KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Ethan Whalen finished eighth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

SWIM,

continued from Page A12

said. "She didn't let it bother her and still performed well both in her individual races and her relays."

On the boys side, it was McNary freshman Zachary Kilby that had a big day in the pool.

Kilby was the Celtics top placer on the day for any race with his second place finish in the 50-free (23.50). Kilby also placed third in the 100-free (53.41) and swam the anchor for the 200-free relay team that placed fifth and the 400-free relay squad that finished fourth.

"Zach had a breakout weekend and will be one to watch the next three years. He is very talented and will only improve. He puts in the effort and has the desire to get better," Lewin said. "We're already looking forward to what next season has in store."

In his final district meet, McNary senior Kyle Hooper made it to the podium twice, placing fifth in the 100-backstroke and the 500-free.

Zander Rhoades also had a good showing in the 500-free for the Celtics, finishing eighth with a time of 5:54.76.

Brennan Whalen took seventh in the breaststroke (1:11.20) while his twin brother, Ethan, placed eighth (1:12.58).

"I thought the season was a success. Our numbers were still up, kids improved, had fun and hopefully will continue to swim. The team took a lot of pride in themselves and I thought they represented McNary very well. Even though our seniors will be missed for their leadership and talents in the pool, we have a strong group coming up to fill the ranks," Lewin said.

WRES.,

continued from Page A12

match, I knew I was going to have to try and do something to catch him. Once I got the reversal, I knew that I had him," Ruberto said.

"We knew that kid was tough on top. But Hunter always kept himself in good position. He had an opportunity and he capitalized on it. It's just a testament to Hunter's mental toughness and how he has worked to get to this point," added Martin.

McNary's top state performer last season was 120-pounder Grady Burrows. Even though he made the podium at districts once again this year, his sixth place finish wasn't enough to secure him a third straight trip to the state meet.

Burrows did advance to the semifinals, but lost a hard-fought 4-3 decision against Tyson Oliver of Mountain View.

"He was winning for almost the entire match against a really good kid, but he gave up a takedown late and wasn't able to seal the deal," Martin said.

Burrows tweaked his back in the consolation round and had to default to sixth place after not being able to wrestle in the fifth-place match.

McNary's other state competitor from last season, Gilbert Parra, fell just short of grabbing an automatic bid to the state meet as he took fourth in the 138-pound division.

The Celtics other fourth place finishers were Daniel Hernandez (132), Anthony Garcia-Reyes (220) and Anthony Cruz-Lopez (285).

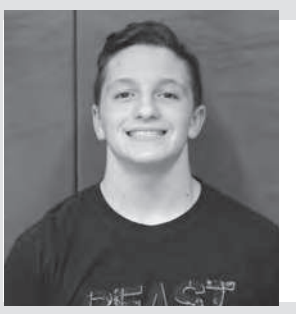
All four wrestlers still have a shot to make the state meet as a wild card, but they won't know whether they made it or not until the brackets become official on Sunday, Feb. 23.

After competing in the junior varsity lineup for most of the season, Esteban Victoria (138) wrestled his way to a fifth place finish, highlighted by an overtime pin in the fifth-place match against Steven Gonzalez from South Salem.

"He gutted out some tough wins. He just perseveres through everything and he doesn't let any situation get him down," Martin said.

Gio Cervantes also finished fifth at 145 pounds. Damian Hernandez (106), Donovin Garcia (126) and Isaac Everts (170) each placed sixth..

ATHLETE of the Week



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HUNTER RUBERTO

Freshman at McNary High School

145 pounds

McNary freshman Hunter Ruberto went 5-1 at the Mountain Valley Conference District Meet over the weekend to take home third place in the 145-pound division.

He was one of two McNary wrestlers to earn an automatic qualification to the state tournament, which starts on Friday Feb. 28 at the Moda Center in Portland.

Ruberto finished off the tournament by getting a second round pin against Elijah Byers from Sprague in the third-place match.

WHAT HIS COACH SAYS

"It's just a testament to Hunter's mental toughness and how hard he has worked to get to this point."

— Sam Martin,
McNary interim head coach

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puzzle answers

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