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Closed: Gone to Arizona

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary varsity baseball team hasn't been able to practice on its field, much less play a game.

"We literally haven't been on our varsity field one time," Celtics head coach Larry Keeker said. "We've done some on-field batting practice but we've had to stay off the dirt. It's just way too soft. It's too muddy. Even the grass area is super soft as well. We've been able to get on the JV field a couple times."

McNary was scheduled to open its season on March 15 at home against Canby and then host Tualatin on March 22 but both games were cancelled.

"Obviously the weather has dictated our schedule and we certainly had to make some adjustments in terms of when

we're playing and where we're playing and the same thing with practice," Keeker said. "It's been a challenging spring in terms of getting ready to go because of the weather but everyone is in the same boat."

Thanks to the wettest February on record, the Celtics have mostly been forced to practice in the gym or on the turf field. Making matters worse, McNary put in new dirt on its infield during the offseason that has yet to dry out.

The Celtics were able to get in two away games—a 14-0 victory at Barlow on Tuesday, March 21 and a 4-1 loss at Grant on Thursday, March 23.

After missing all of last season due to elbow surgery, senior Riley Hays started on the mound against Barlow, recording three strikeouts and

allowing one hit but seven walks over four and one-third innings.

"He (Hays) typically has very good command of his pitches but considering the weather and the way it was, he really did a pretty good job," Keeker said. "He got ground balls when we needed to and they turned into four double plays. The defense backed him up."

Jonah Geist got the final five outs to complete the shutout.

"We pitched really well considering the conditions," Keeker said. "We were literally playing in the rain. We had a thunder and lightning delay. We didn't get home until midnight. Considering the conditions, I thought our defense and our pitching did a pretty good job."

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary's varsity baseball team has yet to be able to get on its field due to the wettest February on record combined with new dirt in the infield.

Van Voorhis, Partridge lead young track and field team

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—Brendan Van Voorhis started his senior track season on Wednesday, March 22 at McKay High School tackling something he'd never done—the 100, 200 and 400 all in the same meet.

"That's really, really hard to do," McNary head coach Frank Gauntz said. "It's a lot of sprinting to do in one day. It was a tremendous job by Brendan to do that and he did really well."

The toughest part is the 100-400 combination, which are back-to-back events.

After finishing second in the 100 in 11.36, Van Voorhis had just the junior varsity and varsity girls 400 and the junior varsity boys 400 to rest in between.

"I have a video of the race and I took off really slow," said Van Voorhis of the 400, which he won in 52.77. "It looks really bad on the video and then you can see I picked it up. I just need to start that race with a little more intensity and that will drop my time a lot."

Van Voorhis then took second in the 200 in 23.41 in his final individual event of the meet.

"For the first meet and for the first time doing the 1-4



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary senior Brendan Van Voorhis, middle, finished second in the 100, first in the 400 and second in the 200 on Wednesday, March 22 at McKay High School.

combination, I didn't think they were too bad," Van Voorhis said. "They're not really close to my PRs. I kind of wanted to be a little bit closer."

Van Voorhis started the meet running anchor in the 4x100 relay. Joined by Isaiah Rhodes, Lucas Garvey and Jacob Wyer, the Celtics placed

third out of three teams in 45.72.

Last season, McNary won the Greater Valley Conference in the 4x100 in 42.78.

"I'm the only returner on the relay team this year," Van Voorhis said. "We're just putting it together. We've just got some work to do on that."

The boys 4x100 relay team isn't the only event with new faces.

"We have a really young team as far as first-year track kids, even the majority of our juniors are first-year track kids and I thought they handled it (first meet) really, really good," Gauntz said. "There's obvi-



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary senior Cambrian Partridge won the discus in 99-02 to open the track and field season.

ously some things we need to clean up but as far as going out and competing, I thought they did a great job."

But Van Voorhis isn't the only veteran on the McNary track and field team.

Senior Cambrian Partridge won the discus in 99-02. Partridge's personal record is 110 feet and she hopes to qualify for state and break the school record of 124 by the end of the season.

"The biggest thing is technique," Partridge said. "You don't have to have a lot of muscle to throw far. My biggest goal is to throw at a higher trajectory."

Another senior, Alyssa Looney, took first in the long

jump in 15-07.5.

Two freshmen shined in their first meet. Haley Hughes won the 400 in 1:06.98 and Caitlyn Kiefiuk Yakes placed first in the 100 hurdles in 18.16.

McNary senior Alex Sharabarin cleared 11 feet to win the boys pole vault, edging teammate Jacob Cremer's 10-06.

Three juniors also won their respective events. Michael Reyes finished the 3000 in 10:23.06, Casey Toavs completed the 300 hurdles in 44.67 and Lucas Garvey cleared 5-06 in the high jump.

McNary's next track and field meet is Wednesday, April 5 at home against West Salem.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary senior Nicole Duran drove in four runs in a come-from-behind 6-5 win over Southridge on Tuesday, March 28.

Lady Celts finish 2-2 at Jesuit

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

After two tough losses at Jesuit, McNary (5-2) ended the spring break softball tournament in celebration.

With one out in the bottom of the seventh inning, Nicole Duran doubled on a line drive to center field to bring home Faith Danner as the Lady Celts came from behind to defeat Southridge 6-5 on Tuesday, March 28.

"The girls worked hard and played a really good game," McNary head coach Kevin Wise said. "Girls were just flat in the first inning and took a while to get going."

Duran finished the game 2-for-4 with two doubles and four RBIs.

Danner was 3-for-4 with an RBI and the game-winning run. Alexa Cepeda also had two hits and scored two runs in the win.

McNary fell behind 4-2 in the first inning and trailed 5-2 going into the bottom of the fifth when Duran cleared the bases with a double off the fence to tie the game.

"She (Duran) really found her groove that game," Wise said.

Danner pitched all seven innings, allowing 10 hits and five runs.

McNary opened the tournament on Monday, March 27 with a 11-2 win over Lakeridge.

The Lady Celts led 3-0 after four innings but did most

of their damage late, scoring five runs in the sixth and adding three more in the seventh.

Nadia Witt was 3-for-5 with a double, run and two RBIs. Emma Kinler was also 3-for-5 with a run and RBI. Danner, Duran and Haley Bingenheimer all had two hits.

Danner pitched the first five innings, allowing only two hits and one run while striking out three. Callie Weber got the final six outs for McNary.

Adjusting to a harder throwing pitcher, the Lady Celts suffered their first loss of the season on Monday afternoon, falling to Tigard 3-0.

Led by Haley Ebner, who was 3-for-3 at the plate,

McNary had seven hits but couldn't cash in.

"We hit the ball hard but right at somebody," Wise said. "We didn't play bad, hits just didn't fall that day."

Danner again threw all seven innings, allowing just four hits and two earned runs.

Playing a Jesuit team full of seniors and juniors on Tuesday, the Lady Celts, starting four freshmen, took an early lead as Duran drew a bases loaded walk in the top of the second but ultimately fell to the defending state champions 4-1.

"Their pitcher, once she gets in a groove, you have to get to her early or she settles in," Wise said.

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