

Balos added.

Despite keeping the lead at 15 midway through the third quarter, Kirch was discouraged to see some sloppy play from his team at both ends of the court, which is why he called timeout to attempt to whip his team back into shape.

“I thought we got sloppy and lackadaisical with the ball. Mistakes on offense are going to happen but it can’t affect what we do on the defensive end, and I thought that it did for three or four possessions,” Kirch said. “I wanted to bring their attention to it. They recognized it and went back out and played.”

It is safe to say that the Celtics received their coach’s message.

After two free throws from Meithof, the star shooting guard was sent to the line once again, this time making the first and missing the second, but getting his own rebound to convert on a layup.

Meithof would score again on the next McNary possession, then found Balos with a one-handed pass while falling out-of-bounds minutes later. Balos knocked down a floater while being fouled and later completed the three-point play to put the Celtics up 56-31.

“The chemistry was key, just working together and talking to each other,” Balos said.

Meithof showed his determination to get into the paint in the third quarter, scoring 10 points in the period, with

the majority of them coming from the paint and at the foul line.

“They were guarding me up close and, as soon as they came up in me, I just would jab-step and try to get to the paint,” Meithof said.

Kyler Rodriguez got in on the action with a baseline triple later in the third quarter, then Meithof buried a deep, step-back 3-pointer at the buzzer to put the Celtics on top 64-33 — McNary ended the period on an 18-2 run.

“It was about fine-tuning their mindset, then letting them go out and have some fun,” Kirch said.

The Celtics would lead by as many as 34 in the final period before eventually winning by 30.

McNary returns home on Friday, June 18 to take on Corvallis at 7:30 p.m.

Any time we can allow our defense to create offense and get out in the open floor, I think that is when we are at our best.

— RYAN KIRCH
McNary head coach



Tyler Copeland absorbs the contact before going up for a shot.

Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

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