

McNary gets blown out by Crescent Valley



McNary guard Tyler Cleveland gets past a defender with a hesitation move. Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

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After an impressive first quarter, the McNary boys' basketball quad got boat-raced by Crescent Valley for the remainder of the contest.

The Celtics held a 12-8 advantage after eight minutes of play, but were outscored by the Raiders 52-20 in the final three quarters as Crescent Valley defeated McNary 60-32 in the second day of the Capitol City Classic on Monday, Dec. 20.

It was the least amount of points McNary has scored since the 2012-13 season.

McNary was without two of their

best players in senior guards Gunner Smedema and Evan Cornell, who missed the game due to injury. Even with being undermanned, McNary head coach Ryan Kirch didn't make any excuses for the poor play he saw from his team.

"I don't quite know where to begin. We came out with the intention to play basketball like we normally know how to do, but after about several minutes, we looked like we have never played before, in every facet. I really don't have any answers," Kirch said. "Being outmanned is one thing, but it was certainly much more than that."

McNary jumped out to a 6-0 in the

first quarter thanks to a deep triple from Jando Gonzalez and a jump hook by Carson Long. Crescent Valley came back to cut the lead to two later in the period, but a tough hoop by Jabol Balos put the Celtics up by four at the end of the period.

The Celtics however, suffered a number of defensive lapses in the following quarter and struggled to get good looks on the offensive end, allowing Crescent Valley to outscore them 27-4 before halftime.

The Celtics stepped up their defensive effort to begin the second half, but still couldn't muster any offensive momentum. McNary trailed by as

much as 33 in the second half before eventually suffering a 28-point defeat.

When asked if there were any positive takeaways from the game, Kirch simply replied "No."

"We just need to decide whether or not we want to play. You're never upset with losing, but our mental engagement with everything we do is poor. It's like looking at blank faces. We need to challenge guys on whether they want to be here or not. We kind of have to start from ground zero. I'm not sure why we are at this point, but we are," Kirch said. "We just need to figure it out."

McNary returns home on Tuesday, Dec. 28 to host Parkrose at 7 p.m.

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