Flag football team suffers pair of losses

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's girls' flag football team wrapped up a difficult week, losing 19-6 to Berkeley at home on Humphries Diamond on Thursday, October 5. Twp days earlier, October 3, they were shut out by St. Ignatius 24-0 in San Francisco.

Berkeley is a Western Alameda County Conference foe, while St. Ignatius is a non-league North Coast Section opponent. Final stats for St. Ignatius were not provided.

The game with St. Ignatius was played on a full 100-yard football field, in contrast to flag football fields typically at 60 yards.

Berkeley continued its winning record at 4-0 and looks like the class of the league. Piedmont will have one more chance to see them at the WACC Championship Tournament at Hayward High on October 28.

"They were 3-0 coming into this. Berkeley had a big play on a hook-and-ladder. We caught them the first time, then they caught us the second time. I think it was the defensive position I put them in," said PHS coach Beth Black. "It's a lesson learned. We're learning every week. Friedie [Schickendanz] was telling me she was feeling frustrated after Tuesday's game [at SI], but she came out today, feels she did better and kept herself composed. You love to hear that," said Black.

Against Berkeley, the Yellowjackets scored on its opening drive but failed on a 1-point conversion. The Highlanders had an opportunity to tie the game on the ensuing possession but dropped a potential touchdown pass on fourth down.

In the second half, Piedmont forced a three-and-out from Berkeley and took possession at its own 15-yard line. On first-down, Lucy Wheeler took a hand-off and shook her way around three defenders to sprint 45 yards untouched into the end zone with 16:25 left in the game. A failed one-point conversion made it 6-6.

"I knew I needed to get a touchdown for this team; I wanted to turn the score around to give us a better chance… I just tried to find the space on the field and get through those pockets. But all the girls went out there and played super hard," said Wheeler.

On Berkeley's next possession on 2nd-and-15 from their own 15, the Jackets took a catch-and-run to the Highlanders' eight-yard line before scoring on another pass play. They converted for one-point to take a 13-6 lead with 12:05 remaining.

On Piedmont's next possession, Josie Lins made a long run to Berkeley's seven-yard line. On 1st-and-goal, Miya Fujimoto ran into the end zone, but the play was called back for flag guarding, resulting in a five-yard loss. Piedmont failed to get any closer, going four-and-out with 5:40 left at Berkeley's 15-yard line.

Berkeley's first play was a big catch-and-run to Piedmont's five yard line, scoring one play later to make it 19-6 with 4:35 to go. Elizabeth Long intercepted Berkeley's pass attempt for an extra point.

On Piedmont's final possession, Wheeler had a 14-yard carry, but Piedmont couldn't t move on from there, going four-and-out on the next four plays.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (2-3 overall, 2-2 league) hosts Tennyson tomorrow, October 12, at 4:30 p.m.

Staff Photos

Miya Fujimoto had a big carry that was called back due to a penalty in a loss to Berkeley.

Lucy Wheeler (#2) runs into the end zone for a touchdown.

Piedmont looks to regroup after two losses.

Piedmont wins back-to-back league matches

Tanya Kononova powers a forehand against Berkeley. *Staff Photos*

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's tennis team achieved its first two Western Alameda County Conference wins of the season last week, defeating Berkeley 6-1 on Thursday, October 5 at home, and blanking Alameda 7-0 on the road two days earlier.

"Everyone continued their good play with the only loss at No. 2 singles against Berkeley. Kate Jumper ran into a very good opponent. We also defeated Alameda 7-0, which is quite the result after beating them 4-3 last year," said coach Jim Landes.

Tanya Kononova continued her strong play at No. 1 singles, beating Berkeley's Ariana Alharazy and Alameda's Juliana Johnson in straight sets. Kononova also defeated Johnson in last year's WACC championship match.

"I feel like I'm playing with a lot more control over the ball. It makes me happy," said Kononova. "I'm not as consistent as I'd like it to be. It's also about staying mentally composed on the court. But I've been able to put more focus on the details and refining the smaller things," she added.

6-1 over Berkeley

Piedmont made quick work of Berkeley with No. 1 doubles team of Cecilia DeFazio and Emma Eisemon winning the first match after the Yellowjackets had to forfeit due to an injury while PHS led 3-2 in the first set. From there, Kononova won her match 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 singles. Maddie Tran and Samantha Huynh then won 6-2, 6-4 at No. 2 doubles, while Inara Mehta and Abigail Call won 6-2, 6-0 at No. 3 to claim Piedmont's clinching fourth victory.

After that, Carolina Romanczuk won in three sets at No. 3 singles, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1. Arianna Kortum then brought in a 6-1, 6-3 win at No. 4 singles. The only loss of the day was Kate Jumper at No. 2 singles, 7-5, 7-6 (7-2).

Carolina Romanczuk won both her matches with Berkeley and Alameda as Piedmont's No. 3 singles player.

7-0 over Alameda

There was a time 20 r so years ago when Alameda tennis ruled. For Piedmont to win, let alone shut out the Hornets, was unthinkable. But for the past two decades Piedmont's girls' tennis team has been the gold standard.

In its match at Alameda on October 3, Kononova rolled to a 6-1, 6-4 victory at No. 1 singles. Jumper, at No.2 singles, had to battle in a three-set match, but came away with a victory, 1-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3). At No. 3, Romanczuk won 6-4, 6-1, while Sophie LaForte won 7-6 (7-5), 1-6, 10-8.

On doubles, DeFazio and Eisemon won at No. 1 in three sets, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3. Tran and Huynh won 7-5, 6-3 at No. 2, while Ellie Broscow and Mehta paired at No. 3, winning 7-5, 6-1.

Tuesday vs. Bishop O'Dowd

Piedmont traveled to Bishop O'Dowd in Oakland yesterday, Tuesday, October 10. See next week's Post for match details.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (6-5 overall, 2-0 league) hosts Lick-Wilmerding on Thursday, October 12 at 3:30 p.m.

Emma Eisemon sends a serve. She won both her matches with No. 1 doubles partner Cecilia DeFazio.

PIEDMONT SPORTS SCHEDULE

Some events subject to change. (Revised - 10/11/23)

Date	Day	Sport	Opponent	Loc.	Var.	JV.
Oct. 11	Wed.	WP-G	Encinal (Alameda)	A	4:45	3:30
		TEN	Bishop O'Dowd (Merritt College)	A/H	3:30	3:30
		GOLF	Arroyo, Castro Valley			
			At Monarch Bay, San Leandro	A	3:30	------
		XC	WACC Meet at Hayward High	A	4:30	4:30
Oct. 12	Thurs.	WP-B	Alameda (at Laney College)	H	5:00	4:00
		FLAG	Tennyson	A	4:30	------
		WP-G	Alameda (at Laney College)	H	6:45	7:30
		TEN	Lick-Wilmerding	H/A	3:30	3:30
		VB	San Leandro	A	6:30	5:30
Oct. 13	Fri.	VB	Alameda	H	6:30	5:30
Oct. 14	Sat.	FB	San Lorenzo	A	3:15	11:00
Oct. 18	Wed.	TEN	Castro Valley	A/H	3:30	3:30

KEY: H = Home; A = Away; FB = Football; FLAG = Flag Football; GOLF = Girls' Golf; TEN = Girls' Tennis; VB = Girls' Volleyball; XC = Cross Country; WP-B = Boys' Water Polo; WP-G = Girls' Water Polo