

Celtics finish third in Salem

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Led by Matt Langenwalter's 78, McNary's boys golf team finished third in a Greater Valley Conference match at Salem Golf Club on Monday, April 2.

Langenwalter, who shot 40 on the front nine and 38 on the back, birdied 18 to finish his round.

"On the front nine, I was kind of struggling with my swing a little bit and realized what I was doing wrong and put it together on the back a little bit better," Langenwalter said. "I wasn't getting very good breaks. I hit some good putts that weren't dropping and it was kind of frustrating but I just tried to stay patient on 18 and hit a really good drive and knew I could reach the green in two."

McNary sophomore Joel Dutcher shot 41 on the front nine but 46 on the back nine to finish with an 86. His one bright spot on the back was a birdie on hole 12.

As a team, McNary shot 368 to finish only two strokes behind Sprague's 366.

Zach Roth carded a 99 and Brady Jackson, who birdied the seventh hole, posted a 104 for



File
McNary junior Matthew Langenwalter shot 78 to lead the Celtics at Salem Golf Club on Monday, April 2.

the Celtics.

"We showed significant progress from 382 to 368 in a week," McNary head coach Rick Ward said. "We've got a couple of young guys that are getting better. That's what it's about, getting better each week."

West Salem ran away with the match, recording a 308. The Titans had three golfers shoot under 80. Dylan Hadsall (73)

edged out Brandon Eyre (74) for low medalist. Kyle Freeland carded a 78 and Tyler Gordon completed the scoring with a 83.

The Celtics have another league match at McNary Golf Club on Monday, April 9 at 10 a.m.

"I feel like I'm gong to be able to carry some momentum from that last hole into the next tournament," Langenwalter said.

right now Taylor's probably giving us a little bit more range at short," Wise said. "But Bing's bat is still really good. She's going to work hard. We'll hopefully get it figured out soon. All 12 of the girls this year are just fighting hard and it's really good."

McNary went 2-2 at a spring break tournament at West Linn on March 26-27.

After losing to West Linn 8-7 and then Tigard 3-2 on Monday, the Lady Celts bounced back and throttled Lakeridge 20-5 and Grant 17-2 on Tuesday. Ebbs led McNary at the plate in the two wins, going 7-for-8 with six runs, six RBIs, two doubles, a triple and home run. The Lady Celts had 37 hits in the two games, including nine doubles and four triples.

Witt was 4-for-6 with four runs, four RBIs, a double and two triples. Ronning went 5-for-7 with four runs, five RBIs, two doubles and a triple.

In the circle, Danner earned

both wins, allowing five hits and one run while striking out eight batters over seven innings.

McNary went back and fourth with West Linn to start the tournament. After allowing two runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, the Lady Celts answered with three in the top of the fifth. When West Linn scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth, McNary came right back with four to tie the game at 7-7. But the Lions scored the winning run in the bottom of the sixth on a ground ball to second base.

Witt was 2-for-4 with a home run and three RBIs. Cepeda was 2-for-4 with two runs. Ebner was 1-for-2 with a triple and two RBIs.

McNary left the tying run on second base against Tigard.

Down 3-1 with two outs in the seventh, Witt singled and scored on a double to left field by Cepeda. But the game ended on a ground ball to first base.

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Wentworth had a double and five RBIs in the rout.

McNary's only loss came 3-2 to Aloha on Friday, March 30.

The Celtics didn't get their first hit until Becktel singled with one out in the top of the sixth.

Aloha broke a 1-1 tie with two runs in the bottom of the sixth. Covalt had McNary's only other hit of the game on an RBI single to score Jackson in the seventh.

"We faced a better pitcher," McNary head coach Larry Keeker said. "The guy we faced that day was extremely efficient around the zone and forced you to swing the bat.

He wasn't overpowering but did a really good job mixing his fast ball and his breaking pitches. He had so much more command of what he was doing. He threw a ton of strikes and forced us to put the ball in play and we just didn't put it in play in such a way that we were getting base hits."

On the mound for McNary, Kyle McCallister got his first start of the season, allowing six hits and three runs over five innings.

"He kept us in the game," Keeker said. "Our pitching was great all week."

The Celtics regrouped with a 12-2 win over Hermiston on Saturday, March 31.

Jackson was 3-for-3 with two doubles, two stolen bases, two runs and three RBIs. Noah Bach was 2-for-2 with

a double, a run and two RBIs. Becktel was 2-for-3 with three stolen bases and scored three runs.

Devon Bedoya pitched the first four of five innings to earn the win.

"Really our pitching staff has done a really good job this year," Keeker said. "They force the other teams to put the ball in play, which is what we're supposed to be doing."

The holdup has been McNary's defense. The Celtics had 11 total errors in the four games.

"We're going to have to play better defense," Keeker said. "Our defense is still a work in progress but as a program we're not denying the fact that it's happening. The kids know it. They are owning up that it's happening a

DANNER,

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"I think it sets the tone for league," Danner said. "Our goal is to win more league games than we did last season and we only lost two. It's a hard goal but we're ready for it. There's a lot of pressure. I know other teams really want to beat us because we're defending league champs."

McNary had three freshmen in its infield—Shaylee Custer at second, Ebbs at shortstop and Ronning at third. Bingenheimer, a sophomore who started a shortstop last season as well as games this season, was used as a designated hitter, where she went 2-for-3 with a double, run and RBI.

"We haven't had enough time to really work her (Bingenheimer) in other spots because she's still a good glove, just

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