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Celtics host 'angry' Sprague

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary senior Tim Kiser expects to face a mad Sprague team, fresh off a 35-0 loss to West Salem, when the Olympians come to Keizer on Friday, Sept. 15.

"They're going to be angry," Kiser said. "They're going to want revenge and they're going to want to go hard against whatever comes next, which means we have to play harder."

McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen expects to face a better team than the Sprague

squad that lost five fumbles, including four in the first half, in the blowout loss at West Salem.

"They're a good football team," Auvinen said of the Olympians. "They showed that against South (Salem). I think they're going to be primed and ready to play their better ball and we're going to be primed to take another step up, too. I think it's going to be a good ball game."

Sprague had lost to West Salem in 2016 as well when the Olympians followed up



McNary's Junior Walling sniffs out a reverse in the first half of last season's football game at Sprague.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Jerry Lane coached McNary to the 1975 3A state wrestling championship and won four district team championships over 30 seasons.

Wrestling reunion to honor coach

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Former McNary High School wrestlers are invited to McNary Restaurant and Lounge on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. for a reunion and celebration of longtime coach Jerry Lane.

After wrestling at Iowa State Teacher's College and then coaching in Colorado, Lane came to McNary when the school opened in 1965.

At the encouragement of his old high school coach, Cy Bellock, who was now leading the wrestling program at North Salem, Lane had interviewed for a job in Salem two years earlier but decided to stay in Colorado. When Bellock called Lane again to tell him the district was opening a new school, Lane couldn't turn down the opportunity to

build his own program.

"It was a dream," Lane said. "At McNary you were able to start from scratch."

Lane was an assistant at North Salem under Bellock for two years while McNary was being built. Bellock then left North Salem and joined Lane as an assistant coach at McNary.

The Celtics joined a stacked league that included recent state champions Lebanon and Sweet Home. Corvallis was on its way to winning two titles.

McNary defeated both Salem schools, North and South, in its first year but finished fifth in the conference. In its second season, the Celtics had their first district champion in heavyweight Dick Wilm-schem. Dave True was district runner-up.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary quarterback Erik Barker and H-back Brayden Ebbs celebrate in the South Salem end zone after Barker scored a 1-yard touchdown on fourth-and-goal with less than a minute left to play.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Caiya Ewert and sophomore Zoie Warner try to block the ball at the net at North Salem on Thursday, Sept. 7.

Lady Celts begin league play 4-1

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—Another close first game turned into a blow-out as McNary went on the road and defeated North Salem 3-0 on Thursday, Sept. 7.

The Lady Celts looked like they would easily win the first set, taking a 15-8 advantage.

However, unforced errors gave North Salem life and the Lady Vikings took full advantage, tying the game at 23-23 after McNary missed on back-to-back kills, one wide and another long.

The Lady Celts were able to regroup and win the next

two points to take the first game 25-23.

"We started slow but we picked it up at the end of the game," said libero Sophia Salinas, who had 11 digs in the win.

"We talked way more and started playing less frantic and more disciplined. It was just our energy level."

MHS head coach Crystal DeMello agreed the Lady Celts energy wasn't where it needed to be.

"North had amazing energy and we need to mirror that," DeMello said.

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Redemption

Barker's five TDs leads McNary over South Salem

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—Using his arm, Erik Barker made sure McNary got off to a fast start at South Salem.

But the Celtics quarterback finished off the Saxons with his legs.

Facing a fourth-and-goal from the South Salem 1-yard line with less than a minute left to play, Barker faked a handoff and broke multiple tackles on the edge to fight his way into the end zone.

"Giving me that run play I was just so excited," Barker said.

"I just saw the edge and put my shoulder down. I was just so determined to get in the end zone. I just lowered my shoulder and kept running."

Tim Kiser then recovered a fumble after a sack by Junior Walling and Freddy Jimna to complete the 37-26 McNary victory on Friday, Sept. 8.

At halftime, the Celtics appeared as if they might blow out South Salem.

McNary scored on its opening possession as Barker and Jacob Jackson connected for an 11-yard touchdown to complete a 12-play, 65-yard drive.

The Saxons took their only lead, 12-7, on a 23-yard pass on fourth-and-12 with 1:53 remaining in the first quarter. But the Celtics came right back down the field and Barker hit Jackson for another

11-yard touchdown to put McNary back on top 13-12 with 11:26 remaining in the second quarter.

The Celtics then took advantage of two turnovers.

After an interception by Alex McGrath gave McNary the ball inside South Salem's 35-yard line, Barker completed two passes to Kyle McCallister, the second a 13-yard touchdown.

Ian Koenig then recovered a fumble inside the Saxon 20-yard line and Barker connected with Jonathan Williams for a 10-yard touchdown to stretch the Celtic lead to 27-12 with 5:23 remaining in the first half.

"Our game plan was solid," Barker said. "They (Saxons defense) loaded the box to stop the run and that left it wide open for easy throws."

Jackson added a 24-yard field goal and McNary went into intermission ahead 30-12.

South Salem's first possession of the second half ended with another turnover as Kiser batted a pass into the air and McGrath collected his second interception.

McNary continued to move the ball but failed to add any points as Jackson missed a 26-yard field goal.

After the Saxons got within 30-18 on a 16-yard touchdown pass, Barker threw an interception inside South Salem's 20-yard

line. Another Barker interception, this time returned for a 17-yard touchdown, and a successful two-point conversion got the Saxons within 30-26 of McNary with 6:21 left to play.

"We were still up," Barker said of what was going through his mind after the second interception. "I just needed to keep playing my game, didn't need to force anything."

With the Celtic running game stymied, Barker completed three passes to get McNary to the South Salem 31-yard line. But after two negative runs and an incomplete pass, the Celtics had to punt, giving the ball back to the Saxons with 2:19 remaining.

South Salem's two minute drill didn't last long as Jackson intercepted quarterback Elijah Enomoto-Haole on just the second play and McNary took over at the Saxon 8-yard line.

"Our defensive line put really good pressure on the quarterback," Jackson said. "Alex McGrath made a great play on the ball, tipped it right to me."

The Celtics ran the ball three times to set up the fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line.

"We went back and forth," McNary offensive coordinator Brad Emmert said of the play call.

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