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## Celts lose overtime, see-saw play-in

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Even a hat trick by McNary senior Paulo Reyes wasn't enough to overcome the Tigard High School varsity soccer team in a playoff play-in game Tuesday, Oct. 27.

After a beleaguered end to the regular season, the McNary High School varsity soccer team's postseason dreams rested on the outcome of the game. With the 5-4 loss, the Celts' season comes to a close.

Celt forward Julian Villarreal cleaned up a free kick at the net early in the game to give McNary a 1-0 lead. In the eighth minute, Tigard knotted the game by slipping one past goalkeeper Sebastian Lopez, who had already made several saves at that point.

With 3:32 left in the half, Tigard was awarded a penalty kick and went up 2-1, and the teams went to halftime with the Tigers in the lead.

In the 42nd minute, Reyes scored his first goal of the night from about 20 yards out. He created mere inches of space between himself and a defender to get the shot off. Less than a minute later, Tigard retook the lead 3-2.

In the 64th minute, Celt Daniel Caballero was on the

Left: Jose Vazquez controls the ball at midfield in the game with Tigard. Above: Paulo Reyes and Michael Reyes put pressure on a Tiger defender.

far left side of the field and passed the ball to Reyes, who had his back to the net. Reyes turned on a dime and scored his second goal of the night to make the score 3-3 with 15 minutes to play.

Three minutes later, the ball went out of bounds and Caballero put it back in play before the Tigers could reset their defense. Reyes grabbed

the ball on the ground and lofted a scoring kick perfectly into the top left corner of the net.

Tigard tied the game again, 4-4, in the 69th minute. Despite a pair of one-on-one attempts, McNary couldn't find the net before the final siren, sending the game to overtime. Lopez also came up with a pair of huge saves to keep the

Tigers down.

In the first half of the 20-minute overtime, Tigard managed to trap the ball around McNary's net and got off four shots before sending one home for the final score of the game.

McNary had two prime opportunities in the second half of overtime on well-placed free kicks by Bryan

Keo but couldn't capitalize on them.

Prior to the play-in, the Celts managed to get a 3-1 win over Sprague High School in their final game of the regular Greater Valley Conference season.

Celt Luis Audelo said the team fared better, in part, due to the return of Reyes to the field. Reyes had been sidelined

with injury for several games.

"We'd been playing like we had our backs to the wall for a while and this time we came out and attacked the ball," Reyes said. "We got the early goal and that gave us more confidence."

Sophomore Michael Reyes found the net first and Paulo followed shortly thereafter on

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Celt Hayden Sader chases down Saxon quarterback Gabe Matthews in the game Friday, Oct. 23. McNary lost 56-12.

## Gridders to face Olys

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The good news for the McNary High School varsity football team is that it is virtually assured a spot in the playoffs regardless of whether it wins or loses a game with Sprague High School at home Friday, Oct. 30.

"We're pretty much locked into fourth, but it would be nice to get that win for our own state of mind. On paper, Sprague's got a good record,

but I think we match up with them pretty well. It should be a good game," said Jeff Auvinen, McNary head coach.

The Olympians enter the contest with a Greater Valley Conference record of 6-1, and an overall record of 6-2.

The Olys' largest threat on offense is senior running back Anthony Nunn. The 5-foot-11, 205-pounder has racked up big yards already this season and is likely to be the linchpin of Sprague's offensive package

against McNary.

"We'll be focusing on the run. They have a young quarterback who can throw the ball, but we feel like if we stop the run, we should do okay," said Celt Matt Aguilar.

Sprague's quarterback is 6-foot-2 junior Justin Culpepper who has come through in several clutch situations this year and continues to grow.

Despite the threats Sprague brings to the game, the Celtic's

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## Lady Celts done on pitch

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The McNary High School girls varsity soccer team ended its season with a 2-0 non-league loss to Canby High School Saturday, Oct. 24.

The Celts held strong defensively with the match tied 0-0 at half. Senior keeper Jazzlyn Lark had the "save of the year" in the 55th minute to keep the game even, said AJ Nash, McNary head coach. Canby scored in the 60th minute to go up 1-0, but McNary didn't fold. Junior Jenna Candland and fresh-

man Gina Munguia both had near misses just over the bar. Canby scored again in the last five minutes for the final tally.

"The biggest thing we want the girls to take away from this season is that they can compete against any team in this league now. In our final game, we ended the first half with seven freshman on the field, and took a playoff-bound Canby into the 60th minute with multiple opportunities to score," said Nash.

It was something of a bitter end to a season that

started with a bang over the team's play a year ago.

"Our team was excited about the good start, but had a good understanding that the strength of our opponents increased as the season progressed. Our goal was to be competitive in every game, and we accomplished that goal," said Nash.

Injuries took some of the heat off the Lady Celts' offensive output late in the season, but the team managed to create opportunities throughout the season.

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## New head coach sets winning tone at WMS

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

When Tom Larimer took over the Whiteaker Middle School heavyweight football program earlier this season, it was in a bit of disarray to say the least.

"We had eight home and away jerseys that were the same size and number," said Larimer.

On the field things weren't much better. Last season, the team ended most of its games under mercy rules and attitudes were at an all-time low in the ranks.

Larimer had been approached by Whiteaker's new principal, Julia Dewitt, last year. He had taken several years off of coaching to build his career as partner in a law firm, but Dewitt said Larimer had the right mix of coaching skills and emphasis on the stu-

dent in student-athlete.

"Tom's the husband of a middle school teacher so he understands the academic piece and cares deeply about his athletes' academic success," Dewitt said. Larimer's wife, Tracy, recently transferred to Whiteaker to teach social studies.

As caretakers of students making two of the most difficult transitions of their lives to date — elementary to middle school and middle to high school — Dewitt said improving transitions in all areas, including electives and activities, is a top priority for her.

While Whiteaker was facing down demons bred within the program itself, Larimer said outside forces were also at play.

"The demise of the Boys & Girls Club football programs has created a void and club

programs are competing with the middle school teams for players. It does a great disservice to students' families that don't have the time or money to devote to club football," Larimer said.

That was a situation Larimer was highly aware of while working to rebuild the ranks of Whiteaker's roster this past summer. He's ended up with a team comprised of fairly evenly distributed talents.

"We have about a third of the team that has played club football for several years, another third have had a year or two playing, but the last third hadn't played a down of football until this year," Larimer said. "To our great surprise and satisfaction, some of our inexperienced players are proving to be our best on the field."

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## Netters finish third

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Lady Celts of the McNary High School varsity volleyball team lost a 3-2 match with West Salem High School Thursday, Oct. 22.

It meant the girls had to settle for third place in the Greater Valley Conference, but they are still fairly happy with their playoff path ahead.

"We really wanted that title and it sucks we didn't get there, but we all kind of realized that both teams put out a lot of effort and no one had anything to regret in the match with West," said Sydney Hunter, a McNary junior.

McNary took on Cleveland High School in its first match of the playoffs Wednesday, Oct. 28, past press time. The Celts were ranked 11th in state while the Warriors were ranked 22nd.

McNary senior Madie Cloyd said the prospect of facing unknown opponents was preferable to the usual suspects of the GVC.

"I'm excited to play people we haven't played before. It's more interesting in that we don't get as anxious as we do facing people that we see year after year," Cloyd said.

The winner of the McNary-Cleveland match will face the winner of a Lakeridge-Aloha match

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
McNary's Vanessa Hayes tips the ball in competition with the Saxons.