

Lady Celts defeat Sprague in the pool

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary's girls swim team went into the break with a 97-47 win over Sprague on Thursday, Dec. 14 in the Kroc Center.

The Lady Celts won two of three relays.

Alex Beard, Bella Beard, Emily Alger and Haley Deban placed first in the 200-yard medley relay in 2:03.70. Hannah Corpe, Emily Alger, Lizzie Bryant and Alyssa Garvey then touched the wall first in the 400 free relay in 4:34.14.

Bella Beard won the closest race of the meet, edging Sprague's Caitlin Evenson 1:15.51 to 1:15.54 in the 100



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
McNary freshman Alex Beard won the 100-yard butterfly in 1:11.01 on Thursday, Dec. 14 in the Kroc Center.

breaststroke. Bella also finished first in the 500 free in 5:45.32.

Alex Beard won the 100

butterfly in 1:11.01. Haley Hughes had the fastest time in the 200 IM, finishing in 3:10.95.

Haley Debban set a personal record of 27.09 in the 50 free, which was good enough for second.

"We are finally getting into swimming shape and kids are getting comfortable in the pool," McNary head coach Casey Lewin said.

"We knew there was going to be a lot of close races on the girls side and there were a couple that we pulled out. That was huge for us. We knew it was going to be close. We went out and swam fast and competed well and took care of business."

McNary's boys lost 92-71 to Sprague.

The Olympians won all three relays.

"They had all of their club kids back and they have some pretty fast boys so I knew those relays, we probably wouldn't be able to get," Lewin said. "I figured we would be within about 20 points and we were. I'm happy with that. We had a lot more best times on the boys side. They're finally starting to get there."

Harrison Vaughn won the 100 breaststroke in 1:13.58. Kyle Hooper placed first in the 100 fly in 1:05.25.

"The biggest thing for us is just been not worrying about who we're racing and just going out and taking care of our own race, not worrying about who's next to you because we

always race the clock," Lewin said. "We just happen to do it with other people. We're getting a lot better at focusing on taking care of our own races and then good things happen from there."

McNary has two weeks off from competition before returning to the pool on Jan. 2 against West Salem.

"We're definitely where we should be," Lewin said. "I'm pleased. I'm excited to see where we'll be with these two weeks of training. We're working really hard, like we usually do at this time and kind of breaking the kids down a little bit. We don't race so we can be as sore as we need to be."

KYSA has new name

Keizer Youth Sports Association has a new name: McNary Youth Baseball.

"KYSA has been providing a quality youth baseball program in Keizer for many years," said Ryan Walsh, KYSA president. "And because we work closely with McNary High School to prepare our young athletes for competitive high school baseball, changing our name just makes sense for the future of youth baseball in Keizer."

Not only good for the players, Walsh believes changing the name will be good for Keizer families and the community.

"It really is a pride thing for us. We love our community and we're proud of Keizer's only high school. What better way to show our support than to put McNary across all of our jerseys," Walsh said.

KYSA has a rich history of providing a wholesome environment for local youth to participate in baseball activities.

"We love that KYSA is a close-knit community," said Gabe Grossman, father of three boys who play through the KYSA organization. "We've had nothing but great experiences in the league and great coaches who love the kids. And we couldn't be more excited

about the name change. It's going to make a fantastic program even better."

At the conclusion of the spring season, the KYSA board of directors sent a survey to parents and coaches asking for feedback on the organization and its programs.

"The feedback we received was very encouraging," said Bo Lane, a member of the KYSA board. "There were several comments about how positive and effective our volunteer coaching staff is and how these coaches go above and beyond to make each player feel like they are part of the team. But, honestly, this is nothing new. These principles have been a part of the DNA of KYSA from the beginning, and it's something we're very proud of. Now we're simply taking these principles and giving it a new name."

McNary Youth Baseball has decided to celebrate this new chapter by offering a free T-ball program this coming spring.

The organization will continue to offer online registration starting December 15 and an in-person registration January 18. For more information or to register your child for the upcoming season, visit www.mcnaryyouthbaseball.com.

SPRAGUE, continued from Page 13

"He's put a lot of work in the weight room. I just told him to get to the rim.

"We work on a bump and finish drill and we want to play through contact at the rim. I thought early in the game, we settled for one pass shots and it's a tough thing because we want our kids to shoot when they feel in rhythm but we also have to ball fake and get inside and be more aggressive. I thought Andrew did a really nice job of that in the second

half." Chandler Cavell added 14 points and eight rebounds. Garvey finished with 11 points.

McNary faced a Sprague team that won the Greater Valley Conference last season and returned four starters.

"The scoreboard doesn't necessarily tell us how much we've improved," Kirch said. "This is a really good team and we're going to play other really good teams and we'll have a chance to play them again and they can certainly do a lot of things."

"Sometimes the scoreboard says you won by 25 or 30. This

for us is a better growing experience. We're better because of this game.

"I haven't doubted really our competitiveness. We've challenged our guys. We've just got to get better at a few areas, shot selections and spacing and how we do a couple of things. I'm certainly proud of our guys. They're disappointed but we'll walk out of here with our heads held high."

The Celtics defeated Clackamas in the first round of the Capitol City Classic on Monday, Dec. 18 at Willamette University.

Cavell had 27 points and

seven assists.

Garvey scored 11 points. Gardelli added 10.

McNary is back at home on Wednesday, Dec. 27 against Tualatin at 7 p.m.

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