

Lady Celts falter in second half

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

Although McNary looked like the superior team in the early stages, they couldn't keep the momentum going in the second half.

The Celtics were outscored 35-15 in the final 16 minutes as they fell in their season opener 69-57 to Roosevelt on Thursday, November 29.

"Overall, I was happy with our performance, but we have a young team that needs to learn to fight when a team goes on a run," McNary head coach Elizabeth Doran said. "Basketball is a game of runs and we need to be able to punch back when that happens."

Abigail Hawley led the way for McNary with 25 points on 8-of-18 shooting from the field. Mackenzie Proctor was also in double-figures for the Celtics with 10 points.

McNary couldn't have started the game much better on the offensive end. The Celtics shot 9-of-12 from the field in the opening period to score 23 points. Roosevelt, however, kept with them stride for stride as McNary only held a two-point lead at

the end of one quarter.

But the Celtics continued to put the pressure on Roosevelt with their scoring ability and took a 42-34 lead into the break.

"We did a lot of good things in the first half. We broke (Roosevelt's) press really well and we looked good offensively," Doran said.

To try and slow down McNary's potent offense, Roosevelt came out in a zone to start the second half. And this young Celtic team wasn't prepared for it.

After outscoring McNary 19-10 in the third quarter, Roosevelt was able to take a 53-52 lead into the final period.

The Celtics offensive woes continued into the fourth quarter as they struggled mightily to find the bottom of the net. McNary went 1-of-15 from the field in the fourth quarter, allowing Roosevelt to go up by double-digits and never look back.

"This game was a learning experience," Doran said. "We got a little passive against the zone. Roosevelt is a good team and they took advantage."



McNary Celt Sabella Alfaro (18) attempts to get a shot up in the paint. KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

The Celtics return to their home floor tonight for a 7 p.m. contest against Westview. Westview will have a definitive size advantage in this one with three players listed over six feet tall, so the Celtics will put a lot of their emphasis on team rebounding.

"Our game plan will be focusing on team defense and trying to keep them off the boards," Doran said. "All five on the court need to buy into rebounding. We don't have a lot of size, but we make up for it with hustle and effort."

Keizertimes welcomes new associate editor

Hello Keizer!

My name is Matt Rawlings and I am very excited to serve this community as the new associate editor of the *Keizertimes*.

I have been working in east Portland for the last two and a half years, but I am originally from the Salem area, so I am pumped to be making a return to Marion County.

Up to this point, almost all of my journalistic career has been focused on writing about sports, so this role will be a little bit new for me. A significant part of my job will still revolve around covering athletics in this area, but I will also be reporting on the Keizer schools and Keizer Fire District — as well as community events.

While I do love writing about sports, I'm quite grateful for the opportunity to expand my horizons as a journalist.

I first started writing for a newspaper back in 2012 in my first year at Chemeketa Community College. I started out as the sports editor for the school paper, then I eventually became the co-editor of the publication the following year.

In 2014, after getting my associate's degree, I transferred to Western Oregon University and became an intern in their sports information department. During that same time, I also worked a freelance sports writer for the *Statesman Journal* and

wrote for a blog called *Oregon Sports News*.

After graduating from Western in the summer of 2016, I was then hired as a sports reporter/co-sports editor for three different local papers affiliated with the Portland Tribune — *The Gresham Outlook*, *The Sandy Post* and *Estacada News*.

I covered a litany of sporting events over the course of my two-plus years there, but I also wrote several feature stories, took photos and approved pages for our print edition.

While there were challenges at times, learning how to manage numerous stories on a daily basis while meeting strict deadlines helped me become the journalist that I am today.

In July, I won five individual Oregon Newspapers Publishers Association awards for my stories and special sections at the 2018 Better Newspaper Contest.

Because the local papers were owned by the Portland Tribune, I ended up getting several opportunities to cover some of the state's biggest sporting events.

I am looking forward to creating new relationships as I begin my new position of associate editor and I am thankful that I get the opportunity to write stories surrounding this great town.

If you have a story inquiry, email me at news@keizertimes.com.



M. Rawlings

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