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Volcanoes split in playoff series

By **HERB SWETT**
Of the Keizertimes

A 3-3 September record for Salem-Keizer (see related story Page A10) ended the Volcanoes' regular season before they split two games with Hillsboro in the Southern Division title series. The rubber game was played Wednesday after press time.

Playoffs – Monday: Volcanoes 4, Hillsboro 2

The Volcanoes, in their first of a three-game Southern Division series with the Hops, made the most of their six hits to Hillsboro's nine and fielded a bit better than their guests to win by two runs.

Salem-Keizer scored the first run in the first inning. Hillsboro tied the score in the second and led briefly with a run in the fourth. The Volcanoes scored twice in the bottom of the fourth and added the final run of the game in the fifth.

Starting pitcher Mike Connolly, who went six innings to get the win, scattered nine hits, and struck out five with only one walk, pitching himself out of jams in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings. Caleb Smith pitched the next two innings, earning a hold, and Ryan Halstead pitched the ninth for a save.

Ronnie Jebavy singled in the first, reached third on an error and scored on a sacrifice fly by Miguel Gomez. In the Hillsboro second, Luis Veras singled, went to second on a ground out and scored on a single by Nate Robertson.

Veras singled again in the fourth, reached third on a double by Alexis Olmeda and went home on a sacrifice fly by Gerard Hernandez.



In the Volcano fourth, Chris Shaw singled and went to second on a single by Jose Vizcaino Jr. Byron Murray reached first base on an error that let Shaw score. A squeeze bunt by Fernando Pujadas scored Vizcaino.

Steven Duggar walked with one out in the fifth, went to third on a single by Shaw and scored on a wild pitch.

Cody Reed was the Hops' starting and losing pitcher.

Playoffs – Tuesday: Hillsboro 8, Volcanoes 0

The Hops snapped back and resumed their usual 2015 treatment of the Volcanoes.

Leading 1-0 after 2-1/2 innings, Hillsboro broke the game open with a four-run bottom of the third. Meanwhile, all-star pitcher Carlos Hernandez held Salem-Keizer to three hits with 12 strikeouts and two bases on balls before being removed after 6-1/3 innings because of his pitch count.

Kirby Bellow pitched the rest of the Volcano seventh, and Will Landsheft was the closer.

The only Volcano hits were singles by Steven Duggar, Miguel Gomez and Dillon Dobson.

Hillsboro's fourth-inning runs came on three singles, a walk and a force out. The Hops' biggest blow was a two-run homer from the usually quiet bat of Nate Robertson in the fifth. Grant Heyman had three hits and Zach Nehrir, Trevor Mitsui and Robertson two each.

Grant Watson was the Volcanoes' starting and losing pitcher, giving up three runs in his 2-1/3 innings. Relievers Eric Sim and Domenic Mazza were roughed up as well, but Armando Paniagua followed with one of his best performances of the year, striking out three in two shutout innings. Rayan Hernandez pitched the last inning, striking out one.

Sept. 2: Volcanoes 3, Eugene 2

This game evened the home series with Hillsboro. Please see SPLIT, Page A10

Celtics beat North, 34-21

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

McNary High School senior Brady Sparks ran around and over North Salem High School defenders to help the Celtics to their first win Friday, Sept. 4.

Sparks piled up 185 yards on 21 carries with a touchdown, most of them coming in the second half, en route to a 34-21 win.

"As a former defensive coordinator, there's nothing worse than a team running a play over and over and feeling like there's no way to stop it. That had to be what North felt like up against Brady," said Brad Emmert, McNary's new offensive coordinator.

While the game ended with a Celtic "W" the start appeared more uncertain. North fumbled the ball on the first play after the kickoff with Celt LaCroix Hill recovering for the Keizer team. However, aside from first downs on a pass from Trent Van Cleave to Matt Aguilar and another on

a Van Cleave keeper, McNary didn't do much with the opportunity despite making it to the North 15-yard-line.

"We had three plays after that fumble where we made major mistakes," Emmert said.

On the flipside, when North's offense took possession, the Vikings didn't even notch a first down.

When the McNary offense made it to the field, the Celts marched back to the 15-yard-line on a mix of pass and run plays ending with a touchdown grab by Aguilar at 5:17 in the first quarter. Van Cleave ran in the extra point attempt for an 8-0 lead.

North powered back down the field on a long possession that ended with a touchdown just after the beginning of the second quarter, but Gage Mance, Hill, Hayden Sader and Josiah Gilbert and Xavier Matinez all put up tackles along the way.

"I think we clogged up a lot of the gaps, but we weren't clicking very well as a team in



McNary's Brady Sparks drives for extra yards in the game with North Salem High School Friday, Sept. 4. Sparks ran for 185 yards in the game and a touchdown.

the first half," Mance said.

KJ McCrae, McNary's defensive coordinator, credited North for running an offense that caused more than a little confusion on the defense.

"We definitely have a few things to fix. We came out really slow and kind of sat back and let North dictate how the game went the first half," McCrae said.

The Celtics turned over their next possession when Van Cleave got caught for a sack on the scramble with a lot of open receivers downfield. North took their next possession

to McNary's 16-yard-line where they were stymied for three plays. Junior Kolby Barker got the last stop and forced a field goal attempt that missed. Please see WIN, Page A9



Celt Miguel Bravo wins a ball in the air during McNary's game with Ridgeview High School. McNary won 5-1.

Boys soccer starts 2-0

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

Prior to the start of the season, McNary High School's Gustavo Villalvazo described the boys varsity soccer team's offense as "perfect."

Even in a heady moment, that sounded more than a little like hyperbole, but dang if Villalvazo wasn't onto something. In the Celtics first two wins of the season, the team netted nine goals off the feet of nine different players.

"The boys are working really well so far

with the new system of play that allows them to create more opportunities, to move the ball from one side to the other, and permit different players to score while others are assisting. At the same time, they have a good balance defensively. It not easy to do, but so far the boys are doing a fantastic job," said Coach Miguel Camarena.

McNary's first contest of the season was Tuesday, Sept. 1, and the team walked off the field with a 5-1 victory. Goals were scored by

Please see SOCCER, Page A11

Netters take down first foes

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

The McNary High School varsity volleyball team is off to a blistering 4-1 start after two conference games and a tournament appearance.

The Lady Celts trounced North Salem High School in their opening game of the season with North Salem High School Tuesday, Sept. 1. McNary won 3-0 with set scores of 25-11, 25-9 and 25-15.

"We were down three starters and everyone picked up their game. We had girls in new positions and they did great and stepped up. We held our composure and executed our offense and defense perfectly," said Kellie Scholl, McNary head coach.

Forest Grove High School gave the girls a bit more of a run for their money two days later, but McNary still won in three sets. Scores were 25-14, 25-19 and 25-17.

"Vanessa Hayes, Madi Cloyd, Kylie Gilmour and Jaylene Montano did a great job through both league games. We asked Kylie Gilmour to go from libero to being an outside hitter/all around

Please see VOLLEY, Page A11



Lady Celt Reina Strand sends the ball over the net in the contest with Forest Grove High School.