

McNary PRs but fails to qualify for state

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Nine McNary athletes ran either personal or season bests on day two of the Greater Valley Conference Track and Field Championships on Thursday, May 10 at West Salem High School.

But none of those times were fast enough to qualify any more Celts for state.

Kailey Doust was the closest, finishing third in the 800 in a season best 2:19.40. Hailey Lewtag of South Salem captured the final qualifying spot, placing second in 2:19.17.

Elizabeth Khoury of Forest Grove won the race in 2:18.83.

"Kailey, she ran her fastest district time in the finals that she's run at the conference meet," McNary head coach Franklin Gauntz said. "She kind of let them (Khoury and Lewtag) go at the 400 mark a little bit and maybe should have kept it a little bit closer but she tried as hard, I don't think she left anything out there. It's just unfortunate."

Doust also ran on McNary's

4x100 and 4x400 relays, which both finished fourth.

Joining her in the 4x100 were freshmen Leah Doust, Ashlin Samples and Isabella Walker, and in the 4x400 were Doust, Walker and Reyna Terrazas.

Leah finished eighth in the 100 in 12.91.

"My start was actually pretty good today but I think I might have slowed down a little too early," Leah said. "I just didn't finish through the way I wanted to."

Determined to do better in the 200, Leah placed fifth in 27.25.

"I just really didn't want to get last again after that 100," Leah said.

"So I was pushing because I was kind of angry. Overall it was a good experience as a freshmen getting to run in finals. It's definitely good competition and definitely pushed me to do my best. I think it will be good for the next few years."

Walker finished sixth in the 300 hurdles in 50.64.

Hannah Mallery, a sopho-



McNary junior Victor Zavala finished sixth in the GVC in the javelin. Freshman Ashlin Samples placed sixth in the 100 hurdles.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

more, ran a PR of 50.81 to place seventh.

In the 100 hurdles, sophomore Caitlyn Kieffuk Yates ran a season best 16.86 to take fifth.

Samples finished sixth with a PR of 16.87.

Noah Grunberg PR'd in both hurdle events, finishing sixth in 16.22 in the 110 and seventh in the 300 in 42.28. Casey Toavs placed fourth in

the 300 hurdles with a PR of 41.83.

Victor Zavala advanced to finals in the javelin and finished sixth with a throw of 144-09.

Lucas Garvey and Brian Hernandez took seventh and eighth in the boys 200 in 24.12 and 24.60. Garvey also finished sixth in the 400 in 53.21.

McNary's boys 4x100 re-

lay team (Garvey, Hernandez, Jose Solorio Diaz and Dyami Rios) placed fourth in 44.84. Garvey, Solorio Diaz, Emanuel Figueroa and Brayden Ebbs took sixth in the 4x400 relay in 3:32.65.

West Salem swept the team titles. McNary's girls finished fifth. The boys placed eighth.

"I'm not discouraged because we were setting personal records so that's good,"

Gauntz said. "We've just got to get faster. We competed. West (Salem) is just really fast. North (Salem) is really fast. It's a tough conference with nine teams."

Pole vaulter Paige Downer is the only McNary athlete competing in the state track meet. The 6A girls pole vault is scheduled to begin Friday, May 18 at 12:30 p.m. at Hayward Field in Eugene.

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Despite finishing fourth in the GVC, Wise likes McNary's path. While West Salem would see No. 1 and undefeated Tualatin in the second round, the Lady Celts would most likely face No. 4 Barlow.

"Even though we're ranked a little bit lower than the other teams, we probably ended up with the best part of the bracket," Wise said.

But first McNary has to take care of business in the first round.

"We have to worry about Franklin," Wise said. "It doesn't matter who we think is going to be there. We have to get there and I know we can if we play our game."

Last season, the Lady Celts

lost in the quarterfinals to Oregon City.

"We're trying to get over the quarterfinal hump," Ebner said. "We haven't made it past that all my four years so this is the year hopefully."

McNary defeated West Salem 10-9 on May 9 in its final home game. Tied 9-9 in the bottom of the seventh and the bases loaded, Haley Bingenheimer singled on a line drive to center field to score Emma Kinler for the winning run.

The Lady Celts fell behind 6-0 but responded with two runs in the bottom of the third, three in the fourth and two in

the fifth to take an 8-7 lead. McNary led 9-7 entering the seventh before West Salem tied the game in the top of the inning.

After Kinler and Abbi Covalt singled to lead off the bottom of the seventh, Nadia Witt was intentionally walked to bring Bingenheimer to the plate with the bases loaded.

Covalt was 4-for-4 with a double, home run and three RBIs in the victory. Witt also homered. Kinler was 3-for-4 and scored two runs.

McNary also finished strong at Sprague, scoring four runs in the fifth inning and six in the

sixth to win 11-1 on Friday, May 11.

Taylor Ebbs was 3-for-5 with two RBIs and two runs. Nadia Witt was 2-for-4 with a double and scored two runs. At the plate, Faith Danner was

also 2-for-4 with a double. In the circle, Danner pitched all six innings, allowing just one unearned run.

"They started fighting for each other, which is one of those things I think we've done

a little bit here and there," Wise said. "We haven't played our best game yet and I think we're starting to see glimpses of that. If we can keep that together then I have high hopes for these guys because we're plenty talented."



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