IN THE ZONE: Celts nab two Defender of the Year titles

Two-in-a-row for Ismay

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Even at 6-foot-3, Celt junior Matthew Ismay doesn't always match-up physically to the players he's defending against on the basketball court.

But he still likes letting them know he's there.

"With the big guys, every time they try to cut across a lane I want them to feel me hit them because a lot of the guys who are big scorers don't like that. It frustrates them, especially as the game wears on," Ismay said. "I love the challenge of those 6-foot-5 guys like Teagan Quitoriano at Sprague (High School)."

Ismay's presence earned him the Defensive Player of the Year title as a sophomore and he was named Co-Defensive Player of the Year earlier this week as a junior. He's sharing the title with South Salem High School's Joe Carey this time around.

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Celt junior Matthew Ismay was named one of the GVC's Defensive Players of the Year for a second time.

Ryan Kirch, McNary head coach, said Ismay's confidence has only grown in his second season on the varsity roster. In addition to improving as a defender, Ismay has become more of a presence on offense and in the locker room.

"He's more comfortable now in his role as an upperclassman. He's improved in his leadership and his ability to speak up," Kirch said. "If I had to pick one player and say this is what I want our program to be about, Matthew is it. He's as consistent and tough as he can possibly be."

Ismay has taken more than a dozen charging calls this season so far and has become more of a presence offensively than he was a year ago at this time.

"That's what's made the whole team better this season. Last year, we were pretty deep, but this year the scoring can come from anywhere," Ismay said.

He was also named to the GVC's second team all-league, but said that honorific doesn't mean half as much as the defensive title.

"This means that coaches can trust me to guard the best players every game," he said.

Doutt claims GVC's 1st girls defender crown

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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In Greater Valley Conference girls varsity basketball, only four teams held their opponents to fewer than 1,000 points this season. Of those four, McNary High School led with 903 points allowed.

That feat was in no small part due to the contributions of sophomore Kailey Doutt, who was recognized earlier this week at the GVC's first female Defensive Player of the Year.

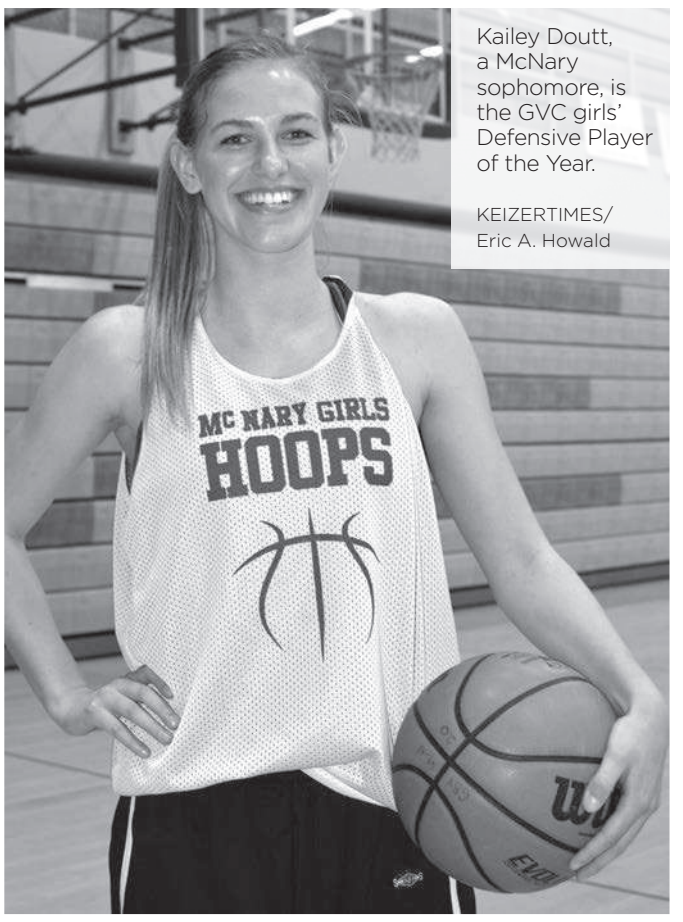
"Kailey is a sparkplug for the whole defensive side of our game and has shown just how deep the buy-in is for our defensive schemes," said Derick Handley, McNary head coach. "It's huge for our program as a whole because she is the best defender on our team, but it wouldn't have been possible if our backside posts weren't getting to the net and rebounding and taking care of the ball after Kailey does her job."

Doutt is also seemingly inexhaustible on the court. She's played the entire game 20 out of 24 times this season for the Lady Celts.

"There is maybe one other player in the league who has done that, and she can't stay out of foul trouble the way Kailey can," Handley said.

Doutt said the award is a result of an approach to the game that she's practiced from a young age.

"I have always been taught that defense wins games. It's what my dad, who was my coach when I was younger, always focused on," she said. "It means a lot because I've been trying to work hard on it. I really feel blessed and thankful."



Kailey Doutt, a McNary sophomore, is the GVC girls' Defensive Player of the Year.

KEIZERTIMES/ Eric A. Howald

Evina Westbrook, of South Salem High School and one of the nation's top recruits in the game, and Autumn Baumgartner of Sheldon High School were two of Doutt's bigger tests this season, but she said the things that made them tough were fairly similar.

"Both of them are quick and good at faking their moves. It makes them difficult to guard against," she said.

She credits part of her skill in the role to having teammates who can keep her on her toes with their offensive output.

"I'm lucky that in practice I have to defend against Madi (Hingston) and Sydney (Hunter). Both of them are really good players and have made me better," she said.

Doutt is also a standout distance runner for the Celtics as part of the cross country and track and field teams. While she's still uncertain where the path will lead after McNary, her immediate goals are simply improving her skillset.

"I hope to get the award again next year, but more than that I just want to hold the other players to fewer points," she said.

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Member spotlight

Welcome Wagon

Myron Musick

Welcome Wagon was founded in Memphis, TN in 1928 by an insightful marketing man, Thomas Briggs. Mr. Briggs was inspired by stories of early Conestoga "welcome wagons" that would meet and greet westward travelers, providing fresh food and water for the journey. He created *Welcome Wagon* to embody this same spirit of warm hospitality and welcome.

Today, with the help of Myron Musick, *Welcome Wagon* is coming to new home buyers and movers through their mailboxes and internet. The method of delivery is not the same as it was in 1928, but the *Welcome Wagon* mission remains the same. Mr. Musick wants local small businesses to be introduced to newcomers in the area. He introduces businesses, to the more than 300 new families moving into Marion, Polk, Linn and Benton counties monthly.

Mr. Musick resides in Keizer and is a graduate of OCE (Western Oregon State University). He taught first grade in Hawaii, Virginia, and Oregon. He has been a sales professional since 1991, working for the United States Chamber of Commerce for 24 years. Mr. Musick also did membership sales for the Salem Chamber of Commerce. Today we welcome him as an Executive Member of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. Myron Musick and his wife, Mary Margaret, have four adult children and seven grandchildren.

If you would like your business to be introduced to new families in the area, Mr. Musick is here to help. It is his goal to bring the new home owners into your business with the help of the *Welcome Wagon* promotion.

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