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WMS coach wins contest, \$5K

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

Scott Coburn figured the odds were against him, but he was going to enjoy the time anyway.

Coburn, volleyball and track coach at Whiteaker Middle School, was one of the three finalists for a Comcast SportsNet All-Star Coach Program award. As such, Coburn and his family got to enjoy the Portland Trail Blazers game on April 2.

A diehard basketball fan, enjoying free tickets to a game with his family? How much better could it get?

Well, winning the \$5,000 prize would be one way to make the evening perfect.

That's just what happened for Coburn.

Three Oregon coaches were up for the award, with three Washington coaches up for a similar award. Coburn was up against two track and field coaches from Portland high schools.

"I was surprised to win, since the other two were from Portland," Coburn said. "But you can't underestimate the people of Keizer. It's such a wonderful place."

Once finalists were announced, citizens were encouraged to vote for their favorite coach. Coburn emerged with the most votes.

Keizer City Councilor Roland Herrera invited Coburn to Monday's council meeting to be recognized.

"This one is definitely a highlight of the 38 years."

— Scott Coburn

"I'm really glad he was chosen," Herrera said. "Our community stepped up and recognized Mr. Coburn. He's been teaching for 24 years at Whiteaker and has prepared many young athletes."

Coburn has been coaching for 38 years. Over the years he has taught basketball, track and field, volleyball and football at five high schools before coming to Whiteaker. He was an assistant boys basketball coach at McNary High School for

14 years and has been head girls volleyball coach at WMS since 1993, racking up a 316-64 record during that time, including 14 undefeated teams. He's also been head coach for track and field at Whiteaker since 2004.

"It's an honor to represent this city," said Coburn, who was joined at the council meeting by wife Laurie. "I came to Keizer 24 years ago and found a home I wanted to stay in. It's been fun. When my vice principal nominated me for the award, the school got the word out on social media. People do things here. I thank them so much for the award and the support."

In that nomination, Coburn was lauded for his integrity as a coach and teacher, for being a role model to students and fellow coaches alike, for encouraging good sportsmanship and for inspiring students to never give up.

Coburn also coordinates an annual fundraiser at WMS called Hoops For Heart, which raises about \$5,000 a year for the American Heart Association while teaching students about heart health as

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KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

Whiteaker Middle School volleyball and track and field coach Scott Coburn (second from right) was feted at Monday's Keizer City Council meeting by (from left) mayor Cathy Clark, youth councilor and former WMS student Siri Scales and councilor Roland Herrera.

Hot bats can't overcome errors for the Lady Celts

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

Putting up the big numbers hasn't been a problem lately for the McNary High School varsity softball team.

In three games last week, the Lady Celts scored 26 runs on a total of 45 hits. That included 13 runs and 21 hits against Cleveland on March 29, six runs and 12 hits against Sunset on March 30 and seven runs with 12 hits against Central Catholic on April 1.

However, MHS came away with three losses to fall to 1-8 on the season. Not helping was the continued issue of errors. The Lady Celts notched five against Cleveland, four against Sunset and three against Central Catholic.

Things started off well enough against Cleveland. Nadia Witt singled and scored on a double by Madisen Oliver. Oliver later scored on a single by Emma Kinler to make it 2-0 in the first inning. The Lady Celts added two more in the second frame to make it 4-0.

After Cleveland closed to within 4-3 in the third inning, McNary stretched the lead back to 7-3 in the top of the fourth, only to have Cleveland close back to within 7-6 in the bottom of the frame.

Cleveland took its first lead with a six-run fifth inning to make it 12-7, but the Lady Celts responded with six runs of their own in the top of the sixth to go back ahead 13-12. The advantage was short-lived, however, as Cleveland scored five more runs in the bottom of the frame for the 17-13 final score.

Leading the way for MHS was Witt, who was 5-for-5 from the plate with four runs and four RBIs.

The next day, Sunset quickly jumped to a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. The Lady Celts responded with four runs in the second and another in the third to go ahead 5-3. After Sunset made



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
McNary's Faith Danner fires a pitch in varsity softball action against North Salem on Tuesday, April 5.

it 5-4 in the fourth, MHS scored in the top of the fifth to increase the gap to 6-4.

Sunset tied the game in bottom of the frame, then scored the two winning runs in the bottom of the sixth for the 8-6 win.

Kinsey McNaught went 3-for-5 with two RBIs for MHS, while Haley Ebner went 3-for-4 with a run.

In addition to the errors, another problem for McNary was runners being left on base. MHS left 12 on base in the loss to Cleveland, 11 against Sunset and eight against Central Catholic.

The Lady Celts spent much of the game versus Central Catholic playing catch up. After MHS went up 2-0 in the top of the first, Central Catholic exploded with eight runs in the bottom of the frame. The home team added three more runs in the third to make it 11-2.

McNary got three runs in the fifth, one in the sixth inning and one more in the seventh, but it wasn't enough in the 11-7 loss. Ebner once again had a hot bat at the plate, going 3-for-4 with a run and an RBI. Oliver and Nicole Duran added two RBIs each.

By **HERB SWETT**
For the Keizertimes

McNary High School whipped Newberg 17-7 at home April 1 to reach a winning record for baseball pre-season play.

The Celtics, who came in at 3-3-1, overcame eight errors to end the game after six innings because of the mercy rule. Matt Ismay was the winning pitcher in relief and cut the game short in the bottom of the sixth by hitting a bases-loaded triple.

The visiting Tigers scored the first two runs of the game in the first two innings. Michael Tarachkhyan led off the first by reaching first base on an error by third baseman Trevor Gilbert. Tarachkhyan advanced on a walk and a stolen base and scored on a sacrifice fly by Jason Mauleon.

In the top of the second, Mason Herring hit an infield single, stole second base, reached third on an error and scored as a balk was called on starting pitcher Collin Wentworth. Ismay replaced Wentworth with one out and retired the next two batters.

McNary scored all the runs it needed in its half of the second. Gilbert and Collin Young walked and pulled a double steal after Trey Reohr, Newberg's starter, struck out Trent Van Cleave. Daniel Johnson walked and Whitworth, who had moved to second base, walked to force Gilbert home. Tanner Gordon walked, forcing Young home.

Marcus Dufour, who was to become the losing pitcher, replaced Reohr and made a wild pitch that advanced Van Cleave and Johnson. Both then scored as Matt Aguilar singled to center field. Aguilar stole second and scored on Brandon Frizelle's double to center. A bad throw by catcher Dakota Hess moved Frizelle to third.

Ismay drove Frizelle home with a single to center. Gilbert walked, and Ismay scored as an error by first baseman Herring put Young on first. Van Cleave flew out to left, and the inning ended with the Celtics leading 8-2.

Celts take charge, beat Newberg in baseball



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Top: Tanner Gordon runs the bases in recent McNary baseball action. Above: Collin Young makes a play at first base.

Newberg fought back in the third. Anthony Adams went from the batter's box to second on a throwing error. Mauleon scored him with a single to center and went to third on another throwing error. Reohr walked and stole second, Marcus Dufour struck out and Gilbert made a good fielding play for the Celts by snaring a low line drive by Herring. Errors then scored Josh Butorac and Reohr, and a wild pitch scored Jacob Maiben. Herring was caught in a rundown, and the score was 8-7 in the middle of the third.

The Celts responded with a run in their half of the third. Johnson and Whitworth walked and Derek Maiben came in to pitch. With one out, Aguilar singled to left center, scoring Johnson.

"It wasn't a very clean game," McNary coach Larry Keeker said. "We weren't happy with our defense in the first three innings, but we

were with our offense."

Four more McNary runs came in the fourth. Gilbert and Young walked and Anthony Stigall took the mound. Van Cleave hit a bunt single to load the bases. Johnson walked, forcing Gilbert home. Josh Benson scored Young by grounding out. Gordon singled to center, driving in Young. Another single to center, by Gordon, drove in Van Cleave and Johnson.

"I don't think we're having the season start we're hoping for, but today we just came to play," Gilbert said.

In the Celtic sixth, Benson reached first on a force out and went to third on a single to left by Gordon. Aguilar singled and Frizelle drove Benson home with an infield single. With the bases loaded, Ismay hit his triple.

In addition to his triple, Ismay noted he settled down on the mound.

"I threw more breaking stuff, mixing it up," he said.