

January 5, 2015

Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-Up

VARSITY BASKETBALL

The varsity basketball team opened its league slate with a convincing victory over host Park School and won one of two games in the Colpoys tournament.

The Park game was close at the half, with Mount Mercy holding a 23-15 advantage. In the third quarter the Magic defense held Park scoreless, building a 43-15 lead on the way to 54-21 victory. Nine different players scored for the Magic, led by senior guards Olivia Balys (Orchard Park) and Leah McQuiller (Lackawanna) who both poured in 14 points. Junior center Mallory Ashe (Buffalo) added 11 points. Team defense was also a key factor in the game as full-court pressure forced Park into 26 turnovers.

Next on the schedule was the Colpoys Tournament at Kenmore West. In the opening game Mount Mercy defeated Niagara Falls 40-20. Using excellent defense and strong rebounding, the team opened up a 21-12 lead at the half and led by 16 at the end of the third quarter. Balys once again paced the team with a game high 14 points. Playing in the tournament named for her late uncle Matt Colpoys, she also had ten rebounds and seven steals. Ashe contributed 7 points and McQuiller chipped in with 6 points. Junior guard Anne Bamrick (Buffalo) added 5 points. In the second game of the tournament the Magic lost a back and forth contest to Kenmore West, 38-35. The Magic was able to start hot, scoring 18 points against the host's man to man defense. However Kenmore West switched to zone and the Magic's outside shooting was off. Mercy led 21-17 at the half and 27-25 at the end of the third quarter.

"Kenmore West is an excellent team," Coach John Glose commented. "We played very well but we just did not make enough outside shots against their zone defense. Despite the loss, I am very proud of my team. It was our first really close game and the team learned a lot from the game."

McQuiller took the scoring honors for the Magic with 13 points. Balys added 8 points, Bamrick scored 6 and Ashe had 5.

JV BASKETBALL

The junior varsity Magic won both games in the Colpoys Tournament, defeating Niagara Falls 36-11 and Kenmore West 33-20. The wins improved the team's record to 4-3.

The team started out a bit slowly in the opener after the Holiday layoff, leading 11-4 at the half. After the intermission the Magic came out on fire, outscoring Niagara Falls 15-4 on the way to 26-8 lead at the end of three quarters. It was a total team effort as seven different players scored. Leading the way was freshman Olivia Nasternak (Lancaster) with 9 points. Sophomore Emma Fredo (Buffalo) tallied 7 points and freshman Josslynn Strang (Westfield) added 6 points.

The team's strong play continued in the Kenmore West contest. The Magic outscored their hosts 12-0 in the first quarter and never looked back. Aggressive defense and a dominating performance on the boards set the tone in this game. Sophomore Paris Green (East Aurora) paced the team with 12 points, proving to be a strong offensive rebounder and an inside force. Sophomore point guard Abby Hillery (Hamburg) added 6 points and played excellent defense on the opposing point guard. Freshman Makayla McLaughlin (Orchard Park) provided a spark off the bench, connecting on both shots she took. Fredo and sophomore Naomi Parisi (Buffalo) also added four points each.

The bowling and varsity hockey teams did not have any contests over the Holidays.

Mount Mercy Academy

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