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Celt Trevor Gilbert tries, and narrowly misses, avoiding a tag at home plate in McNary's game with Aloha High School at Volcanoes Stadium Wednesday, March 23.

Celts win 3, tie 1 in Volcanoes tourney

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary High School varsity baseball team won three of its four games during a spring break tournament hosted at Volcanoes Stadium.

Even the fourth game didn't turn out badly for the Celts; it ended in a 4-4 tie with South Eugene after being called due

to time limits.

"We went into the season with the pitching staff being the unknown because of experience and then we had a four-game week that required us to use our entire pitching staff," said Larry Keeker, McNary head coach. "We had good starts out of Josiah Gilbert, Evan Alger, Collin Wen-

tworth and Trevor Gilbert and then we had guys come in later in the games that kept us in it or finished it for us."

Clearing out the bullpen was a confidence builder, said Alger.

"I think the starting rotation is still a bit of a question, but everyone who took the mound last week is coming

into their own and realizing they can be a pitcher on this team," he said.

The Celts defeated Aloha High School 7-4 in the first game of the tournament Wednesday, March 23. The Warriors scored two runs in the first inning with J. Gilbert on the mound, but the lead was short-lived.

Brendan Frizelle hit a double to start the bottom of the frame, followed by Matt Aguilar with a single, then another double by Matthew Ismay that scored Frizelle and Aguilar.

Celt Tanner Gordon hit a lead-off single in the bottom of the second inning and would later score on a wild pitch. Ismay turned a single by T. Gil-

bert into a run after an error by Aloha's third baseman.

A scoreless third kept McNary in the lead 4-2, and the Celts added three more runs in the fourth. Ismay scored on a single by Collin Young; Joshua Benson scored on a wild pitch; and Trent Van Cleave scored on an error by Aloha's pitcher.

Please see BASEBALL, Page A12

Lady Celt softball fighting injury, errors



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

McNary's Xena Lane tries to beat a throw to first in a game vs. Franklin High School two weeks ago.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary High School varsity softball team started with high expectations as the season began but is struggling to live up to them in the early going.

Aside from facing some tough opponents in a spring break tournament, many on the team are battling injury.

"The injuries have us bouncing girls all over the field and they can't get comfortable in a single position," said Kevin Wise, McNary head coach.

After six games, the Lady Celts are 1-5.

"So far this season we've had good offense, but we need to find more holes. We seem to hit it right to the fielders. We've had more errors than we want, but it's little things we can fix," said Celt Nadia Witt. "One of the things we learned last week was not to let one error become a bunch of errors, we have to keep it together on defense."

Most of the errors the team was charged with were the result of players being out of position, which Wise attributed to the players being unfamiliar with their new — he hopes, temporary — roles.

McNary lost its two games before heading to the tournament hosted by West Linn and Sunset high schools March 21 and 22.

Please see SOFTBALL, Page A11



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Celt Hannah Childress returns a volley in competition with a West Albany High School opponent Tuesday, March 29.

Childress gets win in first GVC match

The McNary High School girls varsity tennis team opened Greater Valley Conference competition with a loss to South Salem High School Monday, March 28.

Only sophomore Hannah Childress came up with a win. She beat the Saxons' Jillian Studer at No. 1 singles in sets of 6-1 and 6-4.

In doubles action, Blanca Tepeque and Jan-nicke Martin stretched their match to three sets.

Set scores were 6-0, 4-6 and 6-2. It was a closer match than the final one appears, said Garrett Jensen, McNary head coach.

Senior Krissy Kelty also put up a fight at No. 2 singles with scores of 6-1 and 6-3, but ended up on the losing end.

The Lady Celts will host West Linn high School in a non-conference battle Friday, April 1. Game time is 4 p.m.