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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Marcus McCoy, a freshman goalkeeper on the McNary High School lacrosse team, takes part in a drill during practices Thursday, March 19.

LAX won't settle for less than league title

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The first varsity game for the McNary High School lacrosse team was a barnburner Wednesday, March 18.

"With two minutes left in the game and a two-goal lead, we tried unsuccessfully to kill the clock. We had a couple turnovers and a penalty allowing Newberg High School to tie the game 8-8 with 35 seconds left. We managed to get three shots off in the final 35 seconds of regulation, but none of them made it into the net," said Ryan Bowlby, McNary head coach.

After two overtimes, McNary won 9-8.

"Me and Beard (Jeremy Williams) double-teamed their last guy to get the ball back, then I got tunnel vision," said senior Cade Christensen.

Christensen picked up the ground ball, ran the full length of the field behind the Newberg's goal. He evaded a double team behind goal and managed to dive into a second double team four yards in front of goal.

"Cade took a one-handed, left-hand shot that flicked into the back on the net for the game-winning goal with 35

seconds left," Bowlby said.

Lacrosse, which is run as a club sport for the Celtics, combines physicality of football with the finesse of soccer and the strategy of basketball.

While the game made for amplified excitement, Bowlby knew the team was capable of more.

"Statistically we dominated Newberg, we just did not score efficiently. We are very young at the midfield with three freshman, one sophomore and two seniors," Bowlby said. "All four of the underclassmen overcome the lack of game experience by being great athletes."

David Gonzalez led the team with three goals against Newberg, Christensen and Cameron Engle had two each, Mike Phelps and Tanner Hughes put in one each.

Last season, McNary took second in the league, but Williams, a senior, wants the team to go one better this year.

"I have the highest hopes for us. I want to win league, I want that set in stone as the goal, and my parting gift for the team," Williams said.

If they manage a league title, this year's team will be the first lacrosse team to hang a banner on the wall of the McNary gymnasium.

Williams has seen the program grow rapidly. As a freshman, there were players swinging between junior varsity and varsity on the same night because the squad lacked numbers. This year, McNary can fill the rosters for varsity and junior varsity teams.

"It's been fun to get better as a team as a family. Every person on this team is a friend," Williams said.

The team has grown as a direct result of current players enlisting friends and, in some cases, family. This year, Williams' younger brother is on the team.

"We've got wrestlers and basketball players coming out. It's the perfect sport for football linemen. We're breeding success and that builds confidence in parents letting their kids come out for the team," Bowlby said.

While all of the pieces are coming together, Christensen said the team will need to work to reach its goals by season's end.

"We need to tighten our offense up a bit. Our defense did pretty well in the first game and it will keep getting better," he said.

Keizer teen brings home heavy metal



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Tony Castaneda, 13, with some of his recent awards including a belt from the Rumble in Reno and a plaque designating him as state champion.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

When Tony Castaneda made the choice to pursue wrestling instead of soccer, his father was a bit disappointed.

"Soccer was my sport and I felt like I had a lot I could teach him," said Richard, Tony's father.

As of this month, there is little doubt Tony made the right decision. On March 14, the 13-year-old won the Oregon Middle School State Tournament. In February, he took second in the OWA Kids State Folkstyle Tournament and won the Rumble in Reno Feb. 28.

The Rumble earned him the biggest prize, a pro-wrestling-style belt.

"I went up to the table figuring I'd get a trophy and they handed me a belt. It was really cool," said Tony, an 102-pounder.

The match that won Tony the belt was actually a rematch with Nevada's Beau Chacon.

Beau had beaten Tony for third place in the same tournament last year.

"I knew I could do it last year, but the coaches got into it and there was a lot of that going on," Tony said. "This year, we were 5-5 in the third round and he is really good at escaping. I did a roll and caught him with a near-fall that put me ahead."

He won the match – and the title – 10-5.

A little over a week later, Tony took second in the Kids State Folkstyle and then won the state title at 102 pounds March 7.

In the state tournament, Tony won his first match by pin in 49 seconds, his second match in a 6-0 decision, a third match in an 8-2 decision, and the title with a 4-2 decision.

However, he bristles at the notion of "winning his way" through a tournament.

"There was no easy match. Every kid at a tournament is tough," he said.

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Lady Celts start 3-1

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School's girls varsity softball team is off to a roaring start for the second time in two years. The girls are 3-1 after four preseason contests.

The Lady Celts started the season with a 12-0 win over Grant High School Monday, March 16. McNary already had a 5-0 lead when it unleashed a seven-run sixth inning on the Generals.

Senior Megan Ulrey pitched a complete game allowing one hit with seven strikeouts. At the plate, Kiana Villarreal went 3-for-4 with a double, a triple, four RBIs and two runs scored. Madi-

son Oliver also had a triple in the outing.

Two days later, the Keizer team edged Silverton High School's Lady Foxes 1-0. McNary's only run came in the sixth inning when Emma Kinler brought home Ulrey on a single. McNary stranded eight runners in the game.

On Friday, March 20, the Celtics beat Jesuit High School 3-2 in a steady rain. Jesuit rallied for two runs in the sixth inning, but couldn't overcome the Celtics' 3-0 lead.

Kinsey McNaught was the only batter with more than one hit and went 2-for-3. Villarreal had a double.

McNary's first loss came

Monday, March 23, to West Linn High School, but it wasn't for lack of offense. The final score was 15-14 Lions.

After the Celtics ran up a 4-0 lead in the first inning, West Linn went ahead 6-4 in the third. By the sixth inning, the Lions were up 15-7. McNary scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth and five in the seventh, but fell just short of knotting it up.

Villarreal went 3-for-5 at the dish including two home runs and four RBIs. Oliver, Villarreal, Ulrey, Hannah Carr, Nicole Duran and Emma Kinler all had doubles. Oliver led the team with five RBIs and also had a home run.



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Haley Ebner makes a throw to first base in the Lady Celts' softball game with Jesuit High School Friday, March 20. The Lady Celts won 3-2.