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Celtics ready to compete for state title

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

In 17 years as the head boys soccer coach at McNary, Miguel Camarena has had three teams he felt could seriously win a state championship.

This is one of them. “We’ll take it step by step but that’s our goal,” Camarena said. “The possession of the ball for this group of kids is impressive. We have 22 guys who can really possess the ball. It’s a dream scenario.”

The first step is instilling confidence in a group that has finished sixth in league play the past two seasons and returns zero players from the 2014 squad that won McNary’s last conference championship.

“They have to believe they can do it,” Camarena said. “That’s it. The talent is there and the kids are working hard. I’m really excited with what I have seen so far.”

The Celtics are led by captains Miguel Bravo, a senior midfielder, and junior Luis Lopez, who made the varsity team as a freshman but has missed most of the past two seasons with injuries. However,

Schedule	
Aug. 28 vs Central,	7 p.m.
Aug. 30 at Lake Oswego,	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 4 vs Westview,	7 p.m.
Sept. 6 at Canby,	7 p.m.
Sept. 11 vs Centennial,	7 p.m.
Sept. 13 at Madison,	7 p.m.
Sept. 17 vs Gresham,	7 p.m.
Sept. 25 vs West Salem,	7 p.m.
Sept. 29 at Summit,	noon
Oct. 2 vs South Salem,	7 p.m.
Oct. 5 at McKay,	4 p.m.
Oct. 12 vs Sprague,	4 p.m.
Oct. 16 vs Bend,	4 p.m.
Oct. 19 at Mountain View,	4 p.m.

Lopez enters the year healthy after a successful club season. “He’s super good,” Camarena said of Lopez. “He’s strong right now.



McNary’s boys soccer team, coached by Miguel Camarena, expects to compete for the Mountain Valley Conference and 6A state championship this season.

We need him in the field. I don’t want to see him injured anymore.”

Senior Sebastian Lopez will start at goal keeper for the fourth season in a row.

“He’s the best goal keeper in the state, no doubt,” Camarena said.

Senior Jesus Lopez, another

four-year starter, will lead McNary’s defense, which allowed a league-best 19 goals last season.

Camarena expects senior Jose Zamudio and sophomore Alex Salazar to lead the Celtic attack.

Salazar is one of five sophomores who played

varsity last season as freshmen.

“We have experienced combined with a lot of young kids,” Camarena said.

McNary will play in the new Mountain Valley Conference. In place of McMinnville, North Salem and Forest Grove, which finished first, second and fourth in the

Greater Valley Conference last season, the Celtics add Bend, Summit and Mountain View. Bend had the most success last season, losing in the semifinals of the 5A state playoffs.

McNary opens the 2018 season at home on Tuesday, Aug. 28 against Central at 7 p.m.

McNary returns versatile volleyball squad



McNary High School’s 2018 volleyball team features seven returning players with varsity experience and seven girls who were leaders on the junior varsity squad last season.

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary’s 2018 volleyball team won’t look the same on any given night and that’s exactly how Crystal DeMello, entering her second season as head coach, likes it.

“The girls are well-versed in volleyball so if we want to run different offenses or defenses, we’re able to implement changes mid-game,” DeMello said.

“Most of the girls play more than one position and that’s always a key to matching our opponents, versatility is definitely an asset.”

The Lady Celts return seven girls from last year’s varsity squad that finished 10-13 overall and fourth in the Greater Valley Conference—seniors Sofia Zielinski, Kara Thomas, Hannah Corpe and Gabby Shepherd, juniors Zoie Warner and Chloe Diede and sophomore Taylor Ebbs.

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Schedule	
Aug. 28 vs Mountain View,	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 4 at Bend,	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 6 vs Summit,	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 8 at South Eugene	Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
Sept. 11 at West Salem,	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 13 at Sprague,	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 15 at North Medford	Tournament
Sept. 17 vs South Salem,	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19 at McKay,	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25 at Mountain View,	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 27 vs Bend,	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 29 at Westview	Tournament, 8 a.m.
Oct. 2 at Summit,	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 4 vs West Salem,	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9 vs Sprague,	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 13 at West Linn	Tournament
Oct. 16 at South Salem,	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 18 vs McKay,	6:30 p.m.

McNary kicks off fall sports season with Blue Day

McNary athletes from kindergarten through high school in football, soccer and volleyball scrimmaged on Saturday, Aug. 18 as part of Blue Day.

The high school’s football and soccer teams showed off their new Nike jerseys.

The new scoreboard was dedicated and Keizer Elks Club presented a \$5,000

check to the McNary Athletic Booster Club to serve underfunded athletics, performing arts, JROTC and the bowling team.

More photos on B4.



LEFT: Devyn Schurr tries to break the tackle of Brian Hernandez during the varsity football scrimmage. ABOVE: Joe Egli, president of the McNary Athletic Booster Club received a \$5,000 check from Keizer Elks Ernie Gaub and Corrine Arehart.