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Ebbs, Vincent, Parra place at state wrestling tournament

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

PORTLAND—McNary senior Brayden Ebbs has heard from all of his coaches that the most honorable thing a wrestler can do at a tournament is place third.

At the state tournament, Ebbs took that to heart, defeating Oliver Myers of Newberg by a 13-0 major decision on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in the 160-pound third place match.

"After my semis match, I told myself I'm not taking anything less than third," Ebbs said. "I think it was supposed to be a close match but something flipped in my mind and I wrestled what I think is my best match and I just put the points on the board that I needed to. 'Score first, score fast and keep on scoring' is what my club coach always told me."

McNary head coach Jason Ebbs said Brayden was as focused as he's ever seen him.

"I think Brayden did what you hope all your best wrestlers will do," coach Ebbs said. "He came out in the third place match and he was at the peak of his intensity and ready to roll. This is the first time that I've ever seen Brayden wrestle such a focused style, in those last three matches, the semifinals, the consolation semifinals that goes into overtime, I've never seen him stay so focused on his technique and his strategy and what he needs to do instead of worrying about scoring and worrying about being ahead or behind. He matured really well this year and did some of his best wrestling here. I'm proud of him."

Ebbs earned an 11-2 major decision and two pins on Friday to reach the semifinals, where he lost to No. 2 seed Josh Grant of Century 6-3.

Grant scored the first two points on a take-down off a scramble. Ebbs then tied it on an illegal hold and an escape but couldn't complete the comeback.

"Almost caught him twice in a head and arm (move) that could've been pretty lethal," coach Ebbs said. "Turns out that guy (Grant) had some magic hips and didn't quite break far enough and couldn't quite seal it up. It was definitely



McNary senior Brayden Ebbs, left, placed third in the state at 160 pounds, junior Enrique Vincent finished fourth at 126 pounds and sophomore Nicolette Parra took fourth at 135 pounds in the girls tournament.

KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

a good close match and could have gone either way."

In the consolation semifinals, Ebbs defeated Mitchell Sorte of West Albany for the third time this season. Like the district finals, the match went to overtime after Ebbs tied it on reversal with about 10 seconds remaining in the third period. Ebbs then won on a takedown in the extra period.

While the state tournament ends his career

at McNary, Ebbs plans to continue wrestling in college. He may play football as well as Southern Oregon and Grand View University have offered him in both sports.

"If I don't end up doing both, I'll just wrestle," Ebbs said. "I think that would be fun (to play both) but there's no way I could stop wrestling. I love it."

McNary junior Enrique Vincent found it hard to crack a smile as he stood on the podium after

placing fourth in the state at 126 pounds. Vincent finished third the year before at 120 pounds.

But Vincent was also aware of what he was up against. After losing to No. 2 seed Phillip Kue of Centennial 7-1 in the semifinals, Vincent wrestled No. 1 Gaven Jolley of Sherwood, a two-time state champion, for third place after Jolley was

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Celtics stay hot at West Salem

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary (18-5, 13-2) just keeps getting better.

Three days after blowing out South Salem 70-48, the Celtics went into West Salem and came away with a 74-60 victory on Friday, Feb. 16.

"We probably played as complete a game for 32 minutes as we have all year," McNary head coach Ryan Kirch said.

The key has been getting better at the little things.

"One of the things we kept telling our guys is in big games both teams are going to make plays," Kirch said. "You've got great players on both sides. It's really all the little things if you add them up that make a big difference."

The Celtics jumped out to a 22-13 lead in the first quarter at West Salem and led 39-29 at halftime.

McNary then held the Titans to just six points in the third period.

"Our mindset going into the South Salem game is that every game we're going to play is a playoff-like game so our kids were ready and well prepared and played with a lot of confidence and a lot of poise," Kirch said.

"Some of our staff recognized some things we would tweak a little bit and kids came out with some energy and were able to execute. We were just pretty consistent bell to bell with our effort and our

ATHLETE
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RICCARDO GARDELLI
McNary High School basketball

McNary senior Riccardo Gardelli posted a double-double of 10 points and 14 rebounds on Friday, Jan. 16 in a 74-60 victory at West Salem. "Riccardo has been great on the boards," McNary head coach Ryan Kirch said. "He's just becoming more comfortable and able to score all over the floor."

energy."

McNary had 26 assists in the game.

Boston Smith led the Celtics in scoring with 22 points. Chandler Cavell had 21 points, seven assists and five rebounds.

"West pressed us and we always think of press attack versus press break and our guards did a real nice job of getting the ball in the middle of the floor and Boston was the beneficiary there at the end," Kirch said. "He did a great job

and just keeps getting better with every game."

Riccardo Gardelli posted a double-double of 10 points and 14 rebounds. He also added four assists.

"Riccardo, the last couple of games, has just been great on the boards, which is just huge," Kirch said. "He's just becoming more comfortable and able to score all over the floor and do some great things."

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McNary senior Chandler Cavell scores against West Salem earlier this season. Cavell had 21 points, seven assists and five rebounds against the Titans on Friday, Feb. 16.

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