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Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-Up

Varsity Volleyball

The Mount Mercy Academy Varsity Volleyball team split its two matches last week and qualified for the play-offs. The Magic defeated rival Nardin 3-1 during the team’s Senior Night and lost a hard fought match against Mount Saint Mary 1-3. Mount Mercy will meet Saint Mary’s of Lancaster in the semi-finals on Wednesday the 21st.

Mount Mercy won the first two games against Nardin by identical 26-24 scores, dropped the third game 20-25 and then took the fourth game 25-19. The Magic honored their seven seniors and their families before the contest, acknowledging each player’s contributions and highlighting their future plans.

Senior two-time All-Catholic selection and team MVP Kate Ryan (Buffalo) led the team against Nardin with 11 kills, 11 digs and an ace, as well as several outstanding saves to keep the ball in play. Classmates Olivia Jarosz (West Seneca) had three kills, two aces and ten digs and Emma Wilson (Buffalo) had four blocks and three kills. Coach Brittany Sanscrainte noted that Wilson also had strong serving and many block touches that made it easier for her teammates to pass the ball.

“Several of our players had their best matches of the season,” Sanscrainte noted. “Our strong blocking effort helped our passing game. I am so happy for our seniors that we won our senior game. I will miss each and every one of the seven seniors.”

The Magic won the first game against Mount Saint Mary 25-17 but were unable to repeat the feat in the next three games. The Magic lost 28-30, 17-25 and 20-25. Once again, future college players Ryan and Jarosz led the way. Ryan had 17 successful serves, two aces, eight kills and 12 digs. Jarosz contributed 13 successful serves, 12 digs and four kills. Sanscrainte commented that Jarosz also had strong coverage and great communication on the court during the match. Sophomore Sophia Milosevski (Lakeview) served extremely well connecting on 18 serves, with three aces. Senior setter Megan Quinn (Hamburg) had seven digs and ran the team’s offense well with key sets and good decisions.

“The team played its heart out during the hard fought battle,” Sanscrainte commented. “Each and every rally had quality game play. I cannot believe how far the players have come as a team.”

Mount Mercy finished its Covid shortened season at 3-3, its highest finish in several years.
The Mount Mercy JV Volleyball team lost its last two matches, but Coach Shannon Feind was pleased with the efforts and progress of her team this season. The Magic lost to Nardin 1-2 and lost all three games to Mount Saint Mary.

The first game against Nardin was a heart-breaking 23-25 loss, but the Magic battled back to claim the second game 25-15 before falling in the third game 8-25.

Freshman Lacey Sheehan (Orchard Park) had six kills and an ace. Sophomore Bella Maloney (Lakeview) had a block, four digs and an ace. Freshman Emma Labby (Lakeview) contributed two aces and a dig.

“We were so close to taking this match as indicated by the scores. As a whole our serving improved greatly this game and Emma Labby has truly stepped up as a “serving specialist,” Feind remarked. “Unfortunately, we could not ride the momentum we gained from the 2nd game into the 3rd game but otherwise we played very well. If we were able to play them again, like we would in a typical season, I whole-heartedly believe we would win.”

The Magic lost 19-25, 13-25 and 22-25 to Mount Saint Mary in its final match of the season. Freshman Quinn D’Anthony was praised by Feind for her spirit and morale during the match, along with her three digs. Sophomores Madison Serafini (Buffalo) and Natalie Vicaretti (Blasdell) also were praised for their defensive efforts. Maloney added five kills and two digs.

“All of the girls saw court time today and stepped right into their roles without question. There was strong team leadership and spirit from all of the girls, especially Quinn D’Anthony, Madison Serafini, and Maggie Bell,” Feind commented. “We also all agree that the improvements we’ve made were tremendous. Hopefully everyone returns next year for a more “normal” season in which we will be a force to be reckoned with.”

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**Mount Mercy Academy**

A Catholic College Preparatory High School for Young Women

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