

Lady Celts season ends at Sunset

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Three of the top 12 teams in the state, West Salem, South Salem and Sprague, came out of the Greater Valley Conference.

But when asked if Sunset was the best his girls have faced, McNary head coach Bruce Myers needed only a couple seconds to answer—“I’d say yes, that’s the best team we’ve played.”

The Lady Apollos ended McNary’s season on Wednesday, Oct. 26, defeating the Lady Celts 3-1 in the first round of the OSAA state playoffs.

“I was extremely pleased. We played extremely hard, just a couple little things didn’t go our way,” Myers said. “You have to credit Sunset. They’re an awfully good volleyball team.”

The Lady Apollos, led by college-bound seniors Emily DeMots and Rachel Santos as well as sophomore Sophie Summers, who played on the

U.S.A. Youth National Team during the summer, went 17-7 during the regular season and finished second in the loaded Metro League, which was won by No.1-ranked Jesuit.

“They’re so tall,” Myers said of Sunset. “They have at least two Division-I volleyball players and four other small college players. They have an extremely good setter and they can attack the net from sideline to sideline and not only that their libero is extremely good.”

The Lady Apollos took the first set 25-19.

“They jumped out on us real quick but we stayed even with them, we battled with them, once we calmed down and started playing,” Myers said. “We just couldn’t make up the ground.”

But the Lady Celts rebounded to win the second game 25-23.

“We served them very assertively and we got them out of system,” Myers said.

Sunset won the third and fourth sets 25-15 and 25-20 to move on in the state tournament.

“They made some adjustments and they’re really good when they’re out of system because they’re so tall,” Myers said.

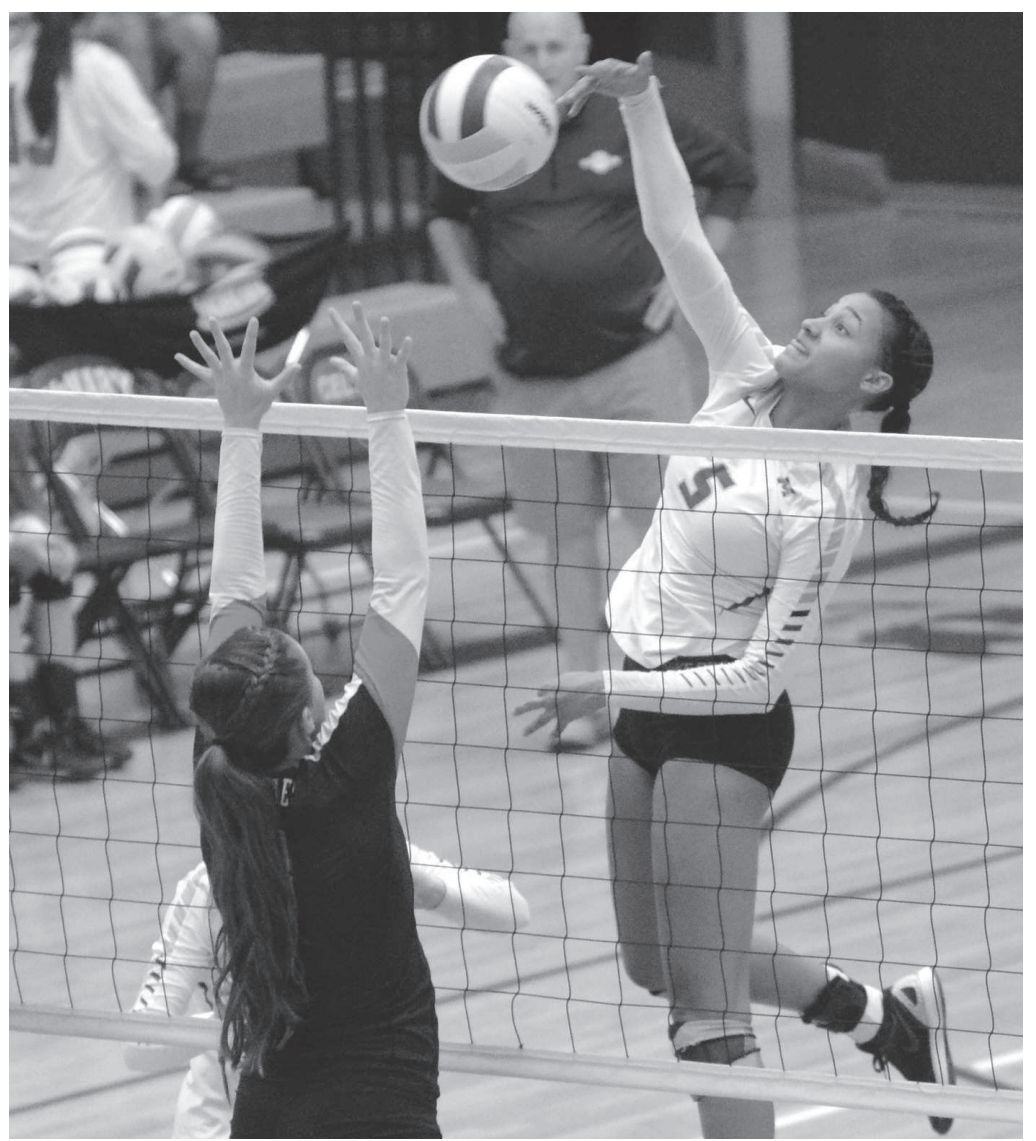
“They can just hit right over our block. A lot of times we were in the right place doing the right thing, they just hit over us.”

Senior outside hitter Sydney Hunter led the McNary attack with 19 kills. She also had three digs and three blocks.

Valerie Diede had six kills and two blocks. Shaylee Williams added six kills and Samantha Van Voorhis had 33 assists.

The Lady Celts finished 13-14 in Myers’ first season as head coach.

“I have wonderful kids,” he said. “They worked their butts off. They came everyday to practice to work hard and to do their best.”



McNary senior Sydney Hunter led the Lady Celts with 19 kills in a 3-1 loss to Sunset in the first round of the state playoffs on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

XC teams finish at bottom of GVC

McNary finished cross country season at the Greater Valley Conference Championship on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

Running at Crystal Lake Sports Park in Corvallis, junior Kailey Doult led the varsity girls, placing 17th in 20:36. Emma Garland took 27th in 21:35. Alison Repp (23:37), Madeline Bielby (24:11) and Sabella Alfaro (24:26) rounded out the scoring for the Lady

Celts, who finished ninth in the conference.

Forest Grove (51) edged Sprague (53) to win the GVC.

Ginger Murnieks, a sophomore at Sprague, beat out teammate Kaylee Mitchell to win the varsity girls race in 18:24.

Forest Grove also won the boys race by only two points, 42-44 over West Salem.

West Salem senior Ahmed

Muhumed placed first in 15:23, finishing ahead of Zane Fodge (15:32) and three Forest Grove runners.

The McNary boys took eighth with 229 points.

Senior Eddie Martinez was 33rd in 18:38 and junior Jonas Honeyman placed 45th in 19:12. Brock Wyer (19:30), Cameron Garrison (19:41) and Noah Egli (20:26) finished in the Celtics’ top five.

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“Our game plan was working very well but it was dependent on a couple of people and one of them (Wyatt) went out,” McNary head coach A.J. Nash said. “We lost that necessary defensive player.”

Sherwood went on to score three goals in the first 40 minutes.

“I think we were a little nervous going in but the sentiment of the girls at half-time was they weren’t nearly as scary as we thought they might be,” Nash said.

The Lady Bowmens, who entered the game 11-2-1 after winning the Three Rivers League, added four more goals in the second half.

“I’ll tip my hat to Sherwood,” Nash said. “We got to play one of the best teams in the state. We were playing a team that was overwhelmingly seniors that had been playing together since they were 10. Even though the scoreline seems a little bit lopsided, we kept up with them

for the first 20 minutes and we battled hard to the very end. It was great experience. Next year when we get back to the dance, we’ll be more prepared.”

Part of that preparation includes scheduling tougher opponents.

Sherwood was the first team in the top 10 McNary played this season. Greater Valley conference champion West Albany was 13th. West Salem was 17th and both also lost in the first round of the playoffs.

During non-league action, the Lady Celts played only two teams that made the post-season the year before, Tigard and Gresham, and only Tigard were in the playoffs this season and also didn’t make it past the first round.

“We need to play more games like this pre-season to be ready for that kind of test,” Nash said. “That was the first test of its kind that we’ve had as a program in recent history and the more opportunities that we get to play teams of that caliber, the better we’ll be prepared when it matters most.”

The best teams in the state get first pick of the toughest schedules so the more McNary improves, the better the Lady Celts schedule will be in the future.

“We ask to play the toughest teams in the state every year,” Nash said. “Every coach does. That’s just what you do. The problem is the toughest teams in the state are asking for that same schedule. We made the playoffs and finished with a winning record, 8-5-3, so we should be able to command a tougher schedule. The ship can’t turn course in a year. As a coach I’ve been struggling for an answer on how do you get those non-league games and the answer is you have to earn them.”

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