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Boys suffer first loss

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

An 11-3 loss to South Salem High School means the McNary varsity baseball team is tied for first place in the Greater Valley Conference.

The Saxons had a 2-0 lead when McNary went ahead 3-2 in the fourth inning. But an eight-run fifth inning for South sealed McNary's fate.

Until that game Tuesday, April 21, the Celts were still undefeated in the GVC after a win over Forest Grove High School Friday, April 17.

Head Coach Larry Keeker attributed the team's recent successes to rededication in game preparation.

"Early in the season, we were going through the motions of preparing," he said. "Now, it's really good. We learned our lesson and we can't show up, walk around and play well. We do well when we get ourselves prepared on fundamentals and hold each other accountable."

McNary took a lead early in the game, and managed to avoid the middle-game drought that was becoming characteristic of the team. Pitcher Mickey Walker gave the team a good start with nine strikeouts.

"We spread out the runs



McNary's Kyle Ismay tags out a runner trying to steal second base in the Forest Grove game.

and had a good game offensively," Keeker said.

After edging the McKay Royal Scots on Monday, April 20, the Celts still had a big week ahead with games on tap against McMinnville and Sprague high schools.

While Keeker is trying

to keep the focus on one game at a time, he expected the Grizzlies to be the game of the week. They were one game behind McNary at press time.

"Sprague is certainly a capable team, but McMinnville is toughest in term of talent

and record," he said.

By keeping the team focused on preparing for each game, Keeker said they won't have any regrets.

"There will be no one looking back and saying, 'Boy, I wish we'd gotten ready to play,'" he said.



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Joyce Lim rounds a corner en route to winning the 800 meter race in the South Salem meet Wednesday, April 15.

Celts beat Saxons on track and field

The McNary High School girls and boys varsity track and field team were both victorious in a meet with South Salem High School Wednesday,

April 15.

The boys won 87-56 and the girls won 85-60. Along the way, McNary picked up numerous event wins.

For the girls, event winners were Danielle Duran in the 200 meter in 27.13; Kailey Doust won the 400 meter in 1:03.29; Joyce Lim took first in the 800 meter in 2:44.87; Annabel Guptill topped the podium in the 3,000 in 11:54.59; River Harri won the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 51.67; Sydney Hunter,

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Lady Celt Emma Kinler was all smiles rounding third base after sending a home run over the center field fence in the game with McKay High School.

Softball team struggles with errors

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School's girls varsity softball team couldn't overcome errors in the early going of a game with Forest Grove High School Friday, April 17.

"We came out flat. It may have been having a whole week off but, in the first three innings, we kicked the ball around and went down 6-0," said Kevin Wise, McNary

head coach. "If we played like we did in the last part of the game, it might have been a different story."

The Keizer team left eight runners on base in the 6-3 loss.

McNary put one run across the plate in the fourth inning and two in the seventh, but it was too little too late.

Kelsi Christenson had the best day at the dish going 2-for-3. Kimi Ito, Madi-

son Oliver and Hannah Carr notched the RBIs.

The Lady Celts bounced back the next day to win 14-0 over the McKay Royal Scots.

"We were still off after the loss, but they came back and had a better approach at the plate being aggressive," Wise said. "Their pitcher — to her credit — did a good job, but we were patient at the plate."

Despite the loss, the Royal Scot team was showing much

improvement over past seasons on defense.

Lady Celt Emma Kinler sent a shot over the centerfield fence to kick off the second inning for McNary. Carr and Kiana Villarreal had doubles.

Wise said the team needs to get out of the mindset that they can't turn it on and turn it off."

"They need to focus from the first pitch to the last. We

need it this week because it's a busy week with no downtime."

The Celts had games in the works against South Salem, McMinnville, both past press time, and Sprague High School Friday, April 24. The first pitch is slated for McNary at 5 p.m.

"One of the advantages we have is that everybody in the conference has at least one loss so no one is unbeatable,"

Lady Celts get big wins in tennis

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School's girls varsity tennis team lost a match with McMinnville High School 6-2, but the two matches the team won were important ones.

In No. 1 singles, Celtic freshman Hannah Childress took down Grizzly senior Caitlan Baker, one of the better players in the league, in three sets.

"I kind of changed up my game when she became more consistent. When she did that I started to come up to the net and volley," Childress said.

Childress, making her second appearance in varsity singles, lost the first set 1-6, came back to win the second set 6-4 and took the third set 7-5.

"She was scared to death after the first set, but then she went out and executed," said Lisa Reid, McNary head coach.

At No. 1 doubles, Ariana Neads and Sami Trowbridge pulled off a similar feat against a top-ranked opponent. They beat McMinnville's Samantha Purdy and Shay Bristow with

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