

Lady Celts eliminated from playoffs at Jesuit

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary scored a season low in a 37-25 first round play-off loss at Jesuit on Wednesday, March 1.

But it wasn't for lack of trying.

"That was probably the best effort that we've had since we beat Shelton the third game of the year," Lady Celts head coach Derick Handley said.

"Our girls just played their

tails off. Defensively, I think they just did a phenomenal job. It was Jesuit's third lowest scoring total of the year. Defensively, they bought in. They did the game plan. Offensively, we worked hard. We only had 10 turnovers. We took care of the basketball and it was smart basketball."

The ball just wouldn't go in the basket as McNary shot 7-for-42, including 0-for-10 from behind the 3-point arc.

"It's difficult to say as a coach that the one thing we needed to change was we needed to make more shots but at the same time it's nice to know as a coach that your kids effort wasn't the issue, attitude wasn't the issue, defense, which it's hard to get any basketball player to buy in to that," Handley said.

McNary jumped out to a 9-4 lead but Jesuit made an off-balance, contested layup to

end the first quarter and then outscored 10-3 in the second and 12-5 in the third.

"Jason Lowery, the Jesuit coach, is maybe the best in the state," Handley said. "I think he's just phenomenal and they did some really good things as far as packing the paint. We did get some back door cuts. We did get some open looks. We had a couple of uncontested fast break layups that we missed. We had some open 3-pointers. The shots we took were good. Our feet were set. Our form was fine. They just went in and out and didn't fall

for us."

Despite the poor shooting night, the Lady Celts were within 29-25 in the last four minutes and 31-25 in the last three. However, Jesuit made its free throws down the stretch.

McNary junior Kailey Doutt had 13 points and nine rebounds.

"Kailey was great, especially in the fourth quarter," Handley said. "She was the one that really kept us there."

Senior Sydney Hunter was held to six points on 1 of 11 shooting in her final game. No other McNary player had

more than three points.

"All year long our struggle was getting consistent scoring from somebody other than Sydney or Kailey," Handley said.

"Wednesday night was a perfect example of that. Kailey came through. They really buckled down on Sydney. It's one of those games where that third scorer is incredibly important. Obviously, their defense is going to try to take away one of your best and when they did that, we didn't have that third person that we could necessarily turn to."

puzzle answers

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GVC, continued from Page B1

"He's incredibly smart, incredibly physical. He knows his angles well. Guys who really understand the game see how important and critical he is. It's a lot of hard work. He's tough. He's athletic and he prides himself on it."

Along with winning his third straight Defensive Play-

er of the Year award, Ismay was also voted First Team all-league. He led the Celtics in points (13.6), rebounds (5.08) and assists (4.92) per game.

"It's a real honor to get First Team," Ismay said. "I've taken a lot more shots and scored a lot more this year than in the past."

McNary senior Sydney Hunter made the girls First Team. Junior Kailey Doutt was voted to the Second Team.

"She (Doutt) was right on the cusp of being a First Team-

er," Lady Celts head coach Derick Handley said. "That was a huge step for her. She did a great job."

McNary seniors Adam Harvey and Cade Goff were selected to the boys Second Team. Alex Martin, Chandler Cavell, Easton Neitzel and Lucas Garvey were all voted GVC Honorable Mention.

Lady Celts Abigail Hawley, Paige Downer and Jaylene Montano were also honorable mention.

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