

MHS boys tennis team improving

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary's boys tennis team, made up of mostly beginners, will have plenty of room for improvement this season but the Celtics may take their lumps along the way.

After rain postponed the first week of the season, McNary finally opened the 2017 campaign with a 8-0 loss to McMinnville on March 21. The Celtics then fell to South Salem 7-1 on March 22.

Sophomore Anthony Estrada had the only win, 7-6, 6-4, at No. 4 singles.

"We don't typically have club kids like South and Sprague," McNary head coach Lisa Reid said. "A lot of beginners, first time playing ten-

nis but they're doing really good. Some are great athletes so they're learning fast and they're eager to learn and having fun with it."

Due to the lack of experience, Reid expects the lineup to shuffle.

Junior Solomon Fry, who is new to the team this year, started the season at No. 1 singles. Sophomore Finn Albrecht was then in the No. 1 position against South Salem.

Reid said sophomore Adam Greneto, who's split time between 2 and 3 singles, could also play at 1.

"I think it's going to keep changing, which is good and not so good, but they'll get better that way by having that competition amongst them-

selves," Reid said.

Two seniors, Abram Lepesh and Alfonso Pacheco, are providing leadership to the young squad.

"They're great kids," Reid said. "They're our captains this year. They take care of it on the court and off the court. They're excellent sportsmanship and fabulous students so that's been nice having them on the team and lead by example for the others."

The Celtics started last season with 15 players and due to injuries had to forfeit a few spots late in the season. But that shouldn't be the case this year as McNary is up to 18.

The Celtics next home match is Tuesday, April 11 against Forest Grove.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Solomon Fry is new to the Celtic tennis team but will be one of several boys to play at No. 1 singles this season.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Jack O'Conner scored two goals for McNary against Bellarmine Prep in Washington on Tuesday, March 28.

Celtics fall twice to Washington schools

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McNary went to Washington over spring break to test itself against tougher competition.

But missing four starters, the Celtics weren't quite up to the challenge, falling 15-3 to Curtis High School on Monday, March 27 and then 18-6 at Bellarmine Prep the following night.

"We didn't have as good of a showing as we would have liked," head lacrosse coach Ryan Bowlby said. "The intention wasn't necessarily to go up there and win but to get experience playing higher end clubs than we normally get. We went up there and saw what high end offenses look like."

One of the players missing was face off specialist Auston Barton, who was on vacation.

"Their faceoff guys were phenomenal so both games they won the majority of the faceoffs," Bowlby said. "That

was a little frustrating on the coaching end."

Jonathan Williams led McNary on offense, scoring two goals at Curtis and three against Bellarmine.

Zach Shepherd also put in a goal versus Curtis.

Jack O'Conner scored twice against Bellarmine and Tyler Anderson added a goal in the loss.

Despite the lopsided loss, Bowlby said Curtis could see the potential in the Celtics, even agreeing to come play at McNary next season.

"They knew we were playing a bunch of freshmen and missing some of our starters," Bowlby said.

"They saw the potential in our boys and the way that we played. They know it's going to be a challenge next year. That's a huge thing as a coach. We got punched in the throat but the other team sees this team is going to be good come next season. We shouldn't be missing any

pieces and everything will be there."

The Celtics also kept their composure, even getting compliments from the referees.

"The officials came up to me after the game and said our program was the most kind and generous and most controlled that they'd ever officiated," Bowlby said.

"The boys kept their cool. We were down by more than 10 points and the boys didn't start fouling. They didn't do any of that hot headedness that a lot of teams will do when they're down by that many. They kept their heads up and we kept playing our style of game. That was huge praise to get that from officials."

McNary is back home against Thurston on Friday, April 7 at 8 p.m.

The Celtics then open league play on Tuesday, April 11 at South Salem, beginning at 7 p.m.

McNary golfers place second

Playing on its home course, McNary's boys golf team shot 332 on Monday, April 3 to finish second behind West Salem (315).

Davis Kaiser carded an 81, including a birdie on the seventh hole, to lead the Celtics at McNary Golf Club.

Matt Langenwalter and

Casey Potmesil each shot 83. Teegan Papke added an 85.

Joel Dutcher had to withdraw after three holes with a back injury.

West Salem golfers had the two top scores.

Andrew Eyre was low medalist with a 72 and Will Papendieck carded a 77.

Sprague (365) finished a distant third, followed by West Albany (374), South Salem (391), Forest Grove (396) and McMinnville (408).

The Celtics are back in action on Monday, April 10 at Salem Golf Club as they prepare for the district tournament on May 2 at Quail Valley.

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Matt Langenwalter shot 83 on Monday, April 3 at McNary Golf Club.

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