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## KeizerSports

## **Celtics tame Bulldogs**

By DEREK WILEY Of the Keizertimes

On paper, McNary-West Albany looked like it would go just like most of the Celtics' other Greater Valley Conference games this season—a back-and-forth battle to the

However, McNary had something else in mind.

Setting the tone with a 15play, 62-yard scoring drive to open the game, the Celtics defeated West Albany 28-7 on Thursday, Oct. 13 in Keizer.

"We really came together like I don't think we have yet this year," senior Kolby Barker said. "Our offense was click-

ing. Our defense was clicking. Everybody did their job. We've been talking this whole time about taking us from good to great and I think we showed that tonight. I think people that haven't been expecting a lot from us are going to change their minds real quick."

McNary was missing senior Brendan Van Voorhis, who was in New York on a track and field recruiting visit to West Point.

"I was wondering how we were going to respond both offensively and defensively and it was great to see we didn't miss a beat," Celtics

head coach Jeff Auvinen said.

Senior Josh Benson became quarterback Josiah Gilbert's No. 1 option at receiver, catching three touchdown

"I just knew I had to step up with (Van Voorhis) being gone to New York," Benson said."I thought we were going to run the whole entire time. I didn't even expect a pass because of all this rain we've had. It's pretty crazy. It feels nice to be the star."

McNary started out running as Gilbert and Lucas Garvey went back-and-forth carrying the ball 11 times for

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Lucas Garvey and Josh Benson celebrate one of Benson's three touchdowns in a 28-7 win over West Albany.

# Senior night at McNary

## Celtics defeat Vikings

By DEREK WILEY Of the Keizertimes

McNary's seven seniors in uniform were determined to win their final home game.

Switching to a 3-5-2 formation, the Celtics scored three goals in the first 20 minutes on their way to a 4-1 victory over North Salem on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

McNary's first two goals came from seniors.

In the eighth minute, Kanta Ohyama got the Celtics on the board with a shot from at least 20 yards away that flew over the goalkeeper's head and into the back of the net.

Senior Jose Vasquez then finished a corner kick from senior Bryan Keo in the 11th minute to put McNary up

"I was actually pretty sad because I've been playing here for the past four years but it was great to end our last home game on senior night with a win," Keo said.

Freshmen Luis Lopez had



KFIZFRTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary seniors Alex Pineda, front, left, Jose Abundiz, Bryan Keo, Gustavo Villalvazo, Junio Del Moral Javier Zepeda, Ramon Duenas, Jose Vazquez, Parker Dean, Kanta Ohyama, Aidan Garcia and Damian Camarena won their final home game.

a part in the Celtics final two goals, scoring in the 19th minute and then assisting junior Bhavdeep Bains with only 47 seconds remaining in the first

"I was really nervous," senior Gustavo Villalvazo said of playing his final home game.

We've got to let the youth come in and do their thing as well. We all believe in each "Obviously as the last game, other. Every practice we go

you don't want it to happen. 100 percent. We give it our all and these guys aren't going to give up. They did everything

for us to win tonight." Please see SENIORS, Page 12

#### Lady Celts lose final home match

By DEREK WILEY Of the Keizertimes

Sydney Hunter had 19 kills, Shaylee Williams added eight, Jaylene Montano had 12 digs and Katelyn Kolb had 28 assists.

But that wasn't enough for McNary's six seniors, which also includes Kate Lester and Alexa Strand, to win their final regular season home match as the Lady Celts fell 3-1 (17-25, 23-25, 25-11, 15-25) to Mc-Minnville on Wednesday, Oct.

The first set was never close as McNary fell behind 7-15 and couldn't recover.

"Senior night is always extremely emotional with all the things that happen," Lady Celts head coach Bruce Myers said. "Unfortunately, we allowed the emotions to last too long and weren't able to get them out of our system earlier in the set."

McNary showed more fight in the second game and tied it at 22-22 on a kill by



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley McNary acknowledged senior volleyball players Sydney Hunter, Alexa Strand, Jaylene Montano, Katelyn Kolb, Kate Leaster and Shaylee Williams before its match against McMinnville on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Williams. However, the Lady Grizzlies won three of the

With their backs against next four points to go ahead the wall, the Lady Celts then we were also serving assert-

dominated the third set. "We were passing well and

ively and kept them out of system," Myers said.

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### **McNary** thinking playoffs

By DEREK WILEY Of the Keizertimes

The playoffs don't technically begin until Nov. 4.

But with two teams who will mostly likely be in the state tournament remaining on the regular season schedule and McNary clinching a spot as well, the Celtics are already in playoff mode.

"I think (wide receiver) coach (Frank) Gauntz put it really well (Monday)," MHS head coach Jeff Auvinen said. "They're (North Medford) going to be a playoff team. West Salem is going to be a playoff team. We might as well start the playoffs right now with that kind of intensity, that kind of mentality, that kind of preparation and focus. These are going to be playoff type teams so we use this as the beginning of our playoff run."

At 5-2, McNary is third in the Greater Valley Conference. McMinnville, West Albany and South Salem are all tied for fourth at 3-3.

The Celtics have head-tohead wins over the Grizzlies and Bulldogs, who play each other on Oct. 28. The Saxons host West Salem, who is 6-0 in conference, on Oct. 21.

North Medford, who Mc-Nary plays Friday, Oct. 21 in its final home game, is fifth in the Southwest Conference at 2-3 but ranked 22nd in the OSAA rankings.

After beginning the season 3-0 with two wins over California teams, the Black Tornadoes have dropped three of their last four. But two of those losses have come to Sheldon and South Medford, both top 10 teams.

"I think they (North Medford) play hard," Auvinen said. "It's kind of like some of the teams we've been playing. I don't think they're a great football team but I don't think they're bad either. I think they do some things well that are going to be good for us to get ready for the playoffs."

On offense, the Black Tornadoes throw the ball more than any other team McNary has played.

"They throw and catch the ball fairly well, which a month ago I would've been a lot more concerned,"Auvinen said. "We're playing a lot better defensively in the secondary right now. Obviously, it concerns me because big plays can happen but I feel better about where we are right now back there."

McNary last played North Medford to open the 2013 season, which the Celtics won 20-13.

"It's kind of a weird week," Auvinen said. "Since I've been here, I don't know if we've played a non-league game this late in the year. For years and years and years, it was the first game or two."

Already in the playoffs, Auvinen wants the Celtics to continue to improve over the final two weeks of the regular season.

Of course, McNary, which is ranked 19th, can also improve its seeding.

"These kids are really playing well together, which is huge in football," he said. "They're excited about playing. I think we want to keep the momentum going and building. The sky's the limit with these guys."