

# Celtics fall apart at South Salem

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

SALEM—Two big errors led to two big innings as McNary was swept by South Salem, falling 12-4 on Friday, May 4 and then 11-1 on Monday, May 7.

In game one, the error came in the top of the second.

After walking the bases loaded, McNary pitcher Kyle McCallister got a ground ball to short to get out of the inning unscathed but Jacob Jackson couldn't turn the double play. Only one run scored on the error but with new life the Saxons responded with five hits, including a double and home run to take a 7-0 lead.

McNary pitchers continued to struggle finding the plate as Devon Bedoya walked four South Salem batters in the third as the Saxons scored two more runs.

The Celtics scored three runs in the fourth. Jackson singled to lead off the inning

and then scored, along with Ty Covalt, on a double to center field by David Allen. Collin Wentworth then scored on a ground ball by Ryan Thompson.

McNary put one more run on the board in the fifth when Wentworth was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. The Celtics left two runners on base in both the sixth and seventh innings.

In game two, the error came in the fifth.

McNary entered the inning tied 1-1. After getting ahead of South Salem's No. 9 hitter 0-2 but failing to put him away and allowing a two-out single, Carl Rumbaugh got a ground ball to first base to get out of the inning but Thompson couldn't handle it, allowing two runs to score.

"We have to have kids make big plays in big moments," McNary head coach Larry Keeker said. "And when you don't do that, you're giving that other team a chance and against a good team, it's really risky at that point to actually get out of it."

After a home run gave South Salem a 5-1 lead, the

Celtics had another chance to get out of the inning but Jackson overthrew Thompson at first on a ground ball to short. The Saxons made McNary pay, scoring six more runs to end the game in five innings.

"We just opened the door and they went right through it with 10 runs," McNary head coach Larry Keeker said. "We just never stopped the bleeding."

The Celtics scored first on Monday as David Alfaro doubled with two outs to drive in Noah Bach and give McNary a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth.

Rumbaugh didn't allow a hit until Aaron Zavala and Ryan Brown hit back-to-back doubles to tie the game at 1-1 in the bottom of the fourth.

McNary couldn't cash in on a Jackson double in the top of the fifth as Wentworth grounded out with runners at the corners to end the inning.

"That (fifth) inning was really hard to swallow because of the way we battled for the first four and two thirds against one of the best pitchers in the league in Ryan Brown," Keeker said.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley  
McNary senior David Alfaro drove in a run with a two-out double in the top of the fourth inning on Monday at Gilmore Field in South Salem.

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# Lady Celts drop two

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

McNary didn't get the softball result it wanted, falling to West Albany 7-4 on Friday, May 4.

But head coach Kevin Wise liked the Lady Celts' improved approach at the plate.

"Last time when we played them there we didn't hit well at all," Wise said of the 10-0 loss at West Albany on April 13. "I think today we had a lot better approach and I think we did a good job of putting balls in play, at least a lot better than last time. I was really happy with the change."

West Albany struck first at McNary, scoring one run in the top of the third on a double to left field after an infield error.

But the Lady Celts answered with two runs in the bottom of the inning.

After Alexa Cepeda hit a

sacrifice fly to center field to score Abigail Covalt from third, Haley Bingenheimer tripled down the right field line to drive in Nadia Witt and give McNary a 2-1 lead.

West Albany took the lead for good in the fourth, scoring two runs on back-to-back singles with two outs. The Bulldogs added to their lead in the fifth with four runs, including a three-run home run to center field.

Nadia Witt tripled to lead off the bottom of the seventh and scored on a ground ball by Bingenheimer to get McNary within 7-4 but the rally and the game ended with another ground out.

"Really putting up four runs on a team like that is honestly pretty good because she's (Mahayla Gamble) a really good pitcher," Wise said. "They're a really good team. Losing is always hard. I just want them to build off this. We had good approaches at

the plate and defense was really pretty solid. If we play like this and get a couple of more hits to drop in, I think the results will probably be different."

Witt was 2-for-3 and scored two runs. Covalt had a double and drew two walks. Kate Ronning also doubled in the loss.

Senior Emma Kinler missed her sixth straight game with a concussion.

"Nothing against the kids that have stepped in because they've done an awesome job but when you have a senior compared to a freshman in games like this, there's just experience," Wise said. "When these kids get to be, even next year and then juniors and seniors, they're going to be lights out."

The Lady Celts suffered another loss on Tuesday, falling at McMinnville 14-4.

McMinnville took the lead early, scoring four runs in the first inning.

McNary chipped away, getting within 4-2 after Faith Danner doubled to drive home Taylor Ebbs and Ronning in the top of the second. Ebbs then doubled to lead off the top of the fourth and scored on a sacrifice fly by Danner to right field.

But the Bulldogs added to their lead with four runs in the fourth and six in the fifth to run-rule McNary.

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