

# SPORTS

## Highlanders roll over Aragon 36-16

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's football team got the job done on Friday, September 19 at Aragon in San Mateo, beating the Dons 36-16 to even their record after games to 2-2. The Highlanders played complementary football in every sense, where the defense and special teams frequently set up the offense with good field position.

"The defense and special teams put us in good positions. We still need to clean some things up for sure and be a little tighter on the offensive line. We were down at one point with a very young team that could easily shut down, but they didn't. We're super proud of them after a game like this," said PHS coach Jordan Seiden.

After trailing 14-7 in the second quarter, Piedmont ran off 23 unanswered points before Aragon recorded a 2-point safety. Xavier Henderson also notched two touchdowns against Aragon, giving him six over the past two weeks after scoring four TDs in Piedmont's 45-12 win over Berean Christian on September 12.

"[After opening] the season with two losses, the defense was going through it. We knew we had to set up the offense, get our stops, and let the offense do its job. I didn't get a lot of touches [at running back] last year, but this year, I'm going to punch one in when we need it," linebacker and running back Xavier Henderson said.

Friday night also marked the



Staff Photos

Massimo Mittone makes one of his two interceptions against Aragon.



Cash Panico makes an athletic catch on down the sideline. He had a 68-yard touchdown reception against Aragon.

longest field goal for Piedmont High in the past decade. In the second quarter, sophomore kicker Mattias Seelenberger converted a 41-yard field goal to give PHS its 16-14 advantage. Ten years ago to the day Josh Landheer hit a 42-yarder in a win over Salesian.

Seelenberger is in his first varsity season. With his soccer background he is applying his skills on the football gridiron.

"I missed a PAT and I was pretty nervous. I've hit one from further in practice, so I stayed calm took a deep breath. I've been playing soccer for years. When I started kicking field goals I realized how different it is than soccer," Seelenberger said.

With Piedmont's strong defensive game, sophomore linebacker Massimo Mittone recorded two interceptions in the fourth quarter.

"Football is new to me. I had no idea what I was doing when I first came to practice last year. It's all been a learning experience, I've only been playing outside linebacker for two weeks," Mittone said.

Offensively, Jimmy Lagios continues to show confidence and poise as the team's new starting quarterback. He tossed two touchdowns against Aragon, including a 68-yard bomb to Cash Panico, who made a couple of acrobatic catches despite having a broken thumb.

"Toward the beginning of the season, I was still learning how the plays looked in the game, but I've picked up a lot of things on how to read defenses. Cash had a great game. I knew Cash is fast and can beat his man, so I trusted that," Lagios said.

### Game Recap

Piedmont scored the game's opening touchdown a couple of minutes into the game when Rehan Mumtaz turned a reverse 60 yards for the score. However, Aragon answered on their next drive to even it up at 7-7 at the 7:19 mark.

After a few trades of possession, the Dons scored their final touchdown at 8:19 in the second quarter, scoring on 4th-and-10 with a 32-yard catch and run, making it 14-7.

On Piedmont's next series, Lagios found Panico on a streak down the sideline for a 68-yard touchdown in a 3rd-and-18 situation with 7:06 left in the half. A missed extra point put Piedmont back 14-13. After forcing a punt, Seelenberger hit his 41 yarder at the end of a nine-play drive with 2:53 left, putting PHS ahead for good 16-14.

Piedmont came out hot in the third, scoring on its opening drive by capping off with a direct snap to Henderson from the three-yard line, 23-14, with 9:35 left.

After back and forth possessions, PHS scored again with 10:17 left in the fourth quarter. This time, Henderson punched in a six-yard carry to make it 30-14. Aragon got its safety with 3:52 remaining, but Piedmont got another score on an 18-yard pass to Jack Meyjes with 1:51 left. Aragon blocked the final extra point, making it 36-16.

### NEXT UP

Piedmont (2-2 overall) hosts Arroyo for Homecoming Night this Friday, September 26 at Witter Field at 7:00 p.m.

## Piedmont takes 3rd in water polo tourney in Napa



Staff Photos

Piedmont's boys' water polo team took third place at the Vintage Valley Tournament in Napa over the weekend.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High took third place at the 2025 Vintage Valley Water Polo Tournament at Vintage High School in Napa last weekend, September 19-20. Piedmont opened the tournament with an 11-9 win over Roseville, lost 17-7 to Liberty, and beat Carmel narrowly 14-13 to close.

It was a strong game for Henry Stein against Carmel with six goals in their win to claim third place. Elles Kreickhaus was important in a 11-9 win over Roseville, leading the team with four goals.

The batch of games brings Piedmont's record to 6-5 overall. They now look ahead to the start of their league schedule in the Western Alameda County Conference. Piedmont faced league rival Berkeley on Tuesday and will visit Castro Valley on Thursday, September 25.

### 14-13 over Carmel

Piedmont led 5-2 after the first quarter and held an 8-5 lead by halftime. Carmel narrowed the deficit to 11-9 in the third quarter and outscored the Highlanders 4-3 in the fourth quarter but PHS scored the game-winner with 55 seconds left.

In the first quarter, Carmel scored quickly after just 22 seconds, but the Highlanders scored four straight goals with three straight by Henry Stein to claim an early hat trick, and one by Rylan Patty to give PHS a 5-1 lead with 37 seconds left. Carmel got one back with 17 seconds remaining.

Piedmont drew a man-advantage after 33 seconds in the second quarter, leading to another goal by Stein. After a pair of Padre goals, Elles Kreickhaus scored at the 1:38 mark. Carmel scored with 31 seconds left, but 12 answered on the ensuing possession with six seconds on the clock.

Carmel scored to open the third with a goal after 30 seconds, but the Padres committed a foul, leading to Stein scoring his fifth. Carmel scored the next two goals to cut Piedmont's lead to 9-8 with 2:56 remaining, but PHS responded with two straight goals by Kreickhaus and Ben Kappas. The Padres scored once more with 29 seconds remaining, making it 11-9.

In the fourth, Carmel scored quickly to cut the lead to one. But with 4:20 left, Piedmont scored with a man-advantage for a 12-10 lead. But the Padres knotted things up at 12-12 with 3:09 remaining. Colin Amen scored with 1:43 left, but Carmel tied it just 13 seconds later.

With 55 seconds left in the game, Patty launched in the eventual game-winner, and Piedmont held on defensively.

**Final stats:** Stein had six goals, Patty scored three, Kreickhaus had two, and Kappas had one.

### 17-7 loss to Liberty

Piedmont kept things close in the first quarter, going into the second down 4-3. However, Liberty, a Div. I school, extended its advantage to 9-5 in the second

*See Boys' Water Polo on page 29*



Photos by Lynne Wright

Henry Stein logged six goals against Carmel to help PHS win a razor-thin victory, 14-13.



Mattias Seelenberger hit the longest field goal for Piedmont in the last decade with a 41-yarder.



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