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Big fourth quarter puts McNary over the edge

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

The McNary boys basketball team had a shaky start to the second half. But they made up for it in the final eight minutes.

Trailing 39-34 heading into the final period, the Celtics began the quarter on a 16-2 run, propelling themselves to the 56-49 victory over Sprague on Thursday, Jan. 30.

"We just needed to start slowing it down on offense and get better looks. That's what helped us pull out the win," said Nate Meithof, who led McNary with 19 points — 17 of which came in the second half.

While McNary has relied heavily on Meithof's offensive ability this season — he is currently the third lead scorer in the state — the Celtics had to go without their star shooting guard's services for the majority of the first half due to foul trouble.

Fortunately for the Celtics, Meithof's teammates

were able to pick up the slack early on.

Jando Gonzalez and Kyler Rodriguez hit back-to-back 3-pointers to give McNary the 10-1 lead in the opening quarter. Riley Flores got in on the action later in the period, nailing a pair of triples to extend the Celtics lead to 16-6 at the end of one.

"We never quite know each night who's going to do what for us, but guys know that we're going to play the hot hand. The more experience you gain in those situations, the more comfortable you feel," McNary head coach Ryan Kirch said. "We have really challenged other guys to attack and take what

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— Nate Meithof,
McNary shooting guard

the defense gives us. And now you're seeing guys who know that they can score and are shooting with a lot of confidence."

"We have a lot of trust in each other. Everyone knows their role and plays with confidence," Gonzalez added. "We are all close together, so we don't ever get down on each other."

Sprague went on a 9-2 run to cut their deficit to three. But key buckets from Rodriguez and Zane Aicher allowed McNary to hold onto their lead. Tyler Copeland knocked down a pair of free throws at the end of the second quarter to put the

team win a pair of relays as the McNary boys swim team defeated McKay 124-39 on Thursday, Jan. 30.

The McNary girls team also ended their dual season in positive fashion, beating the Royal Scots 106-62.

"It was really exciting for me to leave on a positive note. It was great to see everyone happy on their last dual meet," Hooper said.

"Aside from the points and the wins, we had a lot of really good swims. A lot of kids are really starting to come along," added McNary head coach Casey Lewin.

Hooper won the 100-fly in 1:01.25 and finished the 100-breast in 1:08.91.



KEIZERTIMES/Lauren Murphy

Kyle Hooper won the 100-yard breaststroke in McNary's dual meet with McKay.

Celtics win final dual

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In the last dual meet of his McNary career, Kyle Hooper made in a memorable one.

The Celtics senior won two individual events (100-yard butterfly and 100-breaststroke) and also helped his team win a pair of relays as the McNary boys swim team defeated McKay 124-39 on Thursday, Jan. 30.

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Hooper won the 100-fly in 1:01.25 and finished the 100-breast in 1:08.91.

He took seven months off before the high school season, but Hooper feels like he is rounding into shape at just the right time.

"It's kind of been a work in progress to get back to where I wanted to be, but Casey, being the great coach that he is, pushed me to get back to wear I was. The progression over the season has been really good."

McNary freshman Zachary Kilby also had a big night in the water, winning the 50-freestyle (24.30) and the 100-free (54.61), as well as helping the Celtics win the 200-medley and 200-free relays.

Jeremy Becker picked up the Celtics other individual victory in the 100-backstroke, finishing in 1:16.05 — one one-hundredth of a second faster than his teammate Gavin Eisele.

On the girls side, McNary sophomore Paris Boyd showed her great versatility in both short and long dis-

tance races, winning the 50-free in 26.59 and the 500-free in 5:36.38.

"It's attributed to all the work she puts in the pool. It's really nice having a swimmer that can you can literally plug into any event," Lewin said about Boyd.

Eloisa Moreno won the 100-fly (1:12.76), Bella Beard took home the 100-breast (1:18.38) and Kianna Staley was victorious in the 100-free (1:08.00).

McNary will compete at the Mountain Valley Conference District Meet Feb. 14-15 at the Kroc Center.

Last season, the Celtics couldn't compete with every school in the conference as Bend, Mountain View and Summit were unable to make the trip to Salem for the district meet due to inclement weather.

This season, Lewin and his squad are excited to be able to compete in a true district meet.

"We're really excited to get to compete against the Bend schools this year. Our goals are just to focus on us and take care of what we need to take care of and get some best times and hopefully those best times are enough to get things done," Lewin said.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

McNary wing Tyler Copeland looks to score in traffic in the Celts 56-49 win over Sprague.

Celts beat Sprague for first league win

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After losing their first four games in Mountain Valley Conference play, the McNary girls basketball team was desperate for a victory.

Fortunately for the Celtics, starting point guard Leah Doutt returned to action after missing the last four games due to illness, and she did not disappoint.

Doult came off the bench to lead McNary with 12 points, three assists and two steals, allowing the Celtics to earn their first league win of the season, beating Sprague 40-27 on Thursday, Jan. 30.

"It was really nice to be back on the floor. It was really hard to have to sit on the bench and watch my team because I wanted to help. I actually felt a lot better that I was expecting to," Doutt said. "We really needed that win. I think

it will be a big confidence builder for us."

Annie Leigh Besa was also in double-figures with 11 points in the victory.

Doult was pressed into duty earlier than expected after Kenzie Proctor got her second foul less than a minute into the game. She hit a runner midway through the first period for her first bucket to put the Celtics on top 4-0.

A jumper from Besa gave McNary the 6-2 lead at the end of the quarter.

The Celtics extended their advantage with a 10-0 run to start the second period. After a free throw by Besa, Doult completed a three-point play to make the score 10-2.

"It's great to have Leah back. A lot of these girls have been playing with her since fifth grade. It was just really

"The win was definitely a good morale boost. We showed a lot of heart late in the game."

— Elizabeth Doran,
McNary head coach

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KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Bekah Grimmer rises up to shoot a jumper over a Sprague defender in McNary's 40-27 win on Thursday, Jan. 30.