

McNary's playoff run comes to a close

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

All season long, the McNary softball team had prided themselves on playing sharp in the field, and being an explosive offense — averaging nearly 10 runs a game over the course of the year.

But in their second round playoff game, the Celtics were unable to rely on their strengths that had gotten them this far.

Although 10 Celtics reached

base, none were able to score as McNary was shut out for the first time since the month of March. McNary also committed five errors in the contest in their 9-0 loss to #3 Sheldon on Wednesday, May 22.

"It just wasn't our day," McNary head coach Kevin Wise said. "We made way too many errors, and that gave (Sheldon) a chance to continue innings."

McNary had a threat going in the top of the first when

Abbi Covalt reached on an error, which was followed by a sharp single by Taylor Ebbs. But the Celtics couldn't take advantage as Sheldon pitcher Camille Leach retired the next two hitters to get out of trouble.

McNary pitcher Faith Danner would not be as fortunate in the bottom half of the frame as the Irish got a pair of runs on four hits to take the early 2-0 lead.

Sheldon increased their lead to 4-0 in the bottom of the second thanks to an RBI-single by Jordan Henderson and a solo homer from Emma Neuman.

"When we got down 4-0, we just started pressing more than we normally do," Wise said. "It just never felt like we

were in it."

However, it's not like the Celtics didn't have their chances.

McNary had a runner in scoring position in each of the first four innings, but the Celtics could never find a way to manufacture a run.

"It just seemed like every

time we would get runners in scoring position, (Sheldon) would make a play on us to end the inning," Wise said.

Even with the loss, this McNary team was able to see how special this season was. The Celtics finished the year with a 20-9 record, a Mountain Valley Conference title and a thrilling playoff victory over North Medford on Monday, May 20.

What's even more encouraging for this program is how bright their future is. McNary will return eight of their nine starters in 2020, and six of those players received all-league honors.

"I told the girls after the game how much it sucks to lose, but that there are some big things coming for this team," Wise said. "They have been right there with some of the best teams in the state this year. I'm so excited for what is to come."

If the shoe fits

What's with women and shoes? They like to shop for them, buy them and collect them. I've never understood this feminine phenomenon. Shoes are so pedestrian. Give me a good pair of sneakers and I'm good to go until they become ragged. Then I go buy a new pair.

Now my wife hates to shop for clothes, but she likes to shop for shoes. If she's in a melancholy state, she goes shoe shopping. If she's in a happy mood, she still goes shoe shopping. I just don't get it.

She's also adamant that things are put away at our house. Table tops are kept clean and uncluttered. This pertains to the whole house. Except my fishing room.

My fishing room is a bit messy. No, it's a disaster. Picture the aftermath of a F-5 tornado. Fly tying remnants are scattered all over, clothes in disarray, rods and reels, books and magazines and untold other things of varying importance.

My understanding wife doesn't care what my room looks like as long as the door remains closed. My mess, my

problem. "Don't complain when you can't find something."

Recently, as I do on a rare occasion, I cleaned and organized my room. Not a one

night affair, but most of a whole weekend. I found so many things I forgot I had. Many in duplicate. I couldn't understand how I'd amassed this collection.

I'm not a hoarder, but to my surprise, I found things I had bought that I must have thought I needed. As an example, seven spools of yellow fly tying thread. Not one, seven.

What's wrong with my brain?

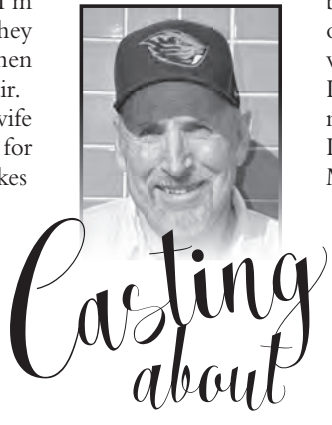
Obviously, I shouldn't be allowed in a fly shop unsupervised. My obsession to have to buy something, or many something, is surely out of control.

It was then I had an epiphany. Buying fly tying materials was no different than a woman's penchant for buying shoes. It is a way of rewarding oneself for some reason. A way to fill some need by buying something that simply makes us feel good.

Cleaning my room turned into an enlightening adventure. Best of all, I can sleep well knowing I'll never again have to buy any yellow fly tying thread. I've got enough for two lifetimes now, and somehow that makes me feel good.

So ladies, buy all the shoes you think you need. It will make you feel good. And for myself, I think I need to visit the fly shop.

Oh the humanity...



by JIM TAYLOR



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

McNary second baseman Abbi Covalt camps under a fly ball in the Celtics first round playoff game against North Medford.

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