

# Lady Celts fall to Sprague at home

## McNary rebounds against Vikings

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

Sydney Hunter threw down three thunderous kills, each more powerful than the last, to give McNary a 24-23 lead in the first set, but that's as close as the Lady Celts would get to knocking off Sprague.

The Lady Olympians rallied to take the next three points and controlled sets two and three to defeat McNary 3-0 (26-24, 25-16, 25-22) Thursday, Sept. 22 in Keizer.

The Lady Celts trailed for much of the first game, by as much as five points, and didn't take their first lead until 24-23.

But McNary then hit a serve into the net to tie the set and Sprague won the next two points to go up 1-0.

Serving was a problem for the Lady Celts throughout the opening game.

"The first set was god-awful," McNary head coach Bruce Myers said. "We missed seven serves. After that, we settled down on our serves. But their first 11 points, we created nine unforced errors. That was huge."

Sprague dominated the start of the second set, jumping out to a 12-2 advantage.

"I don't think we were demoralized or anything," Myers said. "We just came in the second set right off the bat and we were flat. We didn't pass the ball well. Unfortunately, they're too good of a team for us to allow them to get a six or seven point run on us. They had a couple of good serves and we just didn't respond and make some good passes."

McNary fell behind again in the third game but rallied from a 17-23 deficit to get within 22-24 before putting another serve into the net to end the match.

The Lady Celts finished the night with 13 service errors to just four aces.

McNary had 28 kills, 22 digs and seven blocks.

"We weren't consistent enough and we played too reactionary instead of proactive," Myers said.

"It starts with our passing. We just didn't pass very well and when you don't pass well you give them free balls and easy hits and then they're on the attack so we have to stay on the attack."

Hunter led the Lady Celts with 11 kills and five digs. Valerie Diede added five kills, two aces and two blocks.

Sophia Salinas had the other two aces.

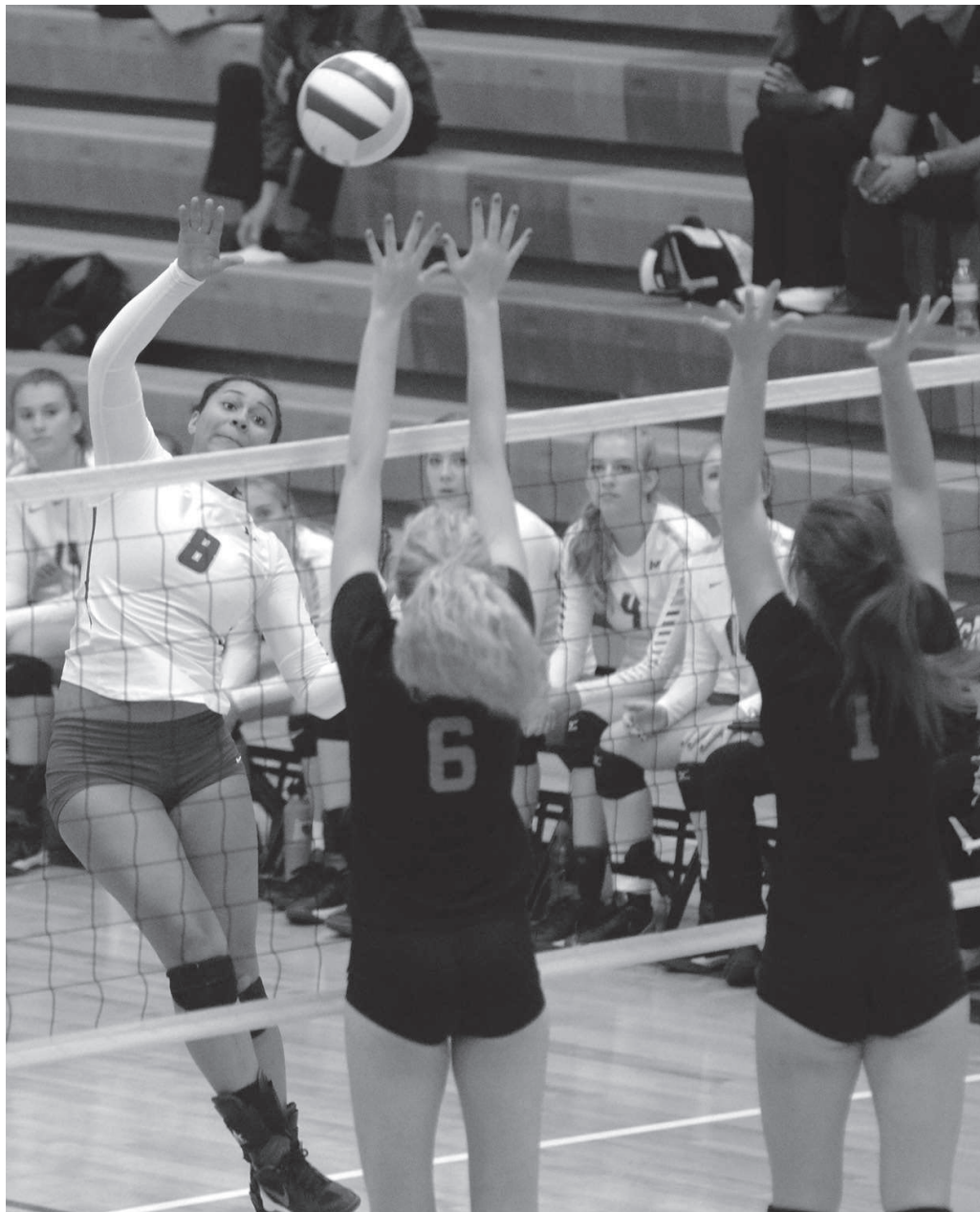
Shaylee Williams had five kills Caiya Ewert led the team with four blocks and also added three kills.

Samantha Van Voorhis had 25 assists and Jaylene Montano provided 15 digs.

The loss to Sprague was McNary's first at home.

The Lady Celts came back Tuesday, Sept. 27 with a 3-1 (22-25, 25-21, 25-19, 29-27) road win against Forest Grove.

Hunter had 25 kills and five blocks. Williams added 13 kills and three blocks.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley  
McNary senior Shaylee Williams had five kills in a 3-0 Greater Valley Conference loss to Sprague at home on Thursday, Sept. 22.

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"Coaches have been telling me to go to the middle every time and I've been going outside but tonight I went to the middle and it worked," Van Voorhis said.

After Van Voorhis scored his fourth touchdown with three seconds remaining in the first half to take a 25-21 lead into halftime, McNary committed to the run in the second half.

On the Celtics first possession, Xavier Martinez had five carries for 26 yards but the drive ended with no points as A.J. Johnk missed a 45-yard field goal.

After the McNary defense forced a three-and-out, the offense got the ball right back

and Marc Baiza scored its only rushing touchdown to stretch the lead to 32-21 with 4:48 remaining in the third quarter.

Scott rushed for 20 yards on 10 carries. Garvey and Martinez had 33 and 32 yards, respectively.

"The line had a nice second half," Auvinen said. "The consensus between (coaches) was let's get some push on the line. We weren't driving our feet or getting down field with our linemen. We got after them a little bit and they responded very well."

The Scots fumbled away their next possession and Gilbert, playing safety, recovered. At quarterback, he then

connected with Benson for a 7-yard touchdown and McNary led 39-21.

McKay didn't give up as Tavera threw his second touchdown pass and then Zontel Brown returned an interception for a score to get within 39-34 late in the third quarter.

The Scots then drove down to the McNary 7-yard line but missed a 24-yard field goal.

Gilbert and Van Voorhis needed just three plays to strike again and stretch the Celtics lead back to two scores, 46-34, with 6:32 remaining in the game.

McKay scored again two and half minutes later but McNary was able to pick up

enough first downs to run out the clock and finish off the Scots.

Three of the Celtics four games have been decided by a total of 13 points.

"It looks like it's going to be a battle every week," Auvinen said.

### Up Next

If McNary is going to win back-to-back games for the first time this season, the Celtics will face the right opponent Friday, Sept. 30 at home.

At least on paper.

Forest Grove (0-4) hasn't scored a point since Sept. 9 when it lost to North Salem 15-14. The Vikings fell at McKay 43-0 on Sept. 16 and then 51-0 at home to West Salem on Sept. 23.

Forest Grove opened the season with a 48-16 loss to West Albany.

McNary won last season's matchup with the Vikings 51-28.

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