

# New face of Celtic softball

BY JEREMY MCDONALD  
For the Keizertimes

There will be a new face of McNary softball this spring.

Kelly Parsell will be taking over the head coaching duties for the McNary Celtics after Kevin Wise stepped down.

Having coached since 2019, spending a year at her alma mater South Salem, Parsell came over to be an assistant under Wise for the past two seasons—technically, one season as the COVID pandemic wiped out the 2020 season, her first with the Celtics.

Parsell admits, as she has transitioned from softball player (at the University of Washington), to coach was expanding her knowledge of the game: knowledge that led from being good at one position to more well-rounded with all of the positions.

“The most difficult part of the transition from being a player to being a coach was and is having confidence in my knowledge of the game. Going from being a player and specializing in one position and one type of offensive approach to being an assistant or head coach supporting players in all aspects of the game has been a challenge,” Parsell explains.

“Thankfully, I was surrounded by some of the greatest athletes in the game in college and was able to absorb a lot of coaching information and observe so many incredible playing styles that I get to share with my players now as a coach.”

Wise was a good role model for Parsell the short time the duo was together. Wise was a great example of how to have a good rapport with player that would lead to them respecting and implementing the feedback that you are giving them.

Adding in what she’s learned as a teacher, Parsell is a special education teacher at McNary, ‘Kids don’t learn from people they don’t like’.

“The same goes for coaching,” Parsell said. “Kevin showed me the value of getting to know the players and letting the players get to know you. In addition,



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Kevin really empowered me as an assistant coach and provided a safe environment for me to share my knowledge with the girls and implement systems that I had learned through my playing experiences.”

Without that experience, points out Parsell, she wouldn’t feel as nearly as confident to lead the practices as she does right now with the season on the horizon.

A slew of emotions has been there with the excitement, joy and nervousness, but just heightened with the Celtics first game of the year Mar. 14 against Roseburg, but Parsell’s heart is at rest when she’s on the field.

Their senior leadership have been the focal point and their rock coming from off-season workouts in January and February. Providing a strong peer-mentorship role as they gained more and more players with limited softball experience and helping with relaying the message back to Parsell.

“Their communication with me has been positive, respectful, timely, and all in the team’s best interest. It has been clear for some time now that they are going to do all that they can to create a positive, inclusive, and competitive environment for our program,” Parsell said. “This group of seniors is what gave me and the coaching staff confidence that this season will be a great one, despite the challenges we have and will face.”

McNary opens the season Mar. 14 at home against Roseburg before traveling to Grants Pass on Tuesday, Mar. 15.



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Kelly Parsell greets players and parents at McNary prior to practice

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