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Celtics lose play-in game, ending season

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Errors plagued McNary's baseball team all season.

On Tuesday, May 15, errors ended it, as the Celtics committed nine errors in a 15-11 loss to Centennial in a state playoff play-in game.

After a clean first inning, a single, infield error and hit batter loaded the bases with zero outs for the Eagles. Carl Rumbaugh then walked in the first run of the game.

But McNary had chances to get out of the inning without giving up more runs. Rumbaugh got a ground ball to first base but Ryan Thompson's throw home hit the Centennial runner in the helmet.

Rumbaugh then got a fly ball to left field but Robert Benson couldn't catch it in foul territory, extending the inning.

The Eagles took advantage, scoring seven runs to put McNary in an early hole.

"We haven't been a great fielding team all year so it kind of showed up again tonight," McNary head coach Larry Keeker said. "We've made some improvements in fielding but tonight obviously our defense was subpar. When

you're giving up that seven spot in the second, it's an uphill battle from there."

But the Celtics fought back, scoring three runs in the bottom of the second. After Noah Bach walked and Dave Alfaro singled, Benson tripled to get McNary on the board. Thompson, who reached on a fielder's choice, then scored on a Centennial error.

The Celtics added two more runs in the bottom of the third to get within 7-5.

But the wheels continued to fall off in the top of the fourth.

With runners at second and third after a base hit and another error, Rumbaugh struck out back-to-back hitters. But Centennial answered with a RBI single and double to stretch its lead to 9-5.

Pitching in relief, Kyle McCallister got a fly ball to the mound but misplayed it, allowing two more runs to score.

The Eagles continued to give McNary chances, committing seven errors of their own.

"We had a ton of opportunities," Keeker said. "Really quite frankly it wasn't a very good baseball game. It just really wasn't. Neither team



McNary seniors Blake Junker, Ryan Thompson, Brady Ellis, Andy Okada, Kyle McCallister, Collin Wentworth, Lance Becktel, Carl Rumbaugh, John Catron and Dave Alfaro were honored before the Celtics final regular season home game on Wednesday, May 9.

played well defensively. Offensively, I guess you've got to give our guys some credit because I thought we had some really good swings. We had some balls that were hit hard right at people. The bottom

line is we also left some guys on base."

After Jacob Jackson reached on an error to lead off the bottom of the fourth, Lance Becktel drove him home with a triple. Ty Covalt then deliv-

ered a sacrifice fly to get the Celtics within 11-7.

But McNary had three more errors in the top of the fifth, including failing to turn a double play and catching a ball at home plate, that ac-

counted for two more runs.

Alfaro and Collin Wentworth delivered RBI hits in the bottom of the sixth as the Celtics scored three runs to get within 13-11.

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Childress runner-up in GVC



McNary senior Hannah Childress finished second in the GVC girls singles tournament on Saturday, May 12 at Salem Tennis and Swim Club to qualify for her fourth state tournament.

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

SALEM—Hannah Childress battled cramps in both feet to reach her first Greater Valley Conference girls singles final on Saturday, May 12 at Salem Tennis and Swim Club.

But the McNary senior couldn't bring home the title, falling to three-time district champion Ceanne Elliott of West Albany 6-0, 6-1.

"I think it would have been a lot more competitive if she would have been more fresh," McNary head coach Mathew Osberg said.

After cruising to the semifinals, dropping just five games in three matches, to qualify for her fourth state tennis tournament, Childress defeated South Salem sophomore Abby Fedor 7-5, 6-2 Saturday morning to reach the finals.

"The first set was really challenging," Childress said. "Starting the second set, she (Fedor) was really motivated. But all the

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energy just dropped and I noticed she was getting more tired and frustrated so I picked up my game then and I hit a little bump when she won the second game and the rest I just really wanted to win. I'd put so much energy into that match and wanted to make it into the finals. I love how it's my last year and I made it to the finals. It's progress."

Please see TENNIS, Page B3

Lady Celts finish strong, ready for playoffs

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary finished the regular season with a come-from-behind walk-off win over West Salem and run-rule victory at Sprague.

Now, the Lady Celts are hoping to carry that momentum into the state playoffs.

"We're definitely excited going into the playoffs because obviously we ended our season on a high note," McNary senior Haley Ebner said. "So we're hoping to build off of that and get in the playoffs and play strong."

The Lady Celts, No. 20, will open the state tournament against No. 13 Franklin on Monday, May 21 at 4 p.m. at Erv Lind Stadium in Portland.

McNary is familiar with the Quakers. The two teams met on March 21 with Franklin winning 14-10.

The Lady Celts had four infield errors in the first three innings and fell behind 12-3.

"We did not play well," McNary head coach Kevin Wise said. "We made a ton of errors. It was ugly. We didn't show up for like five innings. We were trying to kill the pitcher and hit

home runs and we figured out we have to go through the middle."

Franklin went on to win the Portland Interscholastic League and finish the season 19-6 but five of the Quakers losses came in March. Franklin went 17-1 in league play. The Quakers only loss came to No. 18 Roosevelt 2-0 on April 23.

No other team in their league is ranked in the top 25.

"I don't want to downplay them (Franklin) because they have some talent but when you look at their conference, it is not good," Wise said.

In contrast, the Greater Valley Conference had four teams finish in the top 20. Along with McNary, were No. 10 West Albany, No. 12 McMinnville and No. 16 West Salem.

"When you look at where our conference is you've got West Albany, West Salem and McMinnville and all three of those teams are really tough and have really good pitching," Wise said. "I think this year it's very balanced. We're all pretty close to each other."

Please see FINISH, Page B6



McNary seniors Emma Kinler, Haley Ebner and Nadia Witt were honored after the Lady Celts final home game on Wednesday, May 9, a 10-9 win over West Salem.