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CONTACT NAME: Pat Burns
CONTACT EMAIL: pburns@mtmercy.org
CONTACT PHONE: 716-825-8796 ext 205
ARTICLE AUTHOR: Pat Burns

Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-Up

Softball

The Mount Mercy Academy Softball team started its season this week with three games, winning one and dropping two.

After a week of rain-outs, the young Mount Mercy Softball team opened its season with a bang. The Magic defeated Cardinal O’Hara 17-7. Despite having only one player with varsity experience, the team outclassed the visitors. Leading the victory was freshman pitcher Emma Caughel (Hamburg) and classmate Meghan Balen (Cheektowaga). Caughel earned the victory on the mound, striking out seven batters. She was also the top hitter, driving in six runs, with three hits, including a double and a triple. Balen added two hits and two runs batted in.

The Magic struggled in the early innings, scoring only three runs in the first four innings, but broke the game open with 14 runs scored during the last two innings. Coach Shannon Feind felt that everyone demonstrated great base running, especially sophomore Trinity Kehoe (Derby), freshman Emma Labby (Lake Vew), and Caughel, and their aggressiveness on the base path generated runs throughout the game.

The team’s lone returning player is senior shortstop Natalia Weltjen (Orchard Park) who is the captain, leading the young team of six sophomores and three freshmen. Feind believes that pitching/catching duo of Caughel and Labby, respectively, will be a huge asset for the team this year. She feels that other all-around strong additions to our team are Kehoe and Balen.

The team fought hard against Nardin, but lost in its second game 22-5. “After a great win on Monday we were unable to repeat today against a very strong Nardin team. Kudos to the team for staying positive throughout,” Feind commented. Kehoe was two for two at the plate, scoring three runs and adding a stolen base. Caughel was two for three, with a double and two runs batted in. Feind also praised the play of sophomore outfielders Amanda Solomon (North Collins) and Megan Amicone (Buffalo). Solomon, the centerfielder had two nice catches and leftfielder Amicone had a spectacular catch of a line drive.

In its third game in four days the team lost to Mount Saint Mary 15-2. The Magic had difficulty getting players on bases and when they did have runners, they were unable to capitalize on it. Feind felt
that the visitor’s aggressive base runners helped them to the victory. Solomon and Amicone each collected their first varsity hits in the loss. The outfield continued to play well despite the loss and Weltjen and Kehoe both reached base each of the three times they were up at bat. Balen also got her first action on the mound, relieving a tired Caughel who had pitched both previous games and started this game.

**Lacrosse**

The struggles continued for the young Mount Mercy Academy Lacrosse team. The team fought hard, never gave up and gave a total effort but dropped its game against Mount Saint Mary, a perennial top team in lacrosse. Goalie Jenna Brown (Buffalo), a sophomore, had a busy day in net, making 16 saves. The Magic defense worked hard as the Thunder controlled the ball and spent much of the game in the Magic’s end. Senior Megan Quinn (Hamburg) and sophomore Abby Mailloux (Buffalo) scored for the Magic. Despite the loss, the coaches were proud of the team’s heart and the continual improvement from game to game.

The offense continued to experience growing pains for the team in its second game of the week, as the team lost to Sacred Heart. Coach Haley Gaulton praised the efforts of her defense as the team spent most of the game defending its goal. The team has been having trouble winning draws and keeping possession of the ball but it continues to have heart and fight hard. Quinn scored the team’s lone goal.

**Tennis**

The Mont Mercy Academy Tennis team, under the direction of second year coach Matt Ondesko was finally able to open its season this year. Continual improvement will be the theme for the team this year as the entire team is new to varsity tennis and only one of the team members played tennis before. Along with these challenges, the team had only six practices before match play began. This would be difficult with an experienced team, so it has been a true work in progress for the team. The team is comprised of three freshmen and three juniors. Freshman Addison Barth (Hamburg) is the team’s lone experienced tennis player and is playing first singles. Classmates Brogan Maloney (Lackawanna) and Julia Rosada (Buffalo) are playing second singles and doubles, respectively. Juniors Mara Santana and Mary Bea Lalley of Buffalo and Camryn Stockinger of West Seneca are competing in doubles this year.

The team lost its first two matches to Sacred Heart Academy and Nardin. Despite the losses and being shorthanded, Ondesko remains upbeat.

Against a strong Sacred Heart squad, Addison Barth played extremely well at first singles. Brogan Maloney hung in there at third singles and our doubles teams played extremely well. I couldn’t be happier with how they competed during their first official varsity match,” Ondesko commented.

“Against Nardin the girls showed a lot of fight. Barth and Maloney played really well at first and second singles and continue to show improvement over the past two weeks,” Ondesko said. “Mara Santana and Camryn Stockinger played extremely well at doubles and had their chances to win a few more games in the first set. The showed a lot of grit. I am so extremely proud of the dedication of this team. It’s not easy learning a sport in six days - and they have showed improvement every single day.”