Boys soccer hunting for 2nd GVC title



Freshman goalkeeper Sebastian Lopez makes a save during a scrimmage match

By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School's boys varsity soccer team is still riding high after capturing the first ever Greater Valley Conference title in 2014, but with the title reign comes a mixed bag of motivation and pressure.

"There is more pressure. It's a responsibility and a big weight, but we've got a bunch of new underclassmen who are very good," said Gustavo Villalvazo, a McNary

Even Miguel Camarena, Celtic head coach, felt there was a lot of potential after early practices.

"They look better than I expected. Technically, they are really good. They can keep possession of the ball and they are really fast on the attack," he said.

To be sure, it will not be easy to live up to the excitement that surrounded the team

McNary had something of a miracle run in 2014. After tying and beating some of the tougher teams in the state in early, non-league games, the Celts went on to finish 6-1-1 in league and 8-1-4 overall. The highlight of the season was a game with South Salem High School

that saw McNary come

from behind to win 5-4 on a penalty kick with 1:45 left in the game. The team's season ended in the first round of the state playoffs, but the Celtics lost only two starters to graduation, meaning much of the team is back and ready to run even further this year.

Buoyed by the recent success, the team had 60 athletes try out in August.

"I'm excited because the team is young, really young, and we have some new ad-

SCHEDU

Sept. 8 vs. Central, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 10 at Canby, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 15 vs. Dallas, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 18 vs Jesuit-Portland, 3:30 p.m.

Sept. 25 at North Salem, 4 p.m.

Oct. 2 vs. West Salem, 4 p.m.

Oct. 6 at McKay, 7 p.m.

Oct. 8 vs. McMinville, 4 p.m.

Oct. 13 vs. Forest Grove, 7 p.m.

Oct. 16 vs West Salem, 4 p.m.

Oct. 20 at South Salem, 7 p.m.

Oct. 23 vs. Sprague, 4 p.m.

ditions that have strong skills," Camarena said. "They feel the expectation on them now. When we put a team on the field in the 4-H program this summer, 90 percent of the varsity team took part. They took it really seriously."

> Leadership in the ranks was on display even in early practices, he added. Villalvazo and senior Paulo Reves are taking on key roles as returners.

> Reyes said he could already feel the pressure building as one of the team's key strikers.

"I can feel people looking to me to score goals and I am excited to lead them to victory," Reyes said.

He will likely handle the attack alongside fellow senior Jose Daniel Caballero.

Villalvazo, a midfielder, said Reyes didn't have much to worry about.

"The offense is looking perfect. We had good defense last year and we're still working and bringing it back up,"Villalvazo said.

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Sebastian Lopez - 0 Hunter Miller - 00 Michael Reyes - 1 Giorgio Corrieri - 2

Francisco Rios - 4 Jonathan Carranza - 5 Miguel Bravo - 6

Jorge Garcia - 7 Paulo Reves - 8 Jose Caballero - 9

Brvan Keo - 10 Parker Dean - 11 Jose Vazquez - 12 Luis Martinez - 14 Luis Audelo - 15 Ramon Duenas - 16

"They feel the

expectation on

- Miguel Camarena

them now."

Jesus Alex Pineda - 17 Gustavo Villalvazo - 18 Israel Guzman - 19

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