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Lady Celts can't hang with Westview

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

McNary's girls basketball squad was able to be competitive in the early stages, but turnovers and poor shooting kept them from staying close.

The Lady Celts turned the ball over 22 times in the contest and shot under 20 percent (6-of-32) from the field in the second half in their 75-43 loss to Westview on Friday, Dec. 7 at McNary High School.

"We need to cut down on the turnovers and start valuing every possession," McNary head coach Elizabeth Doran said. "We did not do a good job taking care of the basketball and when that started to go wrong, everything just went downhill from there."

Abigail Hawley was the only McNary player in double-figures with 12 points.

After falling behind to start the contest, Hawley knocked down consecutive 3-pointers to tie the game at 6-6 early in the opening period.

Mackenzie Proctor then got in on the action with a triple of her own, as well as a tough lay-up to give McNary the 14-11 lead.

"We knew that we could run on them and get ourselves into open space," McNary guard Sabella Alfaro said. "One of the advantages of our team is that we're quicker than a lot of teams."

But late in the quarter, Westview put on a full-court press that the Celtics weren't

prepared for.

McNary's starting point guard Leah Doutt was forced to miss the game due to illness, and Westview took advantage by swarming the Celtics with intense defensive pressure in the backcourt. McNary turned the ball over on four straight possessions, which allowed the Wildcats to go on a 9-0 run and take a 20-14 lead.

Without their best ball-handler, the Celtics greatly struggled to get into their half-court offense for the majority of the game.

"With Leah out, we had some players in positions they're not used to," Doran said. "Leah usually runs our press-break, so we were asking a lot of kids to step up tonight." Transition buckets by Isabella Walker and Rebekah Grimmer gave McNary the momentum to begin the second period, but three straight triples from Westview's Nicole Flenbaugh put the Wildcats up by double-digits.

Flenbaugh torched the Celtics for a game-high 30 points.

"(Flenbaugh) is a really good player and we didn't do a good enough job communicating on screens to be able to get a hand in her face," Alfaro said.

After going to the locker room trailing 41-27, Alfaro and Kennedy Buss each got easy hoops in the opening minute of the second half to cut the lead to 10. But a 20-7 run by Westview made it impossible for the Celtics catch up.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

McNary guard Mackenzie Proctor goes in for the lay-up in the Celtics 75-43 loss to Westview last Friday evening.

"We have to stop the bleeding when a team goes on a run," Doran. "That has been one of the themes of our first two games."

McNary will travel to Central Catholic tonight for a 7 p.m. contest.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Annie Leigh Besa tries to drive through a pair of Westview defenders.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Sabella Alfaro scores a bucket in transition for McNary.

Mat men perform well at Springfield Tourney

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary High School wrestling team sent 11 athletes to the podium and finished in third place as a squad in the 24-team Springfield Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 8.

With their first conference meet right around their corner, head coach Jason Ebbs is impressed with how his young squad is progressing.

"It was a pleasant surprise to see how much success we had," Ebbs said. "Overall, I'm really happy with how we are developing and improving. We're getting some good experience for our young kids."

Of all the Celtic wrestlers, Anthony Garcia-Reyes was the most impressive.

The junior went 5-0 for the tournament and won all of his matches either by pin or major decision and was crowned the tournament champion in the 220-pound division.

"It felt really good to win," Garcia-Reyes said. "I feel like all the work and conditioning

I've been putting in was put to the test and I was able to step up to the challenge."

It was first time Garcia-Reyes had placed first at a tournament in his career.

"In the years that he's been wrestling, that's the first time that I've seen (Garcia-Reyes) string together five really good matches in a row," Ebbs said. "Everything that happened in those matches was controlled and determined by him."

Grady Burrows (120 lbs.) and Garrett Wampler (182) each took third in their respective weight classes after ending the day with a record of 4-1. Eoan Sharabarin (113) Matthew Mehlhoff (160) and Ryan Bamford (182) finished in sixth place while Noah Gatchet (120) took seventh.

After losing his first match, Gilbert Parra (145) came back

to win his next two before falling in the consolation championship.

McNary also got big contributions from a trio of freshmen.

Jordan Orr (106) won three out of his four matches to take sixth place. Estaban Victoria (138) also placed sixth while Layne Runyan (220) took seventh.

"It's huge for our freshmen to win some matches and have success early in the season," Ebbs said. "The sooner we can get those guys to climb that ladder, the sooner we can get them to set future goals for themselves."

McNary will compete in the Liberty Invitational Tournament at Liberty High School in Hillsboro on Saturday starting at 9 a.m. Their first Mountain Valley Conference dual meet will take place at Sprague High School on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

"I'm really happy with how we are developing."

— Jason Ebbs



File Photo

McNary's Daniel Hernandez (blue singlet) fights for positioning during a match from earlier this season.