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Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-Up

Soccer

The visiting Mount Mercy Academy soccer team avenged an earlier loss on Buffalo Seminary’s home field and handed its host a 3-1 loss in the semi-finals of the Monsignor Martin B League Soccer Championships. The victory propelled the Magic into the finals against Mount Saint Mary.

Junior Abby Mailloux (Buffalo) opened the scoring, on an assist from classmate Madelyn Hart (Buffalo). Hart picked up her second assist on sophomore Maura Higgins’ goal. Hart then put the game away with an unassisted goal of her own.

Coach Maddie Higgins was excited about her team’s win. “This win against Buffalo Seminary was a monumental moment for us. It showed that when we are faced with a challenge, we don’t back down and we are able to succeed in anything we put our minds to,” Higgins remarked. “Going into this game the team didn’t take the game lightly, knowing that bringing their A game was the only way to secure the win. The team came out on fire and came away with a well-earned 3-1 victory.”

The Magic advanced to the Championship game for another rematch, this time with Mount Saint Mary. In the two earlier meetings Mount Mercy lost the first game 2-1 and the second game ended in a scoreless tie. The championship game ended up in a tie as well, 2-2. The league rules state that games that end in ties are over with no overtime or penalty kicks. Therefore, the Magic ended up as Co-Champions with Mount Saint Mary. Although Higgins was disappointed that there was clear-cut champion, she was still proud to note that it was the first soccer championship of any kind for Mount Mercy, a noteworthy accomplishment for the first year head coach.

Mailloux had both goals for the Magic. Her first score came off an assist from senior Mya Wood (Blasdell) and the second was set up by sophomore Rosie Bandura (West Seneca).

“The girls left it all on the field and as a result are the first ever team to win a soccer championship title for Mount Mercy,” Higgins commented.

At the conclusion of the game the All-Catholic selections were announced and the Magic was well-represented. Three juniors, Mailloux, Jenna Brown (Buffalo) and Brenna Berhalter (Buffalo) were named Second Team All-Catholics. Wood and junior Emma Connors (Buffalo) were First Team All-Catholics and Bandura was named a First Team All-Catholic and the Player of the Year for the B Division.

Cross Country

The Mount Mercy Cross Country team completed its season, competing in the All-Catholic Championships. The team placed seventh but Coach Bob Walsh was pleased with his team’s performance.
“The whole team performed extremely well under good conditions, the course was wet and standing water in some spots. Still Gemma had her best time this season and Addison had her third best time,” Walsh remarked.

Junior Gemma McIlroy (Hamburg) finished 27th with a time of 24:53.38. Sophomore Addison Barth was right behind McIlroy placing 28th with a time of 25:09.58. Rounding out the team’s top three was freshman Bella Scarcello who finished 36th, completing the course in a time of 26:51.11. Also competing for the Magic were freshmen twins Zoe and Tylie Czerniak of Springville.

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