



[www.blanchetcatholicschool.com](http://www.blanchetcatholicschool.com)

# KeizerSports

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## McNary cross country looks to bounce back

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
*Of the Keizertimes*

McNary's boys' cross country team didn't finish where they wanted to in 2018, placing seventh at the Mountain Valley Conference district meet.

But with more than 30 kids out for the team, including a number of key returners, head coach David Holcomb is feeling encouraged as his squad gets ready for the 2019 season.

"I feel really good about the boys team. We have had some really dedicated kids throughout summer workouts," Holcomb said. "We're really excited about the boys taking the next step at the district meet."

"We have some guys that have been around the program for a few years now and they will be able to lead some of the younger guys by example."

Two of the Celtics more experienced runners are twin brothers Ethan and Brennan Whalen, who are going to be juniors this season — both athletes ran personal-bests under the 18-minute mark last season.

Despite improving their respective times significantly from their freshman seasons, Ethan and Brennan were disappointed by their individual performances at the 2018 district meet and are looking to redeem themselves this season.

"They are both really strong runners. They had good seasons, but they didn't compete the way they wanted to. They are pretty hard on themselves and have lofty goals. But I think they are using that for fuel this year," Holcomb said.

McNary will also be relying on sophomore Caleb

McCoy and junior Andrew Goemare at the front end of the varsity lineup.

Goemare had a personal-record time of 18:21.7 late in the season in 2018, while McCoy was a top five freshman finisher at the district meet last season.

Along with reliable returners, there are a few newcomers that Holcomb expects to have an impact for the Celtics.

Sophomore Benjamin Standley was one of top middle-distance runners for the McNary track team during the spring and hopes that his success will transfer to cross country.

Freshman Connor Roop will also be joining the Celtics team after being a top-15 finisher for Whiteaker Middle School at the All-City meet in 2017 and 2018.

One thing that will be in McNary's favor in their preparation for the conference meet is that the competition will be hosted at Bush Park in Salem, — as opposed to last season's meet, which took place at Central Oregon Community College in Bend.

"Last year, we underperformed a little bit at Bend. I think they were surprised by the course. The game plan just didn't go how we wanted it to go," Holcomb said. "They are a lot more familiar with Bush Park. They have been running there since middle school or before, so we feel good about that."

The MVC is one of the top leagues in the state when it comes to cross country, with Bend, Mountain View and Summit expected to be the leaders of the league once again this season. But Holcomb believes that his crew can match up with all the Salem schools.

"We compete in a real-



Brennan Whalen shows off a grin during his training on Monday evening. Whalen is expected to be one of the top runners for the McNary cross country team this season.

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

ly tough league. We have some of the top teams in the Northwest. But with what we have got, we feel like we can compete with the other Salem schools pretty nicely," Holcomb said.

Even though his varsity boys lineup is close to complete, Holcomb still is encouraging people to join the team.

"We're always going to have seven to 10 guys com-

peting for varsity, but we want to bring more kids into our running community," Holcomb said. "We feel that any kid could do cross country, as long as you got running shoes and an attitude to work hard."

However, where McNary really needs more bodies is on the girls side.

The McNary girls cross country team was the only squad in the MVC who was unable to record a score at

districts last season.

Cielo Chavez is the only Celtic returner on the girls side who competed at the district meet last season.

"(Chavez) is an incredible worker. She's someone you want in the classroom because she's such a hard worker and in sports, you want her on your team because she has such a positive attitude," Holcomb said. "She's someone that I could see having a lot

of success this year."

However, the Celtics girls squad only has seven team members on the roster, so it will be Holcomb's goal in the coming weeks to try and add additional girls to the team.

"We definitely need to up our numbers. We want to help girls realize that running is fun and it's something that they can be successful at," Holcomb said.

## Salem-Keizer breaks out of slump against Everett



Volcanoes second baseman Jeff Houghtby prepares to fire to first after fielding a hard grounder to his left.

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

BY HERB SWETT  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Volcanoes bats got hot on Sunday, Aug. 18, whipping their visitors from Everett by a score of 13-4.

It did not look promising at first to the home crowd of 2,014, because starting pitcher Jasier Herrera allowed three first-inning singles that produced two runs. He also gave up another single before getting his first out.

The AquaSox's Kevin Santa led off with a single to left field. Cesar Izturis then singled to center, and a poor outfield throw allowed both runners to move up 90 feet. Utah Jones drove both runners home with a hit to right center field.

Trent Tingelstad's hit followed, which forced pitching coach Dwight Bernard to make a trip to the mound. Herrera then struck out Connor Hoover, walked Robert Perez, struck out Cade Marlowe and got Brennon Kaleiwahea to fly out to center to get out of trouble.

Herrera held Everett scoreless from the third through the fifth innings and came out of the game after giving up two runs early in the sixth. He still became the winning pitcher with a 2-1 record.

Salem-Keizer's first rally came in the third inning. Facing Jorge Benitez, who had replaced starter Tim El-

liott after two innings, Hunter Bishop drew a walk. Marco Luciano followed with a single to left, with Bishop reaching second, and a single to left by Alex Canario scored Bishop. Jairo Pomares was hit by a pitch and Armani Smith hit a bases-loaded triple to center, giving the Volcanoes the 4-2 advantage.

The Volcanoes added two more runs in the bottom of the fifth. Luciano doubled down the left field line. Then, Pomares was hit by a pitch for the second time on the evening. Brandon Martorano later drove in both runners with a single to left field.

Everett's remaining two runs came in the sixth. Connor Hoover singled to center and scored as Robert Perez doubled. Ben Madison relieved Herrera and retired the next batter. A pair of wild pitches moved Perez to third and then home.

The Volcanoes answered with two runs of their own in the sixth. After Yorlis Rodriguez singled to left, Brock Minich replaced Benitez on the mound. But he wouldn't fair much better as Bishop homered off Benitez over the right center field fence.

Salem-Keizer added a run in the seventh when Smith singled to right, advanced on a passed ball and scored on a single to left by Rodriguez.

Four more Volcano runs came in the eighth with Fred

Villarreal on the mound. Bishop tripled to right, Luciano walked, Canario drove in Bishop with a single to left and Luciano scored on a wild pitch. Pomares reached first on an error that led Canario score and Carter Aldrete drove in Pomares with a single to center field.

Tyler Schimpf pitched the eighth, setting the AquaSox down in order with two strikeouts.

**Wednesday, Aug. 14: Eugene 4, Volcanoes 2**

Two Emerald runs in the seventh inning extended the Volcanoes' road losing streak.

Salem-Keizer and Eugene were tied at 2-2 when a single by the Emeralds' Chase Strumpf scored Fernando Kelli and moved Edmond American to third base. American stole home moments later.

After that, the Volcanoes got nowhere offensively. For the game, they had only two hits, a single by Carter Aldrete and a double by Yorlis Rodriguez.

Junior Perez was the winning pitcher in relief with a 2-3 record and Joe Nahas got his first save. The losing pitcher, also in relief, was Israel Cruz at 2-1.

**Thursday, Aug. 15: Eugene 5, Volcanoes 3**

Salem-Keizer, never recovered from Eugene's Please see SKV, Page A11