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File
 ABOVE: Austin Brown, Brendan Van Voorhis, Anthony Nguyen and Levi Timmons won the 4x100 district title last week. BELOW: Dani Duran won solo titles in the 400 meter and 300 hurdles.

Baseball season ends with 16-2 play-in loss



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
 May 11.
 Celt Trevor Gilbert gets a hits a line drive in the game with McMinnville High School Wednesday, May 11.

Duran, Van Voorhis, boys 4x100 win GVC titles at district meet

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School senior Dani Duran added to her growing list of accomplishments at the Greater Valley Conference Championships last week.

Duran took the league titles in the 400 meter race and 300 meter hurdles at the meet held in McMinnville May 13 and 14.

"It's definitely a good feeling," Duran said. "I was just out there trying to compete and reach some goals."

One of those goals was setting a new school record in the 300 hurdles, which she did with a time of 44.91 seconds. The old school record was 45.3 seconds.

Duran ran the hurdles for the first time earlier this season and immediately started posting times that put her in the top three in the entire state.

"It was something I wanted to do, but I'd never even practiced it before. I was worried that it would turn out to be a bad experience, but now I want that state title," Duran said.

With her time at the GVC meet, Duran is now second in the state. Gresham High School's Leah Russell leads with a time of 43.93.

"She's a whole second ahead me, but I'm still improving every meet," Duran said.



Duran finished the 400 meter with a time of 58.60 seconds to take the gold.

The Celts' only other solo title winner was the boys Brendan Van Voorhis, who took first in the 400 meter with a time of 49.26.

"I was struggling with a knot in my calf, but I got it done," Van Voorhis said.

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By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A string of three consecutive losses last week left the McNary High School varsity baseball team fighting for its survival at a play-in game Tuesday, May 17.

The Celts traveled to meet Grants Pass High School for a chance at a playoff berth after a heartbreaking final week of Greater Valley Conference competition. McNary lost the contest 16-2. The Cavemen's nine-run fifth inning was the death knell for the Celts.

McNary's season ends with the loss.

Before the Keizer team's final three games of the season, hopes were high for securing a playoff spot outright, but the Celts never quite found their stride facing South Salem, McMinnville and Sprague high schools.

A slow start to the 9-8 loss to the Saxons Tuesday, May 10, had the Celts trying to make the most of a late-game rally.

"It seemed like nothing was going our way in the beginning. We'd get a hit and it would go right to someone and they'd hit one and it was in the perfect spot," said Celt Tanner Gordon.

South Salem was up 9-0 at the end of five innings while McNary struggled to get a lead on the starting pitcher.

"When they made a pitching change in the seventh inning that's when we finally started making a run," said Trevor Gilbert, a McNary senior.

In the sixth inning, Matt Aguilar scored on a walk; Brendan Frizelle scored on a sacrifice fly by Trent Van Cleave; and Matthew Ismay scored on a sacrifice fly by Daniel Johnson. In the seventh, McNary sent five runs across the plate for the 9-8 final.

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Lady Celts land playoff berth



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
 May 10.
 McNary's Kinsey McNaught lines up a hit in the game with South Salem High School Tuesday, May 10.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary High School varsity softball team finished in fourth place in the Greater Valley Conference to wrap up the regular season last week.

The spot earned the team a berth in the state playoffs and the Celts seemed headed for a contest at North Medford High School in the first round Monday, May 23.

The Celts met the Black Tornadoes earlier this season — in McNary's first game of the season — and Medford took a 15-5 win. Celt Nadia Witt thought things would be different on Monday.

"We've had a lot more time to get better and I think we'll be more prepared for them this time around," Witt said.

The end of the season proved more tumultuous

then expected for the Celts. The Keizer team was riding a three-game win streak as it entered the week. McNary extended its streak to four with a 4-1 win over South Salem High School and then lost its final two games to McMinnville (5-3) and Sprague (7-4) high schools.

"After we knew we made the playoffs, they let up," said

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File
 McNary sophomore Hannah Childress will be making her second consecutive appearance at the state tournament after taking third at the GVC championships.

Childress to state tourney

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School sophomore Hannah Childress entered in the Greater Valley Conference tennis championships seeded fourth.

She came home as the third place finisher with a berth in the state tournament that began May 19 in Tualatin.

"My goal this year was just to make it to state," said Childress, who was one half of the fourth place doubles team last year with her older sister, Sandy. "It was a lot more nerve-wracking without Sandy there to support me, and a lot of pressure, but I made it."

Childress finished the regular season with a record of 10-3 to earn her seed. She said one of

the most memorable matches at the district meet was taking a win over West Salem High School's Anya Gerasimova in the contest to decide third place.

Early in the season, Childress's main goal was to improve her confidence on the court, and she's made strides in that department as well.

"There's always room for improvement, but I definitely believe I can do this now," she said.

Her first test of the state tournament will be Clackamas High School's Remi Lam. If she wins, she must then face down the top seed in the tournament, Jesuit High School's Bess Waldram.

"If I win my first round, I'm in for a difficult match with Bess, but as long as I do my best that's all I can ask of myself," she said.