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Celtics roll Vikings 51-28



Celt Matt Aguilar makes a leaping end zone catch, but was pushed out of bounds before landing in the game Thursday, Oct. 8. Photo courtesy of J&H Photo

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

In the first half of the season, many of the Celtics on the McNary High School varsity football team talked about playing to their potential.

With a 51-28 win over Forest Grove High School Thursday, Oct. 8, the team showed more than a glimpse of what the boys meant.

“That kind of scoring is something we are capable of in all of our games,” said Kolby Barker, a McNary junior.

McNary scored on seven of 10 possessions and nearly locked out the Vikings offense in the second half allowing a meager two first downs.

“They’ve always had that in them, but we developed consistency persistently and repetitively. If we can get everyone doing their job over and over again, we’ll do fine against the top tier teams,” said KJ McCrae, McNary defensive coach.

McNary had control of the ball on the opening drive and struck quickly. The 1:10 drive was highlighted by a 19-yard run by Brady Sparks and a 30-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Trent Van Cleave to Brendan Van Voorhis. Van Cleave connected with Kyle Aich-

er on the two-point conversion to give the Celtics an 8-0 lead.

The Vikings responded with a touchdown pass of their own from McNary’s 17-yard line and a two-point conversion knotted the game 8-8, but McNary got right back into the action.

“We moved the ball well and everyone executed on offense,” said Matt Aguilar, a McNary wide receiver.

The Keizer team subtracted six minutes from the clock on their return. While Sparks did much of the heavy lifting, Van Cleave found success in the air with passes to Brodie Nepstad, Josiah Gilbert, Aguilar and Van Voorhis. Sparks notched the touchdown on a two-yard run to make the score 14-8. A two-point conversion attempt failed.

“Their lightest guy on defense was 240 pounds and I was excited to see our guys respond to that. Jason Sperle did a great job at center setting the tone, and Sam Farr and Kiefer Smith did a great job of driving,” said Brad Emmert, McNary offensive coordinator.

On Forest Grove’s return drive Celt LaCroix Hill pulled out a timely sack to bring up third-and-18, but when the Vikings punted on the next play, the ball

bounced into McNary’s returner and Forest Grove recovered it at the Celts’ 29-yard line. Forest Grove took a 15-14 lead three plays later at 10:17 in the second quarter.

Van Voorhis set up the Celtics at the Vikings’ 40-yard line on the kickoff return and Van Cleave connected with Van Voorhis less than two minutes later to retake the lead 22-15. The Celtics struggled to contain Forest Grove on the next drive and Vikings tied the game at 22-22 with 3:23 left in the half.

McNary’s defense appeared set on turning things around from the outset of the third quarter.

“Their quarterback got off some good passes in the first half. Late in the game, we just kept putting pressure on their line and forcing him to scramble,” said Kolby Barker, who had four sacks in the game.

On Forest Grove’s first drive, big tackles by Barker, Josiah Gilbert and Hayden Sader kept the Vikings from getting a first down. On McNary’s return, Van Cleave ran the ball for a touchdown on a third down attempt at 5:48 and Sparks ran for a two-point conversion giving the Celts a 30-22 lead they wouldn’t relinquish the rest of the night.

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Netters sweep Vikings, Olys

We’ll do the rest Celts

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary High School varsity volleyball team didn’t brood too long over another loss to West Albany High School.

The Lady Celts came back from that loss to beat Forest Grove and Sprague high schools in a double header Wednesday, Oct. 7.

“We were using those games as a bit of revenge, but we had a great night and played well,” said Lady Vanessa Hayes.

McNary beat the Vikings in consecutive sets of 25-16, 25-17 and 25-13.

“They weren’t our best sets, but we really stayed focused and came in and got the job done,” said Lady Celt Reina Strand.

Hayes said the game with Sprague was a little more intense and the set scores bore

it out. McNary won in sets of 25-20, 25-19 and 25-20.

“We had some long runs that really helped us keep control,” Hayes said.

The girls’ only match this week was a contest with McMinnville High School Thursday, Oct. 15, past press time.

“McMinnville is a unique team with a left-handed hitter. I’d love to see the blockers come out and shut down her, and the other hitters, down,” Strand said.

McNary is currently in third place in the Greater Valley Conference behind West Albany and West Salem High Schools. The Celts face West Salem at West Salem for the final regular game of the season Thursday, Oct. 22.

“We’ve taken a break this week so everyone can come back rejuvenated and we can win out the rest of the season,” Hayes said.



The McNary High School football team drew a small but vocal crowd to the Forst Grove High School football stadium Thursday, Oct. 8. The boys in blue are Matt Koopman, Wyatt Grine and Bisal Gonzalez.

Wolverines start strong

The Whiteaker Middle School heavyweight football team has shot out of the gate to start the 2015 season, beating Straub 52-8 and Waldo 60-12.

Both games were decided by halftime, creating opportunities for every eligible Whiteaker player to enjoy significant playing time.

The Wolverines opened the season at home against Straub. The McNary JROTC provided a color guard, and Whiteaker starting cornerback and band member Oskar Olsen performed the National Anthem on his trumpet.

The Wolverines jumped on top early when Junior Walling took the first play from scrimmage behind blocks by Joel Knight and Joseph Fowler for a 58-yard touchdown. Whiteaker led 22-0 when Straub had first-and-goal and



McNary’s Jorge Garcia pushes the ball up the field in a game Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Celtic boys soccer struggles continue

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

After starting the season with a five-game win streak, the McNary high school boys varsity soccer team appeared well-positioned to make a run at another Greater Valley Conference title.

But the team’s recent struggles – the Celts have only won a single game since mid-September – have had it reeling.

“A couple of things need to get better starting with our more experienced players stepping up. I think they let up and we’re at the point where something is not working,” said Miguel Camarena, McNary head coach. “It might have been the pressure to win the league again, but that isn’t a factor now and our goal has to be to make it to the postseason.”

The Celts tied one game and lost another last week in league competition. On Tuesday, Oct. 6, the boys traveled to meet McKay High School and fought the team to a 0-0 draw.

“We had a lot of good passing, but we just couldn’t finish,” said Luis Martinez. “We were pretty evenly matched.”

McKay fielded a strong team and the McNary offense just couldn’t break through often enough, Camarena added. While the outcome was the result of strong play on both sides of the ball against McKay, Camarena said the team might have done more in a 4-0 loss to McMinnville High School Thursday, Oct. 8.

“We played with five in the back against McMinnville and, realistically, their goals were our mistakes,” Camarena said. “Those are heartbreaking.”

McMinnville entered the game undefeated and ranked first in the state. With just four games left in the season, Camarena said the Celtics had to focus on winning those and assuring a spot in the playoffs.

“We need to win out the (season),” Martinez said. “Everybody needs to stay strong through the whole game and never give up.”

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