

Celts get walk-off win over Crescent Valley



McNary sophomore Cooper Cripe scores the game-winning run as the Celtics defeated Crescent Valley 4-3 Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes



BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

On senior night, it was a sophomore that came through for the McNary baseball team with the game on the line.

With the score tied 3-3 in the bottom of the eighth, Noah Fischer hit a bloop single that landed just to the right of the left field foul line. The base hit scored Cooper Cripe from third base and gave the Celtics the 4-3 walk-off victory against Crescent Valley on Friday, May 7.

"I have had a few walk-offs before, but never at the varsity level. It is such a surreal feeling," Fischer said.

"The bottom line is when you put the ball in play you give yourself a chance," McNary head coach Larry Keeker added. "It was a good victory for us. We have been playing better baseball and the results have shown that."

While Fischer was the hero, the key for McNary — who trailed for almost the entire game — was their pitching staff, who gave up just one earned run over

eight innings.

"Our pitching was good all night. It was a great outing from all of our guys," McNary right-hander Eben Mayer said.

Crescent Valley got a pair of runs with two outs in the top of the second after an error by Fischer at third base. But the Celtics were able to get a run back in the bottom half of the frame thanks to an RBI-groundout from Aaron Nease.

Despite struggling with a blister on his throwing hand, McNary starter Dante Olivo threw 3.1 innings — his longest outing of the season — for the Celtics and didn't give up an earned run.

"Dante had an awesome start for us. He isn't coming out if it wasn't for the (injury) to his throwing hand," Keeker said.

Nease replaced Olivo on the bump with one on and one out in the top of the fourth. The senior right-hander got into some trouble as the Raiders got two runners in scoring position, but Nease



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