

# SPORTS

## Piedmont edged out 27-20 to Seaside in season opener

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont’s football team came up one touchdown short in a season-opening 27-20 loss to Seaside on Friday night, August 36 at Witter Field. Tied 7-7 at halftime, Seaside pulled ahead 21-14 in the

third quarter, but the Highlanders rallied to narrow the score to 21-20. The Spartans scored the clinching touchdown in the final quarter

“It was a tough one,” commented first-year Piedmont coach Jordan Seiden. “We really

thought we had control of the game and then all of a sudden, we were down a touchdown. We’ve got to get more physical and tackle better. All the plays like long bombs, long runs, interceptions are beautiful and fun to watch, but football comes down to blocking and tackling. Those things got in our way tonight,” he said.

PHS battled in the second half to keep the game close. but with only 20 players. Many playing both offense and defense, fatigue became a factor. With the lack of a full offseason training camp due to the school abruptly canceling, then reviving the varsity team during the spring months, Seiden was forced to progressively install his system s in a short amount of time. Friday’s game was the first of Piedmont’s full-speed action without an opening scrimmage game, and some of that came into play on Friday night.

“We weren’t really able to



Staff Photos  
Piedmont senior Matteo Costa scored on an interception against Seaside in the opening game of the football season.



Jack Nelson had 150 total yards and over 20 carries as a running back.

get into contact drills because of the numbers. This was essentially our scrimmage. For some of our guys, this was the first time they’ve actually played a live football game,” Seiden said. “There are certain things you can’t replace, and one of them is full contact,” he added.

But there were some high points. Running back Jack Nelson carried the load for the offense with nearly 150 total yards.

“Jack is a helluva player, especially for someone whose focus in high school has been on lacrosse. He’s a true warrior and represents what we want our kids to be; he brings it all to the table.” Said Seiden.

Sophomore quarterback Markos Lagios recorded his first two passing touchdowns to classmate Sam Shelby, playing varsity for the first time.

“Sam is a kid we knew would be a heavy contributor; he made some plays on both sides and is a player we can count on. He is a key cog to what we’re building,” said Seiden.

on a 4th-and-10 with 2:40 left in the first quarter. One minute later, Seaside answered with a 60-yard touchdown, leading to a 7-7 tie at halftime.

In the third quarter, Piedmont took a 14-7 lead in the third quarter when safety Matteo Costa intercepted the ball on the 30-yard line and ran it back 70 yards for a touchdown with 7:01 left. But once again Seaside responded with its own touchdown drive for a 14-14 tie. Seaside scored again with 29 seconds left in the third period after forcing a Piedmont turnover on downs at the Highlanders’ 37 yard line, going ahead 21-14.

Piedmont got back on the board with 7:56 left in the fourth quarter, driving 65 yards for a six-yard pass to Shelby in the end zone. Seaside blocked the extra point kick, and remained ahead 21-20.

On the next possession the Spartans scored with 2:31 left in the game, but this time. Piedmont blocked the extra point attempt point to stay within one point, trailing the visitors 27-20. The Highlanders were able to drive to their own 46-yard line with around 30 seconds left in the game before an interception closed the game.

### NEXT UP

Piedmont (0-1) hosts Del Norte of Crescent City this Friday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Witter Field.

## JV Football commands a 28-0 win over the Seaside Spartans

By Brandon Dicke and Dash Waters Worthen

The Junior Varsity Highlanders preformed big in the season opener on Friday, August 26 against the Seaside High Spartans at Witter Field, cruising to a 28-0 shutout victory.

Piedmont scored when quarterback Brandon Dicke hooked up with Ethan Alering for an 18 yard touchdown pass with running back Cash Panico scoring

a two point conversion to make it 8-0—which was the score to enter halftime.

The Spartans ensued possession coming back from the half, but Piedmont was able to stop its drive. Just three plays later Panico burst a 40-yard run to make it 14-0.

Vincent Arbit scored the final two touchdowns for PHS. As a quarterback, he tossed an eight yard pass, and followed up on the defensive side with a fumble

recovery returned to the house for the final score, 28-0.

The outstanding defense hounded the visiting Spartans, as contributors like Cash Elmquist and Albert Belingrath wreaked havoc, preventing Seaside from ever breaching the Piedmont 30-yard line for the entire second half.

### NEXT UP

Piedmont host Del Norte on Friday, September 2 at 4:30 p.m.



Photos by Mike McConathy  
Cash Panico with a carry against Seaside. He had a 40-yard touchdown run in the game.



Piedmont’s Albert Bellingrath (36) pounces on the ball carrier with Adan Soleto (56) in pursuit.

### Game Recap

Piedmont started the game by recovering an onside kick and drove down to the 11-yard line, but turned the ball over with an interception that first tipped off of the hands of a PHS receiver. Seaside got to the PHS eight yard line but turned it over on downs.

Piedmont was first to score, a 70-yard catch and run by Shelby



Sophomore quarterback Markos Lagios made his first two touchdown passes of his high school career, both going to sophomore classmate Sam Shelby.

### CORRECTION

An article in the August 24 edition of the Piedmont Post incorrectly identified a member of the Piedmont High School tennis team as a Russian exchange student. Freshman Arianna Kortum is a longtime resident of Piedmont and not an exchange student. The *Post* offers its apologies to the Kortum family for the error.