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Depth proves to be key in McNary victory

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

With some of their youth and inexperience, depth was thought to be question mark for the McNary boys basketball team coming into to the season.

But the Celtics proved in their last home game that their entire roster has the ability to contribute on any given day.

McNary played 13 guys on the night, nine of whom

made it into the scoring column, as McNary recorded their third straight victory with a 49-31 win over Madison (Portland) on Friday, Dec. 13.

“There was one time where we had a freshman and four sophomores

on the floor. When some of our older guys couldn't get things going, those young guys really held onto and then extended the lead. I thought that was the big difference,” McNary head coach Ryan Kirch said.

McNary freshman point guard Jando Gonzalez led the Celtics with 13 points and knocked down a trio of shots from beyond the arc.

“I'm not usually looking to

score first. This team has a lot of talent offensively. We just moved the ball well and I was able to get some open shots,” Gonzalez said.

Despite the relatively dominant victory, McNary's 49 points was their lowest offensive output of the season — which was something that Kirch took full responsibility for.

“I haven't given them enough rest and that's on me.

I have done a poor job over the last few weeks spacing their rest,” Kirch said.

The Celtics grabbed momentum right from the get-go as Nate Meithof knocked down a baseline jumper and Riley Flores nailed a triple in the first 90 seconds of the

contest. Jaime Ochoa soon followed with a fast-break layup after getting a steal, causing Madison head coach Chuck Matthews to use a timeout.

Matthews burned another timeout just moments later after a 3-pointer by Gonzalez put the Celtics up 10-2 midway through the opening quarter.

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“Our defense is looking great and that has been helping us win games. We help each other out and are constantly communicating.”

— Jando Gonzalez,
McNary point guard



Nate Meithof rises up to shoot a 3-pointer in McNary's 49-31 victory over Madison on Friday, Dec. 13.

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Shorthanded Lady Celts can't get offense going

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary's girls basketball team has had their offensive struggles to open up the season, and those hard times continued for the Celtics in their matchup with Westview (Portland).

The Celtics kept things close in the first quarter, but they had difficulty dealing with Westview's defensive pressure in the backcourt as the Wildcats were able to pull away for the 52-28 victory on Friday, Dec. 13.

It was the fourth straight game McNary was held to 30 points or fewer

“I thought the girls did a

pretty good job of executing defensively what we are trying to do. But we are struggling with our press break and we're working really hard every day to get better at that,” McNary head coach Elizabeth Doran said. “We need to do a better job of putting pressure on the defense. We need our girls to be a threat with the ball.”

The main reason the McNary is going through their offensive woes is likely due to the fact they are without their star point guard Leah Douth — who has missed the first four games of the season due to injury. Douth is one of the top returning scorers and

ball-handlers in the Mountain Valley Conference.

Fortunately for the Celtics, Douth is scheduled to return within the week, according to Doran.

“I always knew Leah was a special player, but this really does show how much she influences the game on both ends of the court for us,” Doran said. “We've got to take care of the basketball, and a lot of times that pressure falls on Leah and she does a good job of handling it and getting the ball up the court. Other teams know she's out, so they are likely to

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Aldo Villavazo (royal blue singlet) prepares to get a pin over Corvallis wrestler Lucas Darby in a 285-pound bout.

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

McNary wrestling goes unbeaten at Casade meet

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary wrestling squad took home victories in both of their dual meets on Tuesday, Dec. 10 in a tournament at Cascade High School.

The Celtics defeated Corvallis by a score of 60-21 and later defeated Junction City 42-40.

“When we get a chance to compete with schools that are in a similar place as us in skill level, it allows our kids to focus on what we need to improve on,” McNary head coach Jason Ebbs said.

McNary went relatively untested in their meet with Corvallis as eight Celtic wrestlers ended up earning pins against the Spartans.

Grady Burrows (120 lbs.) Eoan Sharabarin (126) and Aldo Villavazo (285) earned their falls in the first round while Gage Dubois (132), Hunter Roberto (152), Matt Mehlhoff (160) and Anthony Garcia Reyes (220) got pins in the second round.

Gilbert Parra, the Celtics 145-pounder, was pushed into the third round in his opening match. But eventually, Parra forced his opponent into submission with at the 12 seconds remaining in the bout.

“He came around right at the end. We had guys that kept their nose to the grindstone. That is extremely pleasant to see this early in the season and hopefully it will become contagious for

our other kids,” Ebbs said.

Despite all the individual victories, another match that Ebbs was impressed with was the 113-pound bout, featuring McNary's Rigoberto Hernandez.

Hernandez was battling leg cramps for nearly his entire match, but still was able to go the distance with his opponent, Aziz Alshuwaiee — who won a 9-6 decision.

“Rigo could hardly stand. It would have been really easy for him to give up a pin, but he fought through and kept the match close until the end,” Ebbs said.

While they got through their first dual with ease, McNary was challenged greatly

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Mackenzie Proctor challenges a Westview defender at the hoop. Proctor had seven points in the Celtics 52-28 loss.

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings