

# Softball team ends season in playoffs

By **TIM HAYS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

McNary High School softball ended its season Monday, May 23, in a 4-1 loss to No. 3-ranked North Medford High School in the first round of the playoffs.

It was a hard fought battle from both teams, but the Black Tornadoes outlasted the Celtics.

The season didn't go as planned for the Celtics. They ended 12-15 (10-6) and with a fourth place finish in the Greater Valley Conference.

With only two seniors on the team, Madi Oliver and Kinsey McNaught, Head Coach Kevin Wise saw a lot of growth from his players this season. "We teach and develop consistency. We try and know (as coaches) what to expect. The seniors have played a huge part in our program, and they did a great job leading this year."

Both McNaught and Oliver entered McNary the same season that Wise was hired.

Both being four-year varsity starters, each one benefited and grew from each other.

"I think Wise has also grown as a coach," Oliver said. "We've helped each other grow. Throughout this spring season he pushed us to be better and he's learned a lot more



McNary's Kinsey McNaught lines up a hit in a game earlier this season. McNaught was a first team outfield selection in the Great Valley Conference in 2016.

throughout these [four] years. That has a lot to do with our success."

The first two seasons for Wise weren't going the way he wanted and he had to change a few things. Oliver and McNaught were both involved in those changes.

"We changed a lot of what we were doing. We made some new rules and every year we continued to grow and develop our players to be more consistent in what they were doing. Having Madi and Kinsey there for four years

definitely helped us stay consistent. They do both things well," Wise said. "They were students and then athletes. Both are high-GPA students who are going on to play college ball. These are the kinds of kids you are looking for in your program, because they set a good example on and off the field."

"It's bittersweet," Oliver said. "This place has been my home for four years and you get comfortable and you like it. It is a sad thing, but it's also been exciting because it is one

step closer to the next chapter in my life."

Oliver will be attending college at Concordia University in the fall, and McNaught will attend Whitworth University. Both will be playing softball.

The Lady Celts earned six All-GVC honors in 2016. McNaught, Faith Danner, Nadia Witt, and Emma Kinler were named to the first team. Oliver and Haley Ebner were named to the second team. Honorable mentions went to Nicole Duran and Hannah Carr.

## BOSTON, continued from Page A10

during a race.

"The body can do more than you think," said Jerry.

Some runners hit the Marathon Wall in which their body, though well-trained, is unable to go on yet they desperately want to cross the finish line, which can result in the Skeleton Walk — the staggering on the course, as if they had no control over their bodies.

"Anguished finishes are inspiring," Nuttbrock said, remembering the sight of a runner collapsed on the road a mere 200 yards from the finish. "He went down, a second runner tried to help him up and he went down. A third

runner came to their aid, and the two runners picked up the fallen runner, slung him between them, and all three crossed the finish line."

Though it was hot at the start of the race, Boston is sea town and cold air was blowing in from the ocean. "We had a headwind the whole way; everyone was slow."

Runners have access to water throughout the race, and stop to use portable toilets along the route when nature calls.

"It's all worth it," Nuttbrock said of the experience. He even set new records for himself: he had his slowest marathon time ever and his fastest Boston Marathon time ever.

That's not bad, even if you come in 22,450th.

## STRAND, continued from Page A10

She started contacting colleges, sending out film and then making visits to the ones that showed an interest. By the end of it all, she had a handful of colleges "dying for her services," Handley said.

"A lot of the puzzle pieces just started coming together and it seemed like Minot was the school for me," Strand said.

In the last 13 games of Strand's senior season, she averaged nearly 15 points and 10 rebounds per game, and

the team finished fourth in the state.

She expects to be playing the Beavers' power forward position primarily with occasional stints at center.

"I'm really excited for a whole brand new experience. I'm not quite used to cold, snowy weather, but overall I'm really looking forward to building some life character," Strand said.

Strand's college choice makes for a 2016 trifecta in the Celtic program. All three seniors on the 2015-16 team are committed to playing for Division II colleges and universities.

## BONN: 'It's an amazing school. It wasn't an easy choice.'

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"You're defending your quarterback, which is the head honcho of the family with your brothers right next to you on the line, and accomplishing something. The satisfaction you get out of that is monumental."

Bonn will miss his McNary family but he's looking forward to joining his new one at Willamette.

He chose the Bearcats over opportunities at Lewis and Clark and George Fox.

"It's an amazing school,"

Bonn said. "It wasn't an easy choice."

Bonn will graduate from McNary with a 3.9 GPA and, thanks to academic scholarships, Willamette was one of the cheaper options. He'll owe just \$7,000 of the yearly \$46,900 tuition.

The university is also less than half a mile from his church—Salem First Presbyterian.

"I'm familiar with the area

and it might bring me closer to God, which would be really cool to do going into my college years," Bonn said.

A Division III program, Willamette has played football since 1894. The Bearcats are currently in the Northwest Conference. Bonn has circled at least one game on their schedule—a home contest on Nov. 12 to close the season against George Fox.

That's where his best friend, fellow McNary senior Hayden Sader, has decided to play.

"I've known him since we were two and we've been inseparable throughout all these sports things," Bonn said. "I'll play against him, which will be fun."

### puzzle answers

T	O	P	S	S	A	L	E	S	P	E	R	T			
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6	5	1	7	3	4	9	2	8
8	2	4	5	6	9	7	3	1
2	4	5	3	9	8	1	6	7
9	8	6	1	7	5	2	4	3
1	3	7	4	2	6	8	9	5

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