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McNary junior David Allen finished sixth in 17 minutes and 56 seconds at West Salem High School on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Allen goes under 18 as Celtics PR

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—McNary cross country coaches challenged junior David Allen to run hard at West Salem and see what happens.

The result was a 19-second personal record of 17:56 and top-six finish.

"I didn't expect to go as fast as I just did," Allen said after the race on Wednesday, Oct. 4. "I thought I was done but I somehow got a last kick in the end. It's crazy. I tried to start off harder this week than the last race we did because I didn't start hard enough so I had way too much energy at the end."

The 5K was a breakthrough for Allen, who is in his first season running cross country and has gotten faster and faster in nearly every race

since opening the season with an 18:34 at McMinnville.

"The lights came on," McNary head coach David Holcomb said. "He ran as fast as he could and we want to see that next week and the week after."

Allen wasn't the only Celtic to PR. Ethan (18:37) and Brennan Whalen (19:06), Noah Egli (19:18.2), Samuel Hernandez (19:18.9) and Nathaniel Prout (19:55) all had best times in the varsity boys race.

Senior Jonas Honeyman crossed the finish line in 19:01.

"I think the kids are hungry," Holcomb said. "They've been putting in a lot of time and a lot of work."

McNary senior Kailey Doult led the Lady Celts, finishing second in a season best 19:57. Doult tried to run

with South Salem junior Anna Chau, who won the race in 19:12, for as long as she could. That turned out to be about a mile.

"She took off but I just wanted to see how long I could stay with her because that's where I need to be at districts, up there with the top runners," Doult said.

"I was actually really happy with it (19:57) because it's the fastest that I've run this year and there were a lot of hills. I didn't think I was going to run my best time this season because of the hills but that gives me more confidence that I can run faster."

McNary freshman Ella Repp wasn't far behind Doult, placing third with a PR of 20:07. However, Repp wasn't as happy with her time.

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Bravo ends scoreless streak

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

With five minutes remaining, McNary appeared to be heading for another 0-0 tie.

Jovanie Bravo had other plans, out-running the Franklin defense and putting the ball past the keeper to give the Celtics a much needed 1-0 victory on Monday, Oct. 9.

"I had a couple of chances in the first half and was disappointed I couldn't finish them," Bravo said. "I knew I had to do something for my team. These three points are really going to help us out in the rankings. We knew we had to win."

Bravo was inspired by former McNary players Gustavo Villalvazo and Bryan Keo, who attended the game and told the team to play the game like it was their last.

"I saw it was a long ball and I just sprinted to it like it was a final," Bravo said of scoring the goal. "This win means a lot to us."

The victory came after McNary tied McKay 0-0 on Friday, Oct. 6.

Celtics head coach Miguel Camarena did everything he could to try to break the scoreless streak, moving from three forwards to five in the final 10 minutes against Franklin.

"We risked it in the back," Camarena said. "We tried to put as many as we could. A couple of times they had a big chance. But for us, we have to

win. We went for it and it paid off."

Miguel Bravo nearly got McNary on the scoreboard in the first two minutes, firing a shot directly at the Franklin keeper. Sebastian Lopez then had to make two saves in the 13th and 14th minutes to keep the game tied.

The Celtics had another opportunity in the 24th minute when a header served up on a cross by Miguel Bravo bounced over the crossbar. Bhavdeep Bains then found Jovanie Bravo on a cross but Franklin's keeper made a diving save. Michael Reyes put another shot on goal shortly after but McNary went into halftime tied 0-0.

"We create so many opportunities," Camarena said. "We have some open goals where if you score, the game changes. We have to keep working."

Franklin forced a foot save by Lopez in the 56th minute. Bains then put a shot on goal in the 74th minute before Jovanie Bravo finally got the Celtics on the scoreboard.

McNary nearly upset undefeated and No. 1 ranked McMinnville on Wednesday, Oct. 4 as a Miguel Bravo penalty kick broke a 0-0 tie in the 68th minute. But the Grizzlies quickly answered with two goals to secure a 2-1 victory.

"We were 12 minutes away from a big upset," Camarena said.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Jovanie Bravo heads the ball in the air during a 1-0 victory against Franklin on Monday, Oct. 9.

McNary falls on homecoming

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary came from behind last season to defeat McMinnville on its homecoming.

A year later, the Grizzlies got their payback.

With 9 seconds remaining, McMinnville quarterback Samuel DuPuis broke a tackle to score a 2-yard touchdown as the Grizzlies stunned McNary 39-35 on Friday, Oct. 6.

After a squib kick gave the Celtics the ball at midfield, Erik Barker completed a 16-yard pass to Jacob Jackson to give McNary one last chance with 4 seconds left to play. However, Barker's final throw sailed out of the back of the end zone.

After the game, McNary head coach

Jeff Auvinen told his team McMinnville simply made more plays.

The Celtics led 35-24 entering the fourth quarter after Barker and Junior Walling connected for a 36-yard touchdown, the Grizzlies fumbled the following kickoff, Alex McGrath recovered, and then Walling added a 5-yard touchdown run.

With 7:29 remaining in the game, McNary failed to convert a third-and-1 and decided to punt, which McMinnville senior Odin Thorson returned 65 yards for a touchdown to get the Grizzlies within 35-32 after a successful two-point conversion.

"We kicked it low, we kicked it short and right to him," Auvinen said. "He caught it moving forward and he was gone. That was good play by him and not a very good play by us."

Auvinen said McNary coaches had discussed faking the punt before deciding to kick it.

"You don't expect that to happen," Auvinen said of Thorson's return. "That's about the worst-case scenario."

The Celtics went three-and-out on its next possession, giving the ball right back to McMinnville with 6:07 left to play. Starting at their own 41, the Grizzlies completed a 7-yard pass and then ran the ball eight straight times to set up a third-and-1 from the McNary 7-yard line.

The Celtics stopped McMinnville short of the first-down marker to set up a fourth-and-inches but then jumped off-sides, giving the Grizzlies a first-and-goal inside the 4-yard line.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary senior Kyle McCallister runs away from a trio of McMinnville defenders on Friday, Oct. 6.