

SPORTS



Piedmont seniors line up for a final bow at Witter Field on Friday before stopping Kennedy 14-12 in their final game of the season. Photos by Ken DeCrosta

Highlanders finish undefeated with 14-12 win over Kennedy Cain’s 2 touchdowns give him 14 total TDs in 5-game season

By Jonathan Comeaux

The Piedmont High football team finished its shortened five-game season undefeated, 5-0, after defeating Kennedy High 14-12 at Witter Field on Friday, April 16. It was an emotional victory for the Highlanders after having to drastically reduce its offseason program and losing significant players to the overlapping baseball season. There was no football season in the fall of 2020, due to the COVID-19 health restrictions. In the school’s last full football season, the team posted a 3-7 record in 2019.

The game against Kennedy was close. “We had to get all the butterflies out and settle down. We got caught with some penalties but ran the ball well and executed well defensively. I don’t care if we win by two, or one

point; we just need to win,” said coach Jerome Johnson.

Success is not a foreign concept to this group of players; a majority of whom played on the Undefeated JV team in 2018.

“It was a whole team-effort,” explained Ben Marshburn, who plays receiver, safety, and kicker. “Brian [Cain] and our lines have been doing great all year. It’s amazing to have this group of seniors. We have so much chemistry on the field.”

“All I was thinking about earlier on Friday was the first day of football when coach [Dick] Carter took a picture of this group [on the JV team]. I looked at that photo earlier and I knew that I was as happy today as I was in that picture,” said quarterback Tommy McNeal.

Cain, the talented running back, scored both Piedmont

touchdowns with 119 rushing yards on 30 carries. He finishes the 5-game season with 721 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns, averaging nearly 6 yards a carry and 144 yards per game.

He was on pace to rush for 1,442 yards in a typical 10-game season.

“I can’t give enough credit to the guys up front,” Cain said, thanking the offensive linemen. “They created my running lanes each year. Just to play for them and come through every week is the best feeling.”

But for yet another game, it was Johnson’s defense getting the job done. Piedmont defenders had 10 tackles for losses from eight different players, plus three quarterback sacks. The defense twice stopped Kennedy scoring drives near the end zone.

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Quarterback Tommy McNeal has helped lead Piedmont to an undefeated season.



Piedmont’s defense got the job done one more time, holding Kennedy to 12 points in a key victory for the Highlanders.

PIEDMONT SPORTS SCHEDULE

Some events subject to change. (Revised - 4/21/21)

Date	Day	Sport	Opponent	Loc.	Var.	JV.
Apr. 21	Wed.	BB-G	Clayton Valley (Concord)	A	7:00	-----
Apr. 22	Thur.	SOFT	Alameda	A	4:00	-----
		TEN-B	Berkeley	A/H	4:00	4:00
		BB-B	Campolindo	H	7:00	5:30
		LAX	Newark Memorial	H	7:00	-----
Apr. 24	Sat.	TEN-G	Castro Valley	A	10:30	-----
		BASE	St. Mary’s (Berkeley)	A	1:00	-----
		TRACK	Dublin Distance Fiesta (Dublin)	A	3:30	3:30
		SOFT	El Cerrito	H	12:00	-----
		TEN-B	Castro Valley	H	1:00	-----
		BB-B	San Ramon Valley	H	6:00	4:30
Apr. 28	Wed.	BB-G	St. Joseph (Alameda)	A	5:30	-----
		BB-B	St. Joseph	A	7:00	TBD

KEY:

H = Home

TEN-G = Girls’ Tennis

TF = Track & Field

BASE = Baseball

A = Away

TEN-B = Boys’ Tennis

BB-B = Boys’ Basketball

SOFT = Softball

LAX = Girls’ Lacrosse

BB-G = Girls’ Basketball

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Football

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“[Kennedy] was the best team we’ve played all year in terms of their line – which is kind of the most important position, in my opinion,” said defensive lineman Andy Melian, a senior, who had two sacks. “In the third quarter, we hit our stride and it carried into the fourth.”

The defensive battle resulted in a 0-0 score at halftime. Piedmont forced a turnover on downs after Kennedy’s opening possession chewed up six minutes on the clock. With a 4th down and Goal from the six-yard line, Kennedy failed to score.

On Piedmont’s ensuing possession, it drove to the 20-yard line on a drive of 11 plays but failed to score with 10:56 left in the first half.

The Highlanders struck quickly after halftime, starting their drive at the 45-yard line

after a 25-yard kickoff return by Cain. Cain ran for seven yards, followed by Alex Hilton taking a receiver-screen to the 19-yard line. Cain helped convert a 4th-and-1 at the nine-yard line, then scored on an eight-yard carry three minutes into the third quarter for the first score in the game and a 7-0 Piedmont lead.

Kennedy scored with 2:21 left in the third quarter on a nine-yard touchdown, but an unsportsmanlike penalty added 15 yards to the PAT attempt. The kick landed short, making it 7-6, Piedmont.

PHS started its next scoring drive after another big kickoff return by Cain, putting Piedmont’s offense at the Kennedy 40-yard line. Cain converted a 4th-and-3 with a 10-yard run to the 10-yard line, then punched through on a 4th down at the one-yard line. With 3:55 left, Pied-

mont increased its lead to 14-6. But the Titans weren’t finished, returning Piedmont’s kickoff to the 50-yard line. After a QB sack by Melian and facing a 4th-and-17 from the 25-yard line, Kennedy’s quarterback threw a prayer to the back of the end zone. Magically it found a receiver, and with 1:17 left, the Titans would need a two-point conversion to tie Piedmont.

Once again Piedmont did the job. Kennedy’s run attempt was stuffed by Jordan Bowers, Bailey Cain, the younger brother of Brian, and Joe Hemepeck.

Final stats: Brian Cain, 119 yards on 30 carries for two touchdowns, to go along with two tackles for loss. Hilton had three runs for 24 yards and three receptions for 36 yards. Melian had three tackles and two sacks. Bailey Cain had two tackles and one sack. Individual tackles for loss were credited to Hemepeck, Jet Moxley, Nate Guzdar, Mason Kimball, and Trevor Thayer.



Running back Brian Cain scored both touchdowns for Piedmont and rushed for 119 yards, to go along with 50 yards on kickoff returns against Kennedy. He finishes his five-game season with 721 yards and 14 touchdowns.



Alex Hilton breaks free on a run against Kennedy.

MacMama

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- You can report it to the FBI’s Internet Complaint site: <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>
 - Just delete the email, and don’t worry too much about it.
- These things happen in waves. Some security companies that track these scams have reported that although these scammers have brought in about \$500,000 from last September to the end of January, people are becoming aware of this nefarious activity,

and fewer and fewer people are actually sending money to these bitcoin accounts. The amounts requested are anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. According to the security company Sophos, these operations are typically run by low level scammers who have likely purchased your passwords along with hundreds or thousands of others, and send these form letters en masse by email, hoping for bites by frightened

computer users.

If you need more guidance, contact me, I am doing all of my support appointments remotely these days!

Cookie Segelstein is the Macmama, an Apple Certified Service Professional that provides Apple computer consultation and trouble-shooting in your home and office. For more information, call 510-520-7760, email cookie@the-macmama.com, or visit her website at www.themacmama.com.

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Religion Corner

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home while affordable housing is being built are kept, the situation will slowly improve.

And therein lies my concern. The verbiage of caring is plentiful. The resources allocated to essential human rights in our society – housing, medical care, education, food, clean air and water – remain small in proportion to the size and strength of the local, state and national economies.

If the prophet Amos were to live among us he would find ample reason to proclaim as he

did of old, “Let justice roll down like waters.”

Rev. Jim Hopkins is Pastor of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Avenue at Mandana Boulevard, Oakland.

The Religion Corner appears weekly in the Post and expresses the views of a variety of faiths.

Reprinted from the November 7, 2018 edition of the Piedmont Post.

COVID Update

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lift the majority of COVID-19 restrictions statewide on June 15.

While a mask mandate will stay in place until further notice, Newsom said most restrictions will end if hospitalizations remain low and vaccinations continue apace.

Instead of focusing on specific sectors and industries with the color-coded tier system, the state

will focus mostly on masks and vaccinations.

As of press time, the California Department of Public Health reported that there have been 3,620,301 total cases of COVID-19 in California. There have been 59,804 deaths due to the disease statewide. Across California, the positivity rate is 1.3 percent.

Basketball

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tice Hartford as a trio who could earn big minutes.

The Highlanders’ season opened last night, Tuesday, April 19, with a game against Northgate at Binks Rawlings Gym. Results will be reported next week.

Girls Basketball Preview

Bryan Gardere brings back a talented roster with Freshman of the Year forward Trinity Zamora and honorable mention Mad-die Hill. Leading them will be senior captain Kai Johnson, who becomes the school’s next Division 1 basketball product after committing to play basketball at Weber State in the fall.

“We’re led by Kai. She’s shooting the ball really well and spent a lot of time over the offseason trying to improve her ball-handling to prepare for the next level. She committed to Weber State in the footsteps of Damian Lillard,” said Gardere.

Zamora was the team’s double-double machine as a freshman, churning out double-figures in points and rebounds in nearly every game. She was named to the All-League First team as a freshman.

“Trinity’s shot has gotten better, and even her ball handling is improved. She’s our initiator and will be our point-forward,” said Gardere.

Often leading the offense last season was Hall, the freshman guard, and the team’s primary ball handler. Gardere noted that her consistency as a shooter enables her to take a Stephen Curry-esque role of moving into shooting position without the ball.

Around his “Big-Three” of established players, Gardere will look for contributions from a roster of nine players, who aside from Johnson are all underclassmen.

Junior guard Hannah Govert returns from last year and could earn starting minutes. Junior guard Aniya Perine and 6-foot sophomore forward Brie Sotelo were brought up from the JV team, and freshman guards Natalia Martinez, Mai Leggett, and Luisa Murray will also earn minutes.

NEXT UP

The boys’ basketball team plays again tomorrow, Thursday, April 22 at home at 7:00 p.m., then will take on non-league San Ramon Valley on Saturday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m.

The PHS girls’ team plays its first game on the road against Clayton Valley in Concord today, Wednesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. Their league schedule officially starts on Wednesday April 28 in Alameda against St. Joseph, 5:30 p.m.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

9	7	1	3	4	8	6	5	2
5	4	3	2	6	1	7	9	8
8	6	2	9	7	5	4	3	1
1	2	7	4	9	3	5	8	6
6	9	5	7	8	2	3	1	4
4	3	8	1	5	6	9	2	7
7	5	4	8	2	9	1	6	3
2	1	9	6	3	7	8	4	5
3	8	6	5	1	4	2	7	9

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

L	A	C	R	A	F	T	U	P	O	N	
P	U	R	L	E	R	L	E	S	O	L	E
I	N	C	A	S	P	O	R	T	S	W	E
T	A	H	I	T	I	P	R	O	D	O	R
M	U	D	S	Y	O	R	E				
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“Participating in Scouts not only created lifelong friendships, but also cultivated joy in community service.”

Sarah Pearson
piedmontbsa.org

Piedmont Scout Council, BSA celebrates 100 years of being prepared!