



# OPEN HOUSE

March 18, 2018  
2:00 P.M.

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## KeizerSports

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# Lady Celts win league opener

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

Faith Danner kept McNary in the game early with her arm.

She started the comeback with her bat as the Lady Celts defeated Forest Grove 7-5 on Tuesday, April 3 to open Greater Valley Conference play.

Danner needed only 38 pitches to get through the first five innings as McNary went to the sixth with a 4-1 lead.

"They were attacking the first pitch and I saw that so I was throwing it on the corners and they were swinging," Danner said. "I trust my defense and I knew they would field it."

Danner drove in McNary's first run of the game on a single in the bottom of the second to score Taylor Ebbs. Kate Ronning then scored on an error to give the Lady Celts a 2-0 lead.

McNary added two more runs in the fifth inning. After Haley Ebner hit a sacrifice fly to right field to bring home Nadia Witt, Emma Kinler singled to left field to score Alexa Cepeda, who celebrated her birthday after the game.

But Forest Grove answered with four runs in the top of the sixth on three singles, a hit by pitch and infield error to take a 5-4 lead.

Wanting to set the tone for the inning, Danner led off the bottom of the sixth with a double on a line drive to the center field fence.

## ATHLETE of the Week



presented by



### Nadia Witt McNary High School senior

McNary center fielder Nadia Witt was 2-for-4 with a double, stolen base and two runs scored as the Lady Celts opened league play with a 7-5 win over Forest Grove on Tuesday, April 3.

Witt also went 9-for-15 with nine runs scored, seven RBIs, three doubles, two triples, a home run and two stolen bases during a spring break tournament at West Linn on March 26-27.

"It was on the outside corner," Danner said of the pitch. "It was kind of a fatty pitch to hit. I saw it and knew it was my pitch to hit."

Haley Bingenheimer followed with an RBI single, driving home pinch runner Abbi Covalt to tie the game at 5-5. After Nadia Witt doubled, Bingenheimer then scored the go-ahead run on a dropped third strike. Ebner then gave McNary an insurance run with a sacrifice fly to right

field, scoring Witt from third.

"These guys are just a calm team," McNary head coach Kevin Wise said. "We figured out they were playing way back on the fence and we just started poking a little bit and finding the spots. I thought they did a really good job with that."

Forest Grove singled to lead off the seventh but Danner retired the next three hitters to finish off the Vikings.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Faith Danner earned the win in the circle against Forest Grove on Tuesday, April 3. Danner was also 2-for-3 at the plate with a double and RBI in the victory.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Jacob Jackson was one of the Celts hottest bats during spring break at Volcanoes Stadium. Jackson went 3-for-3 with two doubles and three RBIs against Hermiston on Saturday, March 31.

# McNary starts GVC play with road loss

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

McNary got another strong pitching performance as it opened league play but its bats couldn't back it up as the Celts fell at North Salem 3-1 on Tuesday, April 3.

David Allen shut out the Vikings for three innings and Ty Covalt's RBI single scored Collin Wentworth to give McNary a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth. But North Salem answered with two runs in the bottom of the inning on a home run and double to take a 2-1 lead.

McNary had won four in a row against North Salem with

the last loss coming 2-1 on April 28, 2015.

Behind a strong week of pitching, McNary went 3-1 at Volcanoes Stadium during spring break.

Senior Carl Rumbaugh started the first game, pitching all seven innings, as the Celts defeated Aloha 9-4 on Wednesday, March 28. He allowed four hits and one earned run.

McNary jumped on Aloha early, scoring three runs in the first inning and two in the second.

The Celts finished the game with 12 hits as Wentworth was 3-for-4 with two

runs and two RBIs. Covalt was 2-for-4 with a double and 3 RBIs. Lance Becktel was 2-for-2 with two runs and Robert Benson was 2-for-4 with a run and RBI.

Allen took the mound in the second game—a 15-3 win over Hermiston on Thursday, March 29.

He allowed two hits and no earned runs in six innings.

While McNary led from the beginning, the Celts busted the game open with 10 runs in the seventh.

Jacob Jackson was 2-for-4 with a double, two runs and three RBIs.

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# Childress more relaxed entering senior season

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

As a freshman at McNary, Hannah Childress finished fourth in the state in doubles.

Now a senior, Childress is chasing similar success in singles.

"I'm really excited for this year. I've been practicing and I'm ready to compete," said Childress, who finished third in the Greater Valley Conference last season. "I've just been working on my mental game and just staying relaxed during my matches and working on ball placement and getting up to the net and putting it away."

West Albany junior Ceanne Elliot, who has won back-to-back GVC singles championships, should be the girl to beat. But Anya Gerasimova of West Salem, who was runner-up last season, has graduated.

A better finish in the district tournament would get Childress an easier draw at state. Childress lost her first round match at state last season but regrouped to win the singles consolation bracket.

"Singles is definitely more stressful but this is my third year playing singles competitively," Childress said. "I think I'm ready. I'm going to do my best. That's part of the mental aspect that I've been working on, relaxing and just giving it my all. That's all I can do."

Childress, who had spent the last two years playing at a tennis academy in Portland, also decided she didn't want to play tennis in college, which has allowed her to relax entering her senior year.

"That changed the ball



File

Hannah Childress is ready to make a bigger splash at the state tournament after winning the consolation bracket last season.

game a little bit," Childress said. "The past two years I was just focused on making college level and playing collegiately. Now, that's not a priority and I'm just having fun."

Childress leads a strong group of McNary singles players, which also includes senior Katherine Perez.

Perez won three matches at the district tournament last season before running into Elliot in the quarterfinals. She spent the summer playing in tournaments with her father.

"I want to at least finish fourth in districts," Perez said. "My serves have gotten a lot better, definitely. They're a lot more consistent and more powerful. My forehand, I have a lot more spin on it."

McNary swept singles as

the Lady Celts won 5-3 at Aloha on March 15.

Childress and Perez both won 6-0, 6-1. Tanveer Sandhu won 6-2, 6-2 at No. 3 singles. After dropping her first set 5-7, Avery Haymorwicz came back at No. 4 singles, winning 6-3, 6-2. McNary's fifth point came at No. 4 doubles, where Juana Barajas and Trisha Faye Tan won 6-2, 6-0.

Matthew Osberg, a student teacher at McNary, is coaching the Lady Celts this season. Osberg previously coached two seasons at Pocatello High School in Idaho.

"I'm happy with the team," Osberg said. "I feel like every practice I see improvement with each player. They're really coachable and I'm feeling really positive about it."