Tennis

The Mount Mercy Academy tennis team experienced some growing pains this season after losing five of its top seven players from its 2018 squad. The team finished its season with an 0-4-1 record but will return all of its team members except for senior Breanna Sikora (Buffalo) next season.

The Magic closed its season with home matches against Saint Mary’s of Lancaster and Buffalo Seminary. Coach Matt Ondesko thought that Sikora played one of her best matches of the year, losing 6-2 and 6-2 at second singles. He also felt that junior Evelyn Nowak (Orchard Park) had a strong match at first singles, doing battle with the top players all season long.

In the team’s and Sikora’s final match against Buffalo Seminary, Ondesko felt Sikora started out on fire, losing 6-4 in the first set before tiring in the second set and losing 6-0. “It was Bre’s best match of the season and I couldn’t be more proud of how she ended her career,” Ondesko remarked. “The program will miss her dearly next year.”

Four team members competed in the All-Catholic Championships. Nowak lost at first singles and junior Allysyn Pajek (West Seneca) fell at second singles. Juniors Emily Howard (Buffalo) and Lily Kasperek (Forestville) competed at first doubles.

“Despite being knocked out in the first round, I am extremely proud of the girls. It was a learning experience for all of them in this tournament. Nowak played the match of the first round. She controlled most of the match, but just couldn’t hold serve. She finally lost 11-9 in what was the best performance of the season. Pajek entered the season having never played the sport and she left playing in the All-Catholics. She battled and played well despite the score. Howard and Kasperek teamed up for the first time this season and they had their moments against Buffalo Seminary,” commented Coach Ondesko.

“The record isn’t what we had hoped for this year, but I am extremely proud of the growth of all these young ladies on and off the court,” Ondesko remarked. “They have bought into what I want to bring to the program - and that is the first step. We expect big things from ourselves next year - and can’t wait to get started.”

Track

The Mount Mercy Academy track team ended its Monsignor Martin League schedule in a great fashion placing fifth at the All-Catholic meet and had a relay team and another individual qualifier for the Catholic State Meet. Senior Grace Willert (West Seneca) won individual titles in both the shot put and the discus. She threw the shot 32’11” and hurled the discus 95’3” and has qualified for the state meet in both throws. The four by 400 meter relay team took 12 seconds off its best time to place second and qualified for the state meet. The team consists of junior Katie Hughes (Orchard Park) and sophomores Angelina Larivey and Rheanna Welsh of Lackawanna and Megan Reilly (Buffalo). Welsh placed fifth in the 400 meter run and Larivey came in seventh. Reilly placed fifth in the triple jump and Larivey came in seventh in the long jump. Sophomore Gianna Lauciello (Orchard Park) took fifth in the 100 meter dash. Lauciello teamed up with Welsh, Reilly and freshman Cassidy Reid (Gowanda) to take fifth in the four by 100 meter relay. Junior Grace Harrington took seventh in the 1500 meter run.

In addition to Willert and the relay team, Reilly qualified earlier in the triple jump and Welsh in the 400 meter run for the State Championship meet.
Coach Nicole Mainente commented “It has been an amazing season, it was great seeing the team members push themselves in practice and then watch that translate to personal bests all season long.”

CAPTION:

Mount Mercy’s record setting 4 by 400 relay team: Katie Hughes, Angelina Larivey, Rheanna Welsh and Megan Reilly.

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