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Celtics see state champs in 7-on-7



McNary sophomore Erick Barker, who is one of three players getting snaps at quarterback this summer, eyes an open receiver during a 7-on-7 at South Salem High School.

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary got an up-close look at one of the top football programs in the state, competing in 7-on-7 drills against back-to-back 6A state champions West Linn on Tuesday, July 11 at South Salem High School.

"I was excited to see West Linn here because they're the cream of the crop," Celtics assistant coach Brad Emmert said.

"They do a lot of things really well so it was a good opportunity for us to go against somebody like that."

McNary also got to measure itself against a Greater Valley Conference opponent in South Salem.

"It's a huge advantage for us to play South in the summer because it gives us an idea of where we're at, not only physically but also just from a confidence standpoint," Emmert said.

The Celtics rotated 10 plays on offense and then 10 on defense with each team.

Emmert said what stood out was McNary's depth.

"We have a bunch of athletes," he said. "What I'm proud of these guys for the

most on both sides of the ball is we go two-deep and we bring our subs in, there's not a lot of drop off. I'm pleased with that."

Emmert also echoed what head coach Jeff Auvinen said during spring practice—"Everything is wide open."

The Celtics had three players getting snaps at quarterback—sophomore Erik Barker, junior Ryan Bamford and senior Casey Toavs. All three bring something different to the position.

"Toavs is one of the smartest guys you're ever going to meet," Emmert said. "That works to his advantage and Barker is the most prototypical quarterback. He's a kid with a ton of upside and Bamford is 5-8 or 5-9 but he throws the shot out of it for being a little guy. We'll let it play out and see what happens. Someone is going to separate."

The same competition is happening at receiver, where McNary graduated many of its most productive playmakers.

"We've got seven different receivers on the outside spots that right now are really vying for those two starting spots," Emmert said.

"Johnny Williams, for example, was a starter last year but hadn't quite made it and with Griffin Oliveira, Devyn Schurr, all these juniors coming up, he's got to play and he's responded. That's what we want to see and those guys Devyn and Griffin, those guys have responded as well to try to answer the bell. I think competition is a good thing. Overall it's going to make us better."

Despite all of the uncertainty, Emmert is pleased with how the team is coming together.

The Celtics have participated in 7-on-7 competitions in Woodburn and the Portland area throughout the summer as well as lifting weights and working on speed, quickness and agility three days a week.

Team camp is scheduled to begin on Aug. 7 with fall practice officially starting Aug. 14.

"You find out a lot more when you put pads on," Emmert said.

Blue Day is August 19 and a jamboree the following weekend.

McNary opens the regular season on Friday, Sept. 1 at home against North Salem.

Northwood, Holiday win swim meets

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Northwood Park Swim Club dominated relays to defeat Jan Ree 322-160 Thursday, July 13.

Sayje Castronovo, Kaitlyn Schaffer, Meili Skipper and Kylie Wells won the girls 9-10-year-old medley relay. Castronovo, Skipper, Wells and Kaitlyn Roop also placed first in the free relay as Northwood's girls outscored Jan Ree 175-112.

Melia Wells, Brooke Junker, Ella Ditchen and Ainsleigh Pack had the fastest time in the 11-12 medley relay.

Wells, Pack, Ditchen and Molly Eisele won the 11-12 free relay.

Junker swam on the winning 13-14 free relay with Madie Trammell, Ellie Auvinen and Kaitlyn Wilcke. Trammell, Auvinen, Wilcke and Isabella Walker took first in the 13-14 medley relay.

Grace Trammell, Rioanna Zeller, Alyssa Garvey and Ashley Hawley won the 15-18 medley relay.

Paris Boyd had the fastest times in the 13-14 individual medley, free and breaststroke.



LEFT: Kylie Wells cheers on her Northwood teammates during the 9-10-year old medley relay. RIGHT: Holiday swimmer Jonah Strunk dives into the water for the 7-8 medley relay on Thursday, July 13.

Wilcke won the 13-14 backstroke. Eisele placed first in the 9-10 IM and free. Roop won the 9-10 backstroke.

Zeller touched the wall first in the 15-18 IM and fly. Junker won the 11-12 backstroke. Northwood's boys won six



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

relays to easily outscore Jan Ree 147-48.

Cameron Harrington, Jeffrey Olsen, Caedmon Chris-

tensen and Grant Schaffer finished first in the 9-10 medley and free relays. Elijah Clendening, Riley Auvinen,

Andrew Zeller and Conner Roop also swept the 11-12 medley and free relays.

Please see SWIM, Page 14



Submitted

McNary baseball players Andrew Brown, front, from left, Erik Sorenson, Danny Okada, Riley Gates, back, from left, Jamieson Martin, Ethan Patterson, Nigel Harris, Alex Simpson, Rennick Jeffries, Drew Bartlett, Cameron Zerbe, Coach Jordan Keeker, not pictured, Danny Mood and Robert Benson all competed in the Division II state baseball tournament in Eugene July 13-14.

McNary D-II squad finishes summer at state tournament

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary's run in the Division II state baseball tournament ended with two one-run losses.

After falling to North Eugene 6-5 on Thursday, July 13, the Celtics again came up short in an 8-7 loss to South Medford on Friday, July 14 at Thurston High School in Eugene.

"We weren't able to score late in the game to win but I thought we pitched well," McNary coach Jordan Keeker said of the first game. "We played pretty good defense. We just couldn't get the situational hit."

McNary's team was made up of mostly rising sophomores and juniors who were on Keeker's JV2 squad in the spring. The Celtics played 18 games during the summer, finishing 9-11 overall but 7-5 in league play.

"There's a lot of opportunities in the summer, just because guys are busy doing other sports so the guys that come out and play in the summer get a lot of opportunities to get better and that was the goal," Keeker said. "The goal was to improve and I think we did that."

Sophomore Rennick Jeffries led McNary at the plate this summer, hitting .429 with

nine RBIs and 12 runs scored. Junior Drew Bartlett hit .390 with 14 runs. Alex Simpson scored 20 runs and had 13 RBIs to go along with a .364 average. Andrew Brown hit .371 and added 14 runs and 12 RBIs. Nigel Harris scored 16 runs and had a .370 average. As a team, the Celtics hit .326.

Rennick and Jameson Martin pitched most of the innings for McNary.

Most importantly, Keeker saw mental growth from the club.

"This group has definitely mentally matured as baseball players," Keeker said.

Please see STATE, Page 14