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Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-Up

JV Volleyball

This year’s Mount Mercy JV Volleyball team is comprised of 15 players, including just four players with JV experience. Sophomore Isabella Maloney (Lakeview) is expected to lead the team with her skills and knowledge of the game. Also returning to the court for a second year under the direction of second year coach Shannon Feind are sophomores Maggie Bell (Buffalo), Madison Serafini (Buffalo) and Natalie Vicaretti (Blasdell). Top newcomers to the team are freshmen Rylee Strefeler (Dunkirk), Meghan Balen (Cheektowaga) and Lacey Sheehan (Orchard Park).

“The team has been working incredibly hard in a very short amount of time to prepare for this game, and I look forward to seeing what they can do with the rest of the season,” Feind stated. “Everyone else is proving to be quick learners and I am excited to see how their skills develop over the next few weeks.”

In the team’s opening match, they had the misfortune of playing against one of the top programs in the area, Saint Mary’s of Lancaster. The Magic gave it all they had, losing in the second game by a 23-25 score. Maloney finished the match with 6 digs and an ace. Sheehan had two kills, a block, two digs and an ace. Strefeler, who along with Balen is one of the team’s setters, hit seven serves in a row in the second game, including two aces.

“I am so, so proud of the girls for their performance yesterday. We played a team that is traditionally the best in the league, and we were only 2 points away from taking a game from them,” Feind remarked.

Varsity Volleyball

This year’s Mount Mercy Varsity Volleyball team will rely on the experience of seven seniors, led by two-time All-Catholic Kate Ryan (Buffalo). Ryan, who will attend Daemen College on a volleyball scholarship, is an outside/right-side hitter. Also expected to have major roles this year are seniors Olivia Jarosz (West Seneca), Hannah Fredo (Buffalo) and Emma Wilson (Buffalo). Jarosz, who will play collegiately for D’Youville College, is an outside hitter/defensive specialist for the Magic. Fredo and Wilson are both middle blockers. The setting will be handled by senior Megan Quinn (Hamburg) with sophomore Sofia Milosevski, a new-comer to varsity, also doing some setting.

Coach Brittany Sanscrainte is looking forward to the season, but laments the fact that Covid has drastically shortened the season. “I am so excited to see what this experienced team can do during this shortened season,” Sanscrainte remarked. “I am, however, glad that we get to have this season, but I wish we had more time together.”
The Magic had to face defending league and state champion Saint Mary’s of Lancaster in its opening match. The team battled hard but lost in three games. Despite the loss, Sanscrainte was encouraged by her team’s efforts, especially its serving. The team only had three serving errors throughout the entire match. Wilson had three aces and two digs. “It was tough to start against St. Mary’s with only six days to practice. Despite the lack of practice, I thought the team played well,” Sanscrainte commented.

Mount Mercy faced Nichols in its second match and dispatched Nichols in three games, 25-12, 25-11 and 25-13. Jarosz served well for the team, running off nine straight points in the first game. She also had three kills and five digs. Quinn had seven straight serves in the second game, as well as three digs.

“I am so impressed with the progress of the team. We still have a few things to focus on for our remaining matches, but I know our team is hungry for some wins,” Sanscrainte concluded.

This week the Magic face Cardinal O’Hara and Sacred Heart.

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