

# Celtics surrender late goal in 2-2 tie



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

McNary forward Julie Dieker (6) keeps the ball in play up the sideline.

By **MATT RAWLINGS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The game might have ended in a tie, but to the McNary girls' soccer team, it felt more like a loss.

Despite leading for the most of the contest, the Celtics gave up a goal on a corner kick with less than three minutes remaining in the game, allowing Sprague to come back and earn the 2-2 draw against McNary on Friday, Oct. 18.

"When you know you should beat a team, but end up tying, it kind of feels like a loss," McNary defender Samantha Alfano said. "It was pretty frustrating. But the best team on the field doesn't always win."

After Sprague got off a pair of shots-on-goal in the first three minutes of the game, McNary cleaned things up on the defensive side and went into attack mode.

In the 16th minute McNary midfielder Ariana Santana got off a clean shot deep in Sprague territory after a steal. Even though Sprague goalkeeper Kaile Reece was able to get a hand on the at-

tempt, the ball trickled out-of-bounds across the back line, giving the Celtics a corner kick.

Taking advantage of set-piece opportunities has been a strength of McNary all season, and this game was no different. Santana sent a beautiful ball into the box on the corner kick to Alfano, who played the ball off her right foot before it could get to the ground and found the back of the net to put the Celtics up 1-0.

"We really capitalize on set pieces. That is how we score a lot of our goals," Alfano said.

The Olympians threatened a couple times before halftime, but each goal-scoring chance was turned away by McNary keeper Ashley Doerfler.

Sprague, however, controlled the tempo to start the second half. And in the 43rd minute, the Olympians got on the board when Aspen DeConcini intercepted a pass from a McNary player and snuck a shot just below the crossbar to tie the game.

McNary defender Regann Donahue had a chance to give her team the lead back midway through the second half after receiving a great cross from Santana, but her header ricocheted off the post and was cleared out of harm's way. But Donahue would help the Celtics get their second score of the game just moments later.

After the Celtics were awarded a corner kick, Donahue put a well-placed ball into of sea of blue and orange. The ball hit off a player's head and landed at the feet of McNary forward Julie Dieker, who easily struck the ball past Reece for the goal.

"That's been a point-of-emphasis from day one, and we do a good job of taking advantage of those chances," McNary head coach A.J. Nash said about his team's ability to capitalize on corner kicks.

The Celtics stayed aggressive and tried to give themselves an insurance goal in the final 10 minutes of the game.

It appeared that McNary had scored when Kennedy Buss put a ball into the net on a second effort after her first attempt was blocked. But a rare offside penalty negated the goal.

Buss had another opportunity for a score moments later off a corner kick, but for the second time in the game, the shot hit off the crossbar.

The missed opportunities proved to be costly for McNary down the stretch.

In the 57th minute McKenzie Wernicke sent a corner kick directly into the net, curving the ball just out of the reach of Doerfler, tying the game at 2-2.

The Celtics pushed more numbers forward in the final two minutes to try and re-take the lead, but were unsuccessful.

"The better team on the pitch is not always the one that wins the game," Nash said. "We should have put the game away. It's a disappointing result, but I also have to give credit to Sprague. They came through when they needed it."

McNary, however, was able to defeat Bend by a score of 2-1 in their final home game on Tuesday, Oct. 22, keeping their playoff hopes alive. The Celtics will play their final contest of the regular season on Friday, Oct. 25 at Mountain View. Game time is 4 p.m.

"When you know you should beat a team, but end up tying, it kind of feels like a loss."

— Samantha Alfano  
McNary defender



**WE'RE HONORING  
ALL VETERANS!**

THANK YOU to our veterans for serving our country and protecting our freedom. Avamere Court at Keizer offers quality independent living apartments in a well-established community. Your life is our commitment. Discover all the comforts of senior living, including: 24-hr staff, restaurant-style dining, full activities calendar, and more!

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR VETERANS  
ONE MONTH FREE!**

Veterans and their spouses get one month free when you join our independent living community. Schedule your visit and enjoy a meal on us! Move in between Nov. 1-25 to get this special offer.

5210 River Rd N  
Keizer, Oregon  
AvamereCourtAtKeizer.com

**CONTACT SUE HORN**  
(971) 599-9484  
shorn@avamere.com

\*Special offered for a limited time to new independent living residents with Veteran ID Card.



**Ask us  
about small  
business  
insurance.**

Contact your local  
State Farm® agent.

[statefarm.com/small-business-insurance](http://statefarm.com/small-business-insurance)

**State Farm**

Change hurt  
into **HOPE**

**Interested in  
learning more about  
Liberty House?**

We host tours every first Tuesday of the month or by appointment. The tour is an up-close look at our child-friendly facility with an opportunity to hear about our work with children and families. Learn more about the issue of child abuse, how to be protective of children, and how Liberty House helps children and families to be healthy and safe.

**Join us for  
Tours on Tuesdays  
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

**RSVP to Adrienne Christian  
503.540.0288**

[achristian@LibertyHouseCenter.org](mailto:achristian@LibertyHouseCenter.org)

**Liberty  
House**



385 Taylor Street NE, Bldg 1  
(Just south of Keizer)



**PRE-PLANNING  
YOUR FINAL  
ARRANGEMENTS IS  
A GIFT ONLY YOU  
CAN GIVE YOUR  
LOVED ONES.**

**CALL TODAY!**

**RESTLAWN MEMORY  
GARDENS & RESTLAWN  
FUNERAL HOME**  
Salem, OR 97304  
503-585 1373  
[www.restlawnfh.com](http://www.restlawnfh.com)

**FARNSTROM MORTUARY**  
Independence, OR 97351  
503-838-1414  
[www.farnstrommortuary.com](http://www.farnstrommortuary.com)

**KEIZER FUNERAL CHAPEL**  
Keizer, OR 97303  
503-393-7037  
[www.keizerchapel.com](http://www.keizerchapel.com)