

March 28, 2016

Mount Mercy Lacrosse Raises Its Expectations

Just three years ago Mount Mercy's lacrosse team struggled to win games, but this season the team has set its sights on the league championship. The team has shown drastic improvement under the direction of coaches Melissa Graham and Beth Schroeder.

"We expect to compete for a championship. We have the experience, the drive, and the potential to do just that – it will come down to how we compete as a team," Graham remarked.

The team expects tough competition from defending champion Mount Saint Mary as well as perennial rival Nardin, but also knows that they have to bring their best game against determined opponents such as Saint Mary's of Lancaster and Buffalo Seminary.

The members of the team have dedicated themselves to improving their game. "The strength of our team is its commitment to getting better. They've been playing together for over 16 months straight, making the commitment to winter and summer leagues. We have strong seniors and an overall athletic team that wants to be successful. We also have one of the best goalies in the league," Graham stated.

Senior midfielder Brigid Keane (Buffalo), a returning All-Catholic selection is expected to lead the team again this season. She paced the team in goals and ground balls last season. Junior goalie Brianna Gawronski (Dunkirk), an ice hockey all-star goalie, returns to the lacrosse goal cage for the second year. She had the highest save percentage in the league last year.

Juniors Brigid Lempko (West Seneca) and Arielle Brown (Buffalo) are expected to contribute to the offensive output as the top returning attacks. Senior Stephanie Evaniak (Buffalo) and junior Anne Bamrick (Buffalo) are being counted on to anchor the defense; although Bamrick's offensive improvement has shifted her position to midfield.

The team opens its 2016 season on April 6th against Immaculata Academy. The team's home opener will be on April 12th against Mount Saint Mary at Pierce Field.

"The key to a successful season will be having a balanced scoring attack and continuing to improve our defensive knowledge. We need to be confident in our abilities and trust each other. We have a small team but all the returners have experience on the field and have gotten better," Graham concluded.



Mount Mercy Academy

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