

Claggett Creek remains undefeated

Claggett Creek defeated Stephens 38-6 on Wednesday, Oct. 11 at home.

The Panthers led 14-6 at halftime before running away with the game in the second half.

"Rudy Garcia and Aron Montoya ran the ball exceptionally well in the second half," CCMS head coach Aaron Carr said. "The defense held strong against Stephens."

Montoya scored four touchdowns in the rout. Garcia and Even Cornell had the other two.

The Panthers are 4-0, having outscored their opponents 132-18.

Whiteaker

Whiteaker's varsity football team fell to Parrish 28-22 on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Prior to kickoff, the fans were treated to the presentation of the Colors by the McNary High School JROTC cadets, and a stirring rendition of the National Anthem performed by Whiteaker seventh grader Cristian Gloria-Garcia.

"Every year I invite [JROTC Commander] Major Garcia and his cadets to present the colors, and we are so grateful that they serve the Whiteaker community in this way," Tom Larimer, head coach at Whiteaker, said. "Those young men and women demonstrate dignity, pride, and respect in everything they do, and they will be back at Whiteaker for as many years as I am around."

Larimer also complimented Gloria-Garcia: "Cristian did an amazing job. He is a talented vocalist, and it shows great maturity to do a solo performance of our National Anthem—a capella no less—at such a young age. Next year Cristian will be playing football for us, but I also plan to talk him into singing the Anthem a few more times."

In a seesaw game that saw both teams strike for long scores, Whiteaker came up just short.

"I'm proud of these kids and love coaching them," Larimer said. "It's becoming a recurring

theme: our offensive line—Spencer Millis, Isaiah McGrath, Carlos Saldaña, Ethan Fislser, and Jordan Jarnagin—play great, so we control the clock and score points, but we are just so shorthanded on defense and give up too many big plays. Almost all these kids are playing football for the very first time and we have lost more than we have won, but my staff (Marcus Larimer, Zachary Drake and Kurt Barker) has done a great job teaching them the game and making them competitive in almost every game. Most importantly, we are all having a great time and I think almost all these kids will continue to play at McNary. I'll be really sad to see this season end."

The Wolverines scores came on a touchdown run by Jared Garibay, and two touchdown passes from Porter Vaughn to Carson Long.

Whiteaker closes its season with games at Adams Stephens on Oct. 24 and versus undefeated Claggett at McNary on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
Aron Montoya runs past a Parrish defender and into the end zone earlier this season. Montoya scored four touchdowns on Wednesday, Oct. 11 against Stephens.

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The Southwest Conference, which has just six teams (Grants Pass, North Medford, Roseburg, Sheldon, South Eugene and South Medford), will have to schedule four non-league football games. While the Southwest Conference has partnered with the GVC in the past, McNary's football team is playing at North Medford Friday, Salem-Keizer schools would no longer be able to afford to do so after traveling to Bend. That leaves the Southwest Conference having to travel to Portland.

"If Salem is in a league with Eugene, the amount of money that we'd save from our Bend travel budgets is enough

to continue our relationships with the Southern Oregon schools," Wittman said. "We've felt an obligation to help out our brothers and sisters down South. My teams at West currently play down there regularly. Those relationships will cease because of where we are with travel budgets. If you're looking at mileage as the basis for making your decision, take a look at league and non-league mileage."

Brian Armstrong, athletic director at South Salem, added he'd hate for students in traditionally non-cut sports to not be able to compete because there wasn't enough seats on the bus.

"We want kids to be involved," Armstrong said. "We want kids to be connected. We want kids to graduate."

Sprague athletic director James Weber said the OSAA was choosing competitive balance over safety and educational time.

Athletic directors from the Southwest Conference weren't happy with the final proposal either but for a completely different reason.

"All a long we've maintained that the worst thing to happen to us is to end up with six schools in our conference," Roseburg athletic director Russ Bolin said. "In football, South Eugene may be in a situation where they go independent. We have four league games and we're going to try to find five football games. We won't find them. There's no way to find those games. We're going to be stuck with some of those scheduling aspects."

But Bolin didn't want the Bend schools either.

"They're (Salem-Keizer) saying it's not safe for their kids to travel over all the passes but all of the sudden it's safe for all of our kids to travel all over the passes," Bolin said. "In reality, the passes that we're traveling over are a lot more dangerous than the passes that they would be traveling over. I have a hard time saying it's not okay for their kids but it's okay for our kids. It's less safe for us to go there and more mileage."

Bolin wanted Willamette, which has moved down to 5A, to remain in the Southwest Conference.

No one from the Bend high schools (Bend, Summit, Mountain View) testified at the meeting. Neither did anyone from McNary or Keizer.

Although athletic director Scott Gragg previously told the Keizertimes McNary would adapt to whatever the executive board decided.

"You can look at it two ways," Gragg said. "You can look at it as a problem or a

negative or you can look at it as an opportunity. I'm surrounded by leadership in our district that will use it as an opportunity and we'll make the best and make sure that our kids are engaged and safe and successful."

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"She had leadership qualities even as a freshman that you can build a program around," Nash said. "She's been a huge part of the culture that's been built and we're going to miss her next year."

It joined a defense that returned only one starter this season but has allowed only nine goals in 12 matches.

"She's added a toughness to this team," Nash said. "In training and in games, we can count on her to bring that intensity and more importantly that toughness."

McNary controlled the game against North Salem

from the starting whistle and in the sixth minute junior Natalia Gonzalez found the lower corner of the goal off a cross from sophomore Julie Dieker to start the scoring.

In the 15th minute it was junior Katy Wyatt inside the six yard box who found the end of a Dieker cross for the Lady Celts second goal. Sophomore Haley Hughes then slotted home a third goal, serviced by sophomore defender Samantha Alfano in the 24th minute. Junior Abigail Hawley found the ball off a turnover in the North Salem end, and placed a shot to the lower left corner from 20 yards out to give McNary a 4-0 lead at halftime.

Seven minutes into the second half, Buss nearly stretched

the lead to 5-0, firing a shot off the post. But 15 seconds later, Buss was able to finish on a cross into the box from Shore.

Shore's two goals came less than two minutes apart. After firing a shot off the cross bar, sophomore Ariana Santana was able to finish a shot in the lower right hand corner in the 59th minute.

It's header came in the 62nd minute. McNary mostly called the dogs off in the final 17 minutes, kicking the ball around in the back.

The win over North Salem was the Lady Celts ninth of the season, which is the most in the program's history.

"This year we got to honor those who have really given to the program, whether it's one



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
McNary sophomore Julie Dieker assisted the Lady Celts first two goals against North Salem.

year or their full four years," Nash said.

Conference behind West Salem and Sprague and in a good spot to finish at least inside the top four.

"I told the kids last week before the game that it's going to be kind of a playoff environment, starting with West Albany," Auvinen said. "North Medford, I think is a playoff caliber team."

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teams ranked in the top six in the OSAA power rankings.

Sheldon, No. 4, gave West Salem its only loss, 41-7, on Sept. 18. North Medford gave Sheldon a slightly closer game, losing 35-7, but were blown

out by South Medford the next week 55-6. South Medford only beat South Salem 28-21.

North Medford is 22nd in the power rankings. McNary is 18th.

"Week in and week out, they'll be very competitive teams down there," Auvinen said. "It will be interesting,

a long trip. The kids aren't used to that. These kids I don't think have ever gone on one. We've played Crater and North Medford in non-league but it was a long time ago before these kids were playing."

With last week's win at West Albany, the Celtics are third in the Greater Valley

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