

Whiteaker, Claggett Creek win before rivalry game

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Both Whiteaker and Claggett Creek middle schools won their final varsity football games before meeting each other under the bright lights of McNary High School on Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Whiteaker dominated Houck 40-0 on Thursday, Oct. 27.

The Wolverines racked up over 300 yards of total offense but head coach Tom Larimer said the tone was set by the

defense, led by defensive end Griffin Hubbard, who had five tackles for loss, recovered two fumbles, blocked a punt and recorded a safety.

"That was probably the single most dominant defensive performance by any kid I've ever coached," Larimer said. "Griffin is a relentless worker with a great attitude and it was fun to see him play at that level. He sure has a bright future at McNary."

Matt Mehlhoff also had five tackles for loss, while Noah

Unwin had eight total tackles.

WMS received the opening kickoff and, after a methodical drive, scored on the first of Ian Martin's two rushing touchdowns. Martin rushed for 146 yards and also threw a touchdown pass to Rian Canini.

The Wolverines also got a rushing touchdown from Quentin Camenisch, as well as one from Hubbard to cap off his banner performance on the night.

Whiteaker's defensive line continually disrupted Houck

in its own backfield, as Houck only managed to cross the 50-yard line only once in the entire game.

Larimer noted defensive ends Hubbard and Coleman Young have been the team leaders all season.

"We almost never blitz and at any level of football, if you can make plays behind the line without even needing to blitz, your defensive linemen are doing things right," Larimer said.

Claggett Creek defeated Straub 26-13 on Wednesday,

Oct. 26.

Playing in the mud, the Panthers did most of their damage on the ground. Ethan Martin accounted for two touchdowns while Elijah Devourseny and quarterback Jack McCarty each scored one.

CCMS coach Aaron Carr noted the Panthers offensive line blocked better than it had all year and McCarty threw the ball well considering the playing conditions.

"It was a mud bowl to say the least," Carr said. "There

was standing water all over the field and once we starting playing it all turned to soupy mud. They kids all had a fantastic time playing in the mud."

Jose Delgado led the defense, making several tackles for loss.

"Straub has improved on both offense and defense since we played them earlier in the season," Carr said. "Every time we play them I feel like it could go either way. They are always a very physical team and always very well coached."

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The goal-line stand was a sign of things to come as McNary held West Salem scoreless for the rest of the night.

"That was huge for us," Auvinen said. "We collected ourselves and then made some adjustments as far as coverage goes as far as our pressure package goes. We just played harder. Put Kolby in the quarterback's (Oliver) face on his preferred side and that seemed to work really well."

The Celtics also had to play the entire second half without Lucas Garvey, the team's best cornerback and leading rush-

er, who suffered a head injury midway through the second quarter.

Isaiah Rhodes, a senior who transferred to McNary in the middle of the season from Pennsylvania, stepped up on defense.

"He's worked hard to make us better and it helped us tonight, that's for sure," Auvinen said.

Johnk got more carries on offense. His biggest came after Gilbert got the Celtics within 32-25 on a 2-yard touchdown run with 2:20 remaining in the third quarter. Behind a block from Van Voorhis, Johnk got to the sideline and raced 53 yards into the end zone.

"Brendan Van Voorhis made a great block to help

me out on the outside and I was just free," Johnk said. "We really wanted this badly. Lucas is great. We all trust each other to make plays and get the job done. Our offense doesn't change on who goes in. We can all do the same stuff, just have to be ready."

Having already missed two extra points and a third blocked, Auvinen decided to go for two and Marc Baiza bulldozed his way into the end zone to put McNary ahead 33-32 late in the third quarter.

The rest was up to the Celtic defense, which forced a punt and then turned West Salem over on downs twice in the fourth quarter to seal the victory.

"I knew the whole time we were going to get it," Barker said. "I didn't let doubt come into my mind one bit. I gave it everything I had. We all did. It was all around a fantastic effort and that's what you've got to do to beat a team like this. I give all the credit to West. They're a great team but tonight we showed we're better."

Gilbert threw for 163 yards and rushed for 80. Johnk had 135 yards on the ground. Van Voorhis caught four passes for 102 yards.

"These kids just keep battling and playing," Auvinen said. "It's fun to watch them compete."

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"Their running backs (Ryan Minniti, Jash Allen, Spencer Smith) are really good."

On defense, Auvinen sees an athletic and aggressive group of linebackers.

"Offensively, we'll keep them off balance," Auvinen said. "They play hard but I think they play very aggressively so I think we can expose some things."

McNary finished the regular season 6-3, winning five of its last six games with the

only loss coming on Oct. 21 against North Medford.

"We showed everybody that last week (Oct. 21) was for sure a fluke," McNary senior Kolby Barker said. "This is the Celtics that we really are and we're gonna go into the playoffs strong and we're going to do like this every week."

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Tigard.



McNary senior Brendan Van Voorhis caught four passes for 102 yards in the Celtics 33-32 win over West Salem on Friday, Oct. 28.

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