

Highlanders suffer rough loss to Hayward

By Jonathan Comeaux

It was a difficult way to start their Western Alameda County Conference Mission Division schedule for the Piedmont High football team, suffering a one-sided 63-7 loss to the visiting Hayward Farmers at Witter Field on Friday, October 10. Piedmont held a 7-6 lead with two minutes left in the first quarter, but things began to unravel after Hayward returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown.

“It’s 0-1, the message is its just one game and it’s not going to make or break our season. Our goals aren’t changing. We knew it would be a learning year, we’re not physical enough just yet, that’s the hump we have to get over,” said coach Jordan Seiden.

The Farmers’ offense ran play after play, using their speed and athleticism to switch the field



Piedmont looks to regroup after a loss to Hayward. Staff Photos

on numerous occasions to create huge gains. Piedmont, with its young roster, struggled to adjust. It marks the Highlanders’ second consecutive sizeable defeat after

falling to Arroyo 40-26 the previous week.

PHS notably was without star running back and linebacker Xavier Henderson, who won our Athlete of the Month award in September. Starting offensive and defensive lineman Bill Ashton was also out, creating a void in the interior lines.

“As soon as I found out X wasn’t going to play, a lot of things changed. He suffered a concussion and just wasn’t ready to go. Bill was out and had to piece things together on the line,” Seiden said.

Piedmont looks to turn the page on the difficult night and prepares for its second Mission Division game of the season when hosting Irvington on October 17. The Vikings are currently 5-1, while PHS dominated last year’s game in a 49-7 victory.

Game Recap

After two trades of possession to start the first quarter, Hayward got on the board first with around 5:45 left in the quarter on a 12-yard pass to the back corner of the end zone. Piedmont contested that the reception was out of bounds, but the officials ruled the receiver in. The Farmers failed on a two-point conversion, giving them a 6-0 initial lead.

But Piedmont answered on their next drive, scoring on an eight-play, 69 yard series. During the drive, Rehan Mumtaz started things with a 12-yard carry, while Dash Waters-Worthen had a 14-yard reception where he nearly broke through for a long run after the catch, but was tripped up.

The Highlanders scored on a 17-yard pass, where Jimmy Lagios found Waters-Worthen on a flat route after bluffing a run block, turning it up field for the score. A converted extra point by Mattias Seelenberger gave his team a 7-6 lead, but that was it for Piedmont.

Hayward came back with a 73-yard kickoff return for a touchdown with 1:58 left in the first, and then padded their lead after a 40yard punt return to the 28—leading to a 5-yard touchdown carry to give HHS a 20-7 lead at the start of the second quarter.

From there, Hayward scored three more touchdowns before halftime to take a commanding 41-7 lead going into the break. The Farmers scored again a couple of minutes into the third quarter, going up 48-7 and activating the running clock. They scored once more in the third, and once in the fourth.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (2-4 overall, 0-1 league) hosts Irvington on Friday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Athletes of the Week: Amalia Gray & Rylan Patty

Honorable Mentions:
Kelsey Coleman, Henry Stein

By Jonathan Comeaux

We’re awarding this week’s Athlete of the Week honors to Amalia Gray of the girls’ cross-country team and water polo player Rylan Patty. Honorable mentions go to Kelsey Coleman of girls’ cross country and Henry Stein of the water polo team.

Gray had a marquee performance at the 2025 Asics Clovis Invitational, helping Piedmont win the Division 6 championship. She was the Highlanders’ fastest runner, clocking a time of 20:24.20 on the 5,000 meter course to finish 15th of 153 runners.

Patty came away from the Monterey Invitational as Piedmont’s leading scorer in their three matches. He scored seven goals in PHS’ 13-8 win over Willow Glen, had three goals in their



Photo by Jenni Tsoi Best

Amalia Gray is the Post’s Athlete of the Week after leading the girls’ cross country team to the D6 title at the Clovis Invitational.

13-4 win over Monterey, and another three goals in their 12-11 loss to Aptos.

Honorable Mentions

Coleman had a breakout performance as a freshman on the girls’ cross country team’s Clovis Invitational win. She notched Piedmont’s fifth-fastest time to help solidify the title, finishing 34th in 21:07.10.

Stein was another main part of Piedmont’s performance at the Monterey Invitational, filling the stat sheet in several categories in each match. He had a goal and three assists in their 13-8 win over Willow Glen, four assists and a steal in their 13-4 win over Monterey, and four goals, three assists, and a steal in their 12-11 loss to Aptos.



Photo by Jenni Tsoi Best

Kelsey Coleman earns an honorable mention for Athlete of the Week for her effort as a freshman towards cross country’s win at the Clovis Invitational.



Staff Photo

Rylan Patty is the Post’s Athlete of the Week after scoring 13 goals at the Monterey Invitational.



Staff Photo

Henry Stein earns an honorable mention for Athlete of the Week for his performance at the Monterey Invitational.



Hayward’s offense had their way the entire game.



Jimmy Lagios rolls out as he avoids pressure from Hayward.



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