

Short-handed Celtics can't compete with North Salem

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary varsity wrestling team was not at full strength when they took on North Salem Friday, Jan. 25, and it showed on the scoreboard as the Celtics lost the match 58-16.

Grady Burrows, Damian Hernandez, Daniel Hernandez and Jordan Orr were out of the rotation in this one, which forced new kids to step into the lineup and others to wrestle above their intended weight class.

"We're trying to put the same lineup on the mat two events in a row," McNary head coach Jason Ebbs said. "Kids are busy these days and

we compete with a lot of different things and some of those things are pulling our kids out of the lineup."

"The last couple weeks we've had a few holes here and a few holes there. Once we can get all those guys in the lineup at the same time, I think we'll be ok."

After losing the first two matches, McNary's Matthew Mehlhoff gave the Celtics some momentum by pinning his opponent 40 seconds into the first round in the 152-pound bout.

However, North Salem responded by winning the next eight matches, six of which came by either fall or technical fall — the Celtics had to

forfeit the 106-pound bout Ryan Bamford (170 lbs.) took his opponent the distance, but lost via 11-6 decision.

Bamford came back to cut the lead to one in the third round, but couldn't recover after suffering a pair of take-downs in the final two minutes.

However, the Celtics did have a couple high notes to finish the match.

Despite wrestling up a weight class, Noah Gatchet (120 lbs.) was able to force a second-round fall after trailing for most of the match.

Gatchet fell behind 6-2 in the first round. But once the second round began, Gatchet was the clear aggressor. After getting out of an arm-bar, Gatchet executed a brilliant two-point takedown, then eventually got the pin just moments later.

"I just felt like if I got out of the arm-bar, I could get top control," Gatchet said. "Once I did, I just kept him there and got the pin."

Ebbs was quite impressed with his sophomore wrestler and knew that Gatchet wouldn't have a problem in a different division.

"Noah got out there and he was just plain gritty," Ebbs said. "I love Noah for that reason. He's just a silent warrior. Inside of him is a guy that wants to win no matter what."

Gatchet believes that wrestling will benefit him later on in the season as he prepares for the Greater Valley Conference District Tournament.

"I'll be wrestling at 113 for at districts, so I feel like wrestling bigger guys is going to help me," Gatchet said.

Cameron Parks followed Gatchet's win with a first round pin in the 126-pound match.

The Celtics will face off against Mountain View, Summit and Bend in three separate dual meets starting at 3 p.m. on Friday at McNary High School.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings
Leah Doult (14) goes up against a pair of Mountain View defenders in McNary's 42-41 victory on Saturday night.

Lady Celts win nailbiter over Mountain View

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
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Leah Doult has made a habit of coming through for her team in big games.

And that pattern remained the same on Saturday night.

The sophomore point guard led all scorers with 20 points as the McNary girls basketball team squeaked out a thrilling 42-41 win over Mountain View for their seventh straight victory.

"I just knew that coming into this game that (Mountain View) was a tough team and I needed to step up to help my team win," Doult said. "I did what I could to get open shots for myself and my teammates."

With the win, McNary remains in first place atop the Mountain Valley Conference standings.

"I think it's really exciting knowing that we have a shot to be league champs this year," Doult said.

Doult played the role of dis-

tributor in the first period as she found both Abigail Hawley and Mackenzie Proctor for backdoor layups in the opening minutes of the contest.

Doult also nailed her first 3-pointer of the game as the Celtics went up 12-4 at the end of the first quarter.

However, Doult really made her presence felt in the second period.

After hitting a triple to open the quarter, Doult knocked down a pair of free throws on the following trip to put the Celtics up 17-5.

Mountain View responded by going on an 7-0 run, but Doult answered back with her third make of the half from beyond the arc.

Moments later, Doult finished off a nifty, left-handed layup in transition while getting fouled on the arm.

Doult completed the three-point play and finished with 11 of McNary's 12 second quarter

points, helping the Celtics take a 24-17 lead at the break.

"I forget this she's a sophomore sometimes," McNary head coach Elizabeth Doran said of Doult. "She has the confidence in herself to get to the basket and make plays when they need to be made."

McNary entered the fourth period with a 32-23 lead and then increased that advantage to double-digits when Proctor came off a screen to nail a three from the corner.

However, McNary became a bit stagnant on the offensive end in the final period, which allowed Mountain View to come back and trim their deficit to 36-31 with under three minutes remaining.

When the Celtics needed a hoop down the stretch, they ended up going to an unexpected source.

McNary's Rebekah Grimmer hadn't taken a shot in the contest up to this point. However, the sophomore forward received an entry pass in the post on back-to-back possessions, and in both instances, Grimmer came through with clutch baskets to put the Celtics on top 40-31.

"Rebekah had a great game down the stretch for us," Doran said. "We had a pretty good matchup size-wise and we were able to get the ball to her down low."

After a pair of quick baskets by Mountain View, Doult converted on a runner to put McNary's lead at 42-36 with 1:14 remaining, but Mountain View nearly made a miraculous comeback in the final moments of the game.

Two straight 1-and-1 front end misses by the Celtics gave Mountain View a chance down the stretch as the Cougars got the lead down to one with just two seconds left.

But the Celtics were successfully able to inbound the ball and run out the remaining time on the clock.

McNary will host Summit on Saturday at 5 p.m.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings
McNary's Gilbert Parra (blue) gains lower position on his opponent in the 145-pound bout.

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