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Ebbs, Kibbey tops at Don York Invite

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School senior Joey Kibbey and sophomore Brayden Ebbs won their divisions at the Don York Invitational Jan 8-9.

The Celtics finished third overall in the annual tournament held at Cleveland High School.

“We were third in that tournament because everyone contributed,” said Jason Ebbs, McNary head coach. “The exceptional parts were the five kids who didn’t place but were one match away from it.”

Kibbey, at 120 pounds, had one fall and three decisions in the run up to his finals match where he face Gary Thayer of Churchill High School. We won the finals match 9-7 for the tournament title.

“Keeping my mind in the game the whole time was a big part of it. I was also lucky to have my whole team behind me,” Kibbey said.

His only disappointment of the tournament was not getting to face first-seeded Gavin Stockwell of Sunset High School. Stockwell lost his third-round match just before Kibbey would have faced him.

The younger Ebbs, at 138 pounds, entered the tournament as the first seed and notched three pins to make his way to the semifinals where he faced Drew Urben of Putnam High School. Urben was the only wrestler to



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
 Celt Jon Phelps puts a McKay high School wrestler in a compromising position at a dual meet Thursday, Jan. 7.

get a point on B. Ebbs in the entire tournament. B. Ebbs won that match in a 14-1 major decision and pinned Isaiah Haynes of Sandy High School for the title.

“I had a good few days where I was in my groove and it was just a big confidence boost,” said B. Ebbs.

Ricky Vincent (113 pounds), Jon Phelps (132 pounds), Carlos Vincent (152 pounds) and Kyle Bonn (220 pounds) all made it to the semifinals at the tournament

before getting ousted.

“I think we’re finally coming together more as a team. We had a lot of different small groups forming before the break, but last week it felt like we were all moving in the same direction as one,” said Kibbey.

Prior to the York tourney, McNary traveled to meet McKay and West Salem high schools at McKay Thursday, Jan. 7. The Celts beat both teams by wide margins.

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
 McNary’s Sydney Hunter lays up a shot in a game with West Salem High School Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Girls slip to second

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A slow start in the third quarter of a game with South Salem High School led to a 10-point loss for the McNary High School girls varsity basketball team.

“They came out and hit two threes as part of a 10-0 run that put us behind,” said Sydney Hunter, a McNary junior. “After that we started questioning whether we could still win.”

The Celts lost 66-56. After starting the game in the lead, McNary had fallen slightly behind to end the first frame at 14-12. The teams went to halftime locked in a deadheat, 23-23.

The Saxons hit a pair of

treys to start the third period and then extended the run to 10 points before McNary was able to get its groove back.

“We were able to chip away a little bit and cut it to three points in the fourth quarter, but that 10-point run made the difference in the final score,” said Derick Handley, McNary head coach.

Celt Madi Hingston led the team on offense with 20 points, Kailey Doult had 12 and Hunter put up 11.

Despite the loss, which put McNary in a tie for second place in the Greater Valley conference with West Salem High School, Celt Reina Strand was happy with the overall performance.

“We held our composure.

Even though we were down at times, we never acted like that was the case,” Strand said.

Handley said the difference between last year’s team and this year’s team was evident during the game and the next day.

“A year ago, the team would have folded after South’s run, but they fought back this year and then came back to school and had a great practice,” he said. “We have a lot more maturity this season.”

McNary debuted new offensive and defensive schemes in a game with Sprague High School Friday, Jan. 8, to mostly good results. The Keizer team won 48-26.

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
 Above: Parker Dean nears a turn in the 200 IM. Right: Lizzie Bryant swims in the backstroke.



Swimmers beat Scots

The McNary High School boys and girls varsity swim teams dominated McKay High School at a Kroc Center meet Thursday, Jan. 7.

The Lady Celts won 137-20. The Celt boys won 110-40. Senior Samantha Williams and sophomore Sarah Eckert led the way for McNary with both individual and relay wins.

Race winners for the girls were: Anjelica Glassey, Kiana Briones, Bailey White and Eckert in the 200 yard medley relay in 2:12.43; Williams in the 200 freestyle in 2:20.29; Kylie McCarty in the 200 yard individual medley (IM) in 2:39.88; Emily Alger in the 50 free in 28.33; Williams in the

100 butterfly in 1:14.34; Eckert in the 100 free in 1:05.46; Abby McCoy in the 500 free in 6:33.60; Williams, Hannah Corpe, McCoy and Briones in the 200 free relay in 1:58.31; Lizzie Bryant in the 100 backstroke in 1:12.18; Eckert in the 100 yard breaststroke in 1:20.27; and Corpe, Williams, McCarty and Eckert in the 400 free relay in 4:18.20.

Boys race winners were: Wyatt Sherwood, Matthew Albright, Derek Howard and Gavin Jaqua in the 200 medley relay in 2:12.27; Harrison

Vaughn in the 200 free in 2:03.88; Parker Dean in a hotly contested 200 IM in 2:39.52; Jake Wyer in the 50 free in 25.37; Isaiah Holt in the 100 butterfly in 1:08.27; Evan Alger in the 100 free in 56.59; Vaughn in the 500 free in 5:35.03; Vaughn, Grant Biondi, Jake Wyer and Alger in the 200 free relay in 1:42.88; Holt in the 100 backstroke in 1:12.52; Dean in the 100 breaststroke in 1:16.21; and Alger, Bryce Looney, Georgio Corrieri and Brock Wyer in the 400 free relay in 3:58.04.

Boys rebound, beat Olympians

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Much to the relief of players and coaches, the McNary High School boys varsity basketball team was able to rebound from a loss to the South Salem Saxons last week.

“They expect to win games and when they lose they’re upset, but the part I like is how coachable they’ve been after the two losses we’ve had,” said Ryan Kirch, McNary head coach.

The Saxons’ win over the Celtics Tuesday, Jan. 5, gave South the lead slot in the Greater Valley Conference. McNary settled into second place.

“It’s always tough losing, but we took away a lot of things we need to do on the defensive end. We have to cut turnovers in the long run and that’s something we’re still working on,” said Mathew Ismay, a McNary junior.

McNary didn’t spend long nursing their

wounds. Kirch and assistant coach Marc McAvoy said the team had one of its best practices the following day.

“(The loss) really refocused us and motivated us to come out and have great practices,” said junior Cade Goff.

By Friday, Jan. 8, the Celtics were back to hitting on all cylinders, taking a 60-52 win over Sprague High School on the road.

McNary had a 15-13 lead after the first frame and extended it to 36-24 by halftime. The Keizer team was able to ride the lead through a low-scoring fourth quarter to take the win.

“We had room for improvement, but we stayed competitive. Our leaders led and the mistakes we made were made going hard and fast,” said Kirch. “The speed at which we played was right where we wanted to be.”

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