



(Continued from Page 10)

The project was paid for through about \$500,000 in in-kind donations and another \$500,000 cash. The McNary Athletic Booster Club is still raising money to help cover expenses.

The new artificial turf field is expected to be able to handle tenfold the amount of traffic the old natural grass field could. It's expected to improve field availability for groups and organizations ranging from the football team to the band to the lacrosse team come spring. In the short term, that same increased-yet-still-limited availability is causing at least some consternation.

"The turf is nothing but positive for the school and the girls soccer program program. However, the biggest hurdle is working through practice schedules. Before we would train and play on grass, but when you're talking about different types of surface, we need to be able to train on the field we are going to call our home field," said AJ Nash, head coach of the McNary girls soccer program. "If we can't train two days a week over there, the grass field will continue to be our home field."

Nash was speaking a little more than a week before the games were slated to start and he'd yet to hear anything about being able to practice on the new turf.

"We haven't gotten a training schedule

yet, but last year that field was full and now we're adding girls and boys soccer to the mix. The good thing is there are lights and if it means we have a couple of 8 p.m. practices a week, we'll do it," he said.

In the long term, Jeff Auvinen, head coach of the McNary football program, is hoping it cuts down on injuries.

"In the past couple of seasons, we've actually seen more injuries during away games on turf because it feels different and cuts different when the kids are playing on it. The kids will now be more accustomed to it," Auvinen said.

While it will be a few months before the lacrosse team gets a crack at the turf on a regular basis, Head Coach Ryan Bowlby said he expects it to bring about a new era for the team.

"There's been a lot of kids who haven't been able to participate once parents find out that we practiced at North Salem (High School). Having a home field means kids will be able to walk here and just seeing those guys walk to school with their pads in the spring is going to increase visibility," Bowlby said.

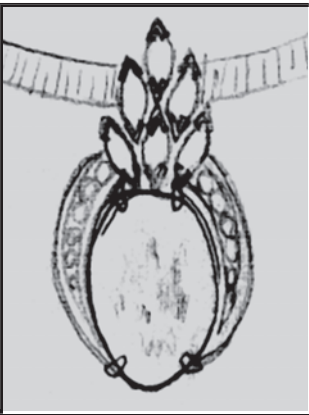
Since its inception, the Celtic lacrosse team has practiced and played at North Salem. In the more than five years the club has been around, they've only gotten to host a game at McNary once.

HELPING HANDS

The following students all pitched in to help prepare the new turf field.


Hayden Sader	Brendan Van Voorhis
Ty Penner	Kolby Barker
Collin Young	Marc Baiza
Jason Sperle	Sam Farr
Trent Van Cleave	Craig Brod
Jon Anderson	Jakoby Doke
Bobby Botta	Blake Norton
Gage Mance	Jacob Jackson
Tanner Gordon	Ryan Bamford
Kyle Aicher	Ty Covalt
Tyler Stull	Robert Benson
Raymond Byrd	
Brycen Boucher	

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Opposite page: Dr. Vern Casterline cuts the ceremonial ribbon during McNary's annual Blue Day. Above: The first yards of turf are installed. Top left: A FieldTurf crew stitches together panels of turf. Top right: Spaces for numerals are sheared.




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