

BROADCASTERS,

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Dufault always seems to have. In addition to Ramirez-Perez, speedy Sprague receiver Nick Brotton could be ready for a break-out season. Actually, I would not be surprised to see a player that sat out most or all of last year have a break out offensive year. That could either be Giovanni Gonzales of North Salem or Manny Bravo of West Salem. Gonzales had a great sophomore year before an injury caused him to sit out 2015. He is a speedy, shifty back that thrives in Coach Jeff Flood's misdirection Wing-T offense. Bravo missed most of last year due to injury, but still was honorable mention all league. Coach Shawn Stanley's staff is extremely high on the potential of this running back.

KT: Which team will win the GVC? What wild card team has the potential to upset the favorites?

Gilman: There are so many variables to consider when predicting a conference

champion—including the development of younger players and how the top teams match up against each other. Right now, I would give West Salem the slightest of edges over Sprague and South Salem, even though West is on the road against the other two teams. It is admittedly a shot in the dark based on

“For McNary to match last year’s 4-4 league record a bunch of young players with little or no varsity experience will need to come through.”

— Craig Spivey

Spivey: This is where I show exactly what I do not know. To me, West Salem and Sprague are 1 and 1A. Both got stronger as the season went on last year and both return a lot of talent. I am going to lean towards Jay Minyard's Olympians. With second team all-league tight end Teagan Quitoriano, quarterback Spencer Plant, and Brotton, Sprague has the offensive firepower to take the league. As for a dark horse, usually

nothing more than watching them for less than one practice each. That said, any of those three have to be considered the favorites. After that trio, it will be a battle for the fourth playoff slot. Not sure there is a true wild card team, but I like what McMinnville has, especially with their returning quarterback, senior Wyatt Smith.

LISTEN LIVE

KBZY 1490AM — Mark and Jerry Gilman

Fri, Sep. 2 — Sprague at South Salem
 Fri, Sep. 9 — West Salem at Sprague
 Fri, Sep. 16 — McNary at Sprague
 Fri, Sep. 23 — McKay at McNary
 Fri, Sep. 30 — North Salem at West Salem
 Fri, Oct. 7 — South Salem at North Salem
 Thu, Oct. 13 — South Salem at McKay
 Fri, Oct. 21 — West Salem at South Salem
 Fri, Oct. 28 — McKay at Sprague
 Fri, Nov. 4 — STATE PLAYOFFS, Round. 1 (TBA)

a team outside of the Salem/Keizer area rises up to have a big year. That team could be McMinnville. The Grizzlies have certainly struggled since joining the Greater Valley Conference, but they return four all-league players including quarterback Wyatt Smith.

KT: What questions do you have regarding McNary?

Gilman: Jeff Auvinen and his staff do a great job of motivating their players. The

big question is, can the new starters at the skill positions in particular make significant contributions from the get-go? An anemic offensive output can equal a long season. And, like other GVC teams, depth is also an issue. Are there good second line players ready to step in? Injuries happen, and can dramatically change a team's fortunes.

Spivey: The Celtics were ravaged by Please see BROADCASTERS, Page 8

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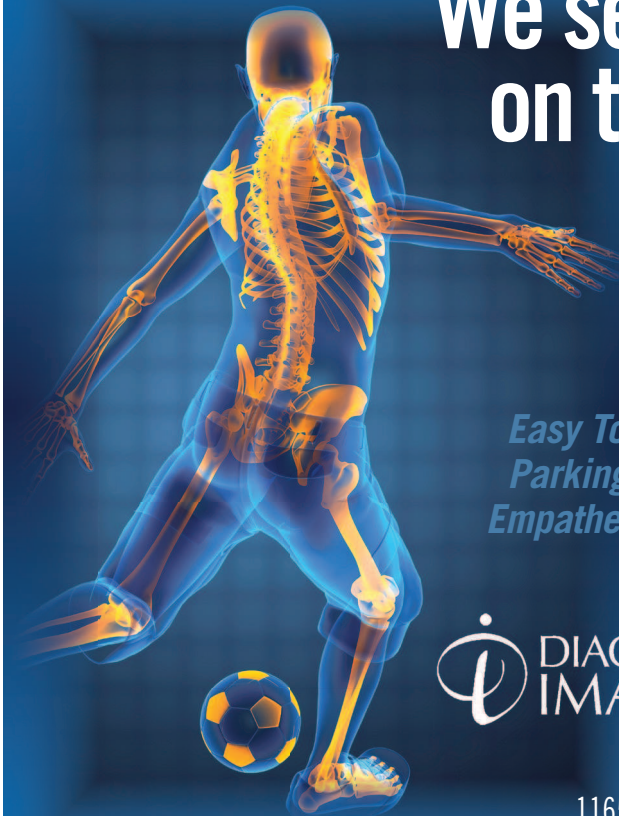
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