

BASE,

continued from Page A14

with both coaches and decided to play the remainder of the game on the following day (Wednesday, April 10). But due to poor weather, the game was moved to Thursday.

"We just approached it like we were going to play a normal baseball game today and everything that typically happens on a game day was going to happen," Keeker said.

Jeffries started for the Celtics on the mound when the game continued in the top of the eighth.

Sprague loaded up the bases with one out in the frame when Brett Hassoun hit a slow roller just to the left of the mound. Jeffries gathered and threw to home to get the force out, but Covalt was unable to corral the throw and was charged with an error, putting Sprague on top 7-6.

But Jeffries gathered himself and retired the next two hitters, leaving three Olympians stranded on-base.

Once again in a come-behind situation, the Celtics rose to the challenge.

After Nigel Harris was fanned for the first out, Ian Martin and Benson drew free passes to put the Celtics in



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings
Rennick Jeffries fires a fastball to the dish in the 8th inning.

business, bringing up Tavera.

With a 1-1 count, Tavera hit a hard ground ball that got between the third baseman and shortstop for a base hit.

"My natural intent was to drag bunt one down the third base line. But the pitcher wasn't throwing a lot of strikes, so the first pitch I saw down the middle I tried to hit to left field," Tavera said.

Before the season started, Keeker commented that this team had a lot of speed and would look to be more aggressive on the bases.

That aggression was seen first hand on the final play.

Ian Martin scored easily on the play from second. Benson, however, decided to push the envelope and try to go from first to third to put the winning run 90 feet away with one out.

The Sprague left fielder appeared to be unprepared

for Benson trying to advance another base and rushed his throw to third.

It would have been a bang-bang play had the throw been on target, but the one-hopper got by Deloretto at third and came to a rest at the fence by the McNary dugout. Benson scored on the error, sending the Celtics to victory.

"That was all Benson. When he's coming from first base on a ball hit to left field, that decision is his because the play is in front of him," Keeker said. "Generally speaking, Robert is a pretty aggressive baserunner, so he felt like he had a chance to get there and he did."

"Getting 90 feet away with one out is a big advantage because it gives you a lot of options."

McNary returns to the diamond on Saturday where they'll play host to Mountain View.

CELTS,

continued from Page A14

the lead to two before the break.

"We tightened up our passes and that allowed us to get better looks," Jesse Proulx said. "We had to tell some guys to stop taking outside shots."

Both teams got multiple opportunities to score to begin the second half, but neither squad could get one through the post for the first seven minutes of the third quarter. That is, until Tyler Palanuk's got a steal on defense,

which he turned into a goal on offense to bring the Celtics within one at the 2:16 mark in the third quarter.

Beaverton responded on their next possession with their first score in nearly 20 minutes of game action, but Parks' second goal of the contest got the deficit back to just one at the end of the third period.

It appeared McNary had the momentum to open the final period as they tied the game 33 seconds into the quarter. Jesse Proulx's shot-attempt was saved by the Beaverton goalie, but Proctor stole the outlet pass and

put one in the back of the net.

"These guys are resilient," Hochspeier said. "They never give up and they know how to keep fighting, keep playing and keep pushing."

The Beavers scored moments later to regain the lead. But Jesse Proulx put in his second score with 8:44 remaining in the contest by faking that he was going to reset the offense and then reversing his field to just sneak a shot past the Beaverton keeper.

"We were just looking at getting the top-side shots," Jesse Proulx said.

However, the McNary offense became stagnant, settling for low-percentage shots, and didn't score for the remainder of the game.

Beaverton scored to grab an 8-7 advantage with 3:26 remaining. The Celtics had several opportunities to force overtime, but back-to-back turnovers in the final minute doomed McNary down the stretch.

The Beavers got their final goal off a McNary turnover with 13 seconds left in the game.

"When it came down to it, Beaverton was able to get the ball into their key players hands late and they were tough to slow down," Hochspeier said.

McNary hosts Sisters at 8 p.m. on Friday



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings
McNary's Jamison Proulx battles (19) battles for a loose ball near midfield.

Dutcher shoots 73 at Creekside



Submitted
McNary golfer Joel Dutcher follows through on his shot from the fairway on Monday afternoon. Dutcher ended the match tied for first after shooting a 73.

McNary golfer Joel Dutcher was the co-winner of the Mountain Valley Conference League Match #3 at Creekside Golf Course on

Monday afternoon. Despite rainy conditions, Dutcher was 3-under-par on the front nine and even had four birdies. Dutcher shot a 40

on the back nine, giving him a final score of 73 — which was tied for first with West Salem's Brandon Eyre.

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