

# PHS goes 2-2 at Napa Valley College tournament

## Highlanders beat Berkeley 14-3 earlier in week

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's boys' water polo team's undefeated streak was interrupted at the Napa Valley College tournament last weekend. Playing on Friday and Saturday, September 23-24, they lost a 10-9 barn-burner to Ripon in Friday's first round in overtime, but rebounded by defeating league opponent Berkeley 9-4 later in the day. On Saturday, PHS lost to Amador Valley 13-6 and then pulled out a dramatic 11-10 victory in overtime over Foothill.

The team was without a key player, Peter Krumins, for the tournament.

In a separate game, the Highlanders dominated Berkeley 14-3 on Wednesday, September 21 at the Yellowjackets' home gym.

"We played well. We were without Peter Krumins, so the other boys had to step up. Declan Linnane and George Stein played lights out; solid defensively and offensively. Finn Burke played well. His two-meter play improved throughout the tournament," said assistant coach John Savage.

Savage also had high praise for a group of sophomores and juniors who made their presence felt at the tourney.

"Lots of sophomores stepped up; Hayden Jahn, Charlie Wright,



Photos by Nancy Brahm

**Declan Linnane scored four goals and had two steals in an overtime win over Foothill at the Napa Valley College tournament.**

Yotem Kariv, Ori Aloush – all saw time this weekend. Our team is young, carried by juniors. Declan and George were great, but Quincy Scherman, Daniel Banin, Evan Dickason all had goals and improved defensively," said Savage.

### 11-10 overtime win over Foothill

In the first quarter, Foothill jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but Hayden Jahn scored a minute later and Daniel Banin tied the game with 22 seconds left. PHS trailed 7-4 by halftime with goals scored by Finn Burke and Banin.

After conceding the opening goal of the third quarter after 50



**Piedmont is now 8-2 overall and 3-0 against WACC opponents.**

seconds, Piedmont scored three goals in the final two minutes, including a pair by Stein and one by Burke with three seconds left, 8-7.

In the fourth, Foothill added a goal in the first 12 seconds of action and went ahead 10-7 with 4:34 left. From there, Linnane scored with 3:35 to play, Stein scored after PHS drew a man-advantage at 1:58, and Linnane tied the game at 10-10 with 1:19 remaining.

Overtime featured back and forth possessions for the first minute and a half, including a big save by goalie Dariush Kashani, leading to Linnane scoring the game-winner at the 1:20 mark.

**Final stats:** Linnane scored four goals with two steals. Stein scored three, an assist, and a steal. Banin scored twice. Jahn had a goal and steal. Burke scored once. Quincy Scherman had an assist and two steals. Kashani recorded 10 saves, including three in the fourth quarter.

### 13-6 loss to Amador Valley

PHS trailed 4-1 after the first and 6-3 by halftime. AVHS extended the gap to 10-4 in the third and finished strong, 13-6.

**Final stats:** Stein scored three times. Scherman had two assists. Banin had a goal, assist, and steal. Burke and Jahn had individual goals. Kashani recorded eight saves and four steals.

### 9-4 win over Berkeley

Piedmont blanked Berkeley until the fourth quarter. It led 3-0 at the end of the first. 4-0 by halftime, 7-0 to start the fourth, and scored two more in the final period, though it allowed four goals with reserves in the pool, 9-4.

**Final stats:** Stein led with four goals and a steal. Bannin had two goals and two steals. Farris Safouri had a goal and steal. Dickason scored a goal, assist, and steal. Linnane had an assist.

See [Boys' Water Polo](#) on page 32

# Football pounded 49-15 by St. Mary's

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High's football team, hanging on by a thread, suffered its fourth straight loss on Friday, September 23 at Witter Field, falling to St. Mary's 49-15. With a depleted roster and additional players now out with injuries, it was an uphill fight for survival.

The Highlanders struggled to find their mojo in the first half but actually outscored the Panthers 15-14 in the second half.

"I feel good that we scored two touchdowns in the second half; I can find some solace in that we won 15-14 in the second half. All week, we talked about being able to get the first punch, and we just couldn't get that done all night," said coach Jordan Seiden.

The game saw former Piedmont head coach John Trotman's return to Witter Field, now as head coach at St. Mary's. His team has a 4-0 record. The Panthers ended the first quarter leading 14-0 and went into halftime up 35-0. Piedmont scored one touchdown in the third quarter and closed the game with a touchdown and a two-point conversion in the final minute.

"We had a lot of opportunities; it was more of us just defeating ourselves. We couldn't block a soul in the first half and had no continuity in getting anything going. I love our passion and how

hard we play despite our numbers," said Seiden.

Although Piedmont took a beating with a sophomore-laden varsity roster, the second half showed some bright spots. The Highlanders' execution noticeably improved, including the recovery of an onside kick at the start of the second half.

"It was encouraging that we didn't just pack it in and call it a night [when we were] down 35-0. It's hard to come back after that. I wanted to get the momentum going and catch them sleeping with a quick kick. We just wanted to create some momentum and walk out with our head high feeling good about something," said Seiden.

In the second half, Piedmont recovered a fumble, and quarterback Markos Lagios completed a 37-yard pass to Matteo Costa, setting up Costa's touchdown on a six-yard reception. Lagios also had an impressive run to convert a fourth down, had a 30-yard pass to Sam Shelby, and a 13-yard TD throw to Shelby.

### NEXT UP

Piedmont's homecoming game against De Anza this Friday has been canceled. The current status of the future of the team is unclear given low roster numbers in addition to extensive injuries. See separate story on page 12.



Markos Lagios (4) drops back for a pass against St. Mary's. Staff Photos



Former Piedmont and current St. Mary's head coach John Trotman made his return to Witter Field.



Receiver Sam Shelby had a touchdown reception against St. Mary's for the game's final score.



Dariush Kashani had 10 saves in the overtime win over Foothill.

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