

Lady Celts expect to make playoffs

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Of the 53 players in the McNary girls soccer program, 40 are underclassmen.

But that doesn't mean head coach AJ Nash is lowering expectations.

"We expect to go to playoffs this year for the first time since 2008," Nash said. "We expect to move up the standings in conference. We're realistic. We're still a young team. We do have a good senior core."

Returning for the Lady Celts is last season's top scorer, junior Jessie Shore, as well as two of the anchors of the defense in seniors Abigail Smith and Abi Rodriguez.

Senior Kayla Evans joins Shore in a strong midfield that also includes three sophomores that played on the varsity team last season as freshmen—Natalia Gonzalez, Gina Munguia and Abigail Hawley.

"I'd put up our midfield against any midfield in the league," Nash said.

Two sophomores that are new to the program but will be counted on are Anita Lao, who played volleyball at McNary last year, and Jasmine Rodriguez, a transfer from McKay who was an all-conference defender for the Lady Scots last season.

Sophomore Sydney Snapp will start at goalkeeper.

At least three freshmen—Julie Dieker (defender/forward), Sam Alfano (defender) and Aria Santana-Albright (midfielder)—will also see the field for the varsity this season.

"The talent and the fitness level of this year's freshmen made it very difficult on team selections," Nash said. "Right now for

the first time that I've been apart of this program we're going to have two strong teams that can compete against each other (in practice). We'll often train with the top JV players so varsity can get full 11-on-11 training tactically. Depth, we went from 16 strong players to 24 strong players this year. That's huge and you can't keep them all. You want everyone to be on the field so that they can grow. It's tough for coaches, it's

tough for parents, it's tough for kids because everybody wants to be on varsity but those are the kinds of kids I want. I want people that want to win and are upset they're on JV and who work that much harder to prove to me that I made a wrong decision."

McNary went 6-8 last year, allowing

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— AJ Nash, Head Coach



Senior Abi Rodriguez returns in the McNary defense this season.

KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

GIRLS SOCCER ROSTER

#	NAME	YR	POS
0	Sydney Snapp	10	G
2	Jenna Candland	12	F
3	Abigail Smith	12	D/M
4	Brooke Burrows	10	M
5	Abi Rodriguez	12	D
6	Jasmine Rodriguez	10	D
7	Ariana Santana-Albright	9	M

#	NAME	YR	POS
8	Katy Wyatt	10	M/F
9	Julie Dieker	9	D/F
10	Jessy Shore	11	M/F
11	Cassidy Brunkal	11	D
12	Gina Munguia	10	M
13	Kayla Evans	12	M
14	Samantha Alfano	9	D

#	NAME	YR	POS
15	Isabella Heath	12	M
16	Kolbie Kopp	12	F
17	Natalia Gonzalez	10	M
18	Abigail Hawley	10	M/F
20	Anita Lao	10	F/D
26	Katelyn Tallon	12	D/M
00	Scarlett Working	12	G

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