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McNary grinds out tough win on the road

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

It appeared that all of the momentum had swung in Canby's favor at the end of regulation.

Canby guard Diego Arredondo nailed a wild, off-balance 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded to tie the game at 50 and force overtime.

But in the extra session, it was the McNary boys hoops squad that proved to be the more collected team down the stretch.

The Celtics outscored their opponent 16-10 in the four-minute overtime as McNary came away with a gritty 66-60 road victory against the Cougars on Friday, Dec. 3.

Even though this is a young McNary group, head coach Ryan Kirch believes that they already have shown significant growth so far in this young season.

"Most of the time when

you see a team make a crazy three like that with their home crowd going crazy, I would say 95 percent of the time that team ends up winning the game. I was really proud of our maturity and growth in the overtime to withstand that shot and stay composed," Kirch said.

"When everyone is ready to go and mentally engaged, we have a lot of depth and we can be really good. Our guys compete and fight for one another."

"When everyone is ready to go and mentally engaged, we have a lot of depth and we can be really good."

— Ryan Kirch,
McNary head coach

While multiple guys made big plays that proved to be key late in the game, the offensive outburst from McNary guard Nate Meithof was the thing that stood out most for the Celtics.

Meithof went off for 36 points — with 23 of them coming in the second half — and capped off his night with a highlight reel jam that would have rivaled any play

Please see BBALL, Page A9



Riley Flores (11) gets a Canby defender back on his heels with a jab-step and then looks to go the rim in McNary's 66-60 victory over Canby on Friday, Jan. 3

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings



McNary's Damian Hernandez (blue singlet) twists his body into a pretzel in order to get position on Centennial's Edgar Molina. Hernandez would pin Molina with two seconds left in the third round.

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Mat men compete at Don York Invite

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
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On Jan. 3-4, the McNary wrestling team competed at the Don York Invitational along with 20 other schools.

The Celtics took 34 kids to the tournament and had 17 boys make it to the second day of the the invitational.

"We took more than 30 kids to go wrestle. That speaks measures there. If you want to do well at tournaments, you have to get the kids to come," McNary head coach Jason Ebbs said. "We had a lot of young kids that

went deep in the tournament and did really well for themselves. I'm seeing nothing but an uptick with our program."

"We had a lot of young kids that went deep in the tournament and did really well for themselves."

— Jason Ebbs,
McNary head coach

One of the youngsters that had a phenomenal tournament was sophomore 106-pounder Damian Hernandez.

Despite not being seeded, Hernandez made it all the way to the championship match after earning three consecutive pins. Hernandez held his own in the championship bout but lost a 6-0 decision to Kenny Vang from Reynolds.

"Damian pinned his way into the finals. There were times where he was behind on points and he had to come back and scrap his way to a victory. It was really exciting to watch him and I hope that he uses this experience to raise his expectations," Ebbs said.

Senior Anthony Garcia-Reyes earned a third place finish in the 220-pound division. After losing a 5-1 decision in the quarterfinals to Curtis Strahm from Tualatin, Garcia-Reyes worked his way up the consolation bracket with a pair of pins, as well as a tough 4-1 victory against Kevin Villa from Putnam, which earned him a spot in the 3rd place match and a rematch with Strahm.

Garcia-Reyes avenged his

Please see WRES, Page A8

Celts rally for key non-league victory

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

In their last non-conference game before Mountain Valley Conference play, the McNary girls basketball team got clutch performances from multiple sources.

The Celtics had four players in double-figures — including Bekah Grimmer, who led the way with 17 points on 6-of-8 shooting — allowing McNary to pull out a gutsy 56-52 overtime win over North Medford on Friday, Jan. 3.

Leah Doust had 14 points

and seven assists while Kenzie Proctor added 12 points and was a perfect 6-for-6 from the charity stripe. Kylie Nepstad added 10 points on 5-of-8 shooting.

"Everyone is stepping up and realizing that it takes a team effort to win. Things weren't really clicking at first, but we pulled it out when it mattered. Our girls wanted it more than they did, which was good to see," McNary head coach Elizabeth Doran said.

North Medford started the game in a 1-2-2 zone,

which proved to be a challenge for the Celtics as they struggled to get good looks at the basket in the early going. Doust, as well as Kennedy Buss were each able to knock down triples, but North Medford still held a 10-7 lead at the end of the opening period.

The Black Tornado extended their lead to 20-11 late in the second quarter. But in the last three minutes of the period, McNary found some success in transition.

Please see CELTS, Page A8



Kenzie Proctor was in double-figures with 12 points as the Celtics got a 56-52 win over North Medford on Friday, Jan. 3.

KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings