

**OLYS,**  
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largest obstacle will likely be flushing a 56-12 loss to South Salem High School last week.

After leading 12-0 for much of the first half, South went on an unanswered eight-touchdown run.

"We have to start right again and refocus ourselves," Auvinen said.

Up against the Saxons, McNary quarterback Trent Van Cleave completed nine of 20 for 117 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. Running back Brady Sparks had 17 carries for 70 yards and three catches for 67 yards and a touchdown. Aguilar had two catches for 22 yards and a touchdown.

"We can't look too far ahead. It's senior night for a lot of us and we want to leave the regular season on a win. That will happen if we focus on our jobs and doing what we need to do to execute each play," Aguilar said.

**WMS stays undefeated**

In a battle between the only remaining undefeated teams in the league, and at home in front of a huge crowd, the Whiteaker heavyweight team played inspired football to beat a talented Leslie team 60-22.

Leslie opened the game with an impressive drive but stalled at the Whiteaker 25-yard line. Whiteaker then struck quickly, going 75 yards on four plays, culminating in a weaving 25-yard run by half-back Joseph Fowler and two point conversion catch by Riley Flores. The Wolverines then forced Leslie to go four-and-out when Noah Lelack and Oskar Olsen foiled a pair of long pass attempts. The offense once again needed only four plays to go up 14-0 on a 36-yard sweep by receiver Junior Walling. Brian Schindler then forced a fumble that the Fowler recovered, and the lead grew to 22-0 when quarterback Erik Barker hit Walling in stride on the first play with a 52-yard touchdown strike. Nico Sandoval put the game out of reach late in the second quarter when he picked off a Leslie pass and took it 62 yards to paydirt and a 30-0 Wolverine lead.

Whiteaker's defense largely

shut down a strong Leslie running game until the game was out of reach. Schindler led the way with 11 tackles, followed by Fowler's eight, and Walling's seven. Five Wolverines had five tackles apiece: Olsen, Layton Thurlow, Noah Martinez, Josh Patton and Nate Young. The defense also received significant contributions from starting linemen Michael Ridgway and Cameron Weathers and from key backups Carlos Gallegos and Andrew Shaw.

"We have unselfish defenders who play with discipline and attitude, and celebrate each other's good plays," said defensive coordinator Kurt Barker.

Defensive line coach Jason Walling added, "We have a group of big, strong, athletic young men who come out every day with a desire to learn the game. As a coach, you can't ask for more than that."

Wolverine offensive coordinator Marcus Larimer kept Leslie guessing throughout, leading an offense that passed for 238 yards and rushed for 216. Barker finished eight of 12 passing for 238 yards and two touchdowns. Walling led all receivers with 131 yards and two touchdowns. Lelack chipped in 87 yards on two

catches. Thurlow led the Wolverines' rushing attack with six carries for 65 yards and a touchdown, while Sandoval added 59 on four carries and Fowler tallied 38 yards and two touchdowns. Larimer credited the offense's success to unselfishness and technical discipline.

"We run McNary's offense, and our goal is to help prepare these kids to play at McNary Each player works so hard to master his individual assignment, and it has been special to watch them all grow together and build off each other's successes. I am lucky to have the chance to call plays knowing that our players will execute them just as we planned and practiced," M. Larimer said.

Whiteaker closes out its season on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at McNary High School vs Claggett Creek Middle School. Head Coach Tom Larimer encouraged the entire Keizer community to attend.

"Claggett is a very good team and we will work hard to beat them. But once that final whistle blows, I consider all my and Claggett's kids to be one team: the future McNary High School freshman football team," Larimer said.

Submitted by Tom Larimer

**COACH: 'This new energy has strengthened Whiteaker'**

(Continued from Page A8)

The mix has made for a stellar relaunch of the program. With one game remaining, against cross-town rivals Claggett Creek Middle School Wednesday, Nov. 4, at McNary High School, the Wolverines are still undefeated. Kick off the match-up is 7 p.m. and all are invited to attend.

Larimer wants Whiteaker's program to become the one all others in the Salem-Keizer School District look to when shaping their own offerings.

"I want this to be a program that every kid in Keizer wants to be a part of and every parent sees as the best option for their kids," Larimer said.

To that end, he's gone above-and-beyond when coralling a coaching staff. While most middle school programs might have a pair of coaches, Whiteaker has six: Kurt Barker, defensive coordinator, Marcus Larimer, offensive coordinator and Larimer's son, and three line coaches, Angel Ochoa, Zachary Drake and Jason Walling.

"Each of them knows more about football than me and they are great teachers of the game," Larimer said.

Having Ochoa, who is a math and AVID teacher at Whiteaker, on board is a key component of his plans. When an athlete is falling behind with his studies, he must meet with Ochoa and develop an action plan for grade recovery.

While the Wolverines are

modeling their elders on the McNary gridiron, Larimer has instituted other changes off the playing field that mimic Celtic traditions. Before each home game, the National Anthem is played with freshmen in the McNary Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps presenting the colors. There's even a community barbecue after the game with local sponsors.

Dewitt said effects in the hallways and on the field are already showing.

"This new energy has strengthened Whiteaker's school community. Football parents, the Keizer community, and surrounding businesses have been an amazing support. Many parents have reported to me that their students' grades are the best they've ever been. Most importantly, students are learning to identify their academic needs and access resources to improve," she said.

While new attitudes and leadership are helping change the course of the team on and off the field, Larimer said he's actually out to change the hearts of all his players.

"My favorite sports movie of all time is *Friday Night Lights*, and in the book that movie the coach is talking to his team at halftime during a big game and he asks them if they have love in their hearts. He asks them if they love the game and each other enough to give everything for one half. If they do that, he says, then they are perfect."

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**PLAY-IN,**  
continued from Page A8

a penalty kick about 15 yards out from the net. Jose Vazquez put in the third Celtic goal in the game.

The Celts faced South Salem High School in a 6-0 loss

Tuesday, Oct. 20.

After winning the Greater Valley Conference in 2014, the Celts looked to be setting up another run at the title early this season, but a series of confidence-shaking losses and ties ate away at those hopes. The troubles were compounded late in the season as injuries side-

lined some of the team's star players.

Audelo said there were still lessons to be learned no matter how the season unfurled.

"Despite the results, we have to stay persistent regardless of what happens. We can't let the bad things stop us from doing our best," he said.

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