MON-FRI 9-6, SAT-SUN 10-5

5 MILES NORTH OF KEIZER 10325 RIVER RD NE

MON-FRI 9-6, SAT-SUN 10-5

## KeizerSports

# With win, netters share league title





KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald Kaelie Flores puts up a block in competition with South

Salem High School Tuesday, Oct. 20

By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

Any way you cut it, the McNary High School varsity volleyball team's destiny in the postseason rested on the outcome of two games this week.

In the final two games of the season, the Lady Celts were set to face South Salem and West Salem high schools. Winning both would mean sharing the Greater Valley Conference title.

"I think the way we are going to approach them is by being really confident. We've beat them both so I think we'll do well," said Lady Celt Kylie Gilmour.

McNary beat the Saxons 3-0 in late September and the Titans 3–1 earlier that month. It was the Titans' only GVC loss so far this season.

"West is very confident in their ability because they've beat West Albany twice, but we know where we stand in the state and we know we can handle both teams," said Kaelie Flores, a McNary senior.

While it's been several weeks since facing either team, the Celts also have a bit of a chip on their shoulder going into the week.

On Saturday, Oct. 17

Linn Tournament where they

won the silver division. "The morning was a bit rocky, but we beat all the teams in bracket play and won the division which included beating Lakeridge, the No. 3 team in the state," Gilmour said.

McNary beat Lakeridge, which leads the Three Rivers League, 2-0 with set scores of 25-20 and 25-23.

The Celts beat La Salle Prep 3–1 in the silver division finals with scores of 25-20, 21-25 and 15-10. La Salle is ranked fifth in the OSAA 5A division.

Prior to the tournament appearance, McNary beat McMinnville High School 3-0 in GVC competition. Set scores were: 25-23, 25-17 and 27-25.

"It was a rough 3-0. Everyone was pretty distracted with it being homecoming week, but we did what we needed to do to get the job done," Flores said.

Vanessa Hayes led the team on offense and defense with five aces, 19 kills and 24 digs. Madi Hingston had 23 digs followed by Gilmour with 14. Flores and Reina Strand had three blocks apiece. Sam Van Voohis had 17 assists and Celts traveled to the West Madie Cloyd had 15.



KEIZERTIMES/Fric A. Howald McNary's Brady Sparks takes a handoff from quarterback Trent Van Cleave in the game wirh West Salem.

### **Titans beat Celts 43-40**

By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

The lead changed hand sthree times in the last quarter of a game between the McNary and West Salem high school varsity football teams Friday, Oct. 16. The tumultuous quarter ended in a 43-40 loss for McNary.

"I think we did a little of everything. We ran the ball well and passed the ball well," said Jeff Auvinen, McNary head coach. "Defensively we had trouble with consistency, we'd get a three-and-out and then let them march down the

As the third quarter ended McNary had just failed to convert their last drive leading to a punt attempt in their own red zone. A high snap left the punter without many options other than falling on the ball which he did and the Titans took over at McNary's oneyard line. Two plays later, Titan quarterback Brody Wittman rolled around the outside of the pack to get the touchdown. A successful two-point conversion made the score 37-34 in favor of West.

unsuccessful After two

drives, McNary took control of the field at West's 31-yard line. A trio of rushing attacks by Celt running back Brady Sparks and quarterback Trent Van Cleave took the ball to West's nine-yard line. McNary spread the defense on a fourthand-goal attempt that let Van Cleave take a snap between the legs and dive into the end zone for the 40-37 lead.

Unfortunately for McNary, the Titans responded by returning the kickoff for a touchdown to take a 43-40 lead with 1:18 left on the clock.

McNary was at secondand-15 after a penalty when Van Cleave ran into the middle of the pocket looking for a receiver. As he drew back to fire it off, the ball was stripped and West recovered, ending the drive and allowing the Titans to run out the clock for the win.

The Celts started off scoring in the game with a touchdown pass from Van Cleave to Brendan Van Voorhis at 8:29 in the first quarter. An extra point by Victor Zavala made the score 7-0. The Titans took back control, and an 8-7 lead, less than two minutes later.

Please see LOSS, Page A11

#### Wolverines dominate Crossler

The Whiteaker Middle School heavyweight football team remained unbeaten on the season with a decisive win over

Crossler Middle School last week. The Wolverines jumped out to a comfortable lead behind the passing of quarterback Erik Barker, who in just over one half of play, completed 9 of 11 passes for 181 yards and four touchdowns. Barker connected with five different receivers, led by Junior Walling's three catches for 61 yards and three touchdowns. Riley Flores had two grabs for 45 yards and a touchdown, and speedster Nico Sandoval, playing for the first time since his return from a pre-season injury, caught two passes for 58 yards and ran once for a 40-yard touchdown. Two Wolverines reached the end zone for the first time: Anthony Rice scored on a late rushing touchdown and Oskar Olsen running in a pair of twopoint conversions. Wide receiver Noah Lelack also got into the act with a first quarter punt return for a touchdown.

Friday, Oct. 16.

The defense was led by inside linebacker Joseph Fowler's eight tackes, and Walling's four tackles for loss and a fumble he recovered and returned for a touchdown. Layton Thurlow also had two tackles for losses (TFL). Whiteaker dominated the line of scrimmage, led by Wolverine defensive linemen Nate Young and Josh Patton, who finished with identical tallies of six tackles and one TFL each. Young and Patton also anchored the right side of an outstanding offensive line that featured Malakai Vasseur and Andrew Shaw on the left side, with Sion Springer at center. The play of the game occurred in the second half, when defensive tackle Cameron Weathers - who just prior to the game was named a team captain - stripped a Crossler ballcarrier and rumbled nearly 25 yards before being

As he had the week before, Head Coach Tom Larimer once again recognized Whiteaker's dominating line play as the key to the game, and applauded his

entire team for its willingness to play hard and unselfishly. Larimer was excited to add that players Erik Barker, Layton Thurlow, Ju-

nior Walling, Brian Schindler, and Sion Springer, along with team videographer Michael Tischer, were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in front of family and friends at a ceremony held on Oct. 22.

The heavyweights play at Houck on October 29, then finish their season against an excellent Claggett Creek Middle School team on Wednesday, Nov. 4. The game will kick off at 7 p.m. at Mc-Nary High School, with the bands from both schools performing together between games (the lightweight contest kicks off at 5 p.m.) The entire Keizer community is encouraged to attend. The event will feature dozens of young men who will be teammates next year on a McNary freshman team.

Submitted by Tom Larimer



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald Celt Bhavdeep Bains puts the ball across to a teammate in the game with West Salem High School

#### **Injuries plague boys** soccer late in season

By ERIC A. HOWALD

Of the Keizertimes The roster of the McNary High School boys varsity soccer team was looking more like the waiting list in an emergency room lobby last week as the team struggled to find another win.

Head Coach Miguel Camarena said the team had five starters on the bench with injuries when the team faced off against West Salem High School Friday, Oct. 16. The sidelined status of many of the program's standouts led, in part, to the team's 4-0 loss.

"I'm not really sure what happened. Before we started that game it felt like we were there to win," said McNary's Jesus Lopez.

The Titans scored their first goal on a penalty kick in the first half and McNary struggled even to keep the game out of its own territory.

"Once they scored the first goal ev-

erybody kind of went down. Our offense wasn't showing and our defense wasn't working," said Celt Bhavdeep Bains.

With two games remaining, the Celtics were in sixth place in the Greater Valley Conference, but that included a three-way tie for third. While the team has struggled to maintain position in the GVC, the Celtics are still ranked 26th in the state which should earn them a spot in the playoffs if they could come up with wins over South Salem and Sprague high schools.

"Our main goal is to make playoffs and go farther than we did last year for sure," said Bains. The Celts only made it to the first round of the playoffs in 2014 despite winning the GVC title.

Prior to that game, McNary staged a second-half rally to tie Forest Grove High School 3-3 Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Please see SOCCER, Page A13