Lady Celts notch first victory

By MATT RAWLINGS Of the Keizertimes

After losing their first two games at home by doublefigures, the McNary High School girls basketball team finally found their stride on the road.

Leah Doutt and Abigail Hawley led the Lady Celts with 11 points apiece as McNary notched their first win of the season at Madison on Tuesday, Dec. 11, beating the Senators 43–38.

"It was a fun game to win and a fun atmosphere to play in," McNary head coach Elizabeth Doran said. "We needed that (victory)."

Doutt and Hawley each knocked down a 3-pointer in the final minute of the opening quarter to give McNary the early 18-10 advantage.

The Celtics went through a cold streak in the second period, shooting just 2-of-17 from the field. However, McNary's ability to limit Madison on the glass helped them retain the lead at 23-18 going into the break.

Rebounding had been a huge issue for the Celtics to begin the season, but McNary won the battle on the boards 34-31 and created numerous second-chance opportunities by grabbing 14 offensive rebounds.

"We are doing a better job on the boards," Doran said. "Size-wise, Madison was just a better matchup for us."

Even though they only clung to a 31-29 advantage to end the third quarter, the Celtics started to pull away in the final period after going on a 10-3 run.

Madison made it a one possession game late in the contest, but Doutt put the game on ice by sinking a pair of free throws with 4.3 seconds remaining.

Doutt, who missed the previous game due to illness, made a big difference for the Celtics in her return to the lineup as the starting point guard. The Celtics turned the ball over 25 times in their loss against Westview in Doutt's absence. However, McNary only gave the ball away six times versus Madison.

"When your point guard is back, you're just able to handle (defensive) pressure better," Doran said.

McNary fell to Central Catholic last Friday by a score of 64-48, dropping

their record to 1-3 on the season. The Lady Celts will travel to Southern Oregon tonight to take on North Medford at 7 p.m. and then play against South Medford at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

McNary guard Abilgail Hawley drives to the basket in a game vs Westview earlier this season.

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings



McNary wrestlers tested at tourney

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in the state.

The McNary wrestling team got the opportunity to compete in the Liberty Invitational last Saturday alongside some of the best teams

This 25-team tournament ended up being a challenge for this fairly inexperienced McNary squad as no Celtic wrestler placed above fifth. But head coach Jason Ebbs knew that there would be some growing pains as this team prepares for the Mountain Valley Conference sea-

"There is certainly a lot of room for growth in this young team," Ebbs said. "And yeah, we would have liked some better placements but we just need more time. We're just cracking the eggshell with some of these guys and hoping that they're coming along with it and becoming mentally tough."

"I like this tournament because you end up with a lot of parity. It provides a challenge to our guys."

113-pounder Grady Burrows was McNary's most successful wrestler for the tournament as he finished the day with a 4-1 record and won an 8-2 decision in the fifth-place match over Nick Hekker from Sherwood.

Noah Gatchet finished in seventh-place for the Celtics with a first-round pin in his final match.

"Noah has definitely been making a difference for us," Ebbs said.

McNary's Daniel Hernandez won three matches at 126 pounds, which was good enough for sixth-place. Gilbert Parra (145) also won a trio of matches and finished seventh.

Garret Wampler (182) placed seventh after earning a second-round fall over Liberty's Tobias Cook.

McNary 106-pound freshmen Damian Hernandez and Jordan Orr also had solid showings over the weekend.

After getting pinned in his opening match, Damian Hernandez won his next four matches while Orr got all three of his victories via fall and finished in ninth.

"Our little (106) pounders were impressive. They work hard and they get after it," Ebbs said. "They're consistently performing at a re-

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ally high level for freshmen wrestlers and they should be something to watch out for."

With the season still in its infancy stages, Ebbs believes that he will have other guys come along as the season progresses.

"We have some more guys that are coming along nicely and they will be able to show what they got here in a few weeks," Ebbs said.







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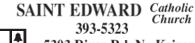
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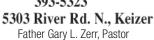
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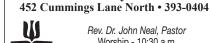


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