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Finally: McNary 33, West Salem 32

Defense plays lights out in fourth quarter

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—McNary's offense landed two haymakers in the first four minutes and the defense then finished the job in the second half as the Celtics knocked out one of the giants of the Greater Valley Conference, West Salem, 33-32 on Friday, Oct. 28.

"This has been a long time coming," said senior Kolby Barker, who had yet to defeat the Titans in his high school career. "We were ready to take it to West with everything we had. We were not going to lose this game. It's personal pride for this senior class and everybody. This is something we'll remember for the rest of our lives."

McNary jumped out to a 13-0 lead at West Salem.

On fourth-and-1 from the Titan 4-yard line, quarterback Josiah Gilbert fought his way into the end zone to complete a six-play, 76-yard drive. The extra point was no good.

After the Celtic defense forced a three-and-out, the offense needed only one play to strike again as Gilbert found his favorite receiver, Brendan Van Voorhis, for a 72-yard touchdown.

"That (13-0 start) probably gave us the confidence that we could be in this game and win the game," Van Voorhis said.

But West Salem, who entered the contest 7-0 in league-play and needed a victory to win the GVC outright, wasn't going down without a fight.

The Titans marched 73 yards on nine plays in four and half minutes to get within 13-7 when quarterback Jared Oliver threw a play-action fade pass into the left corner of the end zone for a touchdown.

Aided by a defensive pass interference penalty, Oliver found another open receiver in the end zone to put West Salem on top, 14-13, early in the second quarter.

On his first carry of the game, A.J. Johnk sliced through the Titan defense for a 20-yard score to put McNary back ahead 19-14 with 7:36 remaining in the first half.

With first-and-goal at the West Salem 9-yard line, the Celtics looked to add to the scoreboard but a holding penalty pushed them back to the 22 and then Gilbert was intercepted.

Instead, the Titans closed the second half on a 15-0 run as Oliver threw two more touchdown passes.

"I didn't know which way we were going to respond," McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen said as his team entered halftime trailing 29-19.

West Salem got the ball first in the second half and went right down the field. But on first-and-goal from the McNary 2-yard line, the Celtic defense held the Titans to a 22-yard field goal.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Junior Walling, No. 81, and Jakoby Doke, No. 12, celebrate a sack of West Salem quarterback Jared Oliver late in the Celtics 33-32 victory on Friday, Oct. 28.

Celtics to open playoffs at Tigard

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

On film, McNary will open the OSAA football state playoffs on Friday, Nov. 4 against a Tigard team that's as good as anyone the Celtics have played this season.

"I think they are more talented and play harder than probably anybody in our league," McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen said of the Tigers, who on Oct. 7 were tied with No. 1 West Linn 14-14 before the Lions scored the game-winning touchdown in the final minute.

Tigard's only other loss was to No. 9 Sherwood the following week, 35-20.

The Bowmens made it to

the state semifinals last season.

"It shows that they (Tigard) can play but we just need to worry about ourselves," Auvinen said. "If we take care of ourselves, good things are going to happen. The way we're playing right now, if we play really well, we'll be fine against anybody. If we don't play well, we'll be in trouble. It's that way every week in the playoffs."

McNary quarterback Josiah Gilbert agrees with his coach.

"We've just got to be us," he said. "Last year (in the playoffs) I feel like we tried to do too much. We know who we are. We have our identity and we've just got to stick with it and play hard."

The Celtics have lost in the first round of the playoffs each of the past two seasons.

"We have to get through that perspective that we're just happy to be here," Auvinen said. "We'd like to compete and get after it and do some good things. The last few years we've fallen flat on our face in the playoffs. Last year, we gave up 21 points in the snap of a finger and then (played) even the rest of the game. You can't do that (fall behind 21-0) in the playoffs, ever."

Tigard lost in the second round last season and played for the state championship in 2014, falling to Central Catholic. This time around, the Tigers enter the playoffs as the

14-seed.

"I think they're a little better than that but it's hard to tell sometimes on film," Auvinen said.

On offense, Tigard has a senior quarterback in Ryan Worthley, whose biggest weapon is Braden Lenzy, a junior wide receiver with scholarship offers from University of Oregon, Oregon State, UCLA and many others. But Auvinen is more concerned with the Tigers collection of running backs.

"He's (Worthley) not the strength of their team so we'll make him beat us and their receivers beat us and see how it goes," Auvinen said.

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McNary Varsity Football (6-3) SEASON STATS

PASSING	C/ATT	YARDS	TD	INT
Josiah Gilbert	113/214	1750	20	9
RUSHING	CARRIES	YARDS	TD	
Lucas Garvey	109	530	2	
Josiah Gilbert	122	499	8	
Marc Baiza	67	202	2	
Xavier Martinez	25	92	1	
AJ Johnk	28	215	2	
Brendan Van Voorhis	14	90	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YARDS	TD	
Brendan Van Voorhis	27	843	13	
Josh Benson	36	351	4	
Lucas Garvey	13	184	0	
Jonathan Williams	8	117	1	
Kyle McCallister	6	63	1	
Xavier Martinez	2	16	1	
KICKING	PATs	FG	LONG	
AJ Johnk	24/28	4/7	35 yds	

McNary soccer teams fall in first round of state

Lady Celts shorthanded at Sherwood

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary's first trip to the girls soccer state playoffs since 2009 ended in the first round as the Lady Celts lost to No. 3 Sherwood 7-0 on Saturday, Oct. 29.

MHS went into the game shorthanded, missing sophomore starters Natalie Gonzalez and Anita Lao, who were out with injuries. At Sherwood, the Lady Celts lost another sophomore player in the 15th minute as Katy Wyatt went down with a knee injury with the game tied 0-0.

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Submitted/Andre Panse
 McNary senior Kolbie Kopp helped lead the Lady Celts to the playoffs for the first time since 2009.

Celtics come up short at No. 3 Jesuit

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary gave one of the top boys soccer teams in the state a scare but couldn't quite pull the upset as the Celtics fell 2-1 at No. 3 Jesuit on Saturday, Oct. 29 in the first round of the playoffs.

"Our boys played really, really good," MHS head coach Miguel Camarena said. "They stepped up their game. We had our chances. Unfortunately, they didn't go through."

Jesuit, which has advanced to at least the quarterfinals of

the state tournament each of the past three seasons, scored its first goal against McNary in the fourth minute and dominated the first 20 minutes of the game.

But a string of substitutions, bringing sophomores Jose Luis Bravo and Miguel Bravo in off the bench and moving forward Luis Lopez back, evened play.

The Celtics took control in the second half but Jesuit caught a break, getting a penalty kick with 15 minutes remaining to extend its lead to 2-0.

With five minutes to go, Gustavo Villalvazo had a long kick bounce off the Crusader goalkeeper's hands, which Michael Reyes finished for McNary's only goal.

"I'm just proud of the guys for their effort," Camarena said.

With the season over, Camarena had mixed fixings.

He pointed to ties to Aloha and Newberg early in the season as games where McNary blew leads.

With a 5-6-3 record, the Celtics had to win a play-in game to even get into the state tournament.

"There were games we should win, games where we were ahead and didn't hold the lead," Camarena said. "There were mistakes that cost us points. When you had opportunities to win games and it didn't happen, that hurts. On the other hand, it's time to recover and get ready for next season."