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McNary proves to be too much for McKay

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

After a lackluster performance in the first period, the McNary boys basketball team turned it up a few notches in the following quarter.

The Celtics were only up 10-6 at the end of one against a winless McKay squad. But McNary went off for 30 points in the next eight-minute stretch and never looked back as they defeated the Royal Scots 70-51 on Friday, Feb. 21.

“I thought we were a little lackadaisical in the first quarter. From then on out, I thought we did a pretty good job of executing what we wanted to,” McNary head coach Ryan Kirch said.

Nate Meithof went for 19 points on 7-of-14 shooting and Tyler Cope-land added 11 points for the Celtics in the win.

Even though they had the early lead, the Celtics were sloppy with the basketball to begin the game, turning the ball over six times in the first quarter.

“We had a spirited one-way conversation at the end of the first quarter,” Kirch said.

That conversation had an apparent effect on the Celtics.

Tyler O'Connor nailed a jumper to start the second period, getting the Celtics back on track. Gunner Smedema buried a triple moments later to put McNary on top 16-9.

A 3-pointer from Meithof and a pair of buckets from O'Connor extended the

Celtics lead to double-figures.

For the second straight game, Kirch made changes to the starting lineup. O'Connor, who has had trouble cracking the rotation for much of the season, got his first start in this one and his six second quarter points provided a key spark to the McNary run.

“It was really fun to get the start and just play the game that I have loved for so long,” O'Connor said.

Kirch added: “Ty had two

“I don't think we were going 100 percent in the first quarter. But we just picked it up and showed that we were the faster and stronger team.”

— Nate Meithof, McNary shooting guard

great days of practice before this game and he's been working hard defensively. We had some numbers advantages a couple times where Nate got doubled and he was able to find Tyler for some easy opportunities. It's great when you have a guy that can finish down low. He put

himself on the right spot on the floor.”

McNary continued to pile on thanks to hot shooting from behind the arc. Freshman point guard Jando Gonzalez nailed a triple from the corner to make the score 30-16. Then, after four quick points by Meithof, Tyler Rodriguez knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers to put the Celtics up 40-21 going into the break.

“I don't think we were going 100 percent in the first quarter. But we just picked it up and showed that we were the faster and stronger team,” Meithof said.

While the offense provided energy to the McNary bench, the Celtics gained the most momentum after



McNary's Nate Meithof cocks the ball back with his left hand as he attacks the glass in the Celtics 70-51 win over McKay.

taking multiple charges — McNary drew four offensive fouls throughout the game.

“The charges we were taking started to bring the energy up. We were starting to play really well together,” O'Connor said.

While McKay attempted mightily to get back in the game, Meithof rattled off 10 third quarter points to help the Celtics put the game away.

McNary will host their senior night against South Salem at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28. If the Celtics can pull off the victory against the third-ranked Saxons, they would earn at least a share of second place in the Mountain Valley Conference.

“We just want to focus in practice and make sure that we game plan well,” Meithof said.



Zane Aicher locks in on defense against McKay point guard Malachi Sterling.

Celtics pick up impressive victory over Royal Scots



Kenzie Proctor goes up for a shot in traffic. Proctor had nine points in McNary's 66-35 victory on Friday, Feb. 21.

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

With the regular season winding down, the McNary girls basketball team put together their best offensive performance of the year.

Leah Doult lead the way with 18 points, Bekah Grimmer added 14 and Kennedy Buss chipped in with 13 points as the Celtics had their highest scoring night of the season with their 66-35 victory over McKay on Friday, Feb. 21.

It was also McNary's largest margin of victory of the season.

“We just played together really well. We made sure that we have everyone incorporated in our offense,” Buss said.

Grimmer came out hot to start the contest, hitting her first three shots to score seven straight for the Celtics — the junior forward finished the quarter with 10 points.

“I came out fired up and I just wanted to play as hard as I could,” Grimmer said.

Coming into the game, McNary's goal was to stop McKay star Skye Miller, a junior shooting guard that transferred in from Alaska.

Even though Miller scored eight in the opening period,

including a pair of triples that were far beyond the three-point line, the Celtics held Miller to just six points for the remainder of the contest.

“Our entire scout was around Skye and how we were going to handle her on both ends of the court. We just tried to deny her the ball, even when she was way out on the perimeter. We wanted to do our best to make things difficult for her,” McNary head coach Elizabeth Doran said.

McKay had cut the McNary lead to one more than half-way though

the opening period, but the Celtics ended the quarter on a 9-2 run to go up 17-10.

The Celtics continued their offensive explosion in the second period, scoring the first 15 points of the

quarter. Three-pointers from Buss and Kenzie Proctor, a jumper from Doult and a layup from Madi Alt helped put the Celtics on the 15-0 run.

“We wanted to make sure that we were doing everything we could to be successful in this game,” Buss said. “We're going to have the mindset that we're going to put everything we got on the floor.”

McNary ended up outscoring the Royal Scots 23-4 in the second period and took a 40-14 lead at the break.

“All season long we have worked on sharing the ball better and I thought tonight our passing was on point. We also did a good job of getting into the paint and getting to the free throw line.”

— Elizabeth Doran, McNary head coach

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