

High hopes set in place for McNary boys soccer



Soccer

McNary junior midfielder Johann Singh Sanchez (8) was a second-team all-league performer for the Celtics last season. FILE PHOTO, Keizertimes

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

After posting a 7-3-2 record during the shortened spring season, McNary boys soccer coach Miguel Camarena is exhilarated for his team to be able to play a full schedule this fall.

"It feels like we are alive. You can see the smiles on the field and all the emotions that this sport brings," Camarena said. "We are excited to see more of a normal season."

Despite graduating their top scorer in Eddie Martinez — who was a first-team

all-league selection with nine goals and 11 assists on the year — the Celtics bring back a lot of firepower in the midfield.

Juniors Hudson Brunk, Johnny Bravo and Johann Singh Sanchez all received all-league recognition as sophomores last season and are expected to be three of the top players in the Mountain Valley Conference (MVC).

"I believe we will have the best midfielders in the league," Camarena said.

Senior Max Baez and juniors Oscar Chavez and Fisher Vanslyke also got some minutes in the midfield last

season. With loads of talent and experience in one position group, Camarena plans to have a handful of his midfielders move up to forward during certain times to increase goal-scoring chances.

"Any of our midfielders could move up and play forward and score more goals for us," Camarena said.

One forward that Camarena is setting high expectations for is senior Axel Zapien Sanchez, who is returning to the soccer field after playing football last year.

"I'm hoping he can be a guy that will

score a lot of goals for us," Camarena said.

The Celtics had multi-goal games in seven of their 14 contests last season, but Camarena wants to put even more of an emphasis this year on finishing when they get opportunities.

"I'm not concerned if we are missing goals, but I am concerned if we aren't creating opportunities. But we need to put a focus on finishing. We score a lot of goals, but we also miss a lot of goals. So it will be a focus of ours. Our coaches will be putting in a lot of work with our

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