

# Celts fall to Central Catholic in season opener



McNARY  
HOOPS

Avery Buss prepares to go up for the shot after getting double-teamed Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

**BY MATT RAWLINGS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The shorthanded McNary girls basketball team kept the score within single-digits for most of the contest, but couldn't contain Central Catholic's Gretta Baker down the stretch.

The senior shooting guard had 22 points on the night, 11 coming in the final period, leading the Rams to a 59-39 win

over McNary in the season opener for both teams on Thursday, Dec. 2.

Hailey Schwinof led the way for McNary with nine points and nine rebounds.

The Celtics were playing without junior guard KJ Custer — their top returning player from last year — who was out with a toe injury. McNary head coach Elizabeth Doran admitted that there were

a few other kids that were playing while banged up, but said that there were some bright spots despite being undermanned.

"We are battling a few injuries, even the kids that are playing are battling with some lingering stuff. We had to have other people step up ... Not having KJ was difficult because she is a player with some of the most varsity experience," she said. "We definitely have a lot

to learn, especially on the defensive end, but I thought for our first game against a tough Central Catholic team, we did pretty well."

Despite going 2-for-6 from the foul line in the opening minutes, McNary clung to a 4-2 advantage in the early going. Central Catholic, however, responded with a 6-0 run to go up by four. The Celtics got the lead within one after a baseline jumper by Lillian Besa, but the Rams ended the quarter on an 8-0 run to extend their lead to 17-8.

"This is a new group that hasn't really played together, so some of our team defense dynamics, like rotations and help side defense are things we need to work on," Doran said.

McNary had a difficult time with Central Catholic's full-court press and man-to-man defense for the majority of the game, committing 19 turnovers on the night. But when the Celtics broke

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