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McNary prepares for upcoming swim season Celtics have nearly 80 kids out for the team this year

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

From a results standpoint, the McNary swim team wasn't anything to write home about last season — the boys team placed sixth at districts while the girls squad took seventh.

But the biggest encouragement for this program is how many kids are joining the team.

After having 54 kids in their program last year, the Celtics now have 74 athletes that came out for the swim team this year.

With all those numbers, the future of this program as a whole is looking very bright.

"It's been great having these big numbers. We're almost up to 80 kids this year," McNary head coach Casey Lewin said. "Our last two freshman classes have been huge and we have done a good job of retaining those kids. We're getting a lot of kids out and they're staying out."

The Mountain Valley Conference — formally known as the Greater Valley Conference — will look a little bit different this season with Mountain View, Summit and Bend entering the league while North Salem, West Albany, Forest Grove and McMinnville exited the league over the summer.

But instead of worrying about the new competition, Lewin wants his kids to focus more on their personal improvement and development.

"Our main focus on the boys side and on the girls side is coming to practice every day to get better and to just take care of ourselves," Lewin said. "If we're able to do that, hopefully our times will reflect the work that we put in and the placement will take care of itself."

While they don't return anyone that qualified for the state meet last season, the Celtics have key returners on both teams that should have a huge impact for them in the pool.

On the boys side, junior Kyle Hooper is the top returning swimmer in the program. At the GVC District Meet last season, Hooper finished third in the 500-yard freestyle and fourth in the 200 individual medley. He has a realistic shot to make it to the state meet this season.

Senior Harrison Vaughn is the other top returner for McNary. Vaughn took fifth in the 500-free at districts last season. He will likely be one of the more versatile swimmers in the league as he will also compete in the 100-breaststroke, 200-free, 200-IM as well as others.

Seniors Wyatt Sherwood and Jabez Rhoades will be the short-distance guys for the McNary boys.

"I would like to see us score more points than we did last year at the district meet," Lewin said of his boys team. "We don't quite have the firepower to win a league title, but if we can score more and place higher, it shows that we're doing something right."

For the girls squad, sophomore twin sisters Alexandria and Isabella Beard look to be the top returners for the Celtics in a multitude of events. Both girls will swim the 500-free, 200-free, 200-IM as well as a handful of races in the breaststroke and butterfly.

Junior Alyssa Garvey looks to be the top girl in the sprint races for the Celtics.

Lewin also expects freshman newcomers Paris Boyd and Kaylynn Villalobos to make a difference for this team immediately.

"I would love us to finish higher than we did last year, and with some of the additions we have, I think we'll have enough points to get up there," Lewin said of the girls squad.



Harrison Vaughn closes in on touching the wall in a Greater Valley Conference race last season. Vaughn hopes to compete for a spot in the state meet this year.



Alyssa Garvey swims the freestyle at the final dual meet of the season last year. Garvey will be one of the top returners for the McNary girls team.

Vincent goes undefeated at Jerry Lane Invite

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary wrestling program opened up their season last Friday by hosting the second annual Jerry Lane Invitational.

Even though the Celtics went 1-3 in their four dual meets, head coach Jason Ebbs liked what he saw from his team in their first meet.

"To go toe-to-toe with the caliber of teams that we were facing was really promising to see. Especially with the young kids we have this year," Ebbs said.

"The benefit of this tournament is that we get really solid and (high) quality teams in our gym and we open up our season with what wrestling is supposed to look like at this level and why we need to practice so hard to get good."

Enrique Vincent had the best performance of the night for McNary as he was the only one on the squad that won all four of his matches.

Even though he weighed it at 138 pounds, the senior wrestled in the 145 division and still was able to come out victorious.

"It was a little bit



McNary senior Enrique Vincent gets set ready to go on the attack against his opponent. Vincent finished 4-0 in the tournament with a pair of pins.

nerve-wracking to wrestle a weight above where I was at," Vincent said. "But in my first match, I felt like I started to get a feel of what being a 145-pounder was like."

Vincent was challenged a little bit in his first two matches against Tristin David (Roseburg) and Isaiah McIntosh (Dallas), but beat both opponents by decision. In his

last two matches, Vincent beat Patrick Brown (Cleveland) and Jared Ray (Glencoe) via first-round pins.

"After I won my first two matches, I felt like my last two

were pretty easy," Vincent said.

It's a big deal for McNary to host a big deal for McNary at this tournament. Roseburg has been crowned the 6A state champion for the last five sea-

sons and has taken home 10 titles in the last 12 years.

While the Indians dominated the overall score, Ebbs was happy to see Grady Burrows (120) and Vincent get individual victories.

"(Roseburg) is a perennial force to be reckoned with," Ebbs said. "We consider ourselves lucky to have them come to our tournament and we're happy to wrestle them anytime we can."

The Celtics faced another tough test in their second dual against 5A powerhouse Dallas. Anthony Garcia Reyes (220), Noah Gatchet (113) and Burrows all won with falls, but McNary ended up losing by a score of 51-27.

After falling in a competitive dual with Cleveland, McNary wrapped up the night with a dominant victory over Glencoe, as they won 10 of the 12 individual matches.

"Glencoe tends to put some pretty tough guys on the mat, so to be able to beat them handily was a good experience for us," Ebbs said.

McNary heads back to the mat on Saturday as they head down to Eugene to compete in the Springfield Tournament.

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