

# BBALL,

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With the loss of Smith, Meithof will be called upon to step up in the leadership department this season.

"The biggest thing for (Meithof) is how much better he can make his teammates. That is what we have challenged him with. He has really grown and become more vocal as a leader," Kirch said. "Nate is as good as anybody in the league. But who surrounds him is still yet to be seen."

McNary returns three seniors in Riley Flores, Tyler O'Connor and Jamie Ochoa, all of whom received some action off the bench last year.

"We have challenged them to take more ownership of leading the team," Kirch said of his senior trio.

But other than the four players previously mentioned, Kirch acknowledged that everyone will be fighting for spots.

The Celtics have a relatively strong incoming sophomore class that could have several kids battling for playing time, including Kyler Rodriguez and Tyler Copeland.

Copeland's basketball season appeared to be in jeopardy in early-September after suffering a severe knee injury during a JV football game. But according to Kirch, the sophomore guard should be back before league play begins.

"We obviously want to be very cautious with him and talk with him and his family once he is cleared, but from what I understand, he should be ready to go before

Christmas break," Kirch said. "It will be great to get him back. He's a guy that's a great competitor and can certainly shoot the ball for us too."

Incoming freshman point guard Alejandro Gonzalez may also receive some key minutes for the Celtics this season.

"He will have an opportunity to play quite a bit. He's one of our better shooters and one of the best ball-handlers in our program," Kirch said.

One of McNary's team weaknesses is their size. Along with losing Smith, the Celtics also graduated Noah Hudkins, another 6-foot-7 post who was the team's top shot-blocker last season.

With a roster full of guards, the Celtics will likely try to get out in transition more and spread things out in their half-court sets.

"Physically, we will not be quite as developed as we have been in the past, so we will have to adjust our style of play," Kirch said.

While this squad likely won't compete for a MVC title, the season could very well set the tone for future McNary teams.

"We always look at the growth of the team and how much we can maximize our potential. Ultimately, it's about getting the group to buy into what we are doing, which is to play for one another and to make each other better," Kirch said. "Once that happens, we will eventually see the results on the scoreboard."

"There may be some growing pains, but hopefully we will get to the end of the season and we will be playing our best basketball."

"Ultimately, it's about getting the group to buy into what we are doing, which is to play for one another and to make each other better."

— Ryan Kirch, McNary boys basketball coach

# ATHLETE of the Week

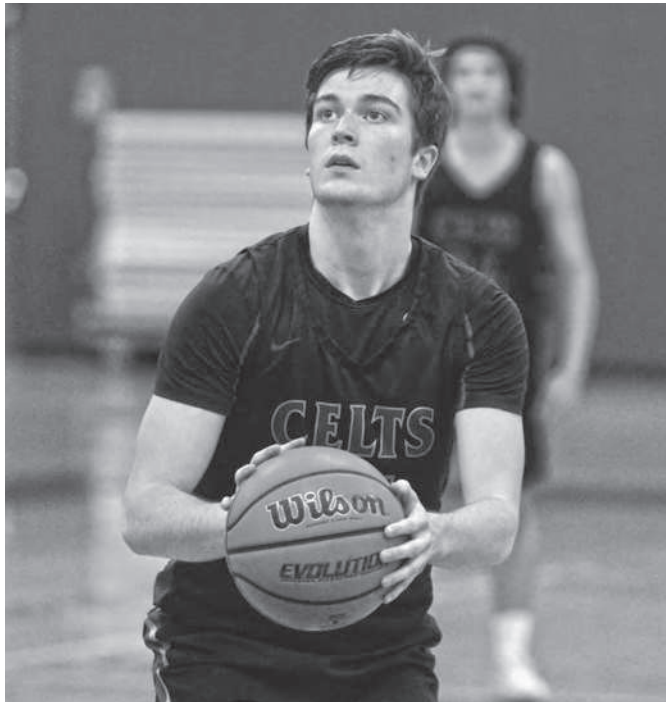


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## LUIS LOPEZ Senior at McNary High School

#10, Forward, Varsity Boys Soccer

In his final year with the Celtics, Lopez earned first-team all-league honors with three goals and five assists, helping McNary reach the postseason for the fourth straight year.



File  
Tyler O'Connor will be one of three seniors on the McNary roster this season.

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# MAT,

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have 20-25 girls that have shown interest."

While McNary does have high aspirations for sending as many athletes as possible to the state tournament, Ebbs' main

goal for the 2019-20 season is to see maximum effort from his kids.

"Our number one goal for our kids is to improve on work ethic. Our efforts need to be contagious in our room," Ebbs said. "That's what's going to help all our kids grow. We need to make the state tournament a busy place for our program."



File  
Gilbert Parra (left) wrestles at the state tournament last season.



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## crossword

**Fruitarian**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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64							65					66		
67							68					69		

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

### ACROSS

- 1 There ought to be \_\_\_
- 5 Actress Normand
- 10 Kind of test
- 14 Asian desert
- 15 Europe's boot
- 16 Meat paste
- 17 Payment for Charon
- 18 Masterless samurai
- 19 Entreaty
- 20 Raisin grapes
- 22 Violinist Mischa
- 23 NYC subway
- 24 English hymn writer
- 26 Resort near Tampa
- 30 Pentose sugar
- 34 Shore-dinner item
- 35 Robot drama
- 36 Boat basin
- 37 Choir members
- 39 Valuable person
- 41 Kind of power
- 42 Double-breasted coat
- 44 Dance step
- 46 Past of to be
- 47 Ball, in Paris
- 48 Neglected
- 50 Equilateral parallelogram, for short
- 52 Burglarize

### DOWN

- 1 Past
- 2 Tennis strokes
- 3 \_\_\_ Ben Adhem
- 4 Dutch King of England
- 5 Turret with a fine view
- 6 Like \_\_\_ of bricks
- 7 Some small Latin American countries
- 8 Beethoven's Für \_\_\_
- 9 Waterfall; Scots
- 10 Fruit dessert
- 11 Placid
- 12 Willow
- 13 Campus figure
- 21 Sht. units
- 22 Inventor Howe

- 25 Branch
- 26 Mesa cliff
- 27 Tree-lined passage
- 28 Tropical burrowing mammal
- 29 Harbor sight
- 31 Lubricated
- 32 Kind of drum
- 33 Like some seals
- 38 Clockmaker Thomas, et al.
- 40 To a \_\_\_
- 43 Old auto
- 45 City features
- 49 Very long time
- 51 Curie or Romanian queen
- 53 Antarctic Sea
- 54 Saroyan hero
- 55 Grey or Marple
- 57 Monogram pt.
- 58 Piccadilly Circus figure
- 59 Word with white or fire
- 61 Sandwich favorite
- 63 For each