Mount Mercy Academy Fall Sports Wrap-Up

Varsity Soccer

This season’s 4-12-1 overall record for the Mount Mercy varsity soccer team did not indicate the talent or effort of this year’s team. The team fought hard each and every game before ending its season in a double overtime loss that came down to penalty kicks, in the playoff quarterfinals.

Two players, senior Anne Bamrick (Buffalo) and junior Abby Hillery (Hamburg) earned first team All-Catholic honors this season. Bamrick finished with four goals and six assists and Hillery added six goals and seven assists. Senior Alyssa Siracuse (Buffalo), a four year varsity team member, led the team in goals scored with eight goals and seven assists. Sophomore Mariah Rullan (Buffalo) added seven goals and five assists.

Defensively, sophomore Alesia Hamm (Buffalo) had a phenomenal season for the team, according to Coach Brittany Myers. She credits Hamm as the rock on the team’s defense and she has a positive attitude on and off the field. Senior Marisa May (Buffalo) also played well defensively, helping to force the opponents off-sides multiple times this season. Senior Abigail Krug (Buffalo), also a four year varsity soccer player, was the team’s free kick specialist and a key component of the team’s defense.

Although the team will lose nine seniors, including seven starters, Myers is confident that the Leadership and skills of returning players Hillery, Rullan and Hamm will lead the Magic to a successful season in 2017.
Varsity Volleyball

The Mount Mercy Varsity Volleyball team finished its season with an overall record of 6-6 and a league record of 5-5. The team’s first place finish in its tier and advancing to the playoffs met the season expectations of Coach Andrea Reitz. The team defeated Nardin in the quarter-finals in five thrilling games, which was one of the season’s highlights, along with finishing second in the Cleveland Hill Tournament.

Senior libero Erin Sliwinski (Orchard Park) was named a second team All-Catholic. She led the team in digs and was one of the team’s top servers. Clare McKeone (Hamburg) was also a top player for the Magic. “It was quite obvious that Clare worked really hard in the off-season to improve her game. Her vertical improved greatly, as did her ball control on her swing,” Reitz remarked. Reitz also credited Junior Emily Lewandowski for her leadership skills on the court and keeping the team focused on its tasks. Junior Mary Bala (West Seneca) was one of the team’s top servers in both aces and points scored. Although the team will be losing five seniors who all contributed to the team’s success this season, Reitz is confident that the underclassmen will return to the court, ready to win next season. She is counting on Lewandowski and freshman Chloe McHugh-Freedenberg (Lakeview) to be top performers next season.
Cross Country

The Mount Mercy cross country showed great improvement throughout the season, both individually and as a team. The team finished with a 2-6 record and with freshmen as three of the top five runners, the future looks bright for Magic cross country. The team was competitive in its league meets and fared well at the Allegany-Limestone and Alden High School Invitational.

Freshman Grace Harrington (West Seneca) was the team’s top finisher in all of its meets this season and placed sixth at the All-Catholics, earning First Team All-Catholic honors. Her best time of the season came at the All-Catholic meet, held at Knox Farm State Park.

Senior Claire Koessler (Derby) and freshman Bella Morcelle (West Seneca) alternated as the second and third finishers for the team. Both dropped their times throughout the season, with Koessler ending her career with her best time at the All-Catholic meet. Xoie Ferrentino (West Seneca), another freshman, joined the team late and ended up as the fourth runner.

Although Koessler and fellow senior Alison Marabella (Cheektowaga) will not return next season, Coach Bob Walsh is excited for next season with the returning trio of Harrington, Morcelle and Ferrentino.