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## Celts crowned conference champs



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

The McNary softball team flashes the #1 sign after defeating Bend 12-2 on Saturday, May 11. The Celtics clinched the Mountain Valley Conference title with a 13-1 record in league play.

### BY MATT RAWLINGS Of the Keizertimes

The McNary softball team knew they had already clinched the Mountain Valley Conference title in their previous game before they took the field against Bend on Saturday, May 11.

But putting an exclamation point on the conference season on senior night was still a sweet moment for the Lady Celts.

Faith Danner pitched six innings and gave up just seven hits and one earned run to

along with her 3-for-4 day at the dish, propelling McNary to the 12-2 run-rule victory against Bend.

"I knew this team was capable to accomplish what they just did," McNary head coach Kevin Wise said.

"I love this group. It all comes down to their work ethic and their willingness to just fight over and over again."

Coming into the season Danner, who is one of only two seniors on the team, knew that she had to step

up both on the field and in a leadership role for a roster that has four sophomores and three freshmen. But so far, Danner has loved playing with a team that is young and hungry.

"It's be really awesome to play with this group," Danner said. "We have all been really supportive of each other. I'm going to miss them when the season is over."

McNary finishes MVC play with a 13-1 record and ended the regular season on a 12-game win streak. They

also put up double-digit run totals in all but one of their league contests.

Even though they won via mercy-rule, the Celtics still had to deal with some adversity in this game.

McNary held a 1-0 lead when they took the field in the top of the second inning thanks to an RBI-single from Taylor Ebbs in the bottom of the first.

Bend's Maya Eliff hit a hard ground ball to Ebbs at shortstop to begin the second frame. Ebbs put herself

in perfect position to make the play, but the ball took a bad hop and hit her square in the face.

After being tended to for more than 10 minutes, Ebbs had to be escorted off the field with a fractured nose.

It was difficult for the rest of the McNary squad to see their teammate and star slugger in so much pain. But like they have for much of the season, the Celtics found a way to be resilient.

"That sucked to watch," Danner said. "But we be-

lieved in each other and we all wanted to win for Taylor."

Bend tied the game with a run in the top of the second. McNary, however, responded by producing a pair of runs in the bottom half of the frame.

Hannah Ebner laid down a perfect sacrifice bunt to move Shaylee Cluster and Kayelee Schwab into scoring position after they were both issued free passes.

Kamryn Miller brought in

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## McNary tennis battles at district tournament

### BY MATT RAWLINGS Of the Keizertimes

The McNary girls and boys tennis teams closed out their respective seasons last week at the Mountain Valley Conference District Tournament May 6-7. The boys team competed at the Salem Tennis and Swim Club, while the girls played in Sunriver.

"I am very pleased with this season. There was improvement over the season across the board. The girls who put in the effort really developed and we have set ourselves up to be even more successful next year," McNary girls tennis coach Sean Smith said. "I hope even more girls try tennis next year and we can continue to develop a competitive program."

Gina Munguia and Natalia Gonzalez started off the first day for the Lady Celts by winning their opening match in thrilling fashion (6-4, 4-6, 7-5) against Mountain View's top doubles squad to move onto the second

round. The duo would drop their second match 6-1, 6-3.

After losing their first round match, Jorie Skipper and McKinsey Jarragin rallied to win their first round consolation doubles match 8-5. Ashlyn Lyda and McKenzie Proctor also picked up an a victory (8-4) on the consolation side.

Even though it's only her first year playing tennis, Lexy McKay proved that she could hang with some of the best singles players in the MVC.

McKay picked up an easy 8-1 win in her first consolation match, then followed it up with an 8-4 victory to advance to the consolation semifinals — where she fell 8-4.

"It is amazing for a first year player to make it that far in the bracket; so that was very exciting. (McKay) has great athletic ability and is very coachable," Smith said. "She has the ability to get to the ball and get it back, which leads to success in our league."

Avery Haymowicz also

took home a win in her first consolation match (8-3), helping the Celtics finish in seventh place.

"I was impressed with the attitude of the whole team. They are all so positive and come off the courts, win or lose, excited about their match and how they played," Smith said.

On the boys side, Luke Skipper started off the tournament with a dominant 6-0, 6-0 win against South Salem's Ben Byler in the first round of the singles tournament.

"Luke Skipper is a serious competitor. He is one of those players that hates to get beat. And he is crafty," McNary boys tennis coach Marc McAvoy said. "He plays a very patient and cerebral game. A lot of his success is related to his ability to outlast his opponent. I have seen him beat some very quality players over the last two seasons."

Adam Graneto was the

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KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

McNary's Grant Goesch competes at the Mountain Valley Conference district meet on Monday, May 6.