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Volcanoes Stadium available to rent on Airbnb

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

While the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes are still awaiting word on whether or not they can have a season, the organization has come up with a unique way to bring in revenue in case there's no baseball this summer.

Last week, the Volcanoes made their stadium available for rent on Airbnb, giving baseball fans the availability to rent out the entire facility for the evening and play the game they love under the lights.

According to Volcanoes CEO Mickey Walker, once the organization made the listing, it started to attract interest almost immediately.

"We were pretty taken back by how many bookings we got in the first 24 hours," Walker said. "It's incredible how quickly this caught on."

The Volcanoes got the idea to use their facility as an

Airbnb from the Pensacola Blue Wahoos — a double-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins — who made national news when they made their stadium available for nightly rentals.

"When we first saw the Wahoos do it, we knew that this was something we wanted to do as well," Walker said. "We got on it as fast as we could."

The organization is offering the facility for \$1,000 per night and 16+ guests according to the posting — food and beverage packages are not included.

Guests will not only have full access to the field, but also the Volcanoes clubhouse and their 5,000 square-foot hitting facility that features four indoor batting cages as well as pitching machines, helmets, bats and balls.

Walker encourages guests

"We were pretty taken back by how many bookings we got in the first 24 hours."

— Mickey Walker,
Volcanoes CEO

Please see SKV, Page 11



The Salem-Keizer Volcanoes are offering their facility on Airbnb for \$1,000 per night, giving customers exclusive access to the entire facility.

Submitted



File

After receiving first-team all-league recognition in his senior season, Luis Lopez will be heading to Corban College to continue his career.

Lopez signs with Corban

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

Soccer has always been a big part of Luis Lopez's life — he has been playing since he was four years old.

Now, Lopez will get an opportunity to play the game he loves at the next level.

Last month, the McNary forward officially signed with Corban College to continue his career as a student-athlete next fall. Lopez had three goals and five assists last season and received first-team all-league recognition as he helped lead the Celtics to the postseason for the fourth straight year.

"Having one of your players going to the next level and achieving their goal is just fantastic. I'm excited for Luis because he worked hard in and out of the pitch to achieve this opportunity," McNary head coach Miguel Camarena said.

Lopez will be joining a Corban team that has become one of the most successful NAIA men's soccer programs in the country in recent years, qualifying for the NAIA National Tournament in each of the last seven seasons, and making multiple appearances in the top-10

national rankings.

"I was definitely really excited to get the offer. I really feel like the team is a family and I want to be a part of the group that continues the string of success," Lopez said. "They are a competitive group of guys that work hard and don't let each other slack off."

As much as Lopez loves playing the game, he hopes to be a coach one day, in large part because of the role that the McNary coaching staff has played in his life.

"The coaches at McNary have had a great impact on me. They have made me realize that coaching is something I would like to do in the future," Lopez said.

Lopez has been playing on the McNary varsity team since his freshman year. Despite not getting much playing time in his first season, and spending the majority of his sophomore year on injured reserve, Lopez took this

as an opportunity to study the habits of the upperclassmen.

"I was forced to take a seat, but it helped me observe their behavior, not only on how I could get better, but how I could be a leader," Lopez said.

By the time his junior year came around, Lopez was made a team captain.

"I wanted to be a role model with the way I played the game and set the example for the younger players,"

Lopez said.

Lopez had several highlights over his final two seasons with the Celtics, but his favorite one came on Oct. 4 of last year in a game against Summit, a top-five team in the state.

In the fifth minute of the contest, Lopez received a through ball after racing past the Summit back line and fired a dart in the top right corner of the net for the goal. It was the only score that McNary needed as the Celtics knocked off Summit 1-0.

"Something was just in the air that game. Everyone was so locked in," Lopez said. "I was just in awe after I scored. The crowd was screaming and I was rushed by my teammates. I knew we weren't losing that game."

Lopez plays soccer year-round and has had a successful tenure with Cascade Fútbol Club. Last spring, Lopez's club team won the state cup for their division. But for the first time in his life, Lopez is currently not playing soccer due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's been difficult. Soccer has been all I have known for most of my life. But I'm still staying in shape and finding

"I'm excited for Luis because he worked hard in and out of the pitch to receive this opportunity."

— Miguel Camarena
McNary head coach

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