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Diede signs to play D-I volleyball

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary senior Valerie Diede has wanted to play volleyball in college for as long as she can remember.

"I think I always knew I wanted to play in college, pretty much ever since I was little," Diede said. "I always looked up to the big girls. We would go to U of O games and I would always love watching them. I knew I loved playing volleyball so why not play in college."

On Wednesday, Nov. 8, Diede officially became one of those "big girls," signing with the University of Hartford, a Division I program in Connecticut.

But Diede didn't pick Hartford just because of its Division I status.

"It's not so much that it's Division-I. Yes, it's cool that it is but it was all about the school and that it felt like it was the right fit for me," Diede said.

Diede committed to the Hawks more than a year ago after visiting the campus the summer before her junior year. Hartford was the only school she visited.



McNary senior Valerie Diede, voted First Team all-conference, led the Lady Celts in blocks and hitting efficiency. On Wednesday, Nov. 8, she signed with the University of Hartford, a Division I program in Connecticut.



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"I was talking to other schools but I didn't get to that point," Diede said. "I just really liked that school (Hartford) and I knew that's where I wanted to go. The coaches

were really welcoming and just walking around there, I could see myself going there and the academics are really good and it was just everything I wanted."

Diede got in touch with Mitch Kallick, the head volleyball coach at Hartford, through her club coach at North Pacific Juniors—Adam Ellis.

Committing to Hartford so early, allowed Diede to relax and enjoy her junior and senior volleyball seasons.

"I don't have to worry about filling out all of this

information. I didn't have to look into colleges or worry about how much money I'm going to spend for it," Diede said.

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Celtics playoff run ends at West Linn

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

WEST LINN—A touchdown followed by a sack and fumble recovery gave McNary a spark late in the third quarter but West Linn immediately put it out to finish off the Celtics 41-6 on Friday, Nov. 10 in the second round of the state playoffs.

After gaining 64 total yards and punting on its first six possessions, the Celtics offense finally found some holes in the West Linn defense. McNary marched 70 yards on 16 plays, capped off by a 4-yard touchdown run by Junior Walling on fourth-and-goal to get within 28-6 with 1:48 remaining in the third quarter after the extra point was blocked.

Walling then sacked West Linn quarterback Ethan Long, forcing a fumble and Tim Kiser recovered, giving McNary the ball at the Lion 30-yard line.

However, the Celtics then turned the ball over on downs and West Linn connected on a 45-yard touchdown pass, ending any hope of a McNary



LEFT: McNary linebacker Junior Walling dives after West Linn running back Ahmir McGee in the first half of the Celtics second round playoff game on Friday, Nov. 10. RIGHT: McNary quarterback Erik Barker tries to escape a sack.



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comeback. "They're better than us and they made a lot more plays than we did," McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen said of West Linn. "I think our kids

had a gritty effort." The Lions added a 71-yard touchdown pass with 4:29 remaining to complete the scoring. "Tonight was much bet-

ter than our Sprague and West (Salem) games," Auvinen said. "I think we battled tonight. They left their starters in and were throwing bombs with four minutes to go because

they were still scared. "It's the playoffs. You don't mess around. I'm not upset at their coaching staff or anything. It just shows that they were still worried about what

we could do." McNary's defense started the game fired up after holding West Linn on fourth down at the Celtic 15-yard line. Please see END, Page 12

McNary 5-6 graders win gold bracket

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—McNary's fifth and sixth grade blue team came from behind to defeat Lakeridge 9-8 on Saturday, Nov. 11 in a Tualatin Valley Youth Football League gold bracket championship game.

Playing at South Salem High School, McNary trailed 8-0 at halftime but a deep pass to Christopher Cortez got the young Celtics deep into Lakeridge territory. Jesse Dyer then cashed in with a 6-yard touchdown run but the extra point was blocked with 3:45 remaining in the third quarter.

"We had good opportunities early on in the first quarter. We took that first drive

down and got stopped inside the 5, so we knew we could move the ball," McNary head coach Kyle Hughes said.

"We talked at halftime about staying with it and don't get down and they came out in the second half and put a drive together and made some big plays."

After McNary's defense got a stop, two more catches by Cortez, including one from Dyer on a flea-flicker, got the Celtics back inside the Lakeridge 10-yard line.

But the drive stalled at the 9 and on fourth-and-8, Dyer kicked a 26-yard field goal to put McNary on top 9-8 with 5:46 remaining.

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McNary's fifth and sixth grade blue team, coached by Kyle Hughes, Dan Burrus, Mike Smedema, Russ Walker and Jon Harrington, defeated Lakeridge 9-8 on Saturday, Nov. 11 in a Tualatin Valley Youth Football League gold bracket championship game.