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# Celtics blank North Salem in dominant victory



Football

McNary receiver Gunner Smedema runs by a pair of North Salem defensive backs for a 21-yard touchdown in the first quarter.

Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
Of the Keizertimes

After an eight-point loss to West Salem in the previous game, McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen said that he wanted to see more consistency from his team for the remainder of the season.

In their matchup with North Salem on Friday, April 2, the Celtics showed their coach that they could not only play with consistency against the Vikings, but be consistently dominant for four quarters.

McNary quarterback Jack McCarty threw for 256 yards and four touchdowns while the Celtics defense got their first shutout since 2016 in McNary's 47-0 rout over North Salem.

It was the Celtics largest margin of victory since 2008.

"Every time we got it, we took it right down the field and every time they got it, we shut them down," Auvinen said. "It was awesome."

McNary had been plagued by poor starts in each of their last two games, but that wasn't a problem in this one as the Celtics got out to a 26-0 lead in the first period.

McCarty led McNary on a four-minute, 70-yard drive, capped off by nine-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Copeland — who had six catches for 139 yards and two scores on the night.

"Honestly, it was really fun. We definitely came together as a program on

offense," Copeland said. "We are really putting it together at the end of the season."

"Being able to pick up first downs and have long sustained drives is everything because it controls the game," McCarty added.

The Vikings coughed the ball up on their second play from scrimmage and Kyle Grass recovered the fumble to give the Celtics great field position at the North Salem 33-yard line.

After McCarty scrambled 12 yards on third-and-long to move the sticks, he connected with Gunner Smedema on a screen pass, and the junior wideout juke out multiple Viking defenders on his way to a 21-yard

score to put the Celtics on top 13-0.

North Salem had no answer for the McNary passing attack as McCarty was able to connect with numerous receivers on short, long and intermediate routes all throughout the first half.

"We really focused this week on having fun and kind of opening things up and making our stuff a little more interesting," McCarty said. "I think it boosted morale for sure and it obviously worked because (North Salem) wasn't prepared for it."

The Vikings went three-and-out on their following possession, giving the ball right back to the Celtics. McCarty hit Copeland downfield on a long pass into Vikings territory, and then two players later, the senior signal-caller hit Ethan Martin up the seam for a 23-yard score.

"It really came down to Jack having a great game. He had great vision and threw the ball right where we wanted. He was throwing dimes all night long. The line gave him some nice protection," Auvinen said.

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We game-planned really well and we had a good scout team this week. I knew where I was going on every play because I knew what look they were going to give us.

— JACK McCARTY

McNary quarterback