

Lady Celts miss playoffs

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary's girls soccer team gathered Tuesday after school for pizza and a short practice, hoping for good news.

The Lady Celts didn't get it. McNary just missed making the 32-team state tournament, finishing 33rd in the final OSAA power rankings.

"We had this season probably six moments where we came on an unfortunate side of a decision or a key play and that would have been the difference," McNary head coach A.J. Nash said.

The Lady Celts finished the season on Friday, Oct. 19 with a 0-0 tie against Mountain View. Despite missing the playoffs,

Nash said McNary had a lot to hold its head high about.

"We had some significant things that we had not done in the past that happened this year," Nash said, pointing to road wins against Southwest Conference champs South Medford and Mountain Valley Conference rival South Salem.

Along with beating Forest Grove this season for the first time in the last five years, the Lady Celts also led MVC runner-up West Salem 1-0 before giving up a goal in the final 2 minutes to fall 2-1.

McNary only lost to Summit, the conference champs, 1-0 on a penalty kick.

"We were in every game

this season," Nash said. "We just needed one more fortunate result. This is clearly the strongest team we've had in McNary history. We've got incredible depth at every position, which means even though we lose eight seniors we return a strong McNary team next year. I've got significant optimism going into next year that the program will continue to move forward in the right direction."

The Lady Celts will get a sneak peak at next year's squad with a scrimmage on Tuesday at 6 p.m. when returning players will play McNary alumni.

"We're hoping this allows the program to connect with its history," Nash said.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
McNary seniors Abbie Hawley, Isabella Haselip, Katy Wyatt, Sydney Snapp, Olivia Purkey, Gina Munguia, Marley Ruble and Natalia Gonzalez were honored at halftime of Friday's game.

Whiteaker tops Claggett

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After losing a close first set, 23-25, Whiteaker Middle School stormed back to defeat city rival Claggett Creek 3-2 on Monday, Oct. 22 at McNary High School.

The Wolverines won the next three games 25-14, 25-6 and 25-15 before the Panthers took the final set 15-12.

Whiteaker finished the season 9-1.

"This team is a very close group," Whiteaker head coach Scott Coburn said. "They play hard and play to make each other better. Passing is the key to any volleyball team and they are outstanding in that area. That has allowed us to take advantage of the outstanding setting and hitting skills that we have."

Claggett finished the season 8-2.

"Over the last three to four years we have been working hard to make our volleyball program a success here at Claggett Creek," Panthers head coach Shirley Richardson said. "Many of our athletes are unable to afford club volleyball teams so in place we have found ways for our athletes to improve their skills



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
Whiteaker eighth grader Emily Blagg, top, and Claggett Creek eighth grader Elia Garnica Romero hit the ball at McNary.



and be better at who we are and where we want to be in life."

Claggett athletes have played at the Boys and Girls

Club, attended the sand volleyball camp at Keizer Rapids and McNary Volleyball Camp in the summer.

"The success we have had over the course of the years has been the dedication of our players, coaches and even bringing back in past McNary players to volunteer in our program," Richardson said. "This has been a great experience for our players. It gives them a chance to see that we are successful at the next level."

"We have had many athletes attend McNary and be a successful part of their athletic programs and even in the classrooms. I want the Claggett Creek program to be a success and positive for our players so whatever it takes to get them there is what our coaches will do to be a driving force of their success."



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
Hannah Corpe, Sofia Zielinski, Beth Fischer, Kara Thomas, Tasha Ochsner and Gabby Shepherd were honored before last Thursday's volleyball match.

McNary wins on senior night

McNary's varsity volleyball team swept McKay 3-0 (25-17, 25-18, 25-17) on Thursday, Oct. 18 to close the season.

Seniors Hannah Corpe, Sofia Zielinski, Tasha Ochsner, Kara Thomas, Beth Fischer and Gabby Shepherd were honored before playing their

final game. The Lady Celts finished the season 5-16 overall and 2-12 in the Mountain Valley Conference.

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