

SOFTBALL,

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In the first game of the tournament, the Celtics faced St. Helens High School and drummed up eight hits, but were outscored 5-4 by the Lions.

The Celts were first to the board when Sabella Alfaro scored on a line drive by Madison Oliver in the first inning, but St. Helens tied the game on a wild pitch in the bottom of the frame.

McNary had a 3-2 lead after two-and-a-half innings, but the Lions made it 4-3 on their next at-bat. McNary's Haley Ebner doubled to score Nadia Witt in the top of the fifth to tie the game, but St. Helens scored the winning run on a passed ball.

Celt freshman Faith Danner pitched the entire game with 16 first-pitch strikes and four strikeouts.

"Even when we struggled in the tournament, we got along well and the kept upbeat even when we were down," Danner said. "My goal for the season is just making the team proud and being helpful to Madi (Oliver)."

The Celtics turned the tables and unloaded on the Springfield High School Millers in a 21-0 win. Celt Emma Kinler had three hits (and two



KEIZERTIMES/ERIC A. HOWARD
McNary's Madison Oliver takes a cut in a game with Franklin High School before spring break.

home runs) in four appearances at the plate. She drove in a total of six runs.

Kinler was the standout among several outstanding plate performances in the game. Kinsey McNaught had four RBIs on two hits. Witt drove in three runs on a triple. Oliver had a home run and two RBIs, going 2-for-3. A 10-run fourth inning sealed the victory.

The second day of the tournament for the Celtics started with a 10-7 loss to Tigard High School. The Keizer team outthit Tigers 13-8, but stranded five runners on base.

Tigard had a 6-2 lead heading into the fourth inning when the Celts began to rally. Nicole Duran and Kinler scored on a hit to center field by Hannah Carr. Xena Lane, running for Carr, scored on a sacrifice fly by Witt. Another single to cen-

ter field by Danner scored McNaught and Alfaro to make the score 7-6 with a McNary lead.

"Tigard is a good team, probably the ones who will win their conference and we were able to come back and take a lead. That's one of the things about this team, they're resilient and they don't let much get to them," Wise said.

Unfortunately for McNary, Tigard took back control of the game with two runs in the bottom of the fourth and padded its lead to 10-7 with another pair of runs in the fifth.

In the final game for the Celtics, the roar of the West Linn High School Lions proved too strong to withstand. McNary was outthit 10-4 en route to a 13-2 loss.

While West Linn got the better of Danner in the circle to start the game, Oliver gave up just four hits and one earned run in four-and-one-third innings.

McNary's only runs came in the third. McNaught doubled to score Ebner and Witt tripled to score McNaught.

Wins might be proving elusive at the moment, but Wise said the team is still producing the kind of offense it's become accustomed to in recent seasons.

"They make it difficult to put out a line-up because they are so strong from 1 through 9. I really think it's just a matter of time and everyone settling in and getting healthy," he said. Witt agreed.

"Our record looks bad, but we're not playing poorly. Eventually, I really do think we will be a lot better by the end of this season," she said.



Game, set, match



The McNary High School boys varsity tennis team kicked off its season hosting South Salem High School Monday, March 28.

ABOVE: Mats Scheifer returns a volley.

LEFT: Alfonso Alfaro does the same.

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