

February 2, 2016

MOUNT MERCY SPORTS ROUND-UP

MMHSAA Hockey

The hockey team won its last regular season game and ended its regular season undefeated. The Monsignor Martin team defeated Orchard Park/Frontier 3-1 and finished with a 12-0 league record and a 13-0 overall record. The team earned a bye into the semi-finals of the league championship and will play on February 10th against an opponent that is as of yet undetermined.

Varsity Basketball

The varsity basketball team had a successful week, winning both of its league contests last week, raising its league record to 4-2. The team topped Nardin 45-41 and defeated Nichols 51-43. Coach John Glose credits a team-first mentality for the team's success. "Selfless is a good word to describe our play in both games this week," Glose commented. "Our team knows that for us to be successful, each player must do her job. Players sacrifice personal achievement and statistics for the betterment of the team."

Senior guard Olivia Balys (Orchard Park) had an outstanding game against Nardin, scoring a career high 25 points while pulling down eight rebounds and grabbing four steals. Fellow senior guard Leah McQuiller (Lackawanna) added twelve points, nine rebounds and six assists. Glose cited teamwork and great team defense as the keys to the victory. The Magic grabbed the lead in the first quarter and never trailed.

Despite a size mismatch against the taller Nichols team, the Magic used its speed, determination and heart to down Nichols. The team used full court pressure and hustle to force 38 turnovers, including 25 steals. Mount Mercy's excellent foul shooting in the unfriendly Nichols gym also was a crucial factor in the win, as the team made 18 of 24 shots from the line. The score was tied at the end of the first quarter but the Magic opened up an insurmountable lead in the second quarter, outscoring Nichols 16-5.

Junior Anne Bamrick (Buffalo) led the team with eight steals and also had nine points. Freshman Alesia Hamm (Buffalo) had five steals and five points. McQuiller led the Magic in scoring with a season high 22 points, including four three pointers. Junior Mallory Ashe (Buffalo) chipped in with nine points.

JV Basketball

The JV basketball team had an outstanding week, handily defeating both Nardin and Nichols. The two victories evened the Magic's record at 7-7 and raised its league record to 2-3.

Playing its best game of the season, the team overpowered Nardin 57-29. "Coach Kubera and I are so proud of the way our team competed. It was definitely the best game we have played this year. The team did everything it needed to do and did it right. It is so rewarding to watch the girls develop and improve. Everyone contributed to the victory, showing how much we have improved since the beginning of the season," Head coach Molly Gasuik remarked.

Freshman Josslynn Strang (Westfield) was unstoppable, scoring 21 points and grabbing multiple rebounds. She also played strong defense. Two other players, sophomore Paris Green (East Aurora) and Mariah Rullan (Buffalo) also scored in double figures, with 11 and 10 points respectively.

The strong play continued in the next game, as the Magic used a total team effort to easily defeated Nichols 50-24. Sophomore Julia Khoury (Buffalo) paced the team with 12 points. "This was Julia Khoury's break out game. She had her best game of the season against Nichols," Gasuik said.

Sophomore Naomi Parisi (Buffalo) and Strang each contributed nine points. Green and freshman Megan Cycon (West Seneca) added six points apiece.

"We had great ball movement and great outside shooting. It was nice to see the girls implement what we worked on in practice the past week," Gasuik stated.

Varsity Bowling

The Mount Mercy varsity bowling team had a perfect week, sweeping all twelve games. The team seems to be peaking at just the right time with the All-Catholic championships slated for February 4th. "We're on a roll, no pun intended," commented long-time bowling coach Fred Kirisits.

The Magic started the week blanking Nardin 4-0. Sophomore Liz Acevedo (Cheektowaga) had a three game set of 553, the highest in the league. She rolled a 207, 185 and 161. Her 207 game is the second highest in the league, trailing only her teammate Kelly Thomas (235). Thomas, (Buffalo) a junior, posted a 161 and a 156. Senior Lauren Derwin (Lackawanna) had a high game of 157.

In the second match of the week the team bowled against the blind (each bowler needs to top an average of 140) and continued its dominant bowling. Acevedo put up her second straight 500 set, finishing with a 505 (182, 177,146). Thomas posted a 431 set with games of 149, 145 and 137. Sophomore Chloe Manikowski (Depew) had high games of 152 and 142. Derwin rolled a 142.

In the third match of the week the team swept Cardinal O'Hara 4-0. Thomas led the way with a 446 set (156, 149 and 141). Derwin had the team's high game with a 161 and also rolled a 152. Acevedo added a high game of 153.

The team currently holds a 49-19 record with one regular season match left before the championships.

JV Bowling

The Mount Mercy JV bowling team completed its season last week, finishing with an overall record of 35-19. The team competed with Sacred Heart in its final regular match and also in the ensuing position round. The team split the first match 2-2 and fell 3-1 in the second meeting, finishing the season in fourth place with a 35-29 record.

Junior Claire Termini (Buffalo) paced the team in the first match with high games of 134 and 110. In the second meeting junior Sheryl Little (Cheektowaga) ended her season in style with her high game of the year, a 151. Termini also recorded her highest single game of the year with a 148. Also closing the season in style was junior Emmaline Robinson (West Seneca) with a 147, her best score of the season.

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