

# FOOTBALL: 'We were getting guys more chances'

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when the quarterback stumbled and threw it, it was right to me. And the first thought I had was 'Oh crap. I just caught the ball. Now what?'" Hubbard said.

Hubbard may have panicked for a brief moment, but the McNary student-body president raced 90 yards to the end zone for his first ever touchdown to give the Celtics the lead as his teammates went ballistic on the sideline.

"As soon as I had it in my hands, I just booked it. I wasn't stopping until I reached the end zone," Hubbard said. "I can't stop smiling. It is probably going to be one of the plays that made my senior year."

"In that first series we were battling back and forth, but when the interception happened. That was a huge momentum change," McNary head



McNary linebacker Dyami Rios wreaked havoc in the McKay backfield for much of the game.

Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes



Due to updated guidance from the Oregon Health Authority, a limited number of spectators were allowed to watch the game in-person.

Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

coach Jeff Auvinen added.

The Celtics offense didn't move the chains until the final play of the opening period. In the second quarter, however, they exploded for 28 points.

McCarty threw a strike to Aron Montoya for 21 yards on the first play of the second quarter. The following play, McCartney hit Tyler Copeland on a beautiful fade in the corner of the end zone to put the Celtics on top 14-0.

The Celtics only needed two plays to score in their following drive as running back Zane Aicher broke through a seam at the line-of-scrimmage and went untouched in route to his 65-yard score.

While the McNary offense found their groove later in the first half, their defense remained stout all game long for the second straight week — the Celtics held McKay to just three first downs in the first half.

"Our defense takes a lot of pride in what we do and how we have played the last two weeks," Hubbard said.

Two first down throws from McCartney to Tyler Copeland and Gunner Smedema got the Celtics inside the five. A four-yard touchdown catch by Braiden Copeland on a shallow cross extended the McNary lead to 28-0.

"Our line did a really good job with run-blocking and pass-protection. There were some big-time plays from our quarterback and receivers, there's

no doubt about that," Auvinen said.

Not to be outdone by his little brother, Tyler Copeland extended the lead to 35-0 late in the second quarter with an incredible touchdown catch. With less than two minutes remaining in the half, McCartney targeted Copeland downfield and threw the ball up into double coverage. It appeared that a McKay safety was camped under the ball, prepared to make the interception. But at the last moment, Copeland leapt and snagged the ball out of the air and got to the end zone for the 32-yard score.

"I thought I was going to get drilled, but I was able to snag it out of his hands," Tyler said. "The passing game was our focus all week. That's what our main priority was. We worked on a lot of pass plays this week and finding the open spot."

McKay got on the board late in the third quarter, but Braiden Copeland put the finishing touches on this one when the Celtics got the ball back. On the Celtics first play of the second half, Copeland caught a quick slant, broke numerous tackles and rumbled 68 yards for his second score of the game.

The Celtics will go on the road for the first time this season on Friday, March 19 as they get set to take on Sprague at 7:30 p.m.

## McNary hosts first cross country meet

The McNary cross country team hosted their first dual meet on Saturday, March 13 at Whiteaker Middle School against South Salem.

Freshman Aspynn Westby was the top finisher for the McNary girls, placing third with a time of 21:09. Cielo Chavez came in 12th with a time of 26:18.

On the boys side, Benjamin Standley was the top performer for the Celtics with a time of 18:37. Connor Roop placed sixth (19:07) and Brennan Whalen took seventh (19:16.)



McNary senior Cielo Chavez finished her race with a time of 26:18.

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