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CELTICS ROLL

Girls' huge fifth leaves Gophers in dust



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Lady Celt pitcher Megan Ulrey winds up in the circle during the first-round playoff game Monday, May 25.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

It took a little while, but the Lady Celts uncorked a seven-run fifth inning to win their first game of the state playoffs Monday, May 25.

"I want us to be a little more aggressive coming out, but these girls start and they chip away at the pitcher. By the time we get to the third inning, they've got her," said Kevin Wise, McNary head coach.

"They almost don't take us seriously when we don't come out with a punch. But once we all figure it out, it's kind of over," added senior Megan Ulrey.

The 11-7 win over Gresham High School granted the Celts a second game at North Medford High School Wednesday, May 27, past press time.

The Celtics (20-7) were ranked 11th going into the contest while the fourth-ranked Black Tornados were 23-5 and on a 12-game win streak. McNary had an 11-game win streak going.

"We're on a streak and



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
McNary's Haley Ebner eyes first base, deciding whether to make a throw.

if we keep our energy, and gelling as a team, we're going to be fine. How close we've become as a team is what's really helping us," said Lady Celt Madisen Oliver.

In the game with the Gophers, it was the Gresham team first to the board with a

2-0 lead after the first frame. The Celts tied it up in the bottom of the second and moved ahead 4-2 in the bottom of the third.

Gresham knotted the game at 4-4 in the top of the fifth and the Lady Celts unloaded in the bottom of the

frame running through the entire line-up before heading back to the dugout.

"We'd get a hit, get runners on and then move them over. We just didn't leave many on base," Wise said. McNary left seven runners

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Boys sink Lakers in 6-2 win

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Two McNary seniors came up with timely doubles to help their team to a 6-2 win over Lake Oswego High School Monday, May 25.

Celt Connor Goff hit a two-RBI double in the third inning to give McNary a 3-0 lead after a Jacob Vasas single and a stolen base. Senior Mickey Walker was on first after a walk.

Tim Hays hit a base-clearing, three-RBI double in the sixth. Hays nearly turned the hit into a triple but was thrown out at third. Hays' plate was set after Walker took a bag on balls and stole second. Connor Goff reached first on an error and Mathew Ismay was hit by a pitch.

"I knew he had to be aggressive because we had bases loaded and the pitcher didn't want to walk anyone. That made me anxious and my first swing was bad. The second time I just wanted a base hit. He threw a fastball up the middle and I hit it right center field," Hays said.

The Celt defense had a strong day behind Walker on the bump.

"I just trusted them and they made all the plays we asked them to," said Walker.

Walker pitched a complete game with six strikeouts and allowing only four hits in 88 pitches.

"Mickey had one tough inning, but he worked it out and kept going," said Larry Keeker, McNary head coach.

Vasas went 2-for-4 in the game with a stolen base. It was the third consecutive year McNary and the Lakers have faced each other in the post-season. With this season's win, the Celts are up 2-1 for the un-planned series.

"This was a good day for us," Keeker said. "One of our goals this season was to earn the right to host our first game of the playoffs and we did that. We had an exciting atmosphere with big at bats by a couple of seniors, and that's always good for them."

The win advanced the Celts to the second round of the

playoffs where they were facing Sheldon High School in Eugene Wednesday, May 27, past press time.

The fourth-ranked Fighting Irish had an overall record of 23-5 to McNary's 9. Sheldon lost a game April and end-of-season play was less than what the team had hoped for.

"The biggest lesson is we have to believe in what we're doing and continue to play good baseball," Keeker said.

Walker echoed the sentiment.

"We're going to have a really good team and I just want to see us have confidence. Confidence at the plate to get on base, and confidence in our defense when the other team is up," he said.



18-hadn't since late April and end-of-season play was less than what the team had hoped for.



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Left: Jacob Vasas dives back to first base during a pick-off attempt. Above: Third baseman Trevor Gilbert lines up to grab a bounce.

Childresses take 4th in state

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Sandy and Hannah Childress were nervous heading into their first match at the state tennis tournament last week.

They'd drawn McMinnville High School and were in a one-and-done situation after winning the district tournament and receiving a bye in the first round. Fortunately, Sandy had been in the similar high-anxiety situations many times before.

"I've learned how to not be so nervous and use my nerves to my advantage," Sandy said.

The sisters ended up taking fourth in the state in doubles play.

Hannah said the pair needn't have worried because they won the McMinnville match (6-3, 6-1) and went on to beat the No. 2-seeded team in the state with scores of 6-1 and 6-0, earning themselves a berth

in the semifinals.

"We knew that the seeding didn't mean a whole lot, but we never played them before," Hannah said.

Sandy said it was her favorite match of the competition.

"That was because we had nothing to lose and it was fun to just live in the moment," Sandy said.

The win in the quarterfinals boosted the Childresses into the semifinals where they were guaranteed fourth place.

The Lady Celts fell to a Jesuit High School team in the semis, and battled to three sets in the third place match before settling for fourth place. The Childresses faced a Grant High School team for third and ended with set scores of 2-6, 6-3 and 6-1.

Hannah, who is a freshman with plenty of time left to improve, said the experience

is going to help her moving forward.

"I learned a lot about competition and never underestimating myself," Hannah said.

For both girls, getting to the highest ranks in the state had a cherry on top in terms of doing it together.

"We've played together since Hannah started and getting to be partners was really cool," Sandy said.

The elder Childress will be continuing her career at California's Sonoma State University in the fall, but she and her sister left a lasting impression on Lisa Reid, McNary's head coach.

"I couldn't ask for better kids to represent McNary," Reid said. "They had a very good run."

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Sandy and Hannah Childress with their fourth-place medals from the state tennis tournament

