

# Boys collar Dawggs after first GVC loss

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Despite suffering its first loss in the Greater Valley Conference last week, the McNary High School boys varsity basketball team was back in the mix three days later.

"I couldn't have been happier," said Ryan Kirch, Celtic head coach. "Our kids played hard in the game with South Salem (High School) and still lost, then they went down to a tough space at West Albany and battled incredibly hard."

The Celts trailed the Bulldogs by a point (13-12) after the first period Friday, Feb. 6, but locked down on defense in the second and third quarters.

"We got flustered at first by their 2-3 match-up zone, then once we got a hold on it we scored early and often. We had to adjust and went to man defense to help," said senior Devon Dunagan.

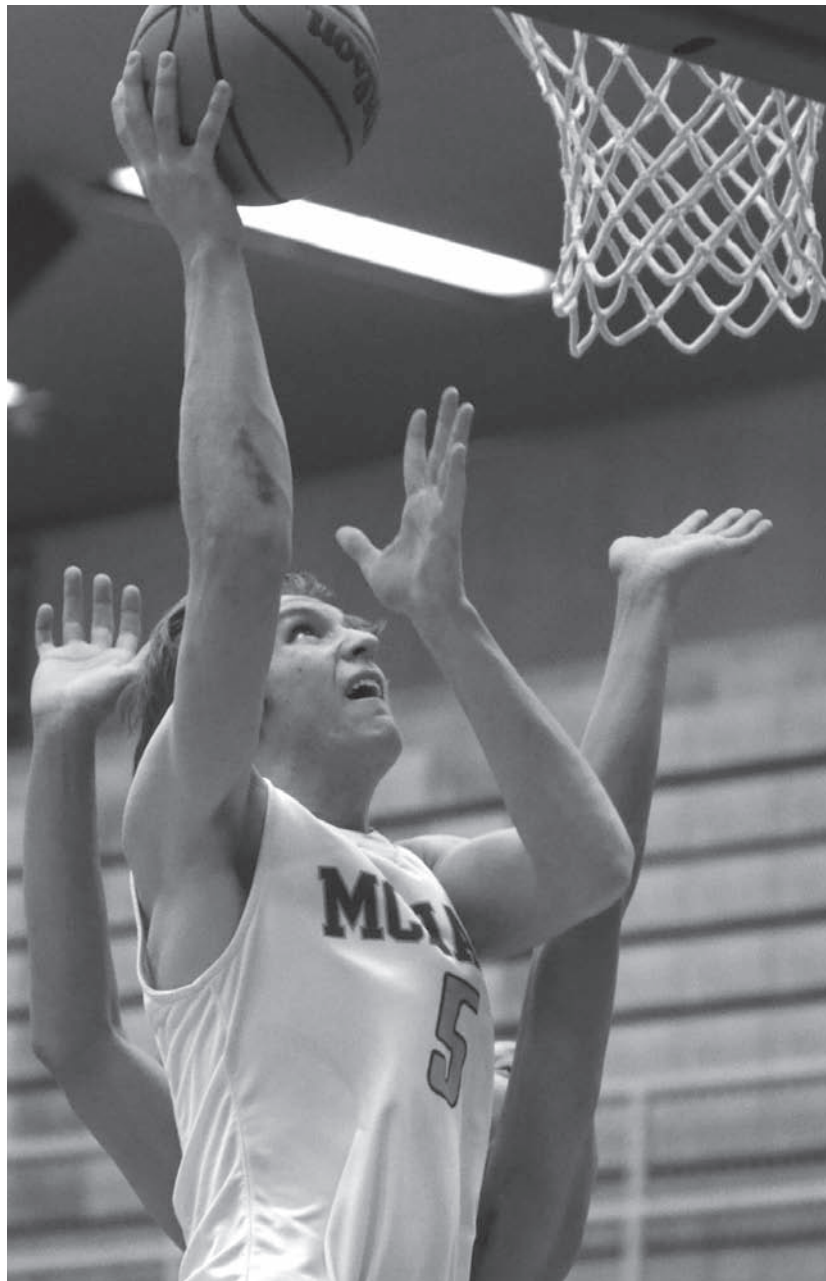
In the second and third frames, the Celts outscored West Albany 23-10.

"It was a physical first half, but I think we just wanted it more after halftime," said McNary's Mathew Ismay.

Junior Harry Cavell led scoring with 19 points against the Bulldogs, which included going 12 for 12 from the free throw line. Tregg Peterson put up 14 points; Trent VanCleave had 11; Dunagan and Connor Goff had four apiece; and Cade Goff Ismay and Jason Sperle each put in two.

"The second and third quarters were big for us and that's the sign of a good team," Kirch said. "It was really one of our better games this season."

McNary had games on tap this week with West Salem and McMinnville high schools, two teams that gave the Celtics a run for their money in contests earlier this season.



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
Celt Devon Dunagan lays in a shot in McNary's game with South Salem High School Tuesday, Feb. 3.

"We have to learn from the struggles in those first games and know going in what we can do to contain their strengths," Dunagan said.

Strong starts would go a long way toward helping the effort, Ismay added.

As the regular season enters its final throes, Kirch said the team's biggest challenges will be game-to-game.

"Basketball has a long season and staying mentally focused until the end is always difficult," he said. "We're ranked ninth in the state right now and we'd like to make the top eight and win the first playoff game so we can host the second one. Until then, we need to keep our eyes on what's in front of us."

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"It's a lot smaller and it's going to feel smaller with all the teams crammed into it," she said.

Tanner Hughes, Kiana Briones, Sara Eckert and Marissa Kuch will be a few of the names to look for on

the leaderboard, Lewin said.

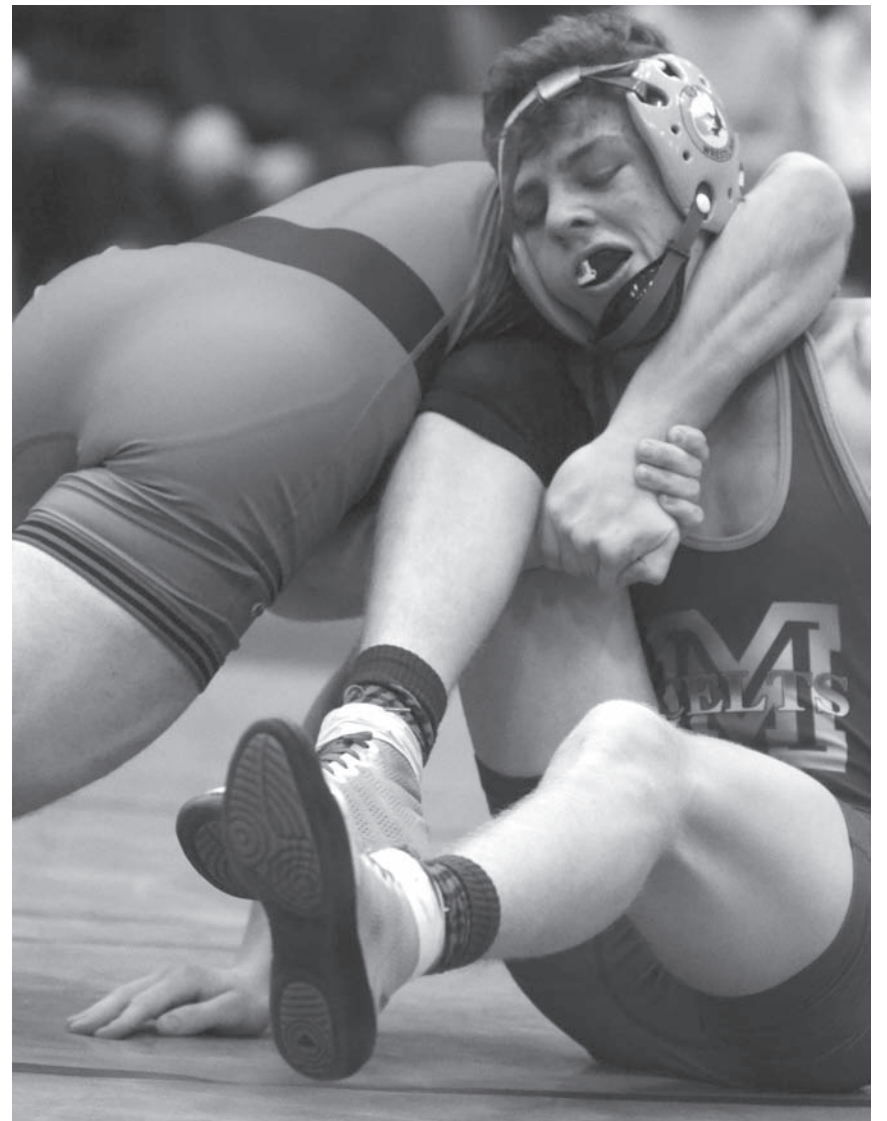
"Our relays are also starting to look a lot better because everyone is getting healthy," Lewin said.

Glassey and McCoy expected big races from the distance swimmers.

"The ones in the 200 and 500 freestyle have had a lot of personal records recently. It seems like almost every week," Glassey said.

While the girls have fared a bit better in regular meets this season, Hughes said the boys are focusing on performing well regardless of the outcome.

"We want to go out there and swim the best we can. Go out with confidence in each race and show them what McNary is all about," said Hughes, a senior.



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
Celt Wyatt Kessler tangles with a North Salem Viking Thursday, Feb. 5.

## WRESTLE, continued from Page A10

Match winners were: Pablo Barrera, major decision, 16-7; Kibbey, pin in 5:02; Brayden Ebbs, pin in 2:36; J. Phelps, tech fall, 15-0 in 5:46; Wyatt Kessler, decision, 6-1; Venegas, pin in 3:43; and Kyle Bonn, pin in 4:54.

The Celtics also beat Barlow High School 46-33 in the tournament. It was something like revenge for the loss McNary took to the Bruins at the Oregon Classic in January.

"That was a match I thought we should have won before, and it was nice to see the kids come full circle," Ebbs said.

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it down to nine.

After a run in the fourth quarter, the Lady Celts had a three-point lead with 2:45 left in the game.

"Then we had two empty possessions in a row and Corey James, their shooter, got loose and hit a three that put them up for good. We had to foul to stop the clock, but they didn't miss their free throws and we weren't able to come back," Handley said.

Flores put in 13 points in the out-

Winners in the dual meet with Barlow were: Kibbey, pin in 5:02; Sean Burrows, major decision, 13-1; Purkey, pin in 32 seconds; Venegas, pin in 2:40; and Bonn, pin in 1:41.

Kibbey said his West Linn and Barlow matches were the toughest of the week.

"They were both tough guys. I kept getting near falls, but they never gave up," Kibbey said. Kibbey wrestled at 113 pounds in the tournament, but hopes to wrestle at 106 in the district meet next week.

"I'm really happy with the team results this week," Ebbs said. "There's a big hand-off of responsibility at this point in the season. We've trained hard for three months and it's time to let the horses run."

ing; Jones had eight; Hunter had six; and Ernest put in four.

"It was certainly one of our most balanced games of the year. Sydney was asked to play a lot of minutes and for the most part was making their shooters work to get open," Handley said. "Emma Jones also stepped up for us big time. Based on match-ups, we needed Emma to play a lot more minutes late in the game than we typically do. When she went in for defensive purposes on their posts she shut down their scoring in the paint."

Six of Jones' points came in the fourth quarter helping McNary gain traction on the Bulldogs.

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## Clear Lake raising money for new track

Clear Lake Elementary School's Parent-Teacher Association is holding a fundraising auction and dinner Saturday, March 14.

Organizers are currently looking for donations for the auction planned for the event. Proceeds are used for academic enrichment programs, new technology, field trips, playground equipment and the planned addition of a new track at the school. This year's goal is \$20,000.

The dinner and auction begins at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person or \$120 for a table of eight. Child care is available for \$5.

For more information, contact Shawna Toavs at [rstoavs@comcast.net](mailto:rstoavs@comcast.net), or April McVay at [mcvaythree@gmail.com](mailto:mcvaythree@gmail.com).

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