

MHS to run youth basketball camps

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the *Keizertimes*

Keizer and Salem area kids will have the opportunity to learn from McNary girls and boys basketball coaches and players as both programs are hosting youth camps.

The boys camp runs Monday, June 20 through Thursday, June 23. Incoming third, fourth and fifth graders will meet from 9 a.m. to noon and rising sixth through eighth graders 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The cost is \$55 and includes a camp t-shirt.

Participants will work on footwork, shooting technique, passing and catching, individual and team defense, dribbling and rebounding.

"They [McNary players] have a good time with it coaching the little guys and it's really cool for the little guys to

have the cool high school basketball players helping them out," McNary boys basketball coach Ryan Kirch said. "We play some games but most of it's skill development."

The girls camp will take place the following week, June 28-30, from 9 a.m. to noon, for girls entering the first through the eighth grade.

Registration is \$50 for one child and \$35 for each additional family member.

"Our kids run it. They do a great job with it," McNary girls basketball coach Derrick Handley said. "It's a really good end of the summer bonding thing for us."

Special areas of instruction include pivoting, screening, moving without the ball, post moves, guard and wing play, attitude, team work and shooting. There will also be

games during the week, motivational handouts, awards and skills competitions.

"What's really fun this year in particular is our incoming freshmen, they can play summer ball with us and this is the first time that we've seen a lot of these kids who have gone through our camps are now becoming McNary Celtics," Handley said. "So it's been really fun for us as coaches to see sixth graders who are now going to be freshmen and how much growth they've had, to be able to build that relationship so when they come in we know who they are and we know how they play, they know us. It's been really good for both sides in that sense."

Due to renovations at McNary, both camps are in the Whiteaker Middle School gym.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Gabby Schmidt looks to score during a McNary girls basketball team scrimmage last week.

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McNary will attend the University of Oregon Team Camp June 24-26.

"That's always fun for them to end the summer on," Kirch said.

The Celtics will play seven games against schools around the country.

"It's mostly games at Matthew Knight arena. The basketball part is great but it's team bonding and they get to live in the dorms for a couple nights. From a coaching standpoint, they have a bunch of socials. We get to hang out and talk to other coaches from other teams, out of state teams, which is good. You get tired of playing everybody that knows you over and over again."

MHS will take July off to allow players to join their AAU and club teams as well as visit colleges.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary incoming senior Alex Martin makes a move to the basket during Monday's boys basketball practice.

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"When things go bad, we're still looking for the person to step up and right the ship or calm it a little bit," Handley said. "I think Sydney Hunter and then Jaylene Montano, they've both done a really good job as far as to step in and take that leadership role, but it's a new role for them. I'd still just like to see a little bit more growth in that sense of can you calm down one of

the younger players and limit mistakes to one or two possessions as opposed to an entire half of mistakes, which unfortunately has happened a few times."

With the graduation of the three college-bound players, finding depth is also important this summer.

"Even last year we only played seven and lost three good jobs as far as to step in and take that leadership role, but it's a new role for them. I'd still just like to see a little bit more growth in that sense of can you calm down one of

depth. The goal is hopefully that we'll have eight or nine that can really contribute to us at the varsity level."

McNary will hold practices and scrimmages through June.

The Lady Celts play Silverton and Wilsonville Tuesday in Silverton.

At least four girls—Hunter, Hawley, Anita Lao and Kailey Doust—will then play AAU basketball beginning in July.

Hunter, who plays for Oregon Elite, received her first college offer last week from University of San Diego.

"They are going to be busy," Handley said.

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But Duran hadn't received an opportunity to compete in college until she added hur-

dles to her repertoire.

"When I first tried track I had really bad form because in gymnastics everything is different," Duran said.

"I just got better as the years went on. I still don't have the best form when I

hurdle but I have the speed in between hurdles and I can get over them.

"Every single race I was always nervous I was going to fall on my face and be embarrassed but I never did, thankfully."

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