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## Walling finds joy in recruitment process

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Junior Walling still has another year of high school football left to play. But there are a number of major college programs that are already greatly interested in the McNary linebacker's services in 2020.

The 6-foot-2, 215-pounder has gained scholarship offers from major programs such as, Oregon State, Utah, Air Force and Army. He has also taken recruiting trips — also known as unofficial visits — to Oregon, Purdue, Colorado, UCLA and Boise State.

During these trips, Walling gets to see the individual campuses first-hand and talk with different coaches and coordinators about educational programs, defensive schemes and learn about the overall motto and environment of each program.

"Going on these trips has been really cool because I get to see the differences with each school," Walling said. "It's for sure been an experience I'll never forget. I've really enjoyed it so far."

Walling actually got his first offer from Oregon State last spring after having a stellar sophomore season in 2017. Walling's father, Jason, played at OSU in the early '90s.

"That was real huge for me and my family, especially with my dad playing there and all my family graduating from there," Walling said. "It's always been a huge dream of mine to play at the college

level so that was a big moment of my life."

While Walling has always had a connection with Oregon State, he wants to make sure he gives every school, that has shown interest, a fair shake.

"I've been a Beaver fan for most of my life, but I'm all about finding what school best fits me," Walling said.

With the many recruiting trips he has taken over the last several months, it can be quite a challenge for Walling to maintain balance in his life.

Along with being an outstanding football player, Walling also competes for the Celtics in basketball, works out four times a week with a trainer and has kept a 4.0 grade-point average all through high school — which is one of the reasons he has also received offers

from Yale and Princeton.

However, in large part due to his understanding teachers, Walling is still able to make his schooling a top priority, despite his crazy schedule.

"My teachers are crazy supportive and understanding with everything that I'm doing," Walling said. "School has always come first for me, so it's always been really important to make sure I'm getting my schoolwork done."

As a junior in 2018, Walling was dominant on both sides of the football in leading McNary to a Mountain Valley Conference title. He ended the season with 86 total tackles (49 solo, 37 assisted) with 16 tackles for loss and five sacks.

As a running back,

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File  
Junior Walling (right) with his dad, Jason, on an unofficial visit to Oregon State University last year.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

McNary's Taylor Ebbs doubles in a game against West Salem back in April.

## Lady Celts continue to dominate conference play

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Everything is clicking right now for the McNary softball team.

A nine-run second inning helped McNary jump out to a huge lead early on, and the Celtics never looked back as they defeated Mountain View on Tuesday, May 7 for their 10th straight victory.

The Celtics moved to 11-1 in Mountain Valley Conference play and have a comfortable two game lead at the top of the standings.

Alexa Cepeda and Taylor Ebbs each went 3-for-3 with two RBIs at the dish for McNary. Faith Danner and Abbi

Covalt each chipped in with three RBIs.

Danner also started the game in the circle and pitched a perfect frame in her only inning of work. Freshman Hannah Ebner finished the job on the mound as she went four innings and gave just three hits and no earned runs while striking out five.

It was the fourth time this season that McNary had shutout an MVC opponent.

A two-run double by Danner in the top of the first gave McNary the 2-0 cushion. The Celtics brought in two more runs later in the inning on a walk and a fielder's choice to extend their advantage to 4-0.

In the following frame, McNary put the game away in emphatic fashion.

After a leadoff walk by Cepeda, Covalt and Ebbs each came through with an extra-base hit. Two batters later, Kate Ronning got in on the action with an RBI-single to left field, putting the Celtics on top 7-0.

McNary would wind up getting a total of eight RBIs in the inning to take a 13-0 lead.

This was McNary's ninth victory this season that came by 10 runs or more.

The Celtics will host Bend on senior day Saturday at noon.

## McNary falls just short against Sprague

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Despite getting the tying and go-ahead runs on base with one out in the top of the seventh, the Celtics couldn't push either one across as the McNary baseball team fell to Sprague 5-4 on Tuesday, May 7.

But considering that they were going up one of the top teams in the Mountain Valley Conference shorthanded, McNary head coach Larry Keeker was pretty pleased with some of the things that he saw from his club.

"I was really proud of the way we battled offensively today to make it a close game," Keeker said. "There was a lot to like about what we did in this game."

The Celtics were without two of their best players in Jacob Jackson and Nigel Harris — who have missed the last three games for McNary after getting injured at practice last week. Jackson is dealing with a knee issue, while Harris is recovering from a high ankle sprain.

Jackson is the Celtics starting shortstop and is third on the team in hitting with a .329 average (minimum 10 at-bats). Harris, who starts in the outfield, is batting .312 and has proved to be one of the Celtics most reliable relief pitchers.

Not having either play could be costly for McNary as they head down the



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings  
Alex Simpson sprints down the life after hitting a hard ground ball to the left side. Simpson went 2-for-4 in the contest, but the Celtics still fell to Sprague by a score of 5-4.

stretch of the regular season.

"(Jackson) is in his third year of varsity baseball and is one of our captains, so obviously losing him off the field makes a difference," Keeker said. "And Nigel came off two really good pitching performances for us, so losing him really hurts."

"Now there are oppor-

tunities for other guys, so they're going to have to step up and makes some plays for us."

Devon Bedoya got the start on the mound for the Celtics and made a habit of getting himself out of tough situations.

Sprague had the bases loaded and nobody out in

the bottom of the first. But after giving up a sacrifice fly to Michael Soper, Bedoya ended the inning by forcing two straight popouts.

The Olympians scored two more in the bottom of the second, but McNary finally responded when they came to the plate in the top of the third.

Ian Martin hit a one-out single up the middle to get the Celtics going, then advanced to second after Sprague pitcher Will Deloretto's pick off throw got past the first baseman and went into right field.

Martin would later score on a sharp RBI-single to left field by Robert Benson,

trimming the deficit to 3-1.

Bedoya gave up another run in the bottom half of the frame, but would help out his cause at the plate when he came to bat in the top of the fourth.

Singles by David Allen and Jamison Martin, as well as a walk from Noah Bach, allowed McNary to load the bases with one out when Bedoya stepped to the plate.

The senior smoked a line drive up the middle that glanced off Deloretto's glove and found its way into center field, allowing the Celtics to cut the lead to one with the two-run single.

Alex Simpson was retired for the second out of the inning on an infield pop-up, but Martin picked up his teammate and drove an opposite-field RBI-single to right field to tie the game at 4-4.

"Once one person gets on, it just starts a chain reaction and everyone gets their confidence back," Martin said.

Sprague regained the lead with a run in the bottom of the fourth and was looking to get some insurance runs in the bottom of the fifth. The Olympians had the bases loaded with nobody out as Bedoya appeared to be running out of gas.

But after retiring the next hitter on a popout, Bedoya

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