

# #7 Whiteaker eighth grader wins state title

Nick Zuro, an eighth grader at Whiteaker Middle School, cleared 5-foot-8 at the Oregon Middle School Meet of Champions on May 26 to win the school's first state title in track and field.

"I knew it was a possibility," Zuro said. "I hoped I could do it, and I was really happy when it happened."

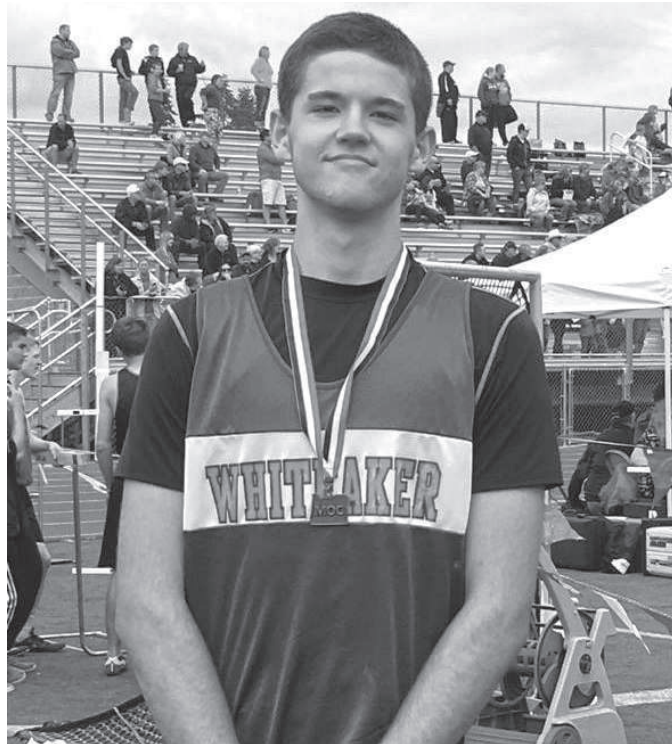
That mark wasn't even his best. At a track meet with Houck Middle School in April, the 6-foot-4, 13-year-old cleared 6 feet.

Zuro started competing in the high jump as a seventh grader at the encouragement of James Decker, a Whiteaker teacher and coach. Decker had seen Zuro dunking the ball on the basketball court and knew he was onto something special because of his natural jumping ability.

"I just sort of watched the older guys at first and it looked really cool," Zuro said.

In short order, he was making the leaps himself and besting his schoolmates in the event.

"From the first few practice



File

Nick Zuro, an eighth grader at Whiteaker Middle School, won a state championship in the high jump in 2016.

jumps, Zuro began progressing quickly. By the end of his seventh grade year, he was one of the top jumpers for his age in the nation. This year, as he

got taller and stronger, and his coaches and I could tell this could be season that he did something special," Decker said.

# #8 McNary boys bowl near-perfect game

On its way to winning a district title, McNary's boys bowling team, made up of Nick Blythe, Tim Kiser, Jerome Ricks, Bailey Lee and Donny Grunbough, knocked down 298 of a possible 300 pins to nearly bowl a perfect game in the semifinals of the tournament.

"I was jumping up and down after every strike," said Grubough.

"Everybody in the place stopped to watch us," said Kiser.

"It was stadium-level loud," added Blythe.

The almost-perfect effort capped a three-game series that began with scores of 262 and 224.

"It was the most incredible stretch I've ever seen in more than 20 years as a coach," said coach Dan Kaplan

At the end of the semifinals, which consists of 10 games, McNary was 321 pins ahead of the second place team. The Celts finished ahead 377-249 for the two finals games.

Blythe, a three-year veteran of the team who's already got several 300 games as a solo performer, said the experience was his most memorable yet.

"It was the most fun I've had in three years, and this is the best team I've ever been part of," Blythe said.

# #9 Cavell Player of the Year

McNary senior Harry Cavell, who averaged 15 points, seven rebounds, three assists and two steals per game, was selected the unanimous Greater Valley Conference Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

"It's awesome and it's affirmation that all my hard work has paid off a little bit," Cavell said of the Player of the Year honor. "But it's just as much a testament to my team. There are a lot of good players who don't stand out because of their teams."

McNary head coach Ryan Kirch said that attitude is what he's appreciated most about having Cavell as a player for

the Celts.

"He's a mature kid with poise and a confident attitude that the other players in our program gravitate to," Kirch said. "It helps unite the group as a whole because his expectations mirror what we expect as a program."

Defensive Player of the Year awards also went to McNary as junior Matthew Ismay shared the boys honor with Joe Carey of South Salem and sophomore Kailey Douitt won the girls award.

"This means that coaches can trust me to guard the best players every game," Ismay said.

The Lady Celts led the

GVC in points allowed and Douitt had a big part in that.

"Kailey is a spark plug for the whole defensive side of our game and has shown just how deep the buy-in is for our defensive schemes," said Derick Handley, McNary head coach.

Douitt said the award was a result of an approach to the game that she's practiced from a young age.

"I have always been taught that defense wins games. It's what my dad, who was my coach when I was younger, always focused on," she said. "It means a lot because I've been trying to work hard on it. I really feel blessed and thankful."

# #10 McNary's new gym floor

McNary High School renovated its gymnasium thanks to \$20,000 provided by the Athletic Booster Club.

The project included painting both levels of the gym, along with refinishing the 15-year-old floor to include a McNary "M" at center court with "McNary" and "Celts" at each baseline.

Work began as soon as school let out on June 15.

A ribbon cutting ceremony took place in August.

"It's much overdue, a much needed project," ABC vice president Scott Kiser said.

Like the turf field the summer before, Kiser noted the new floor will be a benefit to the entire school and community.

"So many groups use this gym," he said.

"It was one of those projects

where we're not focusing on just one sport and our goal is to not just focus on one sport per project. Like our turf, lacrosse, soccer, football, in here you're going to have wrestling, volleyball, basketball, plus all their assemblies and everything they're going to do. These are projects that we are doing that affect a large population of the school and our community."

**Christmas Eve**  
Candlelight Service  
5:00 P.M.

Faith Lutheran Church  
Pastor Linda Matz Easterling  
4505 River Rd N  
(503) 393-4507  
No Communion Services  
No Christmas Day Services

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
Christian Church

The Keizer community is invited to celebrate Christmas with us...

- "21 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" Sunday, Dec. 18, 9 & 10:30am
- Christmas Eve Sat., Dec. 24, 2pm
- Christmas service Sun., Dec. 25, 10:30am

Join us at:  
**Countryside Christian Church**  
5775 McLeod Lane NE,  
Keizer, (503-540-1989)  
(corner of Lockhaven & McLeod)

f t i

dayspring fellowship

Christmas Weekend Schedule

Christmas Eve Services  
5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 pm

Christmas Day  
No Services

1755 Lockhaven Drive NE  
Keizer, Oregon 97303

503.390.3900

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**Holiday Mass Schedule**

Dec. 24	4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Family Mass
	11:00 pm	Traditional "Midnight" Mass
Dec. 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day English Mass
	12:30 pm	Christmas Day Spanish Mass
Dec. 31	5:30 pm	New Year's Eve Vigil Mass
Jan. 1	8:15 am	New Year's Day English Mass
	10:30 am	New Year's Day English Mass
<b>Holy Day</b>	12:30 pm	New Year's Day Spanish Mass