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KeizerSports

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McNary baseball gets first win



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Devon Bedoya held Willamette to just two unearned runs over five innings on Friday, March 16.

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary (1-3) celebrated its first win of the season, defeating Willamette 8-5 on Friday, Match 16.

The Celtics broke the game open in the bottom of the third.

After David Allen singled and then stole second to start the inning, Ryan Thompson and Robert Benson both drew walks to load the bases with no outs.

With two strikes, Lance Becktel then drove in Allen and Thompson with a base hit to left field to give McNary a 2-0 lead.

"I was looking to stay alive in that at-bat," Becktel said. "I was looking for anything close to RBI and I hit the ball and it lucked out for us. We've been waiting for this today. We really wanted it. After struggling at the plate the first two games, it felt good to finally let it all go and start hitting the ball."

After Collin Wentworth hit a sacrifice fly to center field to bring home Benson, Becktel scored on an infield error to stretch the lead to 4-0.

The Celtics scored two more runs in the fifth. Allen reached on an infield single, stole second, got to third on a passed ball and then came home on a wild pitch. Thompson drew another walk and scored on a single by Benson.

"I thought we had really good base running and took advantage of some balls that were in play

that they didn't make plays on and we took some extra bases," McNary head coach Larry Keecker said. "Scored a couple of runs on ground balls that were thrown over to first and they couldn't complete the play and we were able to score on that. I thought our base running was pretty good."

Willamette got on the scoreboard in the top of the fifth, scoring two unearned runs on four infield errors.

"Our defense needs to get better," Keecker said. "Our pitching staff is not built to withstand a lot of free bases so we have to play good defense for us to be successful this season. We're going to have to get better in that area. We just can't afford that many extra base runners."

Devon Bedoya, who transferred to McNary from Salem Academy, started on the mound in place of Kyle McCallister, who missed the game with an illness. Bedoya went five innings, allowing two hits and three walks, to earn the win.

"It was my 6A debut," Bedoya said. "It felt nerve-racking but I kept calm and played some catch with Ty (Covalt) and Ty did a good job back there (catcher). I just stayed focus and kept re-thinking what our coaches told us over and over again and cleared my mind and just worked."

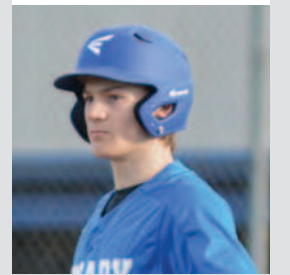
The Celtics answered with two runs in the bottom of the fifth as Thompson had a RBI single.

Benson got the final six outs to finish off the Wolverines.

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ATHLETE
of the Week

presented by



David Allen
McNary High School

At the plate, David Allen went 3-for-3 with two runs, a RBI and two stolen bases in an 8-5 win over Willamette on March 16. On the mound, Allen allowed two earned runs over 14 innings in starts at Canby on March 14 and against Tualatin on March 20.

No substitute for experience

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

A lack of senior leadership shouldn't be a problem for McNary's lacrosse teams this spring.

The boys bring back 10 seniors while the Lady Celts have eight on their roster.

"We only lost one senior last year so we have a really good set of returners, who were also able to get our freshmen to start practicing earlier and our other newbies to start practicing earlier so the standard of play is higher at the beginning of the season, which is awesome," McNary head girls coach Rebecca LaFramboise said.

The Lady Celts return leading scorers Carly Levario, Jessica Grimmer, Ashley Setzer and Katelyn Martinez. Grimmer and Martinez each scored four goals on Tuesday, March 13 as McNary opened the season with an 11-7 win over Thurston.

Kylee Daulton and Payton Wirt are also back at goalie.

"I expect us to have more movement of the ball and more possession," LaFramboise said.

"The game of lacrosse is a lot about possession. If you have possession you will score. I've been talking with the girls about that a lot."

McNary has 18 girls in the program, which is in its second year as a varsity team.

McNary's boys return two First Team all-league selections from last season in leading scorer Jonathan Williams and goalie Marcus McCoy. Both, along with Chad Pinyne, who was second on the team in goals scored last season, and Kory Pagels, are seniors and have played on the varsity squad since they were freshmen.

"It's a very large senior class and they want to run all day so we try to keep them together," Celtics head coach Michael Hochspeier said.

Jack O'Connor, Second Team all-league last season, is also back.

With so much experience, McNary has set a goal to win the league and get a home playoff game. The Celtics finished third behind West Salem and Sprague last year.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

ABOVE: McNary's girls lacrosse program, in its second year with a varsity team, won its first game of the season, 11-7, on Tuesday, March 13. BELOW: McNary seniors Marcus McCoy, left, and Jonathan Williams, both voted First Team all-league last season and varsity players since they were freshmen, will lead the boys lacrosse team in 2018.



"I think that's very accomplishable for this team this year," Hochspeier said. "Ex-

pectations are up there but I guess every team has that." McNary opened the season



with an 8-6 loss to Newberg on Wednesday, March 14. The Celtics next home

game is Wednesday, April 4 at 5:45 p.m. against Chiawana, Wash.

The Lady Celts host Corvallis on Thursday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.