Softball

The Mount Mercy Varsity Softball team won two games this week, raising its record to 5-1 and 3-0 in the league. The team started its week with a win against Mount Saint Mary. The Magic fell behind 1-0 after the first inning, but the defense, led by the strong pitching of senior Allison Rogowski (West Seneca) shut down the Thunder for the rest of the game. Rogowski struck out 15 batters. Mount Mercy’s offense took five innings to get started but finally erupted for four runs in the fifth inning. Rogowski helped her cause by hitting a two out double to drive in the Magic’s first two runs of the game. Senior Fiona Danahy (Buffalo) then singled Rogowski home and senior Taylor Hoch (East Aurora) drove Danahy in. The Magic added four insurance runs in the top of the seventh inning. Rogowski ended up going two for three at the plate and drove in three runs. Danahy collected three hits in four at bats and knocked in two runs. Hoch had two hits and an RBI.

The Magic easily defeated Cardinal O’Hara 19-1. Senior Laura Gregory (Buffalo) earned the victory on the mound. Coach Molly Gasuik stated that it was a total team win but singled out Danahy for her play behind the plate as catcher and sophomore Mary Gollwitzer (Buffalo) had her first hit and RBI of the season.

Lacrosse

The Mount Mercy Lacrosse team won one game and lost two last week. The Magic’s offense came to life against Saint Mary’s of Lancaster, picking up its second win of the year with a 16-6 victory. Freshman Gracee Donovan (Orchard Park) led the way with seven goals and two assists. Senior Abby Hillery (Hamburg) added three goals while sophomore Sara Geiser (West Seneca) scored twice. Junior Megan Cycon (West Seneca) scored her first career goal and junior Mariah Rullan (Buffalo), sophomore Tierney Ashe (Buffalo) and freshman Megan Quinn (Hamburg) each added a goal as well.

The team battled the strong winds and a strong opponent in its game against Sacred Heart. Senior Mary Barnes (Fredonia) and Geiser each scored a goal and freshman Abby Baun (Buffalo) had 12 saves. Coach Kristi Reed commended her team for its never quit attitude and for playing with just one substitute.

In its third game of the week the team put up a strong effort against Nardin, before losing 14-10. The Magic led at half-time 8-5 but playing back to back games with just one sub caught up to the team in the second half. Barnes and Geiser once again paced the offense with four and three goals respectively. Hillery added two goals and Rullan added a goal and an assist. Ashe had three assists and Quinn had two assists. Junior Julia Orcutt (West Seneca) had 15 saves and an assist. “We were in control of the first half. The ball was moving in our direction, everyone was clicking. We started off with a big lead with Nardin closing the gap near half time. After halftime Nardin came back with determination. Our defense started to break down and our offense did not possess the ball. In the end we just could not hang on,” Reed remarked.

Tennis

The Mount Mercy Tennis team lost three matches last week. The Magic lost a close match to Saint Mary’s of Lancaster 3-2. Sophomore Maddie DiGiore, the Magic’s first singles player won her
match 6-1 and 6-0. Senior Sophie Robinson won her third singles match 6-1 and 6-1. Coach Whalen noted that although both doubles teams lost, they showed improvement and lost the games by much closer scores.

The team faced a strong Sacred Heart team in its next match and lost 5-0. The team also battled a strong wind during the match. DiGiore had a strong showing at first singles, dropping the first set 6-1 but battling back to lose by a 7-5 margin in the second set. Sophomore Lily Kasperek (Forestville) made her debut at singles during this match and freshman Athena Parisi (Buffalo) saw her first action at the varsity level. “I felt that the team played aggressively and used this match as a means to practice new strategies that can be used in future matches with a more evenly matched opponent. The girls also had the challenge of a stiff wind yesterday but after a couple games made adjustments to their game which is not always easy,” Whalen commented.

The Magic challenged Nardin in their third match of the week and fell 5-0. Coach Whalen felt that despite the outcome, DiGiore continued to play strong tennis. The match involved many long rallies and drew a crowd of spectators. Freshman Claire Mullen (Orchard Park) made her varsity debut during this match.

Track

The track team had a double dual meet with Sacred Heart and Christian Central last week and ended up winning one meet and losing the other. The team lost to Sacred Heart 75-30 and defeated Christian Central 64-21. Three freshmen led the way for the team. Angelina Larivey (Lackawanna) placed second in the long jump with a leap of 14’3 ½” and second in the 400 meter run in a time of 1:07.82. Gianna Lauciello (Orchard Park) finished second in the 200 meter dash and third in the 100 meter dash. Rheanna Welsh (Lackawanna) won the 400 meter run in a time of 1:06.20.

The team also competed in the ADPRO Sports Sweet Home Invitational last week. Highlighting the team’s performance was a state qualifying jump in the triple jump by senior Christina Billittier (Angola). She jumped 32’10”. Welsh placed 4th in the 400 meter run and the 4 by 400 meter relay team comprised of sophomore Olivia Seifert (Lakeview) and freshmen Welsh, Larivey and Megan Reilly (Hamburg) placed fifth with a time of 4:50.21. Larivey placed ninth in the long jump and tenth in the 400 meter run. Sophomore Grace Harrington (West Seneca) placed eleventh in the 3000 meter run. Lauciello placed eleventh in the 400 meter run. Larivey placed eleventh in the 100 meter dash.