

YOUTH,

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“Last week was the first time we actually tried one and he made it,” Hughes said of Dyer kicking field goals. “It was a little closer in but only about two yards. He’s kicked all the extra points. He’s a great, great kicker. He has a very strong leg.”

Dyer then showed off his all-around kicker skills, delivering an on-side kick, recovered by Pierce Walker.

After a Celtics punt, Lakeridge took over at its own 39-yard line with 3:27 left to play.

The Pacers drove the ball to the McNary 12-yard line with 1:20 remaining. With Lakeridge coaches debating how close they needed to be to attempt their own field goal, Davis Olsen sacked the quarterback for a five-yard loss.

After losing four more yards to force a fourth-and-long at the 21, Keenan Chase intercepted a pass with 16 seconds remaining to seal the Celtic victory.

McNary finished 7-1 in the nine-team Percich-Valley division, outscoring their op-



LEFT: McNary defender Davis Olsen sacks the Lakeridge quarterback in the final minute of the Celtics 9-8 come-from-behind win in a gold bracket championship game at South Salem High School on Saturday, Nov. 11. RIGHT: Christopher Cortez had three receptions in the second half.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

ponents 257-82.

As the No. 1 seed, the Celtics shut out West Linn, the No. 2 seed in the Harrison-Pacific, 19-0 on Saturday Nov. 4 in the first round of the playoffs.

Lakeridge, who entered the championship game undefeated, was the No. 1 seed out of the Harrison-Pacific.

“We had a lot of good competition. We won a lot of

games big and got kids tons of playing time,” Hughes said. “The biggest thing is just creating a love for the kids so they keep coming back.”

McNary had two fifth

and six grade teams compete in the Tualatin Valley Youth Football League.

The black team finished 5-3.

McNary’s third and fourth

grade squads were 1-6-1 and 1-7.

McNary’s two seventh grade teams were 3-5 and 1-7. The eighth graders finished 3-5.

DIEDE,

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“At tournaments, I don’t have to worry about the pressure of getting recruited.”

Deide, a middle blocker, made the McNary varsity team as a freshman. Her junior and senior seasons were her favorites.

“Our team really connected well,” Diede said. “We were all just really close and the teammates were just amazing and really fun to play with.”

Diede had three different head coaches at McNary—Kellie Scholl, Bruce Myers and Crystal DeMello.

“They all really pushed me and they encouraged me and they were all amazing people,” Diede said. “It’s learning different coaching styles and learning how to adapt to that.”

Diede made an impression on DeMello as a player who never stopped working even though she’d already committed to play in college.

“Val is a fantastic leader and I definitely lucked out getting her when she’s established herself as a player,” DeMello said. “She not only led statically but she’s just a positive vibe on the court. She has so much energy it’s contagious. I appreciate that about her. I appreciate that she’s willing to continue to work just as hard if not harder than everyone else in order to set the example and I think that’s a big reason why she ended up reaching her goals ultimately and setting herself up to be a Division I player.”

Diede’s leadership shown even when she wasn’t on the court after suffering a concussion and missing a few games during the middle of her senior season.

“Even though she wasn’t on the court she still contributed,” DeMello said. “She would sit right at the front of the bench. She would talk

to the front row players, tell them where to hit. Her role changed because she wasn’t on the court but her influence over the team didn’t change. They still respected her. She’d jump into the timeouts, talked to them and that is just amazing to have someone who can analyze the game even though they’re still a player.”

Diede, who was voted First Team all-conference, led McNary in both total blocks (62) and hitting efficiency (.397). She also had 118 kills.

Diede said she didn’t plan on going to school so far away from home but she has cousins that live close to the university. She wants to be an ultrasound technician.

“They’re a private school and they have a really good medical program,” Diede said. “Once, I saw that, I knew it was right.”

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But after punting the ball back to the Lions, West Linn running back Dawson Jolley broke free for a 65-yard touchdown run to give the home team a 7-0 lead.

Long punt returns, which gave the Lions starting field position inside McNary’s 15 and then 6-yard line, set up the next two scores as West Linn went into halftime up 21-0.

In between, the Celtics forced two turnovers as Kiser sacked Long to force a fumble, which Joshua Schmeltzer recovered. Jacob Jackson then intercepted a tipped pass.

But McNary’s first drive of the second half ended with an interception and West Linn capitalized with a 5-yard touchdown run to expand its

lead to 28-0.

“Our offense really struggled in that first half,” Auvinen said. “We weren’t maintaining our blocks. We would have a little crease and then they would end up closing that gap and they’re pretty good defensively.”

West Linn entered the game allowing only 101 points in 10 games, the least of any 6A team in the state.

McNary finished with 248 yards. Walling rushed for 68 yards on 17 carries. Erik Barker was 17-for-37 for 145 yards and an interception.

Jonny Williams caught five passes for 52 yards.

McNary finished the season 7-4, reaching the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2013.

“I think these two weeks are going to help us down the road,” Auvinen said. “We saw some young kids competing.”

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