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Celtics hold on, win first dual

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

With McNary holding on to a four-point lead entering the final match of the night, all Noah Gatchet had to do was not get pinned.

But the Celtic freshman decided to do his team one better, picking up a 11-6 decision over Kelton Bollier as McNary defeated South Salem 43-36 on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Gatchet trailed 4-0 before earning 10 straight points in the second period and holding on for the victory.

"I can't think of another kid with a bigger heart on

our team and he knew his job when he stepped out on that mat," McNary head coach Jason Ebbs said.

"Instead of being satisfied with not getting pinned, he stayed in good position, he scored points, put the guy on his heels and won that match. Hands down one of the most savvy and intelligent wrestling freshmen I've seen come through this program in a while. That's having the right mindset, not being satisfied with a mediocre job but seeking a higher job and a higher purpose and going after it. I will always promote our

kids, win, lose, or draw, always wrestle to win and you'll find yourself in a good place."

While the Celtics celebrated Gatchet's performance, even picking up the 106-pounder on their shoulders and chanting, "Noah, Noah," Ebbs noted the dual victory, McNary's first of the season, was a team effort.

The Celtics jumped out to a 40-0 lead thanks to a forfeit at 113 pounds, followed by a 14-6 decision by Ryan Mosgrove at 120 pounds and five straight pins from Jerry Martinez (126),

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary freshman Noah Gatchet celebrates with teammates on Wednesday, Jan. 25 after securing a dual victory for the Celtics by defeating his South Salem opponent 11-6.

Seniors win final swim meet

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM--What they lack in numbers, McNary's six seniors more than make up for in leadership.

"It's a small group but they do a lot," Celtics head coach Casey Lewin said. "They motivate kids in practice. They set a good example. They'll be missed for sure."

Jake Wyer, Parker Dean, Alex Sharabarin, Alysha Alfaro, Bryce Looney and Gavin Jaqua left their final high school meet in the Kroc Center winners as McNary combined to outscore North Salem 248-60 on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Along with winning the 50-yard freestyle in 24.52, Wyer also helped the 200 medley relay team of Dean, Brock Wyer and Harrison Vaughn place first in 2:00.50. Jake Wyer, Vaughn, Wyatt Sherwood and Grant Biondi then won the 200 free relay

in 1:40.67.

Dean, Biondi, Sherwood and Jack O'Connor took first in the 400 free relay in 4:08.42.

Gavin Jaqua had the fastest time in the 100 fly, finishing in 1:09.83. Bryce Looney won the 500 free in 6:59.74. Sharabarin touched the wall first in the 200 free, finishing in 2:25.70.

For the girls, Alfaro took third in the 500 free in 7:59.68.

The underclassmen also shined for McNary.

Freshman Alyssa Garvey won the 50 free in 27.60 and the 100 fly in 1:14.70.

Sophomore Emma Garland had the fastest time in the 200 free, finishing in 2:29.58.

Kylie McCarty placed first in the 200 IM in 2:33.77. Emily Alger touched the wall first in the 100 free in 1:02.82.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary seniors Jake Wyer, Parker Dean, Alex Sharabarin, Alysha Alfaro, Bryce Looney and Gavin Jaqua were honored on Tuesday, Feb. 31, during their final high school swim meet at the KROC Center.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Chandler Cavell had 20 points off the bench to lead the Celtics at Sprague on Friday, Jan. 27.

Celtics shorthanded in loss

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM--McNary got within one possession in the fourth quarter but with one starter out with an injury and another playing through the flu, the Celtics ran out of gas at Sprague.

"Not having two of our top eight or nine really hurt us," McNary head coach

Ryan Kirch said after an 85-74 loss on Friday, Jan. 27. "I thought we battled but the guys that were out there were just exhausted."

The Celtics never led in the contest as Sprague sophomore Jailen Hammer, who finished with 30 points, knocked down two 3-pointers in the first 35 seconds to give the Olympians a quick

6-0 lead.

McNary trailed just 15-14 at the end of the first quarter but were then outscored 23-14 in the second.

Sprague continued to extend its lead in the second half.

Trailing 52-36, Matthew Ismay and Kevin Martin made back-to-back 3-pointers.

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Lady Celts knock off rust

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM--After a nearly two week break from game action, McNary needed about three quarters to begin looking like its normal self Friday, Jan. 27 in a 53-33 victory at Sprague.

"It was pretty obvious that we hadn't played in 10 days," Lady Celts head coach Derick Handley said.

"We had a slow start, not a ton of energy early on. We weren't making a lot of outside shots. Our tempo was a lot slower than we were hoping for. It's hard when you just play each other for as long as we had. It was really about midway through the third quarter that we got back to how we had been playing and starting knocking down some of the shots that we've been making on a consistent basis."

Even with the slow start, McNary led from start to finish as Paige Downer knocked down a 3-pointer 35 seconds into the game.

The Lady Celts held on to a 11-7 lead entering the second quarter and Sprague made a 3-pointer with 5:40 remaining in the first half to get within 15-12.

However, McNary answered with a 6-0 run and entered halftime with a 24-15 advantage.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Kailey Doust scored six points in the Lady Celts 53-33 win at Sprague.

After Sprague outscored the Lady Celts 12-11 in the third quarter, McNary won the fourth 18-6.

"We played really solid man-to-man defense, which we haven't been playing a lot of lately," Handley said. "It was good for us to get back to more of what we're used to doing."

Senior Sydney Hunter had a double-double of 14 points and 11 rebounds at halftime and finished with 18 points and 17 rebounds to go with five assists.

"It was the quietest 14

points and 11 rebounds at half-time you'll ever see," Handley said.

"Sprague was smart. We weren't shooting well and they just packed the key and tried to prevent her from getting easy looks but she's such a great rebounder. She works so hard that a lot of the time we're trying to get stuff going through her but the best offense for her is her rebounding."

Sophomore guards Abigail Hawley and Anita Lao led McNary in the second half.

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