

# TOP 10,

Continued from page A28

19-14 lead with 4:46 remaining.

With 16 seconds left in the game, West Albany was able to get inside the McNary 10-yard line. But for the third time in the game, the Celtics defense got a red zone stop as Cale threw four straight incompletions, sealing the Celtics win.

It was the least amount of points given up by McNary since the 2017 season.

"It takes a special group of guys to come together when it's tough, and the red zone is a tough zone where everything shrinks. It's one of those areas where the tough guy wins. Luckily, we had a lot of tough guys," Auvinen said.

## 2 Volcanoes create Mavericks Independent Baseball League

After spending 23 years as an affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, a new chapter in Salem-Keizer Volcanoes baseball arrived in the spring.

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, the organization announced that they were creating a new, four-team independent league called the The Mavericks Independent Baseball League. The league would be facilitated by the Volcanoes with all games being played at Volcanoes Stadium.

"We're excited about the new year and we're very hopeful about the setup we have here. We are happy to know that we're going to be able to provide high-quality baseball this year and beyond," Volcanoes CEO Mickey Walker said. "We control our own destiny now, and that's something that is a really big deal for us. We're going to be self-sustainable, we don't need outside organizations to play a part. We can do

this ourselves."

The Mavericks League features the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes, Portland Mavericks, Salem Senators and Campesinos de Salem-Keizer. All four teams splayed under the Volcanoes umbrella. The league featured top-level undrafted and released players, as well as high-level collegiate players and former Volcanoes players.

The Mavericks and Senators have both played a significant role in professional baseball in the state of Oregon. The Mavericks were the first independent team to play in the Northwest League in the 1970s — the Volcanoes recently bought the rights

to the Mavericks — while the Senators, before eventually becoming the Salem Dodgers, began playing minor league baseball in 1940.

After months of preparation, the Mavericks League kicked off its inaugural season in front of over 1,000 fans at Volcanoes Stadium on Thursday, May 13.

The Opening Day game saw the Mavericks, in their first contest in over four decades, defeat the Volcanoes by a score of 4-2.

"I want the boys to recognize after everything that has gone on is that playing baseball is truly a privilege," Mavericks manager Alan Embree said.



"This is special and it's something I want to be a part of."

The Campesinos ended the year with the best regular season record, and went on the first Mavericks League championship on Saturday, Sept. 4.

## 3 Girls' soccer team earns playoff spot

Before the season began, the main goal of the McNary girls' soccer team was to qualify for the postseason, a feat they hadn't accomplished since 2017.

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, the Celtics made that goal a reality in their final home game of the year.

With the score tied 1-1 in the 62nd minute, junior forward Sydnee Alfano scored the go-ahead goal off the pass from Maya Alston to give the Celtics the 2-1 victory against Mountain View.

"We needed to remind ourselves of who we are and prove that we belong in the playoffs," McNary head coach Lauren Brouse said. "It was a huge win. It's huge for the players and the program in general."

After McNary couldn't convert on their first six shots-on-goal in the opening 20 minutes, Mountain View was able to take advantage of a defensive lapse by the Celtics when forward Alicia Welker moved the ball past the back line to get an uncontested shot by McNary goalkeeper Hannah Ferguson, putting the Cougars up 1-0.

However, in the opening minute of the second half, McNary capitalized on a golden opportunity.

After a McNary throw-in deep in Mountain View territory, Celtics forward Yasheth Arciniega Rivera was fouled in the box trying to corral the pass, leading to a penalty kick.

McNary captain Isabelle Gatchet was selected to take the penalty kick, and in the final home game of her career, the senior defender buried a ball in the back of the net past the

