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McNary earns clean sheet

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

After losing their previous contest in heartbreaking fashion, the McNary boys soccer team put together a dominating performance against Canby.

The Celtics possessed the ball for the majority of the game, minimizing any opportunity Canby had for a score, and ran away with a 3-0 victory on Thursday, Sept. 12.

“When you have the ball, it’s going to give the other team less chances to score. That’s what we work on all the time. We did a good job of holding our positions,” McNary head coach Miguel Camarena said.

“I’m excited to see the guys bounce back to get a win.”

Even though it was a convincing victory, Camarena noted that he still wants his team to improve on taking advantage of more chances throughout the course of a game, especially as the Celtics start to gear up for league play.

McNary outshot Canby 7-1 in the first 18 minutes of the first half and failed to cash in on multiple opportunities in the early going.

In the 10th minute, Eddie Martinez connected with Elio Carella with a pass

between two defenders, but Carella ended up missing from point blank range.

Just moments later, Carella got by his defender and set up teammate Eli Petilo in the box, but Petilo had the ball go off the side of his foot and went wide of the post.

“One of the things we really have been focusing on

is finishing the goal. We create so many opportunities, but we are still missing some easy ones and that can change the game so quickly,” Camarena said.

But in the 19th minute, McNary midfielder Luis Lopez gave his team all the momentum with an impressive goal.

After dribbling past a defender to give himself space, Lopez fired a rocket into the top shelf of the goal from 35 yards out to give the Celtics a 1-0 lead.

“That was a beautiful goal from Luis. It changed the game because it forced them to open up more,” Camarena said.

Canby’s best chances to get on the board came in the latter part of the first half. Francisco Cabello got loose on the right side and had a one-on-one chance with McNary goalkeeper Alejandro Villarreal. Cabello



McNary’s Luis Lopez moves the ball upfield in the Celtics 3-0 victory over Canby on Thursday, Sept. 12. Lopez scored the first goal of the contest in the victory.

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

aimed for the left corner of the net, but Villarreal was able to dive and knock the ball away.

In the final minute of the first half, there was a mad scramble for a loose ball near the McNary net. Even though the ball hit off the post on multiple occasions, the ball was eventually cleared out of harm’s way and the Celtics

went to the locker room with the one-goal advantage.

But when the second half began, the McNary defense made sure the Cougars never got close to scoring again as they turned away every Canby threat in the final 40 minutes.

“Our defense is amazing this year. This whole team has a lot of potential,” McNary

midfielder Sebastian Brunk said.

In the 43rd minute, Martinez sent a well-placed through-ball to Petilo, who sped past the Canby back line and put one in the back of the net to put McNary up 2-0.

“Eddie gave me a perfect ball and I was able to speed past the guy and kick it

through,” Petilo said.

Petilo would score his second goal of the game in the 60th minute when he was able to get a quality touch from a beautiful cross from Edgar Salazar.

McNary returns to the field on Monday Sept. 23 when they travel to Gresham to take on the Gophers at 6 p.m.

Celtics drop hard-fought battle with West Salem



LEFT: Maddox Snider positions herself to receive the ball in McNary’s four-set loss to West Salem on Monday, Sept. 16. RIGHT: Taylor Ebbs prepares to serve.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

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The McNary volleyball team had plenty of chances to pick up their first win in Mountain Valley Conference on Monday Sept. 14. But in the end, West Salem was the more gritty team down the stretch.

After splitting each of the first two games, McNary couldn’t hold onto their lead in the third and fourth sets

as West Salem defeated the Celtics 25-18, 22-25, 25-22, 26-24.

“Playing under pressure is a learned skill. We need to be better at communicating and making sure we’re taking care of the ball,” McNary head coach Crystal DeMello said. “But that’s the best part about competing. You have to learn how to dig in and have a little grit.”

An ace by Alexis Eldridge

and kills by Zoie Warner and Chloe Martindale gave McNary the upper hand early in the first set. But West Salem came back to tie the score at 9-9, and then won a rally that took nearly two minutes, which seemed to take the wind out of the McNary’s sails.

The Titans ended up winning six of the next seven points to take control of the opening set. A block by Mar-

tindale stopped the bleeding briefly, but West Salem was still able to grab the early 1-0 lead in the match.

The Celtics, however, were able to regroup in the following game. Both teams went back and forth for much of the second set, but a big spike from Taylor Ebbs gave McNary the 21-19 advantage. The Titans tried to rally back with a kill from West Salem’s Emmi Marks,

but Warner and Martindale put away the final two points for the Celtics to even up the match.

“We knew that we just needed to step up our energy. Energy is everything for this team,” Warner said.

DeMello added: “These girls are well aware of what they can do. They know what each other’s strengths are and they play off them.”

It initially appeared that

McNary was in complete control of the third set. The Celtics won eight of the first 10 points and even took a 16-6 lead after a huge stuff block by Martindale.

However, West Salem was able to take advantage of some great serving and several unforced errors by McNary to go on a 17-4 run, which put the Titans on top 23-20. West Salem eventually won the set by three points, giving them all the momentum.

“The hardest lessons to learn are when you need to turn it up. We need to improve on making good decision when we distribute the ball,” DeMello said.

Despite missing their chance to take the lead in the third set, McNary battled blow-for-blow with the Titans in the fourth and final game. A stuff-block by Martindale gave her team a 24-23 lead, putting the Celtics one pint away from forcing a fifth set. But West Salem would not be denied as they rallied to score the final three points to take the match victory.

Even with the tough loss, Warner takes comfort in the fact that her team gave it their all.

“There might have been some unforced errors that we could have controlled, but at the end of the day, we played our hardest and never gave up on each other,” Warner said.

McNary travels to South Salem for their next MVC contest on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m.