

Big third quarter puts Celtics over the top

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

McKay was able to keep the game within single-digits in the first half, but thanks to a strong third quarter, the McNary girls' basketball team pulled away in the second half.

Led by Avery Buss, who scored 13 of her game-high 15 points in the third quarter, the Celtics outscored McKay 19-9 in the third period and went on to defeat the Royal Scots 46-33 on Thursday, Feb. 3.

"It was good to walk away with a win. We did struggle offensively for a lot of the game, but we played good defense for most of the game," Doran said. "Avery was definitely a spark for us."

After the Scots scored the first hoop of the game, the Celtics responded by going on a 10-2 run, led by their suffocating full-court press.

"It was all about hustle and pushing the ball up the floor. We did a great job of that in the first quarter," Buss said. "We had good teamwork on defense. We made it really difficult on them to move the ball."

Back-to-back steals from KJ Custer and Buss led to a pair of easy layups by Kylie Nepstad. Buss and Ava Rubio soon followed with transition hoops of their own to give the Celtics an eight-point lead.

"It was all effort on the defense. We set the tone on that side," Doran said.

Another fast-break bucket from



McNary post Lillian Besa battles in the paint in the Celtics' 46-33 win over McKay.

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