Wentworth signs with Grays Harbor

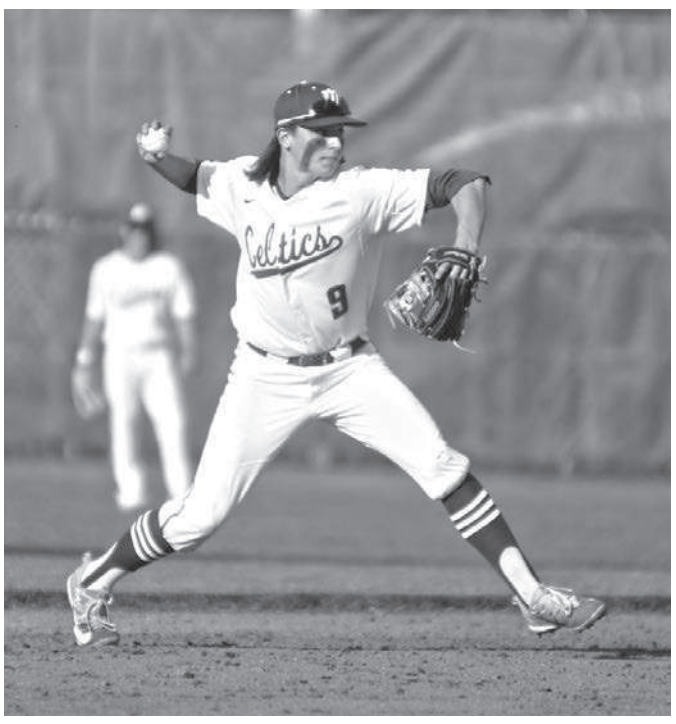
By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary senior Collin Wentworth had dreamed of this day ever since he was 5 years old.

On Feb. 7, in front of his family and teammates, Wentworth celebrated his baseball signing with Grays Harbor Community College.

"I've always wanted to play college baseball, ever since I was a little kid, and it's just unreal right now," said Wentworth, who began playing at Keizer Little League when he was 5. "It's (baseball) meant the world to me. It's kind of like my backbone for everything. I love it."

After emailing several schools and also considering Southwestern Oregon and Linfield, Wentworth toured the Grays Harbor campus, located in Aberdeen, Wash., in October.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary shortstop Collin Wentworth throws out a runner last season. Wentworth has signed to play next season at Grays Harbor Community College.

His visit included dinner with Grays Harbor head baseball coach Mike Brunner.

"We liked what we saw with Collin physically and what his abilities were and we loved what we learned about Collin on his visit and what kind of person he was, how he communicated and you could tell he was excited and passionate about baseball and his future," said Brunner, who travelled more than 370 miles roundtrip to be at Wentworth's signing ceremony. "You can't help to be excited about a young man's future if he is. We knew he was a good fit for us and we're extremely happy that he's going to be a Choker."

Wentworth's current head coach, Larry Keeker, at McNary, remembers the first time he saw Collin play. He was in the eighth grade, playing on a youth team at McNary.

"I got a chance to just watch him play a little bit and he caught my attention right away," Keeker said. "His dad had been able to teach him a certain skill set, even at that age."

After Wentworth's freshman year, Keeker invited him to play on McNary's Division I team, made up of mostly returning varsity players, in the summer.

"I loved his attitude at that point in time, very business-like, very mature," Keeker said. "He was not afraid to jump in with the older guys and play and just do his job. He caught my attention as the varsity coach at an early age."

As a sophomore, Wentworth split time between the junior varsity and varsity teams. He was then promoted to the starting varsity shortstop last season as a junior.

Wentworth prides himself on his defense.

"He spends a lot of time working on his defense, his hands, his feet, his exchanges," Keeker said. "He has a passion that any kid that's going to play baseball in college or any other sport, that he has instilled already that he has a desire to get better. That's one of the qualities that's really going to help Collin as he progresses through this season and then in college as well."

He's also been a leader for the Celtics.

"We're super excited that Collin is to continue his baseball career in college," Keeker added. "Collin is a quality young man. He represents our program in a positive way."

Wentworth enjoyed manning the middle of McNary's infield with second baseman Josh Benson, who graduated last June.

"He's just one of my best friends," Wentworth said. "I love playing with that kid and just rolling double plays with him is fun."

At the encouragement of another teammate, catcher Tyler Covalt, Wentworth has shown off his athleticism this winter, joining the McNary swim team.

"It's been different and a lot harder than I thought it was going to be," Wentworth said. "It's just a fun experience."

After two years at Grays Harbor, Wentworth hopes to continue his baseball career at a four-year university and get his degree in physical therapy.

HOT,

continued from Page 1

Lucas Garvey finished with 12 points, three rebounds and three assists.

Andrew Jones added four points, seven assists and five rebounds.

"The one thing that our group's been is just consistent, just mentally we've been pretty engaged and consistent the entire time," Kirch said. "We feel good about that."

McNary has remained at No. 5 in the 6A OSAA power rankings and first in the Greater Valley Conference after Sprague lost three games in a row.

The Celtics were scheduled to finish the regular season Tuesday, Feb. 20 against No. 15 McMinnville but the game was rained out.

The top eight teams get two home playoff games.

"I don't think we can fall below five," Kirch said. "There's a chance we could bump up to fourth. That's a good spot to be in. It's exciting. We're playing at our best as the season ends, which is what you always hope for as a coach.

"We've had great support from our administration and our students have been awesome. The community was great. It almost felt like a home game over at West. It's like that snow ball gets rolling down hill, we just want to keep riding it. Kids are playing with a lot of confidence in themselves so we're excited."

LADY CELTS

McNary's girls also defeated West Salem 45-43 on Friday.

The Lady Celts led 26-15 at halftime before holding on for the win.

Kailey Doutt posted a double-double of 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Paige Downer had seven points. Abbie Hawley added six and Sabella Alfaro pulled down five rebounds.

The first round of the 6A girls state playoffs begin Tuesday.

WorshipDirectory

These Salem-Keizer houses of worship invite you to visit.

Call to list your church in our Worship Directory: (503) 390-1051

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:30 am • 10 am • 11:30 am • 6 pm
PEOPLESCHURCH
4500 LANCASTER DR NE | SALEM
503.304.4000 • www.peopleschurch.com

SAINT EDWARD Catholic Church
393-5323
5303 River Rd. N., Keizer
Father Gary L. Zerr, Pastor
Saturday Vigil Liturgy: 5:30 p.m.
Sundays: 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
La Misa en Español: 12:30 p.m.

John Knox Presbyterian Church
452 Cummings Lane North • 393-0404
Rev. Dr. John Neal, Pastor
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Education Hour - 9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care Available
www.keizerjkpres.org

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA
4505 River Road N, Keizer • 503-393-4507
www.FLCkeizer.org
Pastor Linda Matz Easterling
Sunday School - 9:00 am
Worship Service -10:00 am

dayspring fellowship
Children's Programs, Student and Adult Ministries
1755 Lockhaven Dr. NE Keizer
503-390-3900
www.dayspringfellowship.com
Celebration Services
Saturday Evening 6:00 pm
Sunday Morning 9:00 am and 10:45 am

Keizer Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
6945 Wheatland Rd. NE 393-6843
www.KeizerChristian.org
Worship and Children's Church • 10:00 a.m.
Office Hours 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

COUNTRYSIDE Christian Church
9:00 am & 10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Classes for all ages
countrysidechristianchurch.org
Corner of Lockhaven and McLeod, KEIZER • (503) 540-1989