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## Celtics again open with North Salem

By DEREK WILEY Of the Keizertimes

North Salem, a 2-7 football team a year ago, scheduled to move down a classification next season, is likely to be overlooked by many teams this fall.

Not McNary.

The Celtics, who open the 2017 campaign at home against North Salem on Friday, Sept. 1, had to overcome an 11-point fourth quarter deficit to defeat the Vikings last season, scoring the winning touchdown with just 1:23 remaining in the game.

"We went into the game a little over our heads and we need to stay composed and take it one step at a time," McNary senior Lucas Garvey said. "That's what we learned last year. You can't ever judge a team by what their record was last year. You have to go into it with an open mind and just play our game."

Garvey did his part a year ago, rushing for 131 yards and a touchdown on 28 carries. At cornerback, he also had an interception.

"Going into your first varsity game and being able to

"I'm going to try to mimic or do even better than I did last year."

McNary has won its last three season openers against North Salem but the victories haven't come easy. The Celtics trailed 14-8 at halftime of the 2015 game before winning 34-21.

"Playing them first game is really tough," Celtics head coach Jeff Auvinen said. "They play with good leverage. They play hard. They battle us every year back and forth. I don't think coach (Jeff) Flood likes playing us first game and I know we don't like playing them first

What makes the Vikings difficult to defend is their Wing-T offense.

"Especially offensively, they do their stuff really well," Auvinen said. "They have been doing their Wing-T set forever. They are going to continue to do it forever so they don't have a whole bunch to learn every year so they can concentrate on

McNary's defense strugrun like that, gives me a lot gled to contain North Sa-

of confidence," Garvey said. lem's running game last season, especially in the first three quarters.

"We need to be very disciplined," Auvinen said of his defense. "We need to play with good leverage at the line of scrimmage, lower than the opponent, can't be moved, so there's nowhere to run. We need to each handle our gaps. That's the plan. Hopefully we'll execute a little better than we did last year. I didn't call a very good game. When we did blitz, we over penetrated and got up the field. When we took a step back and just played football and stopped blitzing so much, we were able to make our reads and go."

While North Salem graduated its quarterback and many skill players, the Vikings are experienced on the offensive line.

"It's a little worrisome because that's where most games are won and lost," Auvinen said of the line. "With that offense, if you can open holes, people can run through them. It will be interesting to see what their new running backs are like."

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary senior Jose Solorio will be a big part of the offense and defense as the Celtics kickoff the football season Friday, Sept. 1 at home against North Salem.

### Lady Celts top McKay in DeMello's debut



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wilev McNary junior Kara Thomas, left, looks on as senior Valerie Diede knocks the ball over the net in

By DEREK WILEY

Of the Keizertimes

McNary began the Crystal DeMello era of volleyball with a 3-0 win at McKay on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

"It's exciting to get the season rolling," said DeMello, a McNary graduate and former player in her first season as the Lady Celts head coach.

"It feels like there's been a long build up to get the season started. Now that we're going, I think the girls are ready and we're pushing through. It's a good way to start the season."

The closest of the three games against McKay was the first one as McNary led 19-12 but the Scots came storming back to tie the set at 19-19.

"They started out flat," DeMello said of her team. "They weren't focused at the beginning. They weren't distributing the ball, so we'll

carry that over and keep learning.

The Celts regained the lead on a McKav service error and held on for a 25-21 victory.

"It's always good to be able to come back," DeMello said. "It's something I think a team has to practice because this is a game of momentum. It's nice to know that they have that mental toughness to dig in. It's also nice to see that they can execute under pressure. Playing under pressure is a learned skill so it's nice to see that it's there."

Freshman Taylor Ebbs got the start and had two kills in the final four points to seal the victory for McNary. Senior Valerie Diede also had a kill down the stretch.

"We just got our momentum back and our energy back and our confidence and once we got that, we were back to ourselves," Ebbs said. The Celts carried that momentum into the second

game, taking a 14-7 lead be-

fore putting away McKay 25-McNary then jumped out to a 12-1 advantage in the final game and won 25-9 to

finish off the match. "The girls are a great team," DeMello said. "Ev-

erybody played tonight. Everybody stepped in and I felt like it was seamless, which is something that I love about this team is that they can all play together and lead each other. "Our opponents are always

tough and you never know what they are going to do so momentum in this game and making sure that they cary it forward. That's what we look for and that they stay disciplined no matter what the score is."

#### Volcanoes drop series to Spokane

#### By HERB SWETT Of the Keizertimes

Spokane guaranteed a series win Monday with a 9-4 thrashing of the Volcanoes.

a 3-0 win at McKay on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

The game was a contest until the ninth inning, when the visiting Indians, ahead 2-1, scored nine runs. Salem-Keizer, known lately for lateinning rallies, fell far short in the bottom of the ninth.

Jose Marte, the starting and losing pitcher for the Volcanoes, pitched his way out of a bases-loaded threat when he got Nick Kaye to ground into a double play.

Spokane's first run came in the third. Tyler Ratliff and Austin O'Banion hit oneout singles to left field. Matt Whatley scored Ratliff with a single to center.

The Volcanoes answered with a run in the same inning.

walk, and Shane Matheny reached first base by grounding into a force out. Malique Ziegler grounded into another force out and stole second base. Bryce Johnson singled to center, driving in Ziegler.

Curtis Terry led off the Spokane fourth with a home run over the left field fence, giving the Indians a 2-1 lead. The score stood there until

After Terry hit a two-out single to left in the sixth, Aaron Phillips relieved Marte and retired the next batter.

In the Volcano sixth, after a one-out walk to Orlando Garcia, Josh Advocate relieved starting pitcher Tai Tiedemann, who was to get the win. Advocate struck out the next two batters.

Luis Lopez took the mound

Chris Corbett led off with a for the Indians in the bottom of the seventh.

> The ninth started with a single to center by Melvin

Pedro Gonzalez ran for Novoa and went to second on an infield single by Terry. On a sacrifice bunt by Kole Enright, Phillips made a wild throw over first baseman Ryan Kirby's head, Gonzalez scored, Terry went to third, and Enright went to second. Nick Kaye singled to right, driving in Terry. Miguel Aparicio singled to right center, scoring

John Timmins replaced Phillips. Chris Seise doubled to right center, driving in Kaye and Aparicio. Seise, who went to third on the play, scored as O'Banion hit a sacrifice fly to center. A ground out, a walk, and another ground out fol-

lowed, and Spokane had a 9-1

Manuel Geraldo led off the Volcano ninth with a single to right. Junior Amion popped out to shortstop, and Chris Corbett grounded out but moved Geraldo to second. Shane Matheny singled to right, scoring Geraldo. Malique Ziegler hit a home run over the left field wall, his fifth. Bryce Johnson's liner to first base ended the game.

Tiedemann went to a 4-4 record, and Lopez had his first save. Marte's loss was his fifth against two wins. The attendance was 1,442.

"With the kind of stretch that we are in now," Volcano manager Jolbert Cabrera said, "it's hard. We're giving up too many runs early. We're searching for answers."

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Salem-Keizer pitcher Alex Bostic throws off the mound in a game earlier this summer.