

SPORTS

PHS football team bashes Mt. Eden 46-7

By Jonathan Comeaux

The Highlanders accomplished their first varsity football win since 2021 in dominant fashion, knocking off Mt. Eden at the Monarchs' home field in Hayward 46-7 on Friday, September 8. Their win comes against a Western Alameda County Conference school, that competes in the Mission Division, one step above Piedmont's Shoreline Division. The game offered a gauge of where the team is in its return to conference play after having to play last without a league in which it could compete.

Saturday's victory marked the first varsity win since beating Kennedy 12-6 in October 2021.

"There was a weight on us that we haven't won a varsity game in two years. It's a big monkey off of our back," said coach Jordan Seiden. "I feel like we really saw what we can do. We saw it last year, too, when our JV guys got rolling."

It was a big day for quarter-

back Markos Lagios, who had four touchdowns, two by air and two by land. Receiver Sam Shelby consistently burned the defense, recording three touchdowns. The biggest play was a 92-yard connection between Lagios and Shelby on a bomb down the right sideline.

"We put three receivers on the opposite side and had Sam isolated on one defender. I just read the safety and drew him over by looking to the left. The safety moved over, I went back to the right, and...touchdown," reflected Lagios on the play.

"I can trust Markos to put it on me," said Shelby. "I got a little bit of separation and it was a great ball right there for me. I almost got tripped up, but I was able to take it to the crib"

It was a sweet victory for Lagios, who made his varsity debut as a freshman when Piedmont was shut out 35-0 to Mt. Eden in 2021.

"My freshman year we came here and got blown out. This

game was circled when the schedule came out. I'm just happy to get it done and we were all locked in from the jump," said Lagios.

The win also marked a successful day for offensive coordinator Paul Perenon, who came to Piedmont as Seiden's assistant after spending the last 13 yards as Mt. Eden's head coach. After the game he was surrounded by former Monarchs players who came to see their previous coach.

Piedmont looks ahead to one more Mission Division opponent, Encinal, this Friday. Their team is now coached by former Highlander offensive and defensive line coach, Derrick Lyons.

Game Recap

Both teams traded possessions throughout the first quarter until the Highlanders regained possession at 1:54 with an extremely short field. After forcing the Monarchs into a 4th-and-35 situation, the punt from deep inside their own end zone sailed to around the 30-yard line to Shelby, who



Staff Photos

Markos Lagios runs the ball into the end zone as Piedmont's sideline celebrates. Lagios had two passing and two rushing touchdowns.



Tommy Ashton dives for the pylon, scoring his second touchdown of the night.



Sam Shelby reels in one of his two touchdown receptions. He also had a rushing touchdown.

returned the ball to the 10-yard line. On 2nd-and-10, Shelby scored a touchdown carry on an end-around from the receiver spot. With 1:09 on the clock.

In the second quarter, Piedmont scored on a nine-play, five-minute drive that capped off with a 23-yard fade from Lagios to Shelby. Then after a Mt. Eden punt to Piedmont's eight-yard line, the Highlanders struck gold on Lagios' 92-yard bomb to Shelby down the sideline. A missed extra point made it 20-0 with 3:22 before halftime.

Mt. Eden scored its only touch-

See [Football](#) on page 15

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Highlanders open water polo season at Newark Memorial

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's girls' water polo team opened its season on Friday and Saturday, September 8-9 in a tournament at Newark Memorial High School. The Highlanders lost 12-6 to James Logan on the opening day and lost 6-5 in an overtime barnburner to Granada of Livermore the following day. They closed the tournament with a 14-2 loss to league rival Bishop O'Dowd.

It was a productive tournament for Kat Melian, who scored six goals in the three matches including four of PHS' five goals in its 6-5 loss to Granada.

12-6 loss to James Logan

Piedmont trailed 4-2 at the end of the first quarter with goals by Anne Reardon and Abigail Jacoby. But James Logan blew the game open in the second quarter with seven unanswered goals to lead 9-2 by halftime.

In the third, PHS conceded two goals by added scored by Melian and Sydney Olson. Vivian Burke scored both of Piedmont's last goals.

Final stats: Burke scored twice, while Melian, Olson, Jacoby, and Reardon had individual goals. Goalie Sophie Nicoll had five saves and one steal.

6-5 overtime loss to Granada

The first quarter was scoreless until the final seconds of the first quarter. It was a defensive second quarter with Piedmont equalizing the game with a goal by Jacoby with 44 seconds left before half-time, but Granada reclaimed the lead with 15 seconds left.

In the third, Melian tied the match shortly after Piedmont drew a penalty against Granada with 3:54 to go, but Granada got the lead again with 2:24 on the clock. Melian tied the game, once again, with 1:20 remaining. She scored her hat trick with 48 seconds left in the third on a penalty shot.

Melian added one more to the tally 40 seconds into the fourth quarter, but Granada began its comeback from there—cutting the lead to 5-4 with 4:49 left. With just 38 seconds left in the game, Granada tied the match to force overtime.

In sudden-death overtime, Granada drew an exclusion penalty with 1:29 on the clock, converting on the player-advantage



Photos by Nancy Brahm

Piedmont opened its water polo season at a tournament hosted by Newark Memorial on September 8-9.



Kat Melian scored six goals in three matches, including four in a 6-5 overtime loss to Granada.



Vivian Burke scored twice against James Logan.

after 19 seconds to win it.

Final stats: Melian scored five goals, Jacoby scored once, and Nicoll had four saves.

14-2 loss to Bishop O'Dowd

Piedmont trailed 4-1 at the end of the first period on a goal by Reardon, and fell behind 7-1 by

halftime. The Dragons increased the lead 11-1 in the third, while Melian added a goal in the fourth.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (0-3) travels to Lick-Wilmerding in San Francisco for a league match on Thursday, September 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Football

Continued from page 12

down on a 61-yard catch and run down the sideline, making it 20-7 with 2:43 left in the half. Piedmont made quick work in its next possession, including a 40-yard carry by Lagios to the Monarchs' 30, followed by a 14 yard reception by Shelby to Mt. Eden's 1-yard line. Lagios then got a rushing touchdown on a misdirection carry, running in off the right end untouched with 1:03 to go.

Piedmont started at Mt. Eden's 31 to start the second-half after the Monarchs' failed an onside attempt, scoring on an five-play series that finished with a six-yard carry Tommy Ashton – 33-7. Piedmont's running back scored on its next possession as well, this time on a 4th-and-2 situation at Mt. Eden's 20-yard line, making

it 40-7.

The Highlanders scored once more at the start of the fourth on an eight-play series, capping it with a 20-yard carry by Lagios with 11:17 left in the game. Because Mt. Eden does not have a JV team, Piedmont was effectively able to rotate in its JV players in the remaining minutes.

Stats: Lagios had two passing and two rushing touchdowns. Shelby had two receiving and one rushing touchdown. Ashton had two rushing touchdowns. 9 had an interception. Jordan Alemania had two sacks and a forced fumble.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (1-2) travels Alameda to play Encinal this Friday, September 15.

Tennis

Continued from page 13

6-1 loss to Chico

Against Chico, Kononova won the only winner, battling through three sets for a 3-6, 6-3, 10-5 victory. Jumper lost at No. 2, 6-2, 6-4. Kortum and Romanczuk lost at No. 3 and No. 4, but final scores were not provided. Piedmont also lost all three doubles matches.

4-3 loss to Leigh

Leigh of San Jose won by taking all four singles matches, while Piedmont swept the three doubles matches. DeFazio and Eisemon won 6-3, 6-4 at No. 1,

Tran and Hyuhn won 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2, while Shahid and Mehta won 7-5, 6-3 at No. 3.

Kononova lost in a three-set marathon match that went an extra game in the second and third sets, 3-6, 7-5, 11-9. Jumper lost 6-2, 6-0 at No. 2, Kortum fell 6-4, 6-1 at No. 3, and Romanczuk fell 6-4, 6-4 at No. 4.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (2-4) hosts St. Mary's tomorrow, September 14, at 3:30 p.m. They also travel to Head-Royce in Oakland on September 15, also 3:30 p.m.

Volleyball

Continued from page 13

seven kills, Mira Sachs had four kills, Jules DeYoung had two kills and a block, Elena Stevens had a block and kill, Mullin had two kills, Peterson had five kills.

3-0 loss to San Rafael

The Highlanders lost 3-0 to San Rafael on Tuesday, September 6 by scores of 25-17, 25-19, 25-20. The Bulldogs are looking like a D4 North Coast Section contender after reaching last year's semifinals. Grimmer had five aces.

Final stats: Town had seven kills and one ace. DeYoung had five kills and an ace. Molly Wagnier had five kills, Peterson had

three, Sachs had four. Grimmer had three aces.

Tuesday vs. Encinal

Piedmont played its first league match against Encinal on Tuesday, September 12. See next week's Post for game details.

NEXT UP

It's a busy week for Piedmont (2-5) with three matches in as many days. They host Coliseum College Prep Academy today, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. match, travel to St. Joseph in Alameda on September 14 at the same time, and then host Castro Valley on Friday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Flag Football

Continued from page 14

mages have gone really well," reflected Leggett.

Saturday's setup included each school rotating its offenses and defenses against each other on a 40-yard field, requiring 20 yards for a first down. Piedmont's defense had some stellar moments against San Leandro, including Dahlia Osman recording two interceptions on successive possessions with one of them in the end zone to prevent a Pirates touchdown. Josie Lins grabbed a leaping interception to force a turnover for a third straight San Leandro possession.

For the offense, Piedmont had a long opening series against Berkeley, who looks like one of the stronger teams in the WACC. From there, the Highlanders' offense had some highs and lows as they tested out their playbook.

"It's a learning experience. We're still touching up some things on plays and routes, it's just putting all our practice onto the field," said Leggett.

The Highlanders are set to open its season tomorrow, Thursday, September 14 against Alameda, in a game at Lincoln Middle School at 4:30 p.m.

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