

Cross-country teams finish 2nd, 5th at WACC Championship



Piedmont’s girls’ team placed second at the WACC Championship. Pictured are Leighton Mand (left), Skylar Best, Amalia Gray, Kelsey Coleman, Cora Chun, Viviane Oesterer, and Cora Brozowski Schrader.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High’s cross-country team returned to Hayward High on Saturday, November 8, for the 2025 Western Alameda County Conference Championships. The girls’ team placed second among six schools, while the boys’ team placed fifth.

The girls’ team trailed Berkeley High in scoring by five points. “Only Berkeley beat us, a school with over 3000 students. It showed the strength of the girls’ team, especially in the Division 4 category. I’ve got to say, even though many of the varsity girls did not run distance personal best times, they sure raced hard, especially in the latter part of the race,” coach Steve Zirkelbach said.

Leighton Mand led Piedmont’s team, placing sixth among 41 runners with a time of 19:25.92 on the three-mile course.

“In this race, I used a similar strategy of taking the first mile more conservatively, then trying to push the second. I really wanted to focus on positioning for the team and being among the top seven runners. I thought I raced well but will focus on keeping the pace during the third mile,” Mand said.

Skylar Best finished ninth in 19:38.88, and Amalia Gray followed 20 seconds later, placing 14th in 19:58.07.

“I had a race plan to stay conservative the first mile, which I stuck to pretty well. During the last mile, I was behind two Castro Valley girls and I knew I



Leighton Mand led for Piedmont, finishing sixth of 41 runners.



Aaron Bennett led Piedmont’s boys’ team, finishing eighth of 42.

could catch them, so I sat on their shoulder until I felt good enough to pass them. I’m really proud of how the race went and I really pushed myself to execute the plan,” Best said.

“I went out a bit more conservatively than in prior races, which I think helped me stay more even with my splits. I also tried to focus on staying with my teammates and tried to stay focused when things started to hurt,” Gray recalled.

Viviane Oesterer placed 17th in 20:22.21, and Cora Chun finished 19th in 20:30.94 to round out Piedmont’s top five.

Boys’ Varsity

For the boys it was another strong race for sophomore Aaron Bennett, who led the team by finishing eighth of 42 athletes in 16:28.56. Bennett has been a standout runner for the team finishing as their top runner in his last four events. “I was nervous going into the race. What allowed me to succeed

was my patience through the first half mile. I knew the first couple of runners were going to go out too fast to try to chase, so I made sure to stick with my plan. In the second mile, I started passing a lot of kids. I knew I had energy left going into the last mile, and I was able to push past a lot of people. My progression throughout the season is due to the help and guidance from my coaches,” Bennett said.

Alex Schleuning was next in for the boys, placing 10th in 16:40.22. Dresden Schulte-Sasse followed in 19th with 17:03.22, while Devon Thai finished 26th in 17:14.09, and Dylan Wallway rounded out the scoring five in 30th, 17:24.79.

Next up:

Piedmont has a two-week break before the North Coast Section Championships at Hayward High on Saturday, November 22. The Division 4 boys’ race starts at 10:30 a.m., and the girls’ race starts at noon.

Piedmont ends regular season with 42-28 win over Newark Memorial

Lagios, Henderson lead Highlanders in offensive outburst



Jimmy Lagios completed 10 of 13 passes for 219 yards and four touchdowns against Newark Memorial.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont’s football team ended its regular season on Friday, November 7 with a commanding 42-28 win over Newark Memorial at the Cougars’ home field. The Highlanders go into North Coast Section with a 6-4 overall record.

Piedmont received a berth in the Division 7 NCS bracket as the No. 3 seed for the second straight season. They are set to visit No. 7 St. Patrick in Vallejo on Friday, November 14. The Bruins earned home field advantage after winning the Tri-County League title.

Piedmont had a slow start against Newark and trailed 14-0 before coming to life. They scored 28 straight points before the Cougars’ next score.

It was a big game for quarterback Jimmy Lagios and running back Xavier Henderson. Lagios had just three incomplete passes, recording 219 passing yards and four touchdowns, average 21.9 yards per completion. Henderson, meanwhile, was back in the lineup after missing the last game due to an injury. He recorded 142 yards and two touchdowns on 10 carries.

Game Recap

Newark Memorial struck first on its first drive of the game with a six-yard touchdown carry. After a turnover on downs at Piedmont’s own 30, the Cougars scored again in four plays to go up 14-0, but the comeback was on from there.

PHS scored on a seven-play series, which started with a 45-yard run by Henderson to the

Newark 25. Henderson capped off the drive with a one-yard dive after coming in motion to take the snap, making it a 14-7 deficit near the end of the first quarter.

On the ensuing drive, Piedmont’s Henry Brennan forced a fumble that was recovered by Rehan Mumtaz at NMHS’ 44 early in the second. PHS scored on just three plays, where Lagios found Jack Meyjes on a 25-yard seam down the middle, making it 14-13 after a blocked extra point.

Newark went three-and-out, leading to a 51-yard touchdown pass from Lagios to Cash Panico on their very first play to give Piedmont a 20-14 lead. On the play, Panico made an athletic catch to high-point the football, leading to a catch and run to the end zone.

After trading possession to end the first half, PHS started the third quarter with a 55-yard, four-play touchdown drive. Henderson scored on a 20-yard carry, breaking a tackle and dragging another defender into the end zone, while he converted a two-point run to make it 28-14.

Newark got one back in the third quarter on a four-play, 68 yard drive to put itself behind one possession at 29-21. After that, PHS scored on a five-
See Football on page 29



Xavier Henderson had 142 rushing yards and two touchdowns on the Cougars.

North Coast Section Div. VII

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST ROUND

Friday, Nov. 14

- (1) Middletown (8-2) vs. (8) Archie Williams (6-4)
- (4) Vallejo (7-3) vs. (5) Concord (6-4)
- (2) **Piedmont (6-4) vs. (7) St. Patrick (7-3)**
- (3) Willits (8-2) vs. (6) Redwood Christian (7-3)

SEMIFINALS

Friday or Saturday, Nov. 21-22

CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday or Saturday, Nov. 28-29




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Wednesday Night Art Club: Making Art with Limits & Chance

Wednesday, November 12 — 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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In this playful, low-pressure workshop, we'll explore how artists like Ellsworth Kelly, Jean Arp, and Yoko Ono used randomness and simple rules to guide their creative process.

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MOCHA At The Library!

Saturday, November 15 — 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Join us for monthly art workshops for children and families led by teachers from the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA). For ages 5-15 and caregivers.

MOCHA workshops focus on building creativity, social-emotional and academic skills through art.

This program is supported by funding provided by the Friends of the Oakland Public Library

Toddler Storytime

Tuesday, November 18 — 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Songs, active rhymes and stories especially for ages 18 months to 3 years.

Every Tuesday morning at 10:15am.

Stay and play after Storytime with fun age-appropriate toys through 11:15am. If conditions allow, Storytime will be held outside the library building.

We ask that patrons refrain from wearing scented products.

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CRIME REPORT

Driver arrested for DUI threatens officers

By Jake Lannon

Early Sunday morning on November 2, a black Tesla sedan drove on Fairview Avenue from the parking lot of Ace Hardware. Two Piedmont police officers were at the store when a male suspect left his vehicle and proceeded to verbally accost the officers.

The suspect was yelling about previous officer contacts and the city of Piedmont. The suspect got back in his car and sped away from the scene on Grand Avenue. The man began calling PPD dispatch repeatedly and fabricating stories about PPD officers. When asked routine questions, the suspect became verbally aggressive and made threats to come after a dispatcher.

The 911 call was intercepted by Oakland police officers who found the man driving near Jean Street.

At 3:34 a.m., the suspect was seen driving with an open container of alcohol. A Piedmont police officer attempted to stop him, but the suspect parked his vehicle and began to walk away.

The suspect, Brian Schmitt, 47, from Oakland, then attempted to flee and pull away from the police officer causing him to fall forward onto the patrol vehicle. OFD was summoned to the scene for medical assistance, but he refused medical care. He failed a Field Sobriety test and was arrested for being under the influence of alcohol, making threats, evading police, and possession of an open container. He was transported to jail in Santa Rita.

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Girls' Tennis

Continued from [page 12](#)



Kate Jumper (left) and Arianna Kortum placed fifth in the WACC doubles bracket.

Entering as the No. 2 seed, she shut out Siri Klingelhoper of Alameda 6-0, 6-0 in the opening round, beat O'Dowd's Ayla Akcauglu 6-2, 6-4 in the quarterfinals, but lost 6-0, 6-0 to No. 1 seed and eventual champion Alice Chen of Alameda in the semifinals. Ruthven finished with a 6-0, 6-1 loss to Sam Lopatin of Berkeley in the third-place final.

Also in the singles bracket Faith Chin won the singles consolation ladder after losing 6-0, 6-0 in the first round to No. 2 seed Sonja Abid of O'Dowd. She won by forfeit in the consolation bracket's first round, and then beat Alameda's Natalie Gilbert 8-4 in the semifinals. Chin finished with an 8-2 win in the finals over O'Dowd's Ileana Adams.

Jumper and Kortum received the No. 1 seed in the doubles bracket and finished fifth overall. They won 6-0, 6-1 in the first

round over Berkeley's Sara Marsh and Maya Gearen but lost 7-6 (8-6), 4-6, 10-8 to Alameda's Sue and Lin in the quarterfinals. They beat Wood and Kau of O'Dowd 8-2 in the fifth-place semifinals and won 8-2 over Castro Valley's Elly Ly and Sophia Lopez in the fifth-place final.

Other results include Chiara Silvio and Inara Mehta beating O'Dowd's Sam Gomez and Katie Karchmer 6-3, 6-4 in the first round, but losing 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 10-6 in the quarterfinals to No. 3 seed Malia Robinson and Abigail Wong of Castro Valley. Leela Sivakumar lost 6-0, 6-1 in the first round and 6-3 in the consolation bracket.

Tuesday vs. No. 5 Northgate

Piedmont High hosted No. 5 Northgate for the first round of the NCS Team Championship on Tuesday, November 11. The Highlanders hosted the higher-seeded team because PHS won this year's WACC title, giving league champions home court advantage for the first round of matches.

NEXT UP

With a win over Northgate, Piedmont will face the winner of No. 4 Marin Academy or No. 13 Foothill on Thursday, November 13.

Boys' Water Polo

Continued from [page 12](#)

end the first half, making it 7-5 Piedmont.

The Wildcats scored three straight in the third quarter to take an 8-7 lead with 3:14 left. During that span, Dupree had a shot on target and another attempt ring off the crossbar. PHS got back to

the front 9-8 after Stein skipped a shot off the water and into net at 1:04, while Kappes rocketed in a shot with 15 seconds left.


In the fourth, Marin Academy tied with 2:49 left just 11 seconds after drawing a Piedmont exclusion. Before their goal,

Stein had a shot hit the crossbar, had another shot on target, while Walker had a shot saved as well. Patty hit the crossbar with 1:05 left, while Stein hit the post as time expired.

It was back and forth in the first period of overtime, including shots by Patty and two by Walker saved. Patty also hit the post with 11 seconds left.

Kappes had a shot saved 30 seconds into the second overtime period. However, Marin Academy drew a 5-meter penalty with 1:29 left. An initial shot attempt hit the post, but rebounded opportunely to the shooter for the game-winning goal. Walker had a late shot on target with 1:03 left, but that's all the attempts Piedmont could muster from there.

Final stats: Patty had four goals and three steals. Stein had two goals, two assists, and a steal. Kappes had two goals and two steals. Dupree had one goal, and Nick Riordan had one steal. McAuliffe had five saves and two steals.



Ben Kappes represents one of the core young players for Piedmont High, representing a bright future for the water polo team.

Football

Continued from [page 13](#)

play, 65 yard series of its own, which capped off with a 12-yard play-action pass to Dash Waters-

Worthen—making it 36-21.

Newark Memorial started the fourth quarter with a turnover on

downs at Piedmont's 36, leading to 64-yard touchdown drive for its final score of the game, capped off by a touchdown pass to Panico. Newark scored a little-too-late touchdown on its final drive.

Final stats: Lagios completed 10 of 13 passes for 219 yards and four touchdowns. Henderson had 142 rushing yards on 14 carries and two touchdowns. Mumtaz had 63 yards on eight carries, to go along with a fumble recovery. Panico had three receptions for 138 yards and two touchdowns. Meyjes had two receptions for 30 yards and a touchdown. Waters-Worthen had one reception for 12 yards and a touchdown.

NEXT UP

No. 2 Piedmont (6-4 overall) visits No. 7 St. Patrick in Vallejo for the first round of the Div. 7 NCS playoffs on Friday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m.



Cash Panico logged three receptions for 138 yards and two touchdowns against NMHS.