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# BOUC JEWEL

## Lady Celts continue strong defensive play

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

McNary's young defense has stepped up to every challenge this season.

On Thursday, Sept. 21, the Lady Celts held Forest Grove, a team that had scored 19 goals in seven matches, to just one on a deflection in the 70th minute.

But missing two of their top offensive weapons, Izzy Haselip and Natalia Gonzalez, with injuries, one was too many as McNary fell 1-0 at home.

"This is the best offense we've played this year and the best possession team," McNary head coach A.J. Nash said of Forest Grove.

"I felt pretty comfortable for most of the game. West was good, too. They're a little bit faster and a little bit stronger but this team they're a little bit more skilled.

"Their forward and the way that they played with the tandem up top is going to give us some great film that exposed our lack of playing together more today than it ever has. It's going to give us a great opportunity to use

film and get their mind used to seeing a different formation and a different style of play."

The Vikings didn't produce many dangerous opportunities. A shot off a cross hit a McNary defender and deflected into the corner of the goal for the only score of the game.

"Sometimes the ball just doesn't bounce your way," Nash said.

The goal was only the second McNary's defense, led by goalkeeper Sydney Snapp and sweeper Samantha Alfano, has allowed in seven games.

"Sydney has been our vocal leadership and Sam is one of the best defenders in the conference, even as a sophomore," Nash said.

"We shut down their attack in large part. I was very proud of what we did."

Sophomore Maya Luscomb and freshmen Audrey Williams and Ashlyn Lyda have also stepped up.

"Ultimately, we've got a lot of depth," Nash said. "I didn't know what I was getting in their first year as

players on the varsity level but from a talent prospective their growth has been exponential throughout the season."

But with such a young group, there's still plenty of room for improvement.

"I'm really proud of their process but we've still got a lot to clean up before October," Nash said.

Abigail Hawley, another of the Lady Celts goal scorers, tried to play through an injury but had to leave the game early. Haselip and Gonzalez are both expected back by October and could return as early as next week.

"I'd be excited to play these guys (Forest Grove) in the playoffs," Nash said. "I think we match up real well against them with our offense back and our midfield back."

McNary's offensive woes continued Tuesday, Sept 26 as the Lady Celts lost 2-0 at West Albany (6-1-1).

McNary plays at McMinnville Tuesday, Oct. 4. The Lady Celts next home game is Friday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. against McKay.



McNary goalkeeper Sydney Snapp has allowed only four goals in seven games this season, including four shutouts. KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

## McNary runners post PRs

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

With McNary senior Kailey Douth out, freshman Ella Repp got to lead the Lady Celts on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at Neil Armstrong Middle School in Forest Grove.

Repp, who finished fourth with a new personal record of 20:14, was surprised by her time.

"I feel like I could have gone faster because it was such a flat course that I felt like I should have pushed myself more," Repp said. "I ended up with a better time than I thought I did. I felt like I've gotten into shape. I've been trying to keep up with Kailey and she's been good at pushing me."

McNary head coach David Holcomb said Douth just simply needed a day off.

"She had been training really hard," Holcomb said. "To

preserve her for the rest of the season we wanted her to have a little time off."

Holcomb was pleased with how Repp ran against some of the Greater Valley Conference's best runners in Forest Grove's Hannah Aguirre and Hannah Berdahl, who both finished in 19:17, as well as North Salem sophomore Abi Swain, who placed third in 19:33.

"It was really her first race pushing it with top district runners," Holcomb said. "She had good pace. I think she can run faster. When she's up against Kaylee (Mitchell) and Ginger (Murnieks) and Anna (Chau) from South and Sprague, I think she'll run faster. With more experience and race strategy, she'll get there."

With a PR of 18:15, McNary junior David Allen is also getting faster as he figures out his race strategy. Allen placed

ninth behind seven runners from Forest Grove and one from North Salem.

"This time he got out and tried to stay up there and from that tells us coaches what we can work on next couple of weeks to help make sure he's staying on a good pace and not dropping back as much," Holcomb said. "We also don't want him to start so slow that he has to work forward and pass a bunch of guys."

Senior Jonas Honeyman was the second McNary runner to cross the finish line, taking 12th in 18:51. Ethan Whalen (19:06), Francisco Orta (19:08) and Brennan Whalen (19:22) completed the scoring.

Emma Garland was the second Lady Celt to finish, placing 11th in 21:42. Reyna Terrazas (22:22), Alison Repp (23:28) and Sabella Alfaro (23:51) also scored.

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