

McNARY CELTICS



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

With 22 seniors on their varsity roster, the McNary Celtics have high hopes for the 2019 season as they prepare to defend their Mountain Valley Conference crown.

McNary looks to repeat as conference champs

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

A roller coaster season for the McNary football squad last year still resulted in the Celtics being crowned the 2018 Mountain Valley Conference champions.

But despite winning the league title, there were aspects of last season that left a bad taste in the mouth of McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen.

The Celtics were 0-6 last year against teams that weren't in the MVC (including playoffs) and really struggled to be competitive in their non-league contests, with their average margin of defeat being over 30 points.

"We got better last year and we won the league title, but we didn't compete very well in non-league games, or

in our playoff situation. I think that's a mentality. I don't think the talent level was all that different, I just think the kids didn't believe that they could be successful," Auvinen said. "One of our goals is to develop the mentality that we can compete and be successful against those type of teams."

McNary will have plenty of chances to prove themselves in their non-conference slate this season.

Along with playing road games at North Medford and South Medford, the Celtics

host a pair of teams ranked in the top-10 in the preseason coaches poll. They will take on #5 West Linn on Friday, Sept. 13 and #6 Tualatin on

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— Jeff Auvinen, McNary head coach

Sept. 20.

"We're on par with anyone as far as physicality goes. We just need to prepare ourselves every day," Auvinen said.

One of the main reasons that the Celtics are considered the favorite to win the conference for a second straight season is the return of Erik Barker and

Junior Walling — arguably two of the top skill position players in the state.

"They have been around and have got through a lot

of ups and downs. They are natural leaders and they will do well for us in that aspect," Auvinen said of his two senior captains. "They really care about the success of the team and they care about each one of our guys, which helps them lead by example."

Walling, a running back and linebacker, has been a starter for the Celtics every

year of his career. Last season, he rushed for 1,005 yards and 12 touchdowns on 210 carries. On defense, Walling recorded 86 total tackles (49

solo) and had five sacks — he was named first-team all-conference on both sides of the ball.

Back in June, Walling committed to continue his education and football career at Oregon State University.

Barker, on the other hand, is entering his third year at the Celtics signal-caller and is the only returning quarterback in the MVC that received all-league recognition last season, throwing for nearly 1,500 yards and 11 touchdowns. He is currently being looked at by several Division I-AA schools and was offered a scholarship by Georgetown University.

At 6-foot-4, 220 lbs., Barker is one of the most physical players on the team, which is why he will also be playing on the defensive end



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McNary roster

#	PLAYER NAME	YR.	POS.	HT.	WT.	#	PLAYER NAME	YR.	POS.	HT.	WT.
1	Ethan Martin	WR/DB	11	5-7	145	27	Ethan McMunn	WR/DB	12	5-11	175
2	Junior Walling	RB/LB	12	6-2	230	28	Logan Ready	WR/LB	10	6-1	170
3	Jack McCarty	QB/DB	11	5-9	175	29	Nico Sandoval	RB/DB	12	5-8	165
4	Alex Tavera	WR/DB	12	5-9	150	31	Drew Brown	RB/DL	12	5-11	200
5	Quintin Camenisch	WR/DB	11	5-8	140	34	Matt Mehlhoff	RB/LB	11	5-10	180
6	Noah Lelack	WR/DB	12	6-1	175	35	Jake Paton	WR/DB	10	5-8	150
7	Ethan Rubio	WR/DB	12	6-2	195	38	Hayden Kaiser	TE/DL	10	6-3	210
8	Spencer Delacruz	RB/DL	12	6-0	190	45	Dyami Rios	RB/LB	11	6-2	220
10	Layton Thurlow	RB/LB	12	6-0	205	48	Rudy Garcia	RB/LB	10	5-11	210
11	Quinn Bach	RB/LB	10	5-9	165	55	Griffen Hubbard	OL/LB	11	6-3	200
12	Erik Barker	QB/DB	12	6-4	220	56	Jeremiah Ratliff	OL/DL	10	5-10	205
13	Josh Winslow	RB/LB	12	5-9	170	58	Anthony Garcia-Reyes	OL/DL	12	5-8	220
14	Joseph Fowler	RB/LB	12	5-11	180	59	Gavin Anderson	OL/DL	11	6-2	215
15	Junior Nunez	WR/DB	11	5-10	155	64	Nathan Young	OL/DL	12	6-0	290
16	Haley Hughes	K	12	5-6	135	70	Malakai Vasseur	OL/DL	12	6-6	375
17	Tyler Copeland	QB/WR	10	6-2	170	72	Michael Tischer	OL/DL	12	6-1	290
18	Gunner Smedema	QB/WR	10	5-7	140	73	Aldo Villalvazo	OL/DL	10	5-11	250
19	Evan Cornell	WR/DB	10	6-1	175	74	Nic Shepherd	OL/DL	12	6-4	260
20	Zane Aicher	RB/DB	10	5-10	175	75	Michael Ridgway	OL/DL	12	6-3	270
21	Daniel Mood	K	12	5-11	170	76	Coleman Young	OL/DL	11	6-3	260
23	Riley Flores	WR/DB	12	6-2	175	78	Jose Delgado	OL/DL	11	5-6	350
25	Adam Dang	RB/DL	12	5-11	185						

VEHICLE ACCIDENTS INCREASE 15 PERCENT IN THE FALL



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- Darker evenings • First heavy rain of autumn

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