hayward High today, October 11. Their schedule picks up again on October 13 for the Roughrider Invitational at Woodward Park in Fresno on October

13. The meet is held on the same course as the State Cross-Country Championship meet.

“The Roughrider is a fun event, it will give our runners a chance to compete on the state course,” said Zirkelbach.

**NEXT UP**

Piedmont competed in a WACC Center Meet today, October 11 at 3:30 p.m.

# PPD Blue

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9:27 p.m. Grand Ave. Motorist reports a silver SUV with lights on top tried to pull him over. Officer on scene sees silver Mercedes with tinted window, attempts to pull it over, but car flees city.

11:12 p.m. Woodland Way. Report of tree falling onto overhead wires, and power going out. PG&E called; many power lines entangled in large tree. Neighbors told to shelter in place. PG&E on scene 30 minutes later, road access limited.

**Wednesday, October 4**

3:59 a.m. Fairview Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Officer interrupts suspects breaking into parked car. Suspects flee at high speed in newer white SUV.

8:09 a.m. Lower Grand Ave. Report of German shepherd attacking resident’s dog. Owner & dog walk away towards Arroyo. Officer unable to locate dog or owner.

8:37 a.m. Harvard Rd. Report of gas-powered leaf blower.

1:18 p.m. Jerome Ave. Resident reports her vehicle accidentally rolled into a parked car; report taken.

9:01 p.m. Ronada Ave. **ALPR** triggered by red 2022 Ford Escape. Officer locates vehicle but driver fails to yield and speeds away.

11:45 p.m. Bonita Ave. Report of vehicle doing donuts.

**Thursday, October 5**

12:46 a.m. Estates Dr. **ALPR** triggered by gray 2016 Hyundai Elantra.

12:39 p.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by stolen brown 2013 BMW X5.

4:32 p.m. El Cerrito Ave. Report of vehicles with fake parking permits.

10:17 p.m. Magnolia Ave. Report of juveniles on roof of building at Witter Field.

**Friday, October 6**

1:17 a.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by silver 2014 Audi A4. Officer locates vehicle which speeds away into Oakland.

1:21 a.m. Lake Ave. **Arrest.** Officer makes contact with people biking. Records check finds one person has outstanding warrant from San Luis Obispo for failure to appear for narcotics violations. Officer cites the person.

5:27 a.m. Highland Ave. **ALPR** triggered by blue 2006 Toyota Tacoma.

7:51 a.m. Magnolia Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Report of fishing tackle box stole from vehicle.

11:44 a.m. Highland Ave. **ALPR** triggered by white 2022 Dodge Ram 150 U-Haul van. Driver is pulled over and detained; van towed. Further investigation reveals error by U-Haul; driver released.

## Where in the World Are We?



By coincidence the Meyer and Wagener families met while on vacation last summer in Barcelona, Spain. Miraculously, they happened to have a copy of the *Piedmont Post* for an after-dinner group photo. Pictured are: (front) Nina Meyer (holding paper), Andrew Meyer; (middle) Molly Wagener, Xenia Meyer, Sofia Meyer, Quinn Wagener; (back) Nick Meyer, Max Wagener, Peter and Sarah Wagener.

Send your photos of the Post in the far corners of the world, or of other communities named Piedmont, to: WITWAW, 1139 Oakland Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.

## 2023 Calendar of Events

October 13 - October 18

Meetings may be viewed on KCOM (Channel 27) and on the City’s website: [piedmont.ca.gov](http://piedmont.ca.gov).

Friday, October 13

1:00 p.m. ....Special City Council Meeting ..... City Hall

Monday, October 16

6:00 p.m. ....City Council Meeting ..... City Hall

Wednesday, October 18

9:30 p.m. ....Recreation Commission Meeting..... City Hall