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Celt Austin Moore takes control of an opponent in pigtail rounds at the GVC regional meet Friday, Feb. 12.

Ebbs nabs district title

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School's Brayden Ebbs was crowned the 138-pound Greater Valley Conference wrestling champion at the regional tournament Feb. 12 and 13.

Ebbs, a sophomore, is one of four Celtic wrestlers who will represent the school at the state tournament next week.

It was the second consecutive year that Ebbs reached the regional finals match. He was determined to come out on top this time around.

"The first thing that came to mind was I didn't want it to end up like last year, going all the way to the finals and losing because I wasn't thinking straight and making a mistake," Ebbs said.

The district title came down to a match between Ebbs and a longtime friend, Landon Da-

vis of Sprague High School.

"Landon and I have been friends since we were little and we know a lot about each other when it comes to the ways we wrestle. I knew it would be a tough match," Ebbs said.

Ebbs won in a 12-2 major decision.

Ebbs placed sixth at the state tournament as a freshman and thinks he's got a better-than-average shot at improving on that finish.

As a team, McNary placed third overall. Celts Jon Phelps, Wyatt Kesler and Isaiah Putnam will join Ebbs at the state tournament after finishing third in their respective weight classes.

Phelps, a 132-pound senior, made it to the semifinals before losing a 5-1 decision to Sprague's Michael Murphy.

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Brayden Ebbs

Boys fend off surging Titans

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Most of the McNary High School boys varsity basketball team's opponents are bringing their A game to the court. But, this season, it's been the West Salem Titans who have brought their A+ game each time out.

While McNary won 62-59 in a contest Tuesday, Feb. 9, the team was gutting it out for much of the second half.

"West provides us with a number of different match-up problems on top of being well-coached and talented," said Ryan Kirch, McNary head coach.

After falling behind in the early going – mostly due to being outrebounded – Celt junior Mathew Ismay was able to tie up the game 31-31 with two buckets and three shots from the foul line.

The Titans, however, went up 34-31 on their next possession with a trey.

Ismay knotted the score again at 36-36 a few minutes later, but the game was separated by a single point again with 5:15 left in the game. Junior Cade Goff tied it up at 52-52 from the foul line and then the Celts went on a 7-0 run.

The Titans weren't yet ready to roll over. They scrapped their way back into the fray and were only two points behind the Celts at 61-59 with less than a minute left. McNary held on and hit one more from the foul line for the 62-59 final.

"West has done really well in the second half of the sea-



McNary's Adam Harvey leaps past a West Salem player in the game Tuesday, Feb. 9.

son, but we just had the better game plan that night, especially after they shot out the lights on us last time. Our physical advantage also helped," said Ismay.

To the Keizer team's credit,

it never looked frantic or disorganized despite the pressure.

"I thought our guys handled the rigors of the game very well, adjusting to some of the things they were trying to

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Kuch sets two GVC records, heads to state



By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School sophomore Marissa Kuch was named the Greater Valley Conference Female Swimmer of the Year at the district tournament Feb. 12 and 13.

Kuch set new conference records in the 100 and 200 freestyle races at the meet and is the only Celt headed to the state tournament.

Kuch won the district title

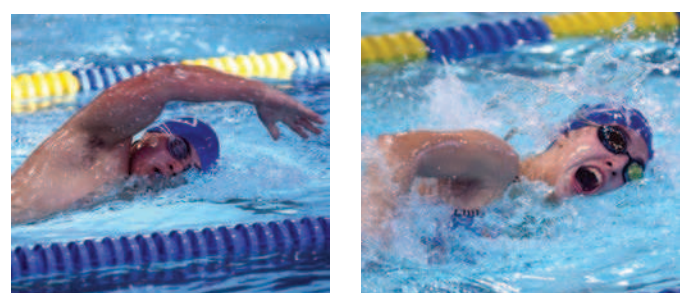
in the 200 freestyle in 1:53.84 and the 100 freestyle district title with a time of 52.11.

Overall, the Lady Celts finished fifth in the GVC with 234 points. The Celtic boys finished seventh with 138 points. South Salem High School won the girls district title. McMinnville High School's boys dominated in the male events.

Other notable finishes for McNary were: Lizzie Bryant, Kiana Briones, Sarah Eckert

and Kuch, fifth in the girls 200 medley relay; Isaiah Holt, Harrison Vaughn, Jake Wyer and Evan Alger, seventh in the boys 200 medley relay; Briones, ninth in the girls 200 free; Kylie McCarty, eighth in the girls 200 individual medley and 10th in the 100 freestyle; Haley Debban, 10th in the girls 50 free; Eckert, third in the girls 100 butterfly; Vaughn, eighth in the 100 breaststroke and 10th in the boys 500 free; Eckert,

Samantha Williams, Debban and Kuch, fourth in the 200 free relay; Alger, Parker Dean, Georgio Corrieri and Wyer, seventh in the boys 200 free relay; Bryant, fourth in the girls 100 backstroke; Anjelica Glassey, 10th in the girls 100 backstroke; Abby McCoy, Hannah Corpe, Debban and McCarty, fifth in the girls 400 freestyle relay; Grant Brock Wyer, Dean, Grant Biondi and Corrieri, sixth in the boys 400 free relay.



Left and above: Celtic swimmers take part in preliminary races at the GVC conference meet Friday, Feb. 12.