

Second half surge not enough for McNary against Tualatin

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

It may have been McNary's best performance of the season thus far, but the effort still wasn't good enough against one of the best teams in the state as the Celtics dropped to 0-3 on the season with a 52-27 loss to Tualatin on Friday, Sept. 20.

Despite the loss, one positive aspect for McNary was that they outscored the Timberwolves 21-10 in the final 24 minutes of the game.

"They didn't give up and they played hard, we just had some breakdowns. Tualatin is a good, disciplined team and they were just able to find those weak spots," McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen said. "We didn't tackle particular-

ly well and we didn't cover people particularly well, but to our credit, they played harder than they have had the past couple games. Our execution wasn't great, but it wasn't because of a lack of effort."

The McNary defense forced Tualatin into a trio of third-and-long situations on their opening drive. But each time, the Timberwolves were able to convert as they eventually capped off the possession with a two-yard touchdown run from Kainoa Sayre.

But on the ensuing kick-



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings
McNary running back Junior Walling rushed for 152 yards and two scores in the Celtics 52-27 loss to Tualatin.

off, McNary speedster Ethan Martin provided some fireworks for the home crowd.

The kickoff was short as Martin came up to the 20-yard line to gather the ball. Martin reversed his field with a pirouette spin move, then cut up the sideline and went the distance for the 80-yard score.

"I was just thinking that I had to get my team juiced," Martin said.

"When it came up short, I knew I had to do a little something with it. So I stuck it to the outside than spun around and saw a seam. I knew I was gone from there."

But the McNary defense couldn't do anything to stop the balanced attack of Tualatin as the Timberwolves scored again in just three plays to take the 14-6 lead.

McNary didn't run their first offensive play until midway through the first quarter. Quarterback Erik Barker found tight end Layton Thurlow between the hashes for what appeared to be a big play, but Thurlow was stripped of the ball before going to the ground, allowing Tualatin to regain possession.

The Timberwolves would score two more times before the end on a long opening period, going up 29-6.

Things wouldn't get much better for the Celtics in the second quarter as the offense struggled to get into a rhythm, while the defense couldn't seem to get a stop. Tualatin was dominant in all phases of the game as they

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— Jeff Auvinen
McNary head coach

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ATHLETE of the Week

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IZEYAH CONTRERAS
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Contreras had over 100 yards receiving and scored all three touchdowns for Claggett Creek in the Panthers 18-14 win over Straub on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

WHAT HIS COACH SAYS

"(Contreras) is a phenomenal athlete. He's the type of kid that is going to be successful no matter where you put him. He works hard in practice every day and he wants to make the big plays."

— Aaron Carr, Whiteaker head coach



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