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Celts doubled up by Titans in conference dust up



By DEE MOORE
For the Keizertimes

An early double play and later home run hit by Ethan Patterson were highlights of the June 13 game against the West Salem Titans. Patterson's bat connected solidly with the ball sending it deep into right field shocking the Titan's fielder and sending him scrambling.

The Celtics controlled the home field during the top of the first inning preventing the heavy hitting Titans from scoring. The team's potential was on display but they were unable to get past the Titan's strong offense to score any runs though the bases stayed loaded.

West Salem gained eight runs in the second inning by loading the bases and slipping past McNary's defense taking advantage of the team's youthful simple mistakes.

This early show of strength by West Salem dominated the game and undermined the Celtics' confidence for the rest of the evening which ended with the Celtics losing 16-8.

"We didn't pitch as well as we have lately. We also didn't play defense as well as we have earlier this summer and as a result we gave West Salem a pretty big lead. I thought we battled back with the play. We had some pretty good at-bats up and down the lineup. Ethan Patterson's home run was certainly a highlight. We turned a double play early in the game that was really, really good," said head coach Larry Keeker.

"But, the fact of the matter is when you give up 16 runs it's difficult to win a baseball

game. We had to use a lot of young pitchers today against a pretty good team. It was a good experience for them. They are going to learn that against good hitters you're going to have to keep the ball in a good location, you can't throw it over the middle of the plate belt high or they are going to hit it and West Salem is good enough that they are going to make you pay for not pitching well," Keeker said.

Hayden Kaiser put the Celtics on the board with their first run in the bottom of the second and Erik Mayer adding a second run to the Celts total for a 2-7 score. Zane Aicher brought in a third run bringing the second inning to a close with 3-7 score.

"That's the first time we've been beat all summer, so we've had a really good summer so far."

— Larry Keeker, Head Coach

McNary took the mound at the top of the third only 3 down but West Salem continued to broaden its lead over the course of the next four innings thanks to several defensive mistakes and youthful pitchers. Though the Celtics continued to compete and slowly increase their runs on the board, the Titan's had a choke hold on the game.

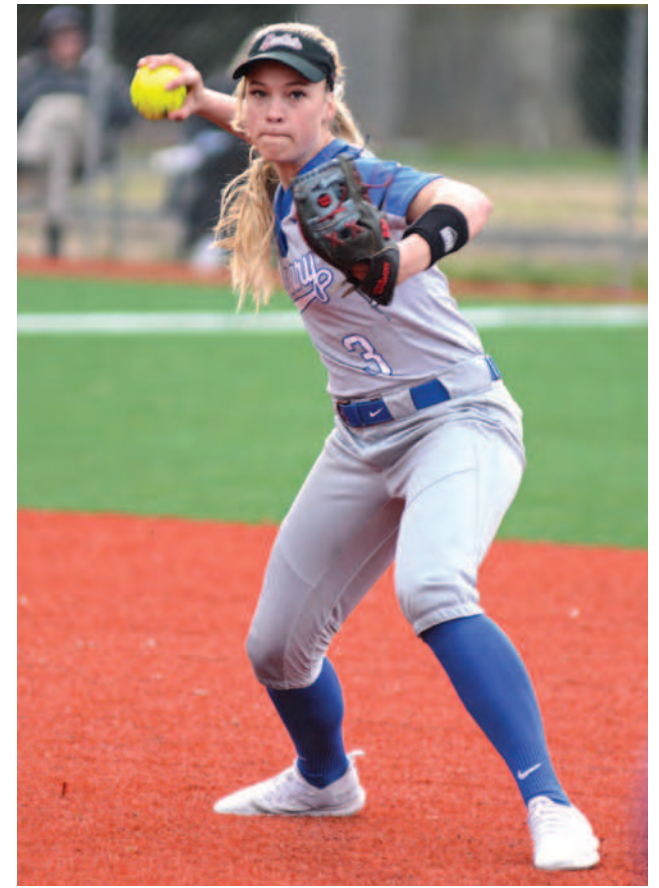
"I was proud of our guys. They competed. They got down quite a bit and they'd

keep battling and everybody got a chance to get in the game tonight, so that was good. We are a pretty young team and there's still a lot of growing. That's the first time we've been beat all summer, so we've had a really good summer so far, it's just that today the team we were playing was a little bit higher caliber and we are pretty young program right now. It's going to be a learning curve for them," Keeker said.



ABOVE: McNary pitcher Danny Okada. TOP: Erik Sorenson makes it home.

KEIZERTIMES/Dee Moore



Taylor Ebbs

Ebbs and Cepeda earn first-time all-state honors

Sophomore shortstop Taylor Ebbs and junior outfielder Alexa Cepeda received first-team all-state recognition after both having outstanding seasons for the McNary softball team.

Ebbs batted an incredible .628 with seven homers and 60 RBIs. She also had 22 extra-base hits on the year and only struck out three times. She was also recognized as the player of the year in the Mountain Valley Conference.

Cepeda led the team in runs scored (48), and was second on the team in batting average (.495), on-base percentage (.560) and doubles (10). She also proved to be one of the top defensive center fielders in the MVC.



Alexa Cepeda

Volcanoes go 3-2 versus Spokane to open season

By HERB SWETT
Of the Keizertimes

A 12-inning 7-6 win over Boise opened the season Friday for the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes.

Ricardo Genoves was the star of the game, getting four hits, driving in the first run, and scoring the last run. He caught six pitchers, who combined for 12 strikeouts.

The Volcanoes started the scoring in the first inning after Yorlis Rodriguez walked and went to second base as Sean Roby grounded out. Genoves singled to right field, scoring

Rodriguez.

In the bottom of the third, Marcos Campos led off with a single to left, stole second base, and scored as Roby singled to left.

Kervin Castro, the Volcanoes' starting pitcher, went five innings and allowed the Hawks their first lead, but only one of their three runs in the fifth was earned.

For Boise in the fifth, Isaac Collins led off with a bad-hop double, and Shael Mendoza was hit by a pitch. They advanced on a sacrifice bunt by Bryant

Quijada, and an errant throw from Castro scored Collins and Mendoza and moved Quijada to second. Quijada, after reaching third on a single by LJ Hatch, scored on a sacrifice fly by Ezequiel Tovar, and the Hawks led 3-2.

Tyler Schimpf relieved Castro to start the sixth and retired the Hawks in order.

With Reagan Todd replacing Boise starter Frederis Parra in the bottom of the sixth, Franklin Labour hit a leadoff

Please see OPENER, Page 14



Yorlis Rodriguez rounds third base to score the Volcanoes first run of the season.

KEIZERTIMES/Dee Moore