

SPORTS

2nd consecutive blowout win for PHS in 41-3 drubbing of Encinal

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's football team is walking into its Western Alameda County Conference Shoreline Division schedule beaming with confidence after defeating upper Mission Division foe Encinal with a lopsided 41-3 win on Friday, September 15. It improves the Highlanders' record to 2-2. In the past two games they have outscored opponents 87-10 after dominating Mt. Eden 46-7 the previous week.

"It's a big win for the program and a step in the right direction," said coach Jordan Seiden. "We're trying to get this program back to where it has been, but we can't get a false sense of security. It was a win we felt like we could achieve. There will always be things we can fix."

Despite having a roster one-half the size of the Jets, Piedmont kept high energy through all four quarters and never took their foot off of the gas. It was a testament to their conditioning in offseason and in practice.

"I'd hate to jinx us but we're approaching Week 4 and we haven't suffered a serious injury yet, just a couple of minor dings. It's a tribute to our conditioning in the offseason and how we push them in practice. We have a solid regimen throughout the week. They are starting to see why we have them running on weekends – to get the lactic acid out."

"I put my Masters in kinesiology to use sometimes," added Seiden with a laugh.

It was a terrific game for receiver, defensive back, and return specialist Sam Shelby, who recorded five receptions for 139 yards and two touchdowns, to go along with 48 rushing yards on two carries, and an interception.

One of the junior receiver's touchdowns was a 77-yard catch and run down the left side after breaking a tackle. Shelby could be nicknamed after the Shelby GT500, using his speed to sprint away from the Jets' defensive backs.

He credits his breakaway speed to what he learned under track coach Pouyan Assadi,



Staff Photos

Receiver Sam Shelby had 187 all-purpose yards with two touchdowns plus an interception.



Emmett Maxwell celebrates after a 28-yard touchdown against Encinal.



Quarterback Markos Lagios threw for three touchdowns and rushed for one.

where he helped the 4x400 relay team qualify for the CIF State Championship.

"It's all thanks to track. I think it's completely changed my path in football. It's been such a big influence on my mentality towards the game and gives me that edge to help me break loose," said Shelby.

Senior running back Emmett Maxwell also had a big day, running for 97 yards on 13 carries, including a 28-yard touchdown after breaking two tackles. He also recorded a huge run against Mt. Eden where he carried multiple defenders to convert a first down.

"I just took a big breath before the snap and thought, 'this is it, I'm gonna do it right here.' I broke the first tackle and I saw the end zone. I couldn't believe what was happening... I just don't like to go down. I want to run the ball as far as I can possibly take it," said Maxwell.

PHS looks ahead to Arroyo in San Lorenzo this Saturday, September 23 for the start of their

league schedule, with momentum on their side. The Dons are currently 1-3 with their only win against Encinal, 58-22..

Game Recap

Piedmont opened the game strongly with a 14-0 lead within five minutes. PHS recorded an onside kick attempt by Encinal and scored on a four-play series capped by a short touchdown run by quarterback Markos Lagios. Shelby picked off Encinal's opening pass, which eventually led to a touchdown reception by Cash Elmquist. The Highlanders then went up 21-0 with 2:35 left in the first quarter on a 20 yard carry by Tommy Ashton, who bulldozed a defensive back over the goal line.

In the second quarter, Encinal drove to Piedmont's 20, but Jordan Aleman forced a fumble on a 3rd down and Ashton recovered. On the ensuing series, Shelby scored on his mercurial 77-yard touchdown reception on a screen pass, breaking a tackle and speeding his way to the end zone,

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PHS tennis team beats St. Mary's, Head-Royce

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's tennis team finished a strong week with a pair of dominant wins over North Coast Section Division 2 opponents. They swept St. Mary's 7-0 at the Corey Reich Tennis Center in the Highlanders' home opener on Thursday, September 14, and defeated Head-Royce 5-2 in Oakland the following day.

"St. Mary's lost their top-two players from last year and was a weaker team this year. We split the singles against Head-Royce but played great tennis all around," said PHS coach Jim Landes.

Making strong appearances in this year's singles lineup are sophomores Kate Jumper and Arianna Kortum, who paired together as freshmen in 2022.

"I'll always miss playing doubles with Arianna. We were the icon freshman duo last year and had a lot of fun together. But I really enjoy playing singles and hope to grow as a player," said Jumper.

"It's definitely different than playing with someone having your back out there. But neither of us have any regrets. We both are really enjoying playing singles," added Kortum.

Jumper won 6-1, 6-1 at the No. 1 spot against St. Mary's but lost 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2 versus Head-Royce.

"It's definitely different than playing doubles. You don't have a teammate to keep you disciplined on the court, so it becomes your

job. It takes a lot of inner growth to switch from a doubles player to a singles player in a short amount of time," said Jumper.

Kortum, meanwhile, won 6-1, 6-4 at No. 3 versus St. Mary's and 6-4, 6-1 at No. 4 singles against Head-Royce.

"It's going well," said Kortum of her switch to singles. "It's definitely quite the change, especially since we were playing at a different level last year."

The Highlanders look ahead to a match today at Justin Sienna in Napa, September 20/ They host Castro Valley for their first Western Alameda County Conference match on Friday, September 22.

7-0 over St. Mary's

Piedmont's win was never in doubt with every match being won in straight sets. Abigail Call and Alina Shahid at No. 3 doubles were the first win of the day with a clean sweep, 6-0, 6-0. Carolina Romanczuk was the next win at No. 2 singles, 6-3, 6-0, followed by Samantha Huynh and Maddie Tran winning 6-1, 6-1 at No. 1 doubles.

Kortum reeled in the clinching fourth victory at No. 3 singles, 6-1, 6-4. Jumper then won handily 6-1, 6-1 at No. 1 singles, while Ellie Broschow won 6-1, 6-2 at No. 4 singles and Sophie LaForte and Inara Mehta won 6-0, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles.

5-2 over Head-Royce

Tanya Kononova lost a tense battle at the No. 1 spot against

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Staff Photos

Kate Jumper, playing No. 1, powers a backhand against St. Mary's.



Arianna Kortum won singles matches against St. Mary's and Head-Royce.



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9:34 a.m. Highland Ave. Person comes to police station to drop off cash they found.

10:49 a.m. Scenic Ave. **Residential Burglary.** Report of packages stolen from home during the weekend; unknown loss.

11:03 a.m. Kingston Ave. **ALPR** triggered by white 2018 Kia Rio.

11:20 a.m. Crest Rd. Report of gas-powered leaf blower.

12:30 p.m. Winsor Ave. **ALPR** triggered by gray 2019 Hyundai Veloster.

2:52 p.m. Cambrian Way. Report of man knocking on door asking for money, then asking to use the bathroom. Officer advises man and a 2nd person of city ordinance forbidding soliciting without a permit.

2:57 p.m. Warfield Ave. **ALPR** triggered by white 2020 Kia Rio. Officer locates vehicle with 3 people wearing ski masks. He activates lights, but suspects fail to yield and enter Oakland.

3:43 p.m. Oakland Ave. **ALPR** triggered by white Hyundai Tucson. Officers pulls vehicle over. Driver is owner and unaware vehicle plates had been switched. All clear.

4:07 p.m. Oak Rd. **Auto Burglary. Arrest.** Report of toolbox stolen from contractor's truck in last 15 minutes. Neighbor's surveillance video ID's van involved, a white 2006 Chevrolet Express with man in straw hat. Officer finds van, which was stolen. Suspect resists arrest. \$300 Tool box, 2 stolen packages, stolen mail, and narcotic found. Suspect arrested for theft, possession, resisting arrest and probation violation and sent to Santa Rita Jail.

10:58 p.m. Oakland Ave. **ALPR** triggered by unidentified vehicle; takes off at high speed into Oakland.

Tuesday, September 12

3:22 a.m. Nace Ave. Report of a large amount of water in street. EBMUD notified; on scene in 20 min. Water main break.

11:27 a.m. Trestle Glen Rd. **ALPR** triggered by white Audi Q5.

12:56 p.m. Estates Dr. **ALPR** triggered by white 2019 Acura MDX. Vehicle fails to yield & races out of city onto Park Blvd.

6:13 p.m. Highland Ave. **Auto Theft.** Report of white Hyundai Santa Fe stolen in last 45 minutes.

6:44 p.m. Cambridge Way. Report of suspects pulling up in black Kia SUV without license plates and trying to enter or steal resident's vehicle in driveway. Neighbor scares off suspect.

Wednesday, September 13

5:57 a.m. Calvert Ct. Report of suspicious red Ford F-250 pickup truck driving slowly with person walking behind. Officer attempts to pull it over, but it fails to yield and enters Oakland. .

8:19 a.m. Mountain Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Report of license plate stolen overnight.

8:49 a.m. Olive Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Report of rear license plate stolen.

5:09 p.m. Moraga Ave. **ALPR** triggered by silver Audi Q5.

5:31 p.m. Boulevard Way. **ALPR** triggered by silver 2015 Lexus GS 350. Officer locates car, but it runs a red light and flees into Oakland.

6:42 p.m. Highland Ave. **Robbery.** Report of strong-arm robbery by 3 men wearing facemasks. Suspects knock a couple down in Community Center parking lot. Man is punched, woman is knocked down and purse is stolen. Injuries described as minor to

moderate. Their phone is later recovered. Suspects flee in black Volkswagen Golf.

11:27 p.m. Moraga Ave. **ALPR** triggered twice by silver Audi Q5.

Thursday, September 14

3:34 p.m. Kingston Ave. **ALPR** triggered by 2015 Infiniti QX7. Officer locates but it flees at high speed out of town. No pursuit.

5:07 a.m. Kingston Ave. Report of suspicious blue minivan driving slowly and stopping frequently. Report of someone getting out of vehicle and looking into parked car window.

5:24 a.m. Moraga Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Report of window smashed; unknown loss.

5:58 a.m. Sunnyside Ave. **Arrest. Auto Burglary.** Report of suspicious vehicle in the alley. Officer locates green Plymouth Voyager and 2 people nearby. Driver on probation for theft; passenger admits to possessing of methamphetamine and glass pipe. Passenger cited for possession of drug paraphernalia. Driver arrested.

9:02 a.m. Mesa Ave. **Hit & Run.** Report of gold Lexus sideswiping a parked vehicle.

4:46 p.m. Warfield Ave. **ALPR** triggered by blue 1988 Chevy truck.

Friday, September 15

12:52 a.m. Nova Ave. **Arrest.** During traffic stop, driver found to have \$125,000 outstanding felony warrant for domestic violence in San Leandro. Suspect arrested and taken to Santa Rita Jail.

2:13 a.m. Winsor Ave. **ALPR** triggered twice by white 2014 Infiniti QX6.

6:19 a.m. Ranleigh Way. **Auto Burglary.** Suspect in white newer sedan smashes window and rifles through glove box.

Hiking with Jon

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The dirt path will take you toward another landmark, Cowell Ranch Beach, the most secluded of the beaches thus far. But past the beach, continuing on the Cowell-Purisima portion of the

Coastal Trail is a 3-mile stretch of untouched beachfront and nature preserves alongside coastline and farmlands. You won't spot a footprint in the sand.

The walk gives you a glimpse



Beyond the golf course is a stretch of farmlands, where the Brussels sprouts thrive.

of a marine preserve, Eel Rock, toward the Cowell-Purisima trail's end at the Seal Rock overlook.

The farmlands are currently lush with Brussels sprouts with another pumpkin field next to it. For bird watchers, the entire hike will be widespread with birds. You'll often spot red-tailed hawks, northern harriers, pelicans from the ocean, and if you're lucky enough—and barn owl or great horned owl. This writer was fortunate enough to spot one on a tree line of the Wavecrest Open Space portion of the trail.

For a shorter walk, you can cut off half the distance by parking at the Cowell Ranch Beach lot, which would bypass the Ritz golf course and Wavecrest Open Space, but be the most secluded and remote area of the coastal trail.

It'd be wise to bring an extra layer given the marine layer of fog can quickly overtake the land.

Reprinted from November 2021 Post.

Football

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28-0 with 7:15 before halftime.

The Jets converted an impressive 46-yard field goal to make it 28-3, but Piedmont retained possession at its own 47 after a botched kickoff by Encinal with 45 seconds on the clock. After driving to the 21-yard line, Lagios found Shelby for another touchdown with 13 seconds left, and a 34-3 lead at halftime.

In the third quarter, Maxwell scored his 28-yard touchdown run, shrugging off two tacklers on the way to the end zone with 2:16 on the clock for the game's final score.

Final stats: Lagios completed 9

for 13 passes for 170 yards, three touchdowns, to go along with 45 rushing yards and one touchdown. Shelby had five receptions for 139 yards and two touchdowns, to go along with 48 rushing yards and one interception. Maxwell had 13 rushing attempts for 97 yards and one touchdown. Ashton had 74 rushing yards and one touchdown.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (2-2) heads to San Lorenzo for a game with Arroyo on Saturday, September 23 at 2:00 p.m. for its first league match of the season.

Tennis

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Noelle Chen of Head=Royce, 7-5, 7-6 (7-5). Chen reached last year's D2 NCS Semifinals, similar to Kononova. Romanczuk won 6-1, 6-4 at No. 3, while Kortum won 6-4, 6-1 at No. 4. Jumper lost at No. 2, 6-4, 6-2.

Piedmont swept the doubles against the Jayhawks. Cecilia DeFazio and Emma Eisemon won 7-5, 6-4 at No. 1, Tran and Huynh

won 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2, and Mehta and Broscow won in three sets, 6-1, 4-6, 10-8.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (4-4) travels to Justin Sienna in Napa today, September 20 for a 3:30 p.m. match. They play Castro Valley at home on Friday, September 22 at the same time.



Samantha Huynh and Maddie Tran (back) have become a mainstay in Jim Landes' doubles order.

Volleyball

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Bauer Peterson had one kill and two aces.

3-1 to Castro Valley

Two sets went into extra points in Piedmont's four-set loss to Castro Valley by scores of 28-26, 25-21, 24-26, 25-16. Town led the way with a season-high 12 kills, Wagener had four kills and an ace, Mullin had two kills, Sachs had one kill.

Tuesday vs. Alameda

Piedmont traveled to Alameda on Tuesday, September 19 for another league match. See next week's Post for game details.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (3-7 overall, 0-1 league) hosts Head-Royce today, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. They also host San Leandro on Friday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Flag Football

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rowly close of scoring the school's first touchdown. It featured Schickendanz connecting with Fujimoto for a 13-yard completion to convert a 4th-and-7 situation, while #28 had a big 16-yard grab to convert a 3rd-and-10, while #8 received a 13-yard pass from Schickendanz to the two-yard line. But on 2nd-and-goal from the two, the Hornets intercepted a pass at the 14:20 mark.

Alameda drove to set up a 1st-and-goal from Piedmont's 20-yard-line, scoring on a perfectly executed hook-and-lad-

der, where the initial Hornets' receiver tossed a lateral to the AHS running back who sprinted down the right side and into the end zone with 10:06 on the clock. After back-and-forth possessions, Alameda drove to Piedmont's seven before scoring on a pass with 1:03 remaining.

Final stats were not provided.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (0-1) travels to Mt. Eden in Hayward on Thursday, September 21 for a 4:30 p.m. game.