

Piedmont beats Mt. Eden 6-0, improves to 3-2

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High's flag football team pulled out a 6-0 shutout over Western Alameda County Conference opponents Mt. Eden on Thursday, September 11 at Witter Field. The result improves Piedmont's record to 3-2 overall and 2-0 against league opponents. Piedmont got its game-winning touchdown with 1:35 remaining in the first quarter when quarterback Edie Elmquist found Kate Tong for a five-yard pass on an out route. It was also a big game on the defensive side for Brynne Jones, who finished with four tackles for loss and a quarterback sack. Dahlia Osman had an interception, and Elspeth Grippando led the team with 12 tackles.

The Highlanders look ahead to another league battle when visiting Arroyo in San Lorenzo on Thursday, September 18.

Game Recap

After two trades of possession in the first quarter, Piedmont scored on an eight-play drive. It featured Elmquist hitting receiver Malia Williams on a big 26-yard reception on 3rd-and-16 to the Mt. Eden 30. Elmquist then found Tong on a 15-yard reception. After a Monarchs penalty put the Highlanders at the five, Elmquist passed to Tong for the touchdown reception on second down with 1:35 on the clock. After a failed one-point conversion, Piedmont led 6-0. PHS forced a punt on Mt. Eden's next possession, including

a tackle for loss by Brynne Jones. Both teams traded the ball on multiple three-and-outs through the remainder of the first half, but highlights include another tackle for loss by Jones and a 29-yard reception by Williams. Mt. Eden drove to the Piedmont 32 to open the third quarter, but another tackle for loss by Jones led to a turnover on downs. After a three-and-out by Piedmont, senior safety Dahlia Osman nabbed an interception with 3:17 left in the third. Both teams continuously traded possession in the fourth quarter until the final whistle. Jones recorded a sack, leading to a turnover on downs at the Piedmont's 29. Lil Colbert had a pass defense and Kalayani Spieckerman had a sack on Mt. Eden's next



Staff Photos

Kate Tong scored Piedmont's winning touchdown in the first quarter.



Dahlia Osman sprints down the sideline after making an interception.



Brynne Jones had four tackles for loss and a QB sack against Mt. Eden.

possession. Colbert had another pass defense in the final possession of the game, while Elspeth Grippando recorded a sack. *Final stats:* Jones had four tackles for loss and a sack. Osman had an interception and a tackle. Grippando had one sack, one pass defense, and 12 tackles. Elmquist completed 11 passes. Tong had four receptions. Williams had three receptions.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (3-2 overall, 2-0 league) heads to Arroyo in San Lorenzo on Thursday, September 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Interview with PHS head football coach Jordan Seiden

By Jason Shum

Coach Jordan Seiden was named head coach of Piedmont varsity football in 2022, taking over at a time when the program's future was in doubt. He brought more than 25 years of coaching experience, having led teams at Skyline High School in Oakland, Capuchino High School in San Bruno, and Castro Valley High School. With deep roots in local gridiron history, he has made it his mission to restore Highlander pride through leadership grounded in hard work, respect, and camaraderie.

Since his arrival, coach Seiden has led a remarkable turnaround. Piedmont football was on the brink of collapse after COVID decimated participation and raised questions about the future of the program. Under his leadership, the team has rebounded with renewed pride and energy, climbing back to win back-to-back league titles. A Bay Area native, coach Seiden played at St. Mary's High School and graduated from Berkeley High in 1991. He continued his football journey at Diablo Valley College and UC Davis before studying kinesiology at St. Mary's College in Moraga. Off the field, coach Seiden has devoted his career to supporting young people in challenging situations. He worked at Alameda County's juvenile hall and later with the Oakland Unified School

District, helping students stay in school or return after time away. For him, the true measure of success is helping young people grow into responsible citizens as well as athletes. Coach Seiden continues to inspire players, families, and the wider community with a vision built around discipline, teamwork, respect, and lasting Highlander pride.

Q & A with Coach Seiden

Q: How have you seen Piedmont's Football team grow since you started?

A: Immensely! In our first year we had to drop the varsity program and take the eligible players we had and play a JV season due



Staff Photos

PHS football head coach Jordan Seiden sits down for a 1-on-1 interview with Piedmont High senior Jason Shum.

to lack of interest in football in the community. Understandably, the concussion fear hit the community hard.

Q: To what do you attribute the team's recent successes?

A: I attribute the recent success of the program to the hard work and commitment of the last graduating class that laid the foundation for what this program could be.

Q: What core values do you try to instill in your players?

A: Hard work and dedication and commitment to something bigger than yourself.

Q: What are some standout moments or games that you will never forget?

A: As a coach, despite the many great moments we have had over the last few years, it's always the L's (I don't like to say losses...L is for lesson) that stick out the most. Losing to Alameda 2 years ago and of course Fernelale will be two games that I will never forget.

Q: What are your goals for the next few years?

A: To continue to see it grow both in numbers (from the 15-17 we started with) and in commitment to the development of football in the Piedmont community, as it once was.

Q: How do you define success beyond wins and losses?

A: The number of kids that *See Coach Seiden on page 28*

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Jordan Seiden talks over the growth of Piedmont High's football program and his philosophy as a coach.