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Celts volleyball brings mix of experience and youth



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Chloe Martindale passes off to a teammate after receiving a serve at McNary's Blue Day on Friday, Aug. 23. Martindale is expected to be one of the key players for the Celtics this season.

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

At first glance, it appears that the McNary volleyball squad wasn't very strong in 2018, finishing the year with a 5-17 record and going 2-12 in Mountain Valley Conference.

However, the fact of the matter was that many times over the course of the conference season, McNary had strong outings against stiff competition. But the problem was, far too often, the Celtics couldn't finish the job.

In 10 of McNary's 12 losses last season, they were able to win at least one set, so one of the points of emphasis for this year's Celtic team is to make sure they are playing to the best of their ability in matches that go four or five sets.

"That has definitely been a big part of our focus this

season. Our returners have set that as an expectation from the beginning," McNary head coach Crystal DeMello said.

Relying on returners will be the norm for the Celtics this season as they bring back six players from last year's squad — five of whom are seniors. But McNary will also have some notable newcomers that are expected to make an immediate impact.

"I'm really excited about this season. We have a great mix of players that can play multiple positions, which is always great to have that kind of versatility. It gives you lots of options," DeMello said.

McNary returns two of the best outside hitters in the Mountain Valley Conference in Taylor Ebbs and Zoie Warner.

Warner, a senior, has been on McNary's varsity team in all four years of her career.

She has also been recognized as an honorable mention all-conference player for the past two seasons.

Ebbs, on the other hand, is one of the most dynamic athletes in the MVC — she received all-state honors as a softball player in the spring — and comes into her junior year with two seasons of experience on the varsity team.

"They are not just strong returning players, they are leaders that have attitude and competitiveness," DeMello said of her two outside hitters. "Naturally in this sport, the outside sees a lot of action, so having them as assets and being able to utilize the entire front row gives a lot of opportunities for those girls."

The other big-time returner for McNary is senior Chloe Martindale.

Last season, Martindale

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Volcanoes drop regular season finale

By **HERB SWETT**
Of the Keizertimes

A team mostly of newcomers to the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes fell to the visiting Eugene Emeralds 6-1 Monday, Sept. 2 in the regular season finale.

Nick Avila was the starting pitcher for the Volcanoes and Richard Gallardo for Eugene in this game, which was scoreless through the first four innings.

In the Emerald fifth, with Andy Rohloff taking the mound, Yovanny Cuevas reached first base by getting hit with a pitch. After getting the first out of the inning, Rohloff issued a pair of free passes to load up the bases.

Things went from bad to worse for Rohloff when Cuevas scored on a passed ball, which was followed by a two-run double by Jake Washer.

Trailing 3-0, Salem-Keizer threatened but did not

score in the bottom of the fifth. Luis Toribio led off by striking out, but reached first on a third-strike wild pitch. Yorlis Rodriguez singled to center, moving Toribio to second.

Harrison Freed, however lined into a double play in the next at-bat. The Volcanoes kept the threat going when Matt Malkin singled to left and Beicker Mendoza reached first on an error to load the bases. But Kwan Adkins flew out to center to end the inning.

Fernando Kelli hit a two-run double off Volcanoes pitcher Abel Adames to put the Emeralds up 5-0.

In the Volcano sixth, Jairo Pomares doubled to right and scored Salem-Keizer's only run as Martorano reached first on an error by Eugene second baseman Josue Huma.

With Israel Cruz on the mound for Salem-Keizer



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Harrison Freed gets waved around third and heads into score in Salem-Keizer's 10-7 loss to Eugene on Sunday, Sept. 1.

er was Yovanny Cruz with a 1-2 record. The loser was Rohloff at 0-1.

Acknowledging that he used mostly reserves and newcomers, acting Volcanoes manager Nestor Rojas said, "We have to stay sharp for the playoffs."

The attendance, although only 2,004, moved the regular-season attendance total past 80,000.

The game eliminated the Emeralds from postseason contention.

Wednesday, Aug. 28: Volcanoes 6, Eugene 5

This road game, in which Salem-Keizer had a 5-1 lead after four innings, turned into a cliffhanger.

Eugene outhit the Volcanoes 7-5 but also committed three errors to one for the visitors. Eight Salem-Keizer walks and seven by the Emeralds contributed to the suspense.

Travis Perry started for the Volcanoes and became the winning pitcher at 5-2 with six strikeouts in five innings. Clay Helvey, who relieved him, pitched out of several bases-loaded jams. Deiyerbert Bolivar back from a brief rehab in the Arizona Summer League, got his second save as a member of the Volcanoes.

Thursday, Aug. 29: Volcanoes 10, Eugene 5

The Volcanoes broke a 1-1 tie with two runs in the third inning and stayed ahead the rest of the way.

Two of the home runs in the game were by Salem-Keizer: a two-run shot by Alex Canario in the third inning and a three-run homer by Carter Aldrete in the seventh. Eugene's homer was a solo shot by Jake Washer in the fourth.

For the Volcanoes, Canario had four hits, Matt Malkin three and Adrete two. Two Emeralds, Yovanny Cuevas and Jacob Olson had two hits apiece.

Ben Madison was the winning pitcher in relief with a 2-0 record, and Israel

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McNary looks to contend despite roster changes

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary boys soccer program will have some turnover in their roster in 2019 after graduating nine players from last year's team.

What hasn't changed, however, is the level of confidence that head coach Miguel Camarena has in his program.

"We always have younger guys in the program, so we want to develop those guys so that every year so we can compete at the highest level. This year is going to be the same," Camarena said. "We have a really good base of incoming juniors and seniors, plus we have some quality freshman coming in, so our expectations are high."

Four of the players lost to graduation were cousins — Miguel Bravo, Jose Luis Bravo, Jovanie Bravo and Jesus Lopez.

All four players were played for the Celtics varsity squad for at least three seasons.

The Celtics will also be without Sebastian Lopez, a 2018 first-team all-league goalkeeper.

But even though they will

be missed, Camarena believes that last year's senior class helped pave the way for his current upperclassmen.

"What they did together is something that I will never forget. For two years in a row, they helped us be the best defense in the conference and they have helped a lot of these kids become better players," Camarena said.

The Celtics only allowed multiple goals in two of 13 regular season games last season. Camarena plans on that trend to continue in 2019 as seniors Alexis Soto, Manuel Avendano and Jose Martinez will look to lead the backline for McNary this year.

But one thing that the Celtics are hoping to change this season is the amount of goals they score.

In 2018, McNary was held to one goal or fewer in nine of their contests. However, Camarena believes that he has the personnel to turn that stat around this year.

"Last year, one of biggest issues was that we couldn't score. We would create so many opportunities and not score. That is going to be a focus this year. We're going to have guys this year in that position that can put the ball

inside the net," Camarena said.

The players that Camarena is referring to are juniors Edgar Salazar, Eddie Martinez and Eli Petilo. The three forwards are expected to get the bulk of the scoring opportunities for the Celtics.

In the midfield will be senior leaders Luis Lopez and Jack Baez, both of whom have played on the McNary varsity team every year of their respective careers.

With the Celtics in the same conference as Summit — the state runner-up from last season, who is bringing back nearly their entire roster — it's likely that McNary won't be vying for a MVC title. However, it is realistic for this McNary team to finish in the top third of the league and be in position to host a home playoff game. But Camarena has even higher goals for his group.

"Our expectations are the same. We want to play well enough to put us in the top 10 in the rankings. That is going to be our goal. We want to play with that confidence, and so far, I'm impressed with what I have seen," Camarena said.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Elio Carella (left) gains possession of the ball and then fakes out a defender during a intersquad scrimmage on Friday, Aug. 23.