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# KeizerSports

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## Deja vu for Celtics at North Medford

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

Just like two years ago, McNary went to North Medford needing one win to reach the state quarterfinals in Portland and again the Celtics came up short, falling 73-67 on Friday, March 3.

"It's always tough," McNary head coach Ryan Kirch said. "You feel bad for the kids. It's a group that deserved to have that experience so you just feel bad that they weren't able

INSIDE: Lady Celts fall at No. 13 Jesuit.

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to realize that. You don't want them to allow one game, one situation to determine their success on the year, their success on a career."

After an even first quarter, the Celtics trailed 28-23

at halftime as they battled through foul trouble with Matthew Ismay, Adam Harvey and Alex Martin all picking up two fouls in the first eight minutes.

"It wasn't as physical as we're used to playing and so we had to adjust to that a little bit," Kirch said. "I thought there was some calls, on both sides, that didn't affect the play but it is what it is and we've got to adjust to it."

McNary also took too long to adjust to North Medford's

defense.

"I thought they were really good defensively," Kirch said. "They really rode us out off the ball. I thought we got pushed away from the hoop a little bit. Particularly early on, I didn't think we adjusted to that physical part of the play. We were a little tentative and didn't get the ball to the scorer as much as we'd liked to. But give North credit. They're really well coached and play great defense."

With 5:18 remaining in the third quarter, the Celtics got within 32-31 but North Medford answered with a 25-9 run to stretch its lead to 57-40 with 5:49 left in the game.

"We missed a couple shots that we normally would make and they made five or six in a row," Kirch said. "They're a good team. They shoot the ball well. I thought they beat us to a couple of 50-50 balls, some offensive rebounds.

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Girls showing they can wrestle, too  
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## Ismay 3X Defender of the Year

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

Earning Greater Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year was easier for Matthew Ismay in his senior season at McNary, and not because he had already won the award twice.

"When I was a sophomore, everyone was just so much bigger than me," Ismay said. "I would just get bullied down in the post. It's a lot easier now when you're a little bit bigger. It means a lot to me, especially when I was a sophomore I had no idea that I was going to get it but I always pride myself on

defense."

An emphasis on defense is exactly what McNary head coach Ryan Kirch needed when he started turning around the team four years ago.

Ismay consistently guarded the other team's best player.

"It sure makes you look good as a coach," Kirch said. "We always pride our program on being able to defend and rebound. When Matt was a freshman is when we started to turn things around and he's been as influential and he sets the tone for us defensively. He's just a tone setter."

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McNary senior Matthew Ismay was voted Greater Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year for the third time. Ismay was also selected to the All-GVC First Team.

### First Team



Sydney Hunter

### Second Team



Kailey Douitt

### Second Team



Cade Goff

### Second Team

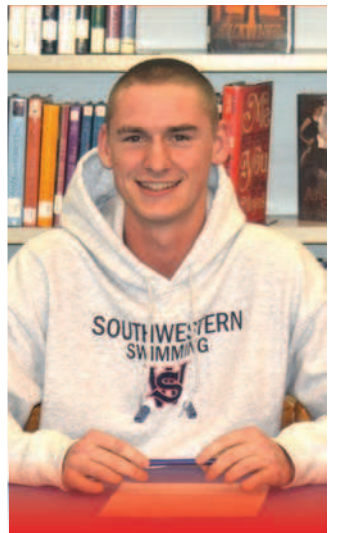


Adam Harvey

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