

Celtics baseball bounces back against Sprague

By DEE MOORE
For the Keizertimes

McNary's Celtics redeemed themselves with an 11 to 2 win Thursday, June 20 when they battled against the Sprague Olympians in South Salem.

Logan Ready who pitched a strong game through the first five innings was relieved in the fifth by Alex Simpson. Both pitchers were pivotal to McNary's win.

"Starting pitcher Logan Ready had a really good start for us and we had really good defense behind him. He had a lot of strikes and he kept the ball in play for us and we made a lot of defensive plays that he

contributed to. Alex Simpson came in and finished the game for us. It was good to see him get back on the mound and have a good finish. He saved the game," said head coach Larry Keeker.

As the game started the two teams appear to be equal in ability and skill level. Sprague took to the field keeping the Celtics from scoring at the top of the first of the inning. McNary returned the favor in the bottom half.

The Celtics scored their first run during the top of the second thanks to Cameron Zerbe but failed to bring in more runners. The team was once again plagued by faulty



KEIZERTIMES/Dee Moore



MHS Relief pitcher Kyle Weathers takes over pitching in the fifth inning.

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ball transfers and led to Sprague slipping two runs past them during the bottom of the second.

McNary continued to hold their own against the Olympians while blocking attempted runs through the fourth. They evened the score to 2-2 during the fifth while fighting off Sprague's

attempts to put more runs on the board.

Tensions were high as the Celtics finally found their groove during the sixth. With bases loaded the team added five runs to the board demonstrating their potential for greatness. McNary powered on into the bottom of the sixth preventing Sprague from completing any runs.

Like a well oiled machine the

Celtics swung into the seventh inning with the same energy they had brought to the previous inning. McNary dominated the field adding four more runs to the board for a total of 11 at top of the seventh. Pitcher Alex Simpson did his part when he took the mound in the bottom of the seventh. He pitched a strong game insuring that the Celtics maintained their score.

"It was a tight ball game

Eban Mayer hits a pitch against Sprague.

until the top of the sixth and they were able to break free for five and four in the sixth. There were some big RBI hits. Griffin Hubbard had one and Erik Sorenson had one. We had a lot of key hits with guys on base which is a big deal for us, because we've had some games where we've left some guys on base and didn't pick them up. It's

good to see the offense come around with guys on base and score multiple runs in an inning to put the game away in the last two innings.

"I was proud of them because we had a rough game before that against West Salem, so it was a good bounce back game for us against a good team on top of it," Keeker said.

Patriotic tribute game set for July 4

The Salem-Keizer Volcanoes annual Patriotic Tribute at Volcanoes Stadium

has grown immensely, and has become one of the most successful Patriotic Tributes in minor league baseball. They are the recipient of the Northwest League's Charles K. Murphy Patriot Award for 2017 and 2018, and a runner-up for the National Minor League Baseball.

The main feature of their annual Patriotic Tribute is the formal Fallen Warrior Ceremony. This July 4th, the ceremony will be for Sergeant Ian Tawney, of Dallas, Ore., who was killed in Afghanistan when he was hit by an improvised explosive device. His only child, daughter Claire, was born three months after his death. Tawney's extended family, and other relatives, and some of his Marine Corps brothers will

be here for the ceremony.

Participating in the ceremony will be United States Congressman Kurt Schrader, United States Marine Corps Major General Chris Owens (Ret.), Oregon State University Naval ROTC Commander Captain Trey Sisson, National Vice-Commandant of the Marine Corps League T.J. Morgan, former Navy Officer Chaplain Nate Krupp delivering the *Prayer for the Fallen and Missing Warriors*, Polk County Commissioner Mike Ainsworth, Polk County Sheriff Mark Garton, Dallas Mayor and former Army Lt. Colonel Brian Dalton and Dallas Chamber of Commerce CEO J.D. Shinn.

There will also be many service people up the base

lines, like the Willamette Valley Pipes and Drum Corps, American Legion Rifle Team, trumpeter Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Jason Mosser and Oregon National Guard Senior Master Sergeant Denise Phillips singing *Mansions of the Lord*.

The theme for 2019 is A Time to Recognize and Honor the Youth of Our Military Families. The Oregon National Guard is scheduled to deploy 2,400 soldiers this coming fall. This game will likely be a sellout as the Volcanoes average attendance on the 4th of July is 5,600. A fireworks show will follow the game. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Volcanoes at 503-779-4088.

puzzle answers

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9	6	1	8	2	3	5	4	7
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