

Celtics fall in shootout with West Albany

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary girls soccer team outscored West Albany 3-1 in the final 65 minutes of the game. But it was the first 15 minutes that the Celtics couldn't recover from.

West Albany exploded for three goals early in the first half to take a 3-0 lead, and McNary couldn't quite complete the comeback as they fell to the Bulldogs 4-3 on Thursday, Sept. 19.

The Bulldogs ran a unique attack that featured extra players on the outside, which gave the Celtics visible trouble early on.

"It took a while to make an adjustment. Once the coaching staff found it, there were three goals in the back

of the net," McNary head coach A.J. Nash said. "We left a pocket in between the defense and the center-midfield, and they were overloading the outsides and we just didn't have an outlet."

Coming back from a 3-0 deficit early in the first half is a daunting task, but the Celtics effort never wavered.

"Their attitude and character was all on display tonight. Our girls never got down. They stayed up for the whole game and I commend them for that,"

— A.J. Nash
McNary head coach

On a McNary corner kick in the 22nd minute, Ariana Santana placed a great ball into the middle of the field. After the ball ricocheted off a McNary player and hit the crossbar, Maya Luscomb was able to corral the rebound and put a left-footed shot into the back of the net to put the Celtics on the board.

However, just minutes later, West Albany midfielder Monica Kloess responded with her second score of the contest to put the Bulldogs up 4-1.

But McNary came back with a goal of their own in the 29th minute. Santana dribbled the ball by a West Albany defender to give herself space up the right sideline. She then placed a perfect ball into the middle that went over the West Albany goalkeeper's head, which was knocked in with a header from Celtics midfielder Julie Dieker.

"Ariana made a beautiful play on the cross. Me and her



Audrey Williams pushes the ball upfield in McNary's 4-3 loss against West Albany on Thursday, Sept. 19. KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

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