

REVIEW: Continued from Page 8

Coach Nick retires

In ways big and small, few coaches will be as lucky to leave as indelible a mark on McNary High School as Craig Nicholas.

For more than 30 years, Nicholas served as coach or assistant coach on numerous teams at the school. With a manner sometimes gruff, even frightening some might say, Nicholas led the McNary baseball team to two state title games and one state title. He was also defensive coordinator for both of McNary's state football title teams.



He said his lessons for the field were the same as the ones he tried to impart in his classroom.

"We end up with a lot of kids who either don't want to

work hard or don't know they can. Teaching them that they could work hard was the one thing I knew I could do," he said.

13-year-old wins Reno Rumble

Given the accolades Keizer's Tony Castaneda racked up in 2015, you'd think wrestling was an easy sport.

Castaneda tells a different story, "There was no easy match. Every kid at a tournament is tough."

On March 14, the 13-year-old won the Oregon Middle School State Tournament. In February, he took second in the OWA Kids State Folk-style Tournament and won the Rumble in Reno Feb. 28. The win at the Rumble earned him an actual pro-wrestling style belt and came in only his second year competing at the annual tourney.



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Torres 2nd in 400m

After a season as the star third was great," said Torres. In addition to those accomplishments, Torres claimed individual district titles in the 200 meter and 400 meter races with times of 22.10 and 49.04 seconds, respectively. He was also part of the district title-winning 4x100 and 4x400 teams.



K. Torres

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Celt Trent Van Cleave makes a leaping lay-in in the game with Sherwood High School Monday, Dec. 21.

Boys take loss to Rams

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

"A perfect storm" ended in the first loss of the season for the McNary High School boys varsity basketball team.

The Celtics traveled to Central Catholic High School Tuesday, Dec. 22, and the Rams dealt them a 75-47 loss.

"It was a seven-point game at half, but they did a real nice job using their athleticism to create turnovers, we had 20 of them. We also didn't handle the pressure as well as we would have liked. Combined with that, they hit some very difficult and deep shots (12 of 19) from three," said Ryan Kirch, McNary head coach.

Kirch thought part of the issue was simple exhaustion. The boys played three games in five days, and against some stiff competition.

Things started out looking bright for McNary. The Celts ran up an 8-2 lead to start the game, but then their shots stopped falling.

"We were 3 of 20 from three, and didn't do a good job getting back in transition after the misses. I thought we were a little rushed in our shot selection instead of working to shift the defense, and we didn't put ourselves in position for many offensive rebounds," Kirch said.

McNary, which was ranked sixth in the state headed into the game, fell to 11th in OSAA 6A rankings on the loss. Fortunately, the loss did not affect the Celts' Greater Valley Conference position. The Keizer team is currently tied for first with South Salem High School. The conference leader will likely be decided

in a game between the two teams at McNary Tuesday, Jan. 5. Game time is 6:45 p.m.

Prior to the Central Catholic loss, McNary pounded out a 76-52 win over Sherwood High School Monday, Dec. 21.

"I thought the Sherwood game went well, particularly the second half. We really shared the ball well and had a high number of assists which led to a high shooting percentage," Kirch said.

The Celts edged the visiting Bowmen 16-14 in the first frame and put together three 20-point quarters for the win. Senior Harry Cavell led scoring with 20 points and nine rebounds. Trent Van Cleave had 13 points, three rebounds and four assists. Junior Mathew Ismay had 12 points, six rebounds and three assists.

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