



McNary running back Zane Aicher plunges through the hole and into the end zone for a four-yard score.

Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

# CELTS,

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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," McCarty added.

Smedema would get in on the McNary

passing attack in the following possession. After Grass recovered his second fumble of the night to put the Celtics in great field position, Smedema took a lateral from McCarty and chucked it downfield for a 39-yard completion to Copeland, putting the McNary offense inside the five-yard line. Celtics running back Zane Aicher rumbled for a four-yard touchdown the next play to extend the McNary lead to 26-0.

"I think we put in 10-plus plays this

week, including some trick plays. We definitely opened up the playbook," Copeland said.

North Salem scored a season-high 41 points the week prior in an 11-point victory over South Salem. But their Wing-T attack couldn't muster much of anything against the stout Celtics defense — the Vikings only had two first downs in the first half.

"The defense did a great job with our game plan. The big thing was physicality,"

Auvinen said. "Our scout team must have given us a good look this week because we were prepared and dialed in."

Copeland got in the end zone again in the second quarter after he got behind the Viking defense and was hit in stride on a post by McCarty for a 37-yard touchdown. Dyami Rios scored his first touchdown of the season on a 12-yard run in McNary's next possession.

It seemed that McNary's only mistake in the first two quarters came late in the first half when McCarty fumbled while trying to get out of the pocket. But it didn't take long for the Celtics defense to turn that negative into a positive.

On the last play of the first half, North Salem quarterback TC Manumaleuna appeared to be running an option to his right when he was stripped of the football before he could pitch it. Celtics linebacker Braiden Copeland scooped up and sprinted to the end zone as time expired to bring the McNary lead to 47-0.

The Celtics will play host to South Salem in the season finale on Friday, April 9, making it a unique and special senior night for the Celtics upperclassmen.

"It's definitely going to be emotional. I'm just trying to enjoy every minute of football," McCarty said.

Due to many student-athletes graduating early due to COVID-19, McNary only had nine seniors on the varsity roster this season, so Auvinen wants to make his seniors feel special in their final game.

"We have really taken a keen interest in the seniors this year. We are really going to honor those seniors that stuck with it. They have been great leaders for us," Auvinen said.

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