Shorthanded Celts fall to West Salem



McNary outside hitter Emily Lettenmaier hits the ball past a pair of West Salem blockers. Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

BY MATT RAWLINGS Of the Keizertimes

The McNary volleyball team battled despite not being at full strength, but couldn't overcome the strong offensive attack of West Salem as the Celtics fell to the Titans 25-16, 25-22, 25-21 on Thursday, Sept. 23.

"We just didn't capitalize when we

had opportunities tonight," McNary head coach Crystal DeMello said. "We have to have all of our pieces on in order to have success."

The Celtics were without their junior setter and three-year Maddison starter Corpe, who expected to miss an extended period of time due to injury according DeMello — Hailey Schwinof and Taylor Detrant have each spent time stepping into the setter role.

"We are still work-

ing through the kinks of our new lineup," DeMello said. "I think that Hailey and Taylor have stepped in and have done fantastic. It says a lot about them and their ability to step in. But there is always that comfort in having a setter that you have had for a long time."

McNary got off to a hot start in the opening set, winning seven of the first nine points. But after some struggles with their

serve-receive, West Salem was able to go on a 12-3 run to take a four-point lead.

A pair of blocks from McNary's Jaelynn Wilcox got the Celtics within two. But the Titans responded by scoring 10 of the next 13 points to take the game one victory.

West Salem continued their momentum into the second set, going on top 17-8 before DeMello was forced to burn a time-

One of the hardest things about competing in volleyball is the mental aspect of the game and moving on as quickly as you can. When you're adjusting to a new lineup, it takes time.

CRYSTAL DEMELLO

McNary volleyball coach

out. However, the Celtics appeared to have new life coming out of the break.

"We had a good timeout and were able to regroup," DeMello said.

The Celtics scored five of the next six points to trim the deficit. Three straight kills by Emily Lettenmaier made the score 18-16, which got the home crowd more

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