

GIRLS: 'This team more than lived up to expectations'

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A turning point came when an opposing coach verbally attacked one of the girls midseason.

"That is when I think our idea of team was taken to a new level. This team liked each other from the beginning, but they stepped it up that game and truly had each other's backs from then on," Wise said.

In the second half of the season, the girls turned their attention to remaining positive and focusing on small goals each game, which

turned into the winning streak.

"This team more than lived up to the expectations we had for them. They hit their stride when they needed to and continued to get better," Wise said.

The team will lose Ito, Ulrey and Villarreal — all in key roles — to graduation, but return nine athletes next season.

"With the kids we have coming back, I feel really good about the future. We have some young kids who are very talented, who I think

can be great leaders. All of these girls are unselfish, so that is also going to help," said Wise.

Even though Wise himself was part of the all-conference selections, he's not quite satisfied yet.

"I want to see the girls win a state championship, and that is the ultimate goal. In the end though, I want our players to be high quality people. I want them to be successful in life, and I hope that some of what they learn in our program can help them in that endeavor," he said.

FIRST: 'This was a good way to end our high school career'

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"I took fourth place overall in our first meet as a freshman so that was really cool," she said.

Alyssa placed fifth in the mounted English event, which required her to follow specific patterns around the arena. Her horse is Emma.

McNary's team tied for first in the in-hand obstacle relay.

"In that one, we have to go over a series of obstacles as well and as fast as we can, then race back and the other person goes. After five minutes, they start deducting points," Zielinski said.

Burleson and Gracie took second in the working pairs event, which is essentially synchronized riding.

"We didn't really get to practice until right before the event, but we did pretty well," Gracie said.

The most challenging part of the competition was team penning. In that event, a small herd of calves are assigned numbers in sets of threes. Each team is assigned a number and must get the corresponding cows into a pen.

"We only got two cows in, but we did it in less than 60 seconds," Zielinski said.

The biggest struggle for the team actually takes place outside the arena. When asked what the girls would like other people to know about the team, Zielinski didn't even pause before saying: "That we exist."

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"Every year you lose important parts to a team. The fun part is discovering, over the summer and into next year, which players will step up and earn spots for next season," Keeker said.

For the returning players, Keeker said there were many lessons for them to build upon.

"Trust each other and believe in the process. This senior class did an excellent job of leading the way and I hope the younger kids were watching," he said.

In addition to one of the best seasons yet under Keeker, a number of players received all-league honors this season. First team selections were Mickey Walker (pitcher), Mathew Ismay (infield), and Jacob Vasas (outfield). Second team selections were: LaFontaine (pitcher), Matt Aguilar (infield) and Goff (first base). An honorable mention went to Tim Hays at catcher.



Sports banquet raises \$40K

Beautiful weather must have had a sold out crowd feeling especially generous.

The McNary High School Athletic Booster Club raised about \$40,000, before expenses, in its annual sports banquet Saturday, May 30.

The event was hosted at McNary Golf Club and included a pre-banquet golf tournament.

Above: Attendees peruse the silent auction offerings.
Right: Celt Mason Schaffner attempts to chip a golf ball into a toilet.
KEIZERTIMES/
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Future Celt hoop camp starts June 15

The McNary High School boys basketball program is hosting summer camps for boys in this month.

The camps are planned for Monday, June 15, through Thursday, June 18. Incoming third through fifth graders will meet from 9 a.m. to noon and incoming

sixth through eighth graders will meet from 1 to 4 p.m.

Camps will focus on developing fundamentals like footwork, shooting technique, passing and catching, dribbling and rebounding. Cost is \$55 and includes a T-shirt. Send registration forms

and payment (checks payable to McNary Boy's Basketball Club) to: McNary High School, c/o Boys Basketball, 595 Chema-wa Road N., Keizer, OR 97303.

For more information contact Ryan Kirch at 541-908-1609 or rkirch@hotmail.com

Member spotlight

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Erik Twenge has been in the telecommunications industry for more than 10 years and has worked with **Jet Communications** for the past three years. He is married with a young daughter and another child expected this summer. As a resident of Monmouth and reared in Independence, working with Jet Communications and people he knows, is an asset to his business and customers.

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