

six minutes without a field goal. But the Celtics were able to get it done at the foul line, making nine of their first 10 free throws in the quarter — McNary finished the contest shooting 22-of-27 from the stripe.

“We have to run quite a bit when we miss free throws, I felt like that was our motivation to be more focused at the line,” Rubio said.

McNary’s first field goal of the second quarter came with less than two minutes remaining in the half, when Rubio knocked down her second shot from behind the arc to put the Celtics up 36-28. Rubio also converted on a transition layup moments later, then dropped an assist to Nepstad as the Celtics led 40-33 at the break.

The Celtics continued their offensive efficiency to start the second half, leading by as many as 12 in the third quarter. A mid-range jumper from Brookelyn Jackson, followed by Buss scoring on a backdoor cut made the score 52-43 in favor of McNary to start the fourth quarter.

However, the McNary defense couldn’t contain the size of Kammy Mahlum down the stretch as the senior post scored nine of her 22 points in the final quarter, many of which came on second chance points.

“There were too many times we were giving up boards. We just weren’t as good as we should have been,” Doran said.

Liberty started the final quarter on a 14-3 run, taking their first lead since the early stages of the first quarter. From there, it was a back-and-forth game, with both teams trading buckets in the final minutes of the contest.

“Our defense really killed us. If we had got more rebounds we probably would have pulled out the win,” Rubio said.

Rubio scored to tie the game at 61-all with less than 40 seconds left,

but Liberty responded when Maddy Miramontes nailed a 3-pointer with 18.3 seconds left. On the ensuing possession, McNary had their inbounds pass stolen by Kaliyah Chronister, who was immediately fouled and knocked down both foul shots to put the game on ice.

“It was a fun game. They got a little lucky down the stretch and it could

have gone either way. But those are heartbreakers, when you control the whole game and then give it up at the end,” Doran said.

McNary will compete in the Pacific Office Automation Holiday Classic at Grant High School over the holiday break (Dec. 28-30). Their first game is against Westview at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 28.

While the result didn’t go in their favor, Doran was impressed with how her team played and hopes it will translate for the remainder of the season.

“I just want us to build off of this. Hopefully, in the future, our offense will look like it did this game,” Doran said. “There were a lot of positives to take away from this game.”



Ava Rubio draws contact after getting position in the paint.

Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

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6	9	8	3	5	1	4	7	2
2	1	7	4	6	8	9	3	5
9	8	6	5	4	7	3	2	1
1	4	5	9	3	2	7	6	8
3	7	2	1	8	6	5	9	4
8	5	9	6	1	3	2	4	7
4	6	3	2	7	5	1	8	9
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*sudoku*

DEBS	COATS	ALAS							
IDOL	PASHA	GORE							
COMET	OTHINK	OFIT							
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	MEAT	SIS							
ADA	INLET	SODAS							
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*crossword*



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