



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

McNary's Chandler Cavell pulls out the stops in competition with Forest Grove High School Friday, Dec. 18.

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"Mathew doesn't always get the cheers when you have dunks and three-pointers, but he's a kid who very rarely makes mistakes. He's fundamentally sound, he doesn't turn the ball over, he doesn't take bad shots, and he was a quiet leader tonight," said Kirch.

He also lauded the efforts of the Cavell brothers.

"Harry came in and improved on his game by leaps and bounds and really showed what he's made of.

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has served as the team's CEO, president and general manager since its inception and has always been the 'hands on' local owner. Tucker, who is retiring from baseball, lives on Long Island, New York.

"We embrace our history and fully embrace the future. Our own son, Mickey, has grown up with the Volcanoes; this team, this community is our family," Walker said. "Lisa and I and our front office staff are working full time planning for our 20th anniversary season coming in 2016 and we are personally dedicated to making 2016 a fabulous season. Fans will experience several new Volcanoes Stadium additions for this upcoming season, which further reflect our long-term commitment to Volcanoes baseball."

Walker recently was elected vice president of the Northwest League of Professional Baseball Clubs. The Northwest League is one of the 17 member leagues in the National Association of Professional Baseball. The election came during the Baseball Winter Meetings in Nashville, Tenn.

Chandler also came in and played fearlessly. That can be good or bad when it comes to taking shots, but it was mostly a good thing tonight," Kirch said.

Neitzel said the key to moving forward was keeping an even keel like the team has done so far this season.

"We have to keep being unselfish and keep playing as a team with great chemistry,"

Neitzel said.

Ismay said the Celtics were able to build on a strong 72-35 win over North Salem High School three days earlier.

"That was the first time this season when we put it all together for 32 minutes," Ismay said. "People are starting to notice us and, if we can keep this roll going, we're going to have a hell of a season."

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foul line making free baskets. Sheldon didn't get many opportunities offensively in the second half and McNary kept them from offensive rebounds. Sheldon scored only 12 points in about 12 minutes spanning the third and fourth quarters, an atypical output for a team accustomed to running up 60 to 70 points per game on opponents.

"We scouted them and practiced what they run," said Hingston. "We knew our game plan and locked down on defense."

Strand said the only hiccup in the night was some lax help-side defense in the first half.

"We realized we had to focus on help-side, but we all came together and fixed that right away. It was great," she said. "Other than that, we focused in on who we had to guard after studying them and their plays."

McNary had two games prior to facing off with Sheldon and won both easily. McNary handed North Salem High School a 69-9 drubbing Tuesday, Dec. 15, and then pasted Forest Grove High School with a 49-24 loss.

Derick Handley, McNary head coach, said the team hasn't encountered any surprises in recent games, the result of scouting teams and the Lady Celts' buy-in when it comes to taking care of business.

"There's often times we're not surprised. Forest Grove had 11 points through three quarters," Handley said. "The one thing about our girls is they are very studious about the game, and they are tak-



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Celt Sydney Hunter leaps past a defender in the Sheldon game Saturday, Dec. 19.

ing what we learn before each game and applying it when they're playing."

Handley had hoped to finally crack the OSAA 6A Top 10 with the Sheldon win, but the powers-that-be apparently weren't in a giving mood this holiday season.

"There's not a ton of respect for the GVC in the state and that's just the way it is. What we're trying to help the girls prove, as coaches, is that we are ready to compete at

this level of basketball," Handley said. "What's important for us is winning the non-conference games. We have to prop ourselves up and take care of ourselves when we get the chances."

No matter what the future holds, Flores said the team is ready.

"We are really underestimated as a team and this win (over Sheldon) was our chance to go out and prove that," Flores said.

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