

# Lady Celts win three straight

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

McNary's girls basketball team has found the key to success—playing together.

In a 52-44 win over McMinnville on Friday, Jan. 13, four different girls scored at least nine points and the Lady Celts dished out 11 assists.

The following night, in a 52-30 victory against Sprague, five girls scored at least seven points to go along with 15 assists.

"I just think the chemistry part, we've finally figured it out," senior Sydney Hunter said.

"We're playing as a team. We're finally playing as five, not just individuals and that's helped us a lot. We'll drive and we know that we'll have somebody right by the basket to dish off and that's definitely helped us."

With the two wins, McNary improved to 4-2 in the Greater Valley Conference after opening league play 1-2.

"It was a big week for us," MHS head coach Derrick Handley said.

"The biggest thing is we're starting to trust each other a little bit more. We talked before the season started that we're going to rely on a lot of girls that haven't really been relied on in the past. I



McNary senior Sydney Hunter had 17 points and 10 rebounds at home against Sprague on Saturday, Jan. 14.

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think they're starting to understand their roles. I think they're starting to get confi-

dence and I also think that Kailey (Doutt) and Sydney, who have led us in scoring,

are realizing that they don't have to do it alone and that there's more people that can

help us out. It's been much more balanced. Our scoring is becoming a lot more evenly distributed, which is the key to us being successful this year."

Fast starts have also helped the Lady Celts, who led McMinnville 18-4 at the end of the first quarter.

The Grizzlies got within three points of McNary in the fourth quarter but back-to-back 3s sealed the Lady Celts victory.

"They (McMinnville) made a couple of runs but I think it asserted a lot of energy for them to do it and we stay composed," Handley said.

Hunter and Abigail Hawley each had 12 points to lead McNary.

Doutt added 11 points and nine rebounds. Paige Downer finished with nine.

The Lady Celts then jumped out to a 23-0 lead against Sprague before the Lady Olympians made their first basket midway through the second quarter.

Sprague scored eight points in the period but McNary entered halftime with a commanding 29-8 lead.

"We put in a new pressure defense a couple weeks ago and it takes repetition and getting used to where you're supposed to fall in different

circumstances," Handley said. "We stuck with it knowing that it was going to generate starts like that for us. The girls are just working really hard and I think they're also realizing that you give yourself a little bit of a padding like that, it's a little easier to play the next 30 minutes."

The Lady Celts added to their lead in the third. McNary then emptied its bench in the fourth quarter.

Hunter finished with a double-double of 17 points and 10 rebounds. Doutt and Anita Lao both had eight points.

Hawley and Jaylene Montano each added seven.



McNary sophomore Abigail Hawley scored five points in a 58-56 loss at South Salem on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

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## McNary boys fall to South Salem

McNary's boys basketball team suffered just its third loss of the season on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Matthew Ismay had 20 points, four rebounds and three assists at home in a 56-53 loss to South Salem.

The Celtics led 29-23 at halftime but were outscored 33-24 in the second half, in-

cluding 16-11 in the fourth quarter.

Cade Goff had eight points, four rebounds and two assists. Alex Martin had six points and six assists. Adam Harvey had five points and four rebounds.

Chandler Cavell added 10

points off the bench.

The game was McNary's third in just five days and the Celtics second lowest scoring output of the season.

McNary has the weekend off and then hosts North Salem on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 6:45 p.m.

## McNary nearly upsets Saxons

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

SALEM—McNary (9-6, 4-3) went into South Salem and almost knocked off one of the top girls basketball teams in the state.

Kailey Doutt had 20 points and Anita Lao added 17 but the Lady Celts came up just short, 58-56, on Tuesday, Jan. 17 to the defending Greater Valley Conference champions. McNary fell behind 16-9 after the first quarter but Jaylene Montano made a 3-pointer to get McNary within 26-22 with 2:15 remaining in the second period.

However, the Lady Saxons closed the first half on a 7-0 run.

After the two teams played a back-and-forth third quarter, the Lady Celts outscored South Salem 19-9 in the final period but it wasn't enough to pull the upset.

Evina Westbrook had 24 points to lead the Saxons, who entered the game as one of the hottest teams in the state with a 5-0 record in league-play, defeating GVC opponents by an average of more than 39 points.

They are ranked fifth in the OSAA power rankings.

McNary returns to action at home against Beaverton on Friday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. The Lady Celts then get back into league-play on Friday, Jan. 27 at Sprague.



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