

3555 River Road N, Keizer (503) 463-4853

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Hunter back with McNary



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Deven Hunter, a 2012 McNary graduate, is back with the girls basketball team as an assistant coach.

By DEREK WILEY Of the Keizertimes

When Elizabeth Doran was named McNary's head girls basketball coach in April, one former player reached out, making it clear she wanted to return and help the pro-

After four years at Oregon State University, including a Final Four run in 2016, and then four months playing professionally in Puerto Rico and another four in Finland, Deven Hunter now sits right next to Doran on the Mc-Nary bench.

Along with assisting the varsity team, Hunter is also the junior varsity head coach.

"Right when the coaching job came up, I wanted to be with the program either as a head coach or being an assistant," said Hunter, who played AAU ball at Oregon Elite with Doran's younger sister.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Abbie Hawley defends a Sprague ball handler during the first half of the Lady Celts 48-24 victory on Friday, Dec. 15.

Defense key to 7-0 start

By DEREK WILEY Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—McNary (7-0) continued to crank up its defense at Sprague on Friday, Dec. 15, holding the Olympians to just two field goals in the first half and under 23 percent shooting for the game in a 48-24 Greater Valley Conference victory.

"Going into every game, we're just really focusing on defense and how we are going to defend and the girls are doing a great job of executing what we're trying to get them to do," Lady Celts head coach Elizabeth Doran said. "They play really hard defensively and that's what we've got to keep doing."

McNary jumped out to a 20-6 lead in the first quarter as Kailey Doutt, Leah Doutt and Paige Downer each had six points in the pe-

Holding the Olympians to only a free throw in the second quarter, the Lady Celts led 31-7

Leading 46-17, McNary started its four freshmen, Leah Doutt, Mackenzie Proctor, Kennedy Buss and Annie-Leigh Besa, to begin the fourth quarter.

McNary junior Sabella Alfaro scored the only two points of the period, knocking down two free throws.

Kailey Doutt led the Lady Celts in scoring with 17 points to go with six rebounds. Leah Doutt added 10 points and three rebounds. Downer finished with nine points. Abigail Hawley had seven rebounds and Buss added four assists.

Through seven games, McNary is averaging more than 53 points per game while allowing 32.7.

"A lot of our offense is coming from our defense right now," Doran said. "We're getting steals. We're executing in transition very well. We did do a pretty good job against their zone, moving it around and being patient and looking for openings and getting some high percentage shots and we're shooting well from the outside, too. That always helps."

The Lady Celts had eight steals against Sprague.

Doran would like to see McNary get more rebounds.

"Once I said something in the first quarter, we did do a better job offensively crashing the boards but still we can do a better job defensively," Doran said. "That's an area we're look-

ing to improve in." The Lady Celts took a break from league play to defeat David Douglas (3-4) 63-40 on

After Christmas, McNary is playing in the Lake Oswego Nike Shootout Dec. 27-30.

The Lady Celts open the 16-team tournament against Clackamas (4-0) on Dec. 27 at 4

"It's a fun atmosphere up there," Doran said. "They have good teams usually in that tourna-

McNary's full lineup defeats South Salem

By DEREK WILEY Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—For the first time in more than a year, McNary had a full varsity lineup as it went into South Salem and won 62-14 on Thursday, Dec. 14 to improve to 2-0 in the Greater Valley Conference.

We're ready to win at any weight, any where, any place," Celtics head coach Jason Ebbs

"That's something that is hands down the No. 1 key ingredient to being successful in any sport is having kids that show up to practice and show up to matches and it's been a while since we've had that. I'll take these kids anywhere if they'll go with me."

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McNary senior Jerry Martinez won by a 16-0 technical fall at South Salem on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Celtics suffer first GVC loss at Sprague

By DEREK WILEY

Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—Sprague senior Teagan Quitoriano entered last Friday's game against McNary averaging 32 points per game.

The Celtics held Quitoriano to five in the first two and a half quarters but the Olympians finished the game with nine 3-pointers, including a back-breaker at the end of the first half to give Mc-Nary its first loss in league play, 70-62.

"From a game plan standpoint, that's everything you could want," McNary head coach Ryan Kirch said of holding Quitoriano to five points in the first half."When you do that, you pack the middle a little bit and leave some outside shots open and they hit a few more outside shots than we did. And really that was it."

Quitoriano finished with 20 points, which included going 9-for-10 from the free throw line in the second half. But he also made his mark on the game when he wasn't

"We tried to have a guy in front of him and a guy behind him anytime he caught the ball on the block," Kirch said. "We were running a double (team) at him and really force him to make some decisions. Credit to him, he passed the ball well. When you're a guy that's used to being dominant, a lot of times you'll force plays but he did a nice job of kicking it out to the open shooters and they made shots.

"Very rarely can you find a guy that scores five points and really dictate the entire game. Because he's there, you've got to take an extra step to him and everyone's got to adjust to that, credit to him. Great players win games and he did a great job tonight."



McNarv senior Andrew Jones drives to the basket against

McNary led 19-14 early in the first period but Sprague answered with two 3-pointers within a minute and a half to take a 22-21 lead. A putback by Riccardo Gardelli tied the game at 24-24 but two free throws gave the

Sprague forward Teagan Quitoriano.

Olympians the lead for good. A 3-pointer in the final seconds of the second period by Sprague junior Jailen Hammer put the Olympians ahead 35-28 at halftime. Hammer finished with 25 points to lead all scorers.

Two more 3-pointers early in the third quarter stretched Sprague's lead to 43-33.

McNary got within 47-42 on a Lucas Garvey 3-point

play with 2:04 remaining in the third period but never any closer.

"That was a good, hard, physical game," Kirch said. "That's a very tough place to play. Coach (Steve) Masten does such a great job. Our guys are disappointed obviously but I thought we competed and played hard and battled and just a couple more shots went in for them than they did for us."

Senior Andrew Jones led McNary with 15 points and seven rebounds. "He's really put on a lot

of weight in his upper body," Kirch said.

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