

# CEPEDA,

continued from Page A12

everything it takes to be a leader. Our girls really look up to her.”

Even if she doesn't get to compete in her senior season, Cepeda has still had a decorated prep career.

Cepeda made the varsity team as a freshman in 2017 and helped the Celtics win a league title and reach the quarterfinals. In 2018, she led the team in runs scored and stolen bases while receiving an honorable mention all-league nod.

However, the accomplishment she is most proud of is receiving first-team all-state recognition last season.

“I felt like I got a lot bet-

ter from my sophomore year to my junior year, and it really showed on the field,” Cepeda said.

In Cepeda's last home game as a Celtic, McNary was down 4-2 in the bottom of the sixth in their first round playoff game against North Medford. With the bases loaded and two outs, Cepeda laced a 3-2 pitch into left-center field for a bases-clearing double, which brought in the go-ahead score and allowed the Celtics to advance with a 5-4 victory.

“It felt awesome. I love being there for my team and I love that I was the one to be in that position to help us pull it off,” Cepeda said.

Wise believes that the success that Cepeda had last year will continue when she

gets to college.

“I don't know what PSU will have coming back, but based on Alexa's talent and work ethic, I believe she will compete for a starting role,” Wise said.

Wise says that this McNary team is a tight-knit group that has been able to have weekly meetings through Zoom. Cepeda is just hoping that by the time May comes, she will be able to connect with her teammates in person.

“I would be so excited. It would mean the absolute world to me,” Cepeda said about being able to play an abbreviated senior season. “But no matter what happens, I will never take the game for granted again. You just never know when your time is up.”



Cepeda strolls into third base in a McNary contest from last season.

File



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