



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
McNary linebacker Junior Walling pressures West Linn quarterback Ethan Long during a 2018 game.

Walling invited to National Combine

McNary junior Junior Walling has been invited to the 2019 National Combine at the All-American Bowl on Jan. 3-5 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

Walling is one of 1,500 football players across the country invited to participate in the National Combine, which consists of body measurements (height, weight, reach) physical tests (40-yard dash, 20-yard short shuttle, vertical, power push up, three cone shuttle, broad jump) and position-specific drills.

Walling, who has an offer from Oregon State University, is a 3-star recruit and the No. 4 prospect in Oregon for the Class of 2020. He's the 13th ranked inside linebacker in the country.

ATHLETE of the Week



JUNIOR WALLING

Walling finished his junior season with 86 tackles, 16 tackles for loss and five sacks.

On offense, he had 1,100 total yards and 15 touchdowns.

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"I've been watching McNary basketball since I was eight or nine years old. They remind me a lot of the teams when I was in high school because they were a little bit undersized but they just moved the basketball so well and worked for good shots. A lot of times if you do that and

play good defense then you're going to be able to win."

Making the extra pass and playing team defense will continue to be the focus as Graneto takes over the boys basketball program at Sprague, where his coaching career began.

"I've known Craig (Swanson), the principal at Sprague for a while," Graneto said. "He was the athletic director when I was an assistant. We got to know each other a

little bit then. I just felt comfortable with the situation with Craig being here and I trusted him."

The Olympians will be one of the youngest teams in the new Mountain Valley Conference, after the graduation of Teagan Quitoriano, the leading scorer in the program's history, and the transfer of Jaillen Hammer to Clackamas.

"The kids have worked really hard so far," Graneto

said. "They want to get better, which is my main deal. I wanted to be somewhere where the kids really wanted to get better and so far they've done all that I've asked them in the offseason. They're dedicated and I think they're ready to go this year."

Sprague opens the season on Friday, Nov. 30 at Canby. The Olympians first home game is Friday, Dec. 7 against Beaverton. They host McNary on Jan. 24.

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"I feel like last year people wouldn't take me as seriously but now people know what to expect."

While the OSAA will have its first official girls state wrestling tournament this season, Parra isn't ruling out wrestling with the boys and qualifying for the traditional state tournament.

"I want to see if I can aim for boys state because I feel like it's more of a challenge," she said.

Sophomore Grady Burrows is the only other Celtic who has wrestled at the state tour-

nament after placing fourth at 106 pounds at the district tournament last season.

McNary does return Garrett Wampler, who finished fifth in the district at 170, and Daniel Hernandez, who placed sixth at 120 pounds.

Noah Gatchet, a junior who wrestled on the varsity at 106 as a freshman but sat out last season, is back.

"He's a good kid and I'm happy to have him back," Ebbs said. "He's a good influence on our team. He's done club wrestling. He's been around the mat a little bit. The good news is when he was a freshman, I think he weighed about 80 pounds. He's up to about 113."



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
McNary wrestler Garrett Wampler returns after finishing fifth in the district at 170 pounds last season.

The Jerry Lane Invitational, which also features Cleveland, Grant, Glencoe and Jefferson, begins Friday at 4 p.m.

"That's the time when we start taking advantage of what we've learned so far, put things

to the test," Ebbs said. "A tournament usually provides a little value to what we're doing in practice, helps kids set goals, helps them understand what it looks like outside of the room."

YOUNG, continued from Page B1

averaged more than nine points and three rebounds per game last season, and Sabela Alfaro, who averaged four points and more than four rebounds.

"I'm really excited for this year," Alfaro said. "I can't wait to watch us grow. We have a lot of young girls this year and I like teaching them. I love learning stuff from them at the same time. I'm going to definitely have to score more

points this year. The biggest thing I'm going to have to offer this year is leadership."

The Lady Celts have two juniors—Kyah Witherspoon and Regann Donahue, who returns after sitting out last year.

With its lack of height, McNary will again play fast.

"We have to run people," Doran said. "That's no secret. We're not a tall team. We have

kids that can defend but we're going to have to keep games full court to have success. We're working on a lot of full court defense and pushing the ball in transition and turning it into a full court game. I want to get a lot of points out of our full court defense this year. I think that will be an area that we will be able to excel in."

The Lady Celts open the

season Thursday, Nov. 29 at home against Roosevelt.

The game tips off at 7 p.m.

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