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McNary wins play-in game

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary continues to live to fight another day.

Five days after defeating No. 13 South Salem 3-0 to earn a play-in game, the Celtics won 1-0 at Tualatin on Tuesday, Oct. 24 to punch their ticket into the 6A state tournament.

McNary went into half-time tied 0-0 but McNary junior Jovanie Bravo scored the game-winning goal in the 69th minute, capitalizing on a cross from junior Francisco Rios.

Tualatin put multiple shots on goal in the second half but Celtic goalkeeper Sebastian Lopez was able to keep the Timberwolves scoreless.

Rios scored all three goals in the first half against South Salem on Thursday, Oct. 19, the last on a header off a corner kick. Jose Zamudio, a junior who came up from the JV for the game, had an assist.

"It was the most important game of the season," Rios said. "We had to score no matter what. We just played super

good that game. We went all at it. We played the same way we did against McMinnville and just destroyed them."

McNary head coach Miguel Camarena was thrilled to see the three goals after the Celtics has controlled possession throughout the season but failed to put the ball in the net. McNary had scored less than two goals in eight of its 13 matches.

"Throughout the season, our team has had more possession than the other teams," Camarena said.

"We just couldn't score. That's the difference that you see today. Finally you crystallize what you've been practicing. The guys worked really hard and we put them in the net and hopefully we can keep going."

The South Salem game was the final home match for seniors Anthony Chavez, Michael Reyes, Bhavdeep Bains, Luis Martinez and Emil Salmhofer.

"Michael and Luis, I saw them grow since they were 9-year-olds," Camarena said.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary recognized its five seniors Michael Reyes, Luis Martinez, Anthony Chavez, Bhavdeep Bains and Emil Salmhofer (not pictured) at halftime on Thursday, Oct. 19.

"For me to see them play the last high school game, the leadership they gave all these years, it means everything to me."

Going into the game at 38th in the power rankings, Bains wasn't ready for his high school soccer career to end. With the win, the Celtics climbed to 35th to earn a play-in game.

"We just gave it all," Bains said. "We knew this was a win or go home game and we

weren't going to go home today. We knew that we needed this and our season wasn't over. We just played all out.

"Last regular season game of high school, I'm just proud of everyone, proud of the team. It went by fast, four years. I thought I was a freshman the other day but it goes by fast. It was just great to get a win and I'm proud of everyone."

McNary (6-6-3 plays at No. 1 Jesuit (91-4) on Satur-

day, Oct. 28 at 2:30 p.m. in the first round of the state playoffs.

The Celtics lost at Jesuit 2-1 in the first round of the state tournament last season.

The Crusaders went on to the semifinals.

McNary and Jesuit share two common opponents, Sunset and Aloha.

While Jesuit defeated both 2-0 and 2-1, the Celtics shut out Aloha 3-0 to open the season but lost to Sunset 3-0 in its second game.

Lady Celts go straight to playoffs

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Thanks to a 0-0 tie against No. 7 South Salem on Thursday, Oct. 19, McNary's girls soccer team won't have to play itself into the state tournament this season.

No. 21 in the final power rankings, the Lady Celts earned an automatic bid and a matchup with No. 12 Lincoln on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 4 p.m. in Portland.

"I'm excited. It's a good feeling to go straight in," McNary head coach A.J. Nash said. "It's going to be physical. Ultimately, I don't know a whole lot about Lincoln. They were fourth place in the interscholastic league. We're just going to go in, play our game, and see where it takes us."

The Lady Celts have already proven they can play with the best teams in the state. Along with its tie against South Salem, McNary also tied No. 6 West Salem 1-1 on Sept. 19.

"Getting results against South and West Salem show that when we're playing well we can compete with any-

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Celtics rack up 500 yards at North Medford

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Determined to be more physical, McNary defeated North Medford 40-20 in a non-league football game on Friday, Oct. 20.

"Last year we got smacked because they just came out and were just 10 times more physical than we were," McNary senior Brayden Ebbs said. "So all practice we were focusing on being able to match or exceed the toughness that they were going to bring to the game and I think we did really well in that part. This game we were just taking it to them and running the ball down their throats because that's what they did to us last year."

The Celtics finished with more than 500 yards on offense—211 rushing and 301 passing.

McNary jumped out to a 13-0 lead in the first quarter as quarterback Erik Barker threw touchdown passes to Jonny Williams and Jose Solorio.

The Black Tornado stormed back with 75-yard and 1-yard touchdowns to take a 14-13 lead.

But the Celtics quickly answered as Barker connected with Junior Walling for an 11-yard touchdown.

McNary's defense then gave the team a spark going into halftime as Walling recovered a fumble deep in North Medford territory and returned it for a touchdown to give the Celtics a 26-14 lead.

"That last score was a huge gift for us," McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen said. "It was the last play of the half. The bell rings halfway

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MAIL TRIBUNE/Denise Baratta

McNary senior Jonny Williams caught two touchdown passes and had 97 yards receiving at North Medford on Friday, Oct. 20.

West Salem on tap

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary (6-2) will need to play its best game to knock off West Salem (7-1) as the Celtics close the regular season on Friday, Oct. 27 at home.

"Since [last] Friday night, we've been talking about just getting our minds right and be ready to play West the best we can," McNary senior Brayden Ebbs said. "Last year we played them the best we could and we came out on top."

Since losing to Sheldon 41-7 on Sept. 18, the Titans have won five straight Greater Valley Conference games, outscoring their opponents 273-49. West Salem's closest league game came in 35-15 at McKay to open the season.

The Titans are No. 8 in the power rankings. McNary is

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary volleyball seniors Haley Debban, Valerie Diede, Sophia Salinas and Sam Van Voorhis were recognized before their last home match on Thursday, Oct. 19.

Lady Celts fall to South Salem on senior night

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary volleyball coach Crystal DeMello got emotional on senior night as she remembered the first time she met Valerie Diede, Samantha Van Voorhis, Sophia Salinas, and Haley Debban.

"When I got to meet them in the spring, the four of them sat front-and-center and I knew right then the kind of leadership I was walking into and that is something that has carried through from summer training through practices all the way through now," DeMello said. "You can tell when they're on the court. They thrive and build off of each

other's energy."

That energy wasn't enough to propel the Lady Celts over South Salem on Thursday, Oct. 19 as the Saxons won 3-0 in the last match of the regular season.

After falling behind 12-6 early in the first game, McNary fought back to get within 15-13 before South Salem took the set 25-21.

The Lady Celts led 10-7 in the second but the Saxons went on an 18-5 run to win 25-15.

Tied 18-18 in the third, South Salem won seven of the next eight points to finish off McNary 25-19.

"We just have to take care

of our ball when it's on our side of the net, some unforced errors and when those are back to back it's hard to gain momentum," DeMello said. "There are some things that we will turn around and work on in the gym right away, picking up our defense and making sure that we move offensively and tactically."

Even in a loss, DeMello saw progress as the Lady Celts prepare for the state playoffs.

"We covered our hitters really well tonight, which is something that we've been working on in the gym," she said. "And we served tough. Those are all things that they

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