

October 4, 2016

Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-Up

Golf

The Mount Mercy Golf team concluded its season with a victory, defeating Buffalo Seminary 311-328. The victory left the Magic with a record of 2-6. Senior Jena Mattina-Chmiel (Orchard Park) was the team's top golfer all season, narrowly missing qualifying for the All-Catholic Match. Despite the fact that the team will lose Mattina-Chmiel to graduation, the team is already looking forward to a more successful season in 2017. Five juniors with golfing experience will return to the links next season for the Magic. Mallory Gawronski (Lackawanna), Chloe Manikowski (Depew), Sophie Robinson (Buffalo), Mary Barnes (Fredonia) and Olivia Andriaccio (Buffalo) are expected to lead the team next year.

Cross Country

The cross country team held its first home meet of the season and fared extremely well. Freshman Grace Harrington (West Seneca) led the race from start to finish and ended with a winning time of 22:35. Fellow freshman Nella Morcelle (West Seneca) edged out senior Claire Koessler (Derby) for third place with a time of 25:07. Koessler finished at 25:09. Senior Alison Marabella (Cheektowaga) placed fifth, posting a time of 23:39.



Mount Mercy's Grace Harrington crosses the finish line in first place in a race at Cazenovia Park.

Varsity Soccer

The varsity soccer team split two games last week, defeating Akron in a non-league contest 3-2 and dropping a 3-0 decision to Nichols. Senior Rachel Kostelny (Orchard Park) led the scoring with the first two goals of the game. Her first goal came on an assist from senior Abby Krug (Buffalo) on a corner kick. Alyssa Siracuse, a senior, had the assist on a crossing pass. Junior Abby Hillery (Hamburg) had the game winning goal on a header. Krug picked up her second assist of the game. The team had great ball movement, utilizing the entire length and width of the field," Coach Brittany Myers commented. "They passed the ball really well and utilized everyone on the team."

Injuries played a part in the team's loss to Nichols. The two teams will square off again on Friday.



Mount Mercy's Abby Hillery works the ball down the field in recent soccer action.

Varsity Volleyball

The Mount Mercy varsity volleyball team lost hard fought matches to Sacred Heart and Nichols at home last week before closing the week with a road victory. Both of the losses were competitive

matches. Sacred Heart defeated Mount Mercy 15-25, 18-25 and 22-25. In the Nichols match the Magic won the first game 25-13 and then dropped the next three 18-25, 21-25 and 23-25.

However Mount Mercy reversed the Nichols results and spoiled Nichols' Homecoming game, sweeping their hosts 25-18, 25-12 and 25-15. The team had great energy in this match, despite the loud and raucous crowd. The team overcame the communication issues that arose from the noise and played their best match of the year. Junior setter Emily Lewandowski (East Aurora) played well at the net, frequently tipping the ball over a tall Nichols blocker. Freshman Chloe McHugh- Freedenberg (Lakeview) had her best game of the season with many key blocks and kills. Senior Clare McKeone (Hamburg) not only played great on offense with some huge swings, but she also played great defense with some unbelievable digs.

JV Soccer

The team won its first game of the season in a hard fought game against Nichols. Sophomore Maddie Bentkowski (Buffalo) scored the game's only goal, continuing the rush to the goal despite being stung by a bee as she was attacking the goal. Sophomore Megan Cycon (West Seneca) made several crucial saves on the way to her first shutout. Morgan Bentkowski (Buffalo) was strong at stopper and Tierney Ashe also contributed tough defense. Paula Koenig, an exchange student from Germany, keyed the offensive attack with long passes from midfield.

The team met Nichols again and this time they were on the short end of a 1-0 score. Goalie Cycon kept the team in the game with some outstanding goalie play. Freshman Erin Jackson (Buffalo) and Morgan Bentkowski both played strong games for the Magic.

JV Volleyball

The Mount Mercy JV Volleyball team won two of its three matches last week, defeating Nichols twice and losing to Sacred Heart. The Magic lost both games against Sacred Heart, playing well in the first game but struggling in the second game. Mercy did win the third game.

The Magic played Nichols at home and won all three games of the match, 25-13, 25-10 and 15-12. Sophomore Allison Mazurkiewicz (Blasdell) had six aces and freshman Amanda Songin (Springville) had five. "This was our last home game of the season and the girls played like it. We were coming off of a tough loss from SHA and we knew we could be better. We started from the very beginning and never looked back. Everyone was on their "A" game. We served tough and it was hard for them to serve receive. We had a lot of strong hits and we never gave up on the play. There were times where Nichols thought the play was over and we ran every ball down and never gave up," Coach Molly Gasuik commented.

After playing against Nichols on Tuesday, the Magic faced Nichols again on Saturday as part of Nichols' homecoming events. Mercy again won the match. The team took the first game 25-20, dropped the second 21-25 and dominated the deciding game 15-6. In the deciding game it was again Mazurkiewicz's serving that led the team. She served nine straight to stake the team to a 9-0 lead. The team ran its offense from there, using strong hitting from freshman Brigid Burke (Buffalo) and strong serving from freshman Katie Hughes (Orchard Park) to end the game.

"We knew it would be difficult and loud because of their homecoming," Gasuik stated. "It was great to get the win, especially on their homecoming. I am so proud of how far the team has come from day one and how much they have all improved."

Mount Mercy Academy

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