May 30, 2017

Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-Up

Track

The Mount Mercy Track Team completed its season with a meet and the All-Catholic Championships. The team showed improvement throughout its meets, both individually and as a team. Most of the team’s athletes achieved their best results of the year at the All-Catholic meet.

Freshman Grace Harrington (West Seneca) won both the 1500 and 3000 meter runs in the team’s final meet against Nardin. She had a 5:49.25 in the 1500 and a 14:01.97 in the 3000. Sophomore Grace Willert (West Seneca) won the shot put with a toss of 31’7”. This performance qualified Willert for the Catholic State Championship Meet. She will compete at the meet with junior Christina Billittier (Angola) who qualified in the triple jump. Billittier placed third in the triple jump against Nardin. Junior Hellen Modi (Buffalo) placed second in the long jump.

Modi placed fifth in the long jump at the All-Catholic Meet with a personal best of 14’10 ½”. Harrington placed sixth in the 3000 meter run with a 12:03.27, her best time of the year. She also placed eighth in the 1500. The 4 by 100 relay team of Billittier, Modi, Danielle Lewis (Cheektowaga) and Gabby Sikorski (Buffalo) placed sixth with their second best time of the season.

At the Catholic High School State Championships, Willert placed sixth in the shot put with a toss of 31.75 feet. Her performance qualified her as an alternate for the NYPHSAA State Track and Field Championships. Billittier’s best triple jump was 29-06.5, earning her a 17th place finish.

With all of the athletes returning to the track next year, hopes are high for an even more successful season in 2018.

Softball

The Mount Mercy Softball team made it to the Monsignor Martin League Championship game but the Magic fell short, losing to Saint Mary’s of Lancaster 14-7. The team finished the season as the league co-champion and the playoff runner-up.

The Mount Mercy Softball team advanced into the championship game with a 6-2 victory over Sacred Heart. Junior pitcher Laura Gregory (Buffalo) led the way with nine strikeouts while giving up six hits and two runs. Fiona Danahy (Buffalo), also a junior, hit a triple in the second inning to get the Magic offense started. She scored on senior Beth Hughes (Orchard Park) single. Freshman Tina Zambron (Lackawanna) then drove in Hughes with a triple, staking Mount Mercy to a 2-0 lead. After Sacred Heart scored a run in the top of the third inning, the Magic answered with two more runs to lead 4-1. Gregory singled and then scored on junior Allison Rogowski’s (West Seneca) double. Hughes earned her second RBI of the game, knocking in Rogowski. In the top of the fifth Sacred Heart added a run and again the Magic answered with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Gregory reached base on an error and senior Mallory Ashe (Buffalo) was walked. Hughes knocked in her third run with a fielder’s choice and Ashe was brought in by Zambron’s single.

The Magic jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Gregory knocked in Chloe Manikowski (Depew) and held that lead until the third inning when Saint Mary’s scored four runs and then added another in the fifth to pull ahead 5-1. A solo home run over the fence in centerfield by junior Emily Lewandowski (East Aurora) in the bottom of the sixth closed the gap to 5-2. However the Lancers erupted for nine runs to lead 14-2 going into the bottom of the last inning. The Magic offense came alive for five runs that inning, but it was not enough to win.

Manikowski, Hughes and Lewandowski all ended up with two hits. Despite the loss in the championship, Co-coaches Doug Webster and Molly Gasuik were pleased with their team’s successes.
and proud of their accomplishments this season. The team will miss its two seniors, Ashe and Hughes, both who played varsity softball for four years.

Lacrosse

The Mount Mercy Lacrosse team advanced to the Monsignor Martin League Championship game for the second straight year. However this year the Magic lost a hard fought game to Mount Saint Mary 7-6.
The Magic avenged a loss to Sacred Heart from the last week of the season, defeating the Sharks 6-5 to advance into the championship game. The game was tied at the half 2-2 before the Magic took the lead with 5:44 left and then used strong defense to hold the lead. Junior Mary Barnes (Fredonia) led the scoring with three goals. Senior Sam Lawicki (Buffalo) chipped in with two goals and senior Clare McKeone (Hamburg) added a goal and an assist. Seniors Arielle Brown (Buffalo) and Brigid Lempko (West Seneca) added two and one assist, respectively. “It was great teamwork and hustle by all of the team members that keye our victory,” commented Coach Beth Schroeder.

The championship game was a hard-fought contest that saw the lead change hands a few times. Barnes again led the scoring with three goals. McKeone and Brown both added a goal. Senior Abby Krug (Buffalo) also scored a goal. Senior Brianna Gawronski (Dunkirk) played a strong game in goal for the Magic.

Despite the loss, it was a successful season for the Magic. The team finished with a league record of 7-3 and an overall record of 8-5. Eight seniors helped lead the Magic to the playoff finals the past two years. They leave big shoes for the returning players to fill.