



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
Celt Emma Kinler makes a play at left field in the game with South Salem High School.

## SOFTBALL, continued from Page A8

The Celtics had an 8-0 lead on the Saxons headed into the fifth inning when McNary made the most of fielding troubles for a five runs. Sabella Alfaro got things started by scoring on a passed ball. A single by Nadia Witt, a hard grounder to right field, brought Kinsey McNaught home. Haley Ebner scored on a wild pitch, Witt scored on a passed ball and Emma Kinler hit a double, scoring Madisen Oliver.

It was clutch time for the Saxons in the bottom of the inning, but the team mustered only two runs – ending the game after five innings under mercy rules. Witt ended the game with four RBIs, Faith Danner handled duties in the circle with seven

strikeouts.

“That was one of our better games this year,” said Ebner. “I think we were building off of each other really well.”

On Wednesday, April 20, the Grizzlies snapped the Celtics’ three-game win streak, doling out a 5-3 loss to the Keizer team.

McMinnville took a 4-0 lead in the top of the third with a three-run homer by Payton Hudson. McNary scored twice in the next inning, on a RBI-single by Carr and a sacrifice fly by Kinler. McMinnville padded its lead with a run in the fifth, but the Celts only got one more in the sixth.

“It was a tough loss but, luckily, we get to play them again,” Ebner said.

The contest with Sprague two days later saw the teams combine for a total of 27 hits,

but McNary took a lead in the fourth inning it would never relinquish en route to an 11-9 win.

“In that game it was do-or-die for us and we all had the mindset of playing our hearts out,” Carr said.

The Olys had a 3-0 lead after half an inning, but McNary answered with four of its own. Oliver drove a two-RBI single to center field and Kinler doubled later in the inning, scoring Callista Srofe and Carr.

Sprague took back the lead in the second inning, but Kinler scored on a passed ball in the third to tie the game 5-5. In the top of the fourth, Sprague added two runs, but Carr blasted a three-run homer over the center field wall in the bottom of the inning to give McNary the final lead.

Regardless of what the

future holds for the team, Carr was nothing but upbeat about the team’s potential.

“I love the talking on the field, and I feel like the more we communicate and the more we talk to each other the stronger we get,” she said.

## TENNIS, continued from Page A8

Martin is hoping that the team can realize more wins in the waning weeks of the season, but is focused on enjoying what remains.

Villasenor-Ortiz’s shining spirit seems likely enough to carry anyone through a rough patch.

“When I ask one of the girls how they did, I don’t want them to say, ‘I lost,’ I want to know how they personally did. I want them to be able to tell me that they did their best and that they tried their best and they won by heart even though they lost the match,” Villasenor-Ortiz said.

## CELTIS, continued from Page A8

“We had a couple of situations when we were a couple of plays away from getting a victory in that game, but they just didn’t pan out,” Keeker said.

Ismay had the best day at the plate going 2-for-3. Starting pitcher Evan Alger lasted four innings with three earned runs and three strikeouts.

On Friday, April 22, McNary hosted the Sprague High School Olympians and two sophomore pitchers, Collin Wentworth and Carl Rumbaugh, kept the Celts in the game on the mound long enough to pull out a 4-3 win.

“It was a big game for both of them especially with all the emotions they had to be going through,” said Gilbert. “They did a great job and we backed them up with only one error on defense.”

Aguilar got things started for McNary in the first inning with a double on the 12th pitch of Celt’s first at-bat. Aguilar scored on a single by Ismay for a 1-0 lead.

The Olys had a 2-1 lead by the time McNary went on offense in the fourth inning. In that frame, Van Cleave scored on a ground out by Tanner

Walker and Gilbert scored on a single by Aguilar for a 3-2 McNary lead.

Sprague knotted the game 3-3 in the top of the seventh, but Gordon scored on a walk-off double by Frizelle in the bottom of the seventh to take the win.

“At the end of the week, I was proud of the kids for battling back and coming back to get the win over Sprague. They didn’t let the losses dictate how they prepared or how they were going to compete,” Keeker said.

Wentworth pitched two-and-a-third innings with two earned runs, two walks and two strikeouts. Rumbaugh closed it out with one earned run, one walk and four strikeouts.

McNary had another three-game week on tap and Gilbert said the Celtics were focusing on consistency.

“We’ve been very inconsistent so far this year and right now we’re trying to work on getting more hits and hitting the ball on the ground more because we’re getting a lot of fly balls that go right to a fielder,” he said. “We want to get a lot of hits to start each game so we start ahead and then keep piling them on. We want to be able to ride the momentum of the win over Sprague into this week.”



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
Celt Matt Aguilar heads to first as he turns the 12th pitch of his first at-bat against Sprague High School into a double.

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