

McNary boys dominate West Albany

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Back at full strength, McNary did what it does best—score in transition.

With four players in double digits, the Celtics routed West Albany 78-47 at home on Friday, Feb. 3.

The Bulldogs scored the first basket of the game but McNary, using a 1-3-1 zone defense, responded with a 15-2 run.

“We intended to come out strong and respond differently than others games because we were in a slump,” said McNary senior Adam Harvey, who finished with 15 points. “We wanted to come out with a lot of energy and play to our strengths. On defense, we were really getting a lot of deflections on the ball and getting a piece of it and getting on transition for easy layups.”

After West Albany knocked down a 3-pointer, the Celtics ended the first quarter with a 15-7 lead.

McNary then continued to dominate in the second period, opening with a 14-5 run, capped off by a 3-point play

and then 3-pointer by junior Lucas Garvey off the bench.

Garvey finished with 13 points but Celtics coach Ryan Kirch was just as impressed with his defense.

“He really set the tone,” Kirch said. “You look at guys like Matt (Ismay) and Adam (Harvey) and you expect them to do those things all the time but Lucas’ development to where he was at at the beginning of the season to where he’s at now, he’s playing with a lot of confidence. He’s a really good player. He makes us really, really tough.”

After McNary entered halftime with a commanding 37-14 lead, West Albany began to show some life on offense, scoring 12 points in the first five minutes of the third quarter.

Kirch then called time out, switched to man-to-man and the Celtics continued to clamp down on the Bulldogs. McNary outscored West Albany 23-7 in the fourth quarter.

The win came after back-to-back losses to Sprague and Forest Grove, in which multiple starters were either injured



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary senior Adam Harvey led the Celtics in scoring in a 78-47 victory over West Albany on Friday, Feb. 3 at home.

or sick.

“Our guys are mature,” Kirch said.

“I think they were more frustrated that we weren’t at full strength for those games. They came out and we talked about playing angry early on and getting back to how we

play. We haven’t really been guarding as well as we’d like the last couple of games so we kind of challenged them a little bit and they had a heck of a response. We’re proud of them.”

The Celtics also easily defeated McKay 87-66 on Tues-

day, Feb. 7 to improve to 16-5 overall and 9-4 in league play.

McNary, No. 11 in the OSAA rankings after the two wins, have this weekend off and then play at South Salem on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 6:45.

The Saxons won the previous matchup 56-53.

Clash in Keizer



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Allison Mansur, with the ball, and Taylor Cruichshank play for the Keizer Youth Basketball Association during halftime of the McNary girls basketball game on Friday, Feb. 3. KYBA is hosting 40 teams on Feb. 11-12 in a fifth through eighth grade tournament at McNary and Whiteaker and Claggett middle schools in Keizer. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. For more information, go to keizerbasketball.com.

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“We just have to forget about it and move on to the next shot because we can’t do anything about it,” Hunter said. “Definitely, our mental toughness has grown.”

McNary also evened the season score with the Lady Bulldogs, who it lost to on the road 48-41 back in December to begin league play.

Handley noted the Lady Celts did a better job against West Albany’s size and zone defense.

“They really tried to pack the key on us,” Handley said. “They challenged our guards to take shots. I think our guards did a better job this game of being willing to at-

tack. We shared the ball really well.

“The adjustments we needed to make was No. 1 ball fakes but No. 2 if you feel two bodies coming to you, it’s ball fake and make the extra pass and I think our ball movement especially in the paint got a lot better in the second half as well.”

That started with Downer, who Handley said had the best game of her career.

“She was complete,” Handley said. “She was great on defense. She was our best guard rebounder tonight. She was smart with the basketball. She was our one guard, especially early, that was willing to dribble drive into the zone to draw defenders and she was doing it with purpose to get a teammate open. She was really what made us go.”

puzzle answers

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