

# JV football team falls 16-12 to Skyline

## Scots getting closer to breaking into win column

By Jason Shum, Colby Hong and Layth Haddawy

Piedmont's JV football team played a tight neck-and-neck game at Skyline High in Oakland on Friday, September 15. In spite of the loss, the score represented a marked improvement.

Quarterback Cash Panico had a big day, helping lead the offense to an early touchdown on a quarterback sneak. During the Titans' ensuing drive, Skyline's center airmailed his snap over the quarterback allowing Piedmont to recover. However, the Highlanders didn't make the most of the turnover, and allowed Skyline to bounce back with a touchdown and two-point conversion go ahead 8-6. Both teams traded possessions in the remainder of the first half, and at halftime the score remained 8-6.

Piedmont opened the second half and looked like it was about to break the game open when freshman running back Rehan Mumtaz made an impressive 61-yard run for a touchdown. It

was nullified due to a holding penalty, but despite the call, Panico helped get PHS back on the board with multiple scrambles and a pivotal pass to Marius Arno before tossing a 25-yard touchdown pass to running back Ryan Riddel, for a 12-8 lead.

In the fourth quarter, Piedmont's offense stalled and was forced to punt, and that's when disaster struck. On the punt attempt, PHS snapped the ball too high, allowing the Titans to block Riddel's kick and giving Skyline excellent field position.

With nine seconds left, Skyline ran down the middle for a touchdown and a 14-12 lead. On Skyline's two-point conversion, Panico at linebacker and Jason Shum at free safety met the Titans' quarterback near the goal line, but Skyline was awarded 2-point conversion.

**NEXT UP**

The JV team (0-3) travels to Arroyo in San Lorenzo on Saturday, September 23 for an 11:30 a.m. game.

# Piedmont falls to Alameda in inaugural flag football opener

By Jonathan Comeaux

Thursday, September 14 marked a historic day for Piedmont High girls' sports with the flag football team playing its inaugural season-opening game. Although the Highlanders lost 13-0 to the Alameda Hornets at Thompson Field on the island, Piedmont walked out with heads held high knowing they just made school history as the first official flag football team to wear the Purple and White.

"It's an historic day. There were a lot of women and former Piedmont students who were in those stands thinking, 'I never got the chance to play.' These girls got to experience that today, and that's bigger than a win or a loss right now," said coach Beth Black.

"But now we want to win," she added.

It was back-and-forth action for both teams until Alameda broke the deadlock midway through the second half with 10:06 left in the game. Piedmont's offense came close to scoring on a couple of series, and its defense was solid until conceding two second half scores.

"It had the first-game feeling. We noticed in the WACC Jam-boree that we got really hyped and then had to adjust. Today we came out similarly but adjusted quicker. I cannot say enough about our defense. There are things to correct, but they played a great game," said Black.

Defensive back Dahlia Osman had a big day, making two interceptions and being among the leading tacklers. One of her interceptions was a takeaway in Piedmont's end zone to prevent a Hornets' touchdown.

"When the quarterback throws long, it tends to give me time to adjust and get in front of who I'm defending, and I just caught it. The second one was similar. I had time to see where it was going, so I jumped off of my original player to get it," said Osman.

Offensively, Miya Fujimoto made her presence felt with her speed out of the receiver position, often out running defenders to the wings. She's a two-sport athlete with softball in the spring and was named the Post's' Freshman of the Year last year.

"Miya is a weapon. It was nice to see her have some big runs. She's running hard and putting it all out there," said Black.

The Highlanders are scheduled to play Mt. Eden in Hayward tomorrow, Thursday, September 21 for another Western Alameda County Conference match.

**Game Recap**

After forcing Alameda to turnover on downs in the game's first possession, PHS retained at its own 25-yard line on the 80-yard field, but tossed an interception on their second play to put the Hornets at Piedmont's 10 yard line. On first down, Alameda attempted a pass to the end zone, but Osman nabbed an interception.

Piedmont drove to the AHS 35-yard line, but the Hornets picked off another pass. Alameda then drove down to PHS' one-yard line, but failed on 4th-and-1 with an incomplete pass with 1:29 left in the first half. Teams, notably, cannot call run-plays on



Staff Photos

Dahlia Osman leaps to grab one of her two interceptions against Alameda.



Miya Fujimoto, who lines up at running back, was Piedmont's leading receiver.



Mia Leggett looks for a pass against Alameda.

third- or fourth-downs.

After Osman intercepted another pass with 15 seconds left in the half at their own 35, quarterback Friedie Schickendanz connected with Dorothy Nemeth, who broke past a group of defenders to run to the Alameda 5-yard line as time expired.

In the second half, PHS had a nine-play series that came nar-

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Photos by Anne Murphy

Cash Panico had 2 touchdowns on a run and a pass reception.



Ryan Riddel scored a receiving touchdown against Skyline.



Piedmont looks ahead to Arroyo on Saturday, September 23.

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