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McNary alum brings winning to Culver

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Dan Borresen, former volleyball coach at McNary High School, isn't at all surprised by the success of one of his past players.

Randi Viggiano graduated from McNary in 2000 and was a defensive specialist on the 1998 team that brought home the school's first state trophy, finishing a school best fifth place.

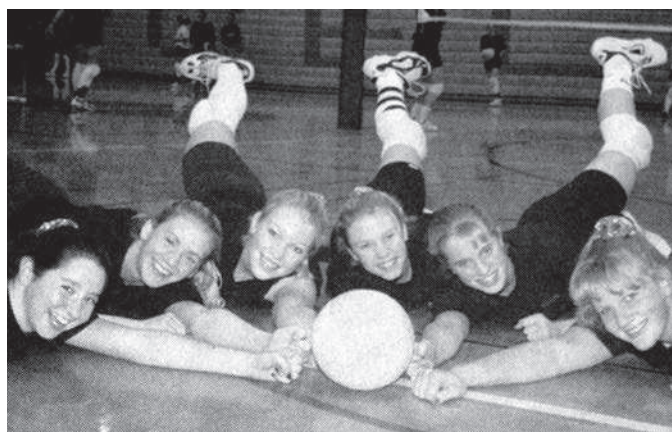
Now the head coach at Culver, in Central Oregon, the Lady Bulldogs have finished in the top five in Class 2A six years in a row.

"I've had several players go on to be coaches and she would be at the top of the list of someone I knew would coach someday," Borresen said.

"I remember her very well because when she was a little kid, she was always in the gym. She loved playing. She loved everything about teaching and coaching the game. It was something that was a passion for her's since the time she was a young kid."

Going to youth camps at McNary, Viggiano, then McDonnell, couldn't wait to be on the high school team.

"I grew up dreaming of playing for Dan Borresen and being a McNary Celtic probably ever since I was 8 years old," she said. "I had an amaz-



File
Randi Viggiano, middle, right, was a junior on the McNary volleyball team that finished fifth in the state in 1998.

"When I was at McNary the goal was always to win."

— Randi Viggiano,
Head Volleyball Coach, Culver High School

ing high school volleyball experience from ninth through 12th grade and got to look up to a lot of great players and got to play with some of my closest friends in high school. He (Borresen) laid such a great foundation for all of us and someone we all still look up to and admire."

After high school, Viggiano didn't have immediate plans to get into coaching. She went to Oregon State University and majored in public health and earned her master's degree in

counseling. But then an opening for an assistant coach at volleyball powerhouse Crook County opened up.

"It kind of fell into my lap," Viggiano said. "I moved to Central Oregon for work and my mom had somehow heard through the grapevine that Crook County was looking for some help coaching. I definitely found a home there."

In three seasons with the program, Crook County won three state championships. Viggiano was ready to



Submitted
Randi Viggiano and her husband and assistant coach Nick, both McNary graduates, have turned Culver High School into a volleyball powerhouse.

branch out on her own. In her interview at Culver, she was asked what her goal was in a year. She replied,

"Win a state championship." Viggiano was then asked her goal for five years. "Win five more," she responded.

Culver had finished last in its league the two previous seasons.

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Lady Celts eye league title

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary's girls basketball team won a school record 23 games and finished fourth in the state last year but it was what they didn't do that was on the minds of the Lady Celts two returning starters as practice began for the upcoming season.

"Our goal this year is to finally win league," senior Sydney Hunter said. "I think that's our No. 1 goal."

In order to do that, McNary will have to dethrone two-time state champion South Salem, led by one of the best players in the country, Evina Westbrook, who has signed with the University of Tennessee.

McNary junior Kailey Doult, who was voted defensive player of the year by the Greater Valley Conference coaches last season, looks forward to seeing the Lady Saxons on the court.

"I'm really excited for that game," Doult said. "I love guarding her (Westbrook). It's a challenge. She's the No. 1 player in the nation. It always makes me better."

The Lady Celts graduated three of its top four scorers from a year ago, including leading scorer and captain Madi Hingston.

But head coach Derick Handley believes McNary has the pieces to make up for

those losses.

"We had a lot of girls who can score but it wasn't their role last year," Handley said. "It is going to be a little bit of an adjustment for some of them just getting used to being relied on for scoring but I still feel like we have a lot of girls capable of double digits."

"Kailey Doult is going to surprise a lot of people. At the state tournament, (she) was one of the best players there. She's a junior but this is her third year for varsity. She was nine points a game last year. She was a contributor, just known for her defense but she's a girl who could easily be 14-15 a game this year."

Doult knows she'll need to score more.

"Handley last year always told me to shoot more and my parents and my teammates because I would get nervous to shoot from the outside but I feel like I'll have more confidence and shoot from the outside (this season)," Doult said. "When I was younger, I was a scorer. I'm excited."

Doult and Hunter, who averaged 10.8 points, six rebounds, two assists and two steals per game last season, will be counted on to be leaders.

"Last year I was a captain but I still depended on our other captain, Madi," Hunter said. "Now that she's gone, I

SCHEDULE	
Dec. 1 vs Barlow, 7 p.m.	Jan. 10 vs McKay, 6:45 p.m.
Dec. 3 vs Tualatin, 7 p.m.	Jan. 13 vs McMinnville, 5:45 p.m.
Dec. 6 at Sheldon, 6:45 p.m.	Jan. 17 at South Salem, 6:45 p.m.
Dec. 9 at West Albany, 5:45 p.m.	Jan. 20 vs Beaverton, 7 p.m.
Dec. 13 vs Clackamas, 7 p.m.	Jan. 27 at Sprague, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 16 vs Sprague, 5:45 p.m.	Jan. 31 vs Forest Grove, 6:45 p.m.
Dec. 20 at North Medford, 7 p.m.	Feb. 3 vs West Albany, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 21 at South Medford, 1:30 p.m.	Feb. 7 at McKay, 6:45 p.m.
Dec. 27 vs Gresham, 7 p.m.	Feb. 10 vs Grants Pass, 7 p.m.
Dec. 29 at Beaverton, 7:15 p.m.	Feb. 14 vs South Salem, 6:45 p.m.
Jan. 3 at Forest Grove, 6:45 p.m.	Feb. 17 vs West Salem, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 6 at West Salem, 5:45 p.m.	Feb. 21 at McMinnville, 7:15 p.m.

have to step up even more to be that No. 1 leader."

Senior Jaylene Montano, who replaces Hingston at point guard, has already shown a knack for hitting big shots.

Playing in the Nike Interstate Shootout last December, she made a 3-pointer with 11 seconds remaining to knock off Skyview 57-56.

"They're (Montano and Hingston) not the same player as far as scoring goes but being able to control the game, the tempo, Jaylene is really good at that," Handley said.

Handley mainly played seven girls last season but expects the Lady Celts to be deeper this year.

As many as 10 girls could be in the rotation.

One of those is Paige Downer, a junior guard in her third year playing varsity.

"She had a really good summer, did a lot of workouts, improved a lot," Handley said. "She's a girl that we're expecting a lot of points from. She's also one of our best defenders."

Another is senior Gabby Schmidt, who didn't play much varsity last year but will be counted on at post this season.

"We're smaller than we were a year ago but she's the one girl that is going to be able to hold down that post position for us," Handley said. "We need her to rebound



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
McNary senior Jaylene Montano, with ball, and junior Paige Downer will be two key players for the Lady Celts.

and we need her to play defense and she takes pride in both of those. She's a girl that we'll definitely need, to have the same success."

Kelsey Koenig, another senior, will also get minutes in the front court.

"She's an effort kid," Handley said. "She just works her tail off. She is going to go 100 percent all of the time.

She doesn't take any plays off. She's going to be really important for us this year, too."

Three underclassmen will also be counted on—sophomore guards Abbie Hawley and Anita Lao, and forward Caiya Ewert, a volleyball player who played basketball for the first time last year as a freshman.

Please see TITLE, Page 13

Hunter voted to All-GVC volleyball first team

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

While it's not her No. 1 sport, Sydney Hunter showed she can be just as dynamic on the volleyball court.

The McNary outside hitter was an unanimous selection to the All-Greater Valley Conference First Team.

"Basketball is my main

sport but I work just as hard in volleyball as I do in basketball because I wanted to reach that goal," Hunter said. "I wanted to become the best I could be, so knowing that I got that is awesome."

Hunter said her favorite part of volleyball was the team.

"I loved being with them,"

she said. "They were probably one of my favorite teams to play with. We all got along. I was always super excited to show up to practice because I knew we were going to be laughing, obviously working hard but having fun."

Hunter finished her senior season with 347 kills, 124 digs, 34 blocks and 31 aces.

"You can't put into words how valuable she was, not only as a player on the court but her leadership was extremely good," McNary head coach Bruce Myers said. "She's just one of those rare players that has it all. can't say how lucky I was just to have about six months of Sydney and coaching her, phenom-

enal athlete. Of course I've only been doing this since about 1978 and she is the best female I have ever coached. She can do anything. I was totally amazed when I figured she's only played about eight months of volleyball in her life and the things that she does."

McNary senior Jaylene

Montano was voted to the second team. At libero, she had 178 digs and 19 aces.

Junior Valerie Diede and sophomore Caiya Ewert were both honorable mention selections.

At outside hitter, Diede recorded 87 kills and 56 blocks. Ewert, a middle blocker, had 53 kills and 46 blocks.