May 17, 2016

Mount Mercy Sports Round-Up

Softball

The Mount Mercy softball team won three of four league games last week, finishing the regular season with a league mark of 7-1 and with one non-league game left to play, an overall record of 10-2. The team finished in second place, earning a bye into the semi-finals of the league playoffs. The Magic will take the field on Monday the 23rd against an opponent yet to be determined.

In the first game of the week, the Magic hosted undefeated Sacred Heart, in the battle for first place. Sacred Heart prevailed 7-3. Mount Mercy struck first against Sacred Heart, jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the third inning. Mary Bala (West Seneca), who went three for four at the plate and Laura Gregory (Buffalo) knocked in Emily Lewandowski (East Aurora) and Chloe Manikowski (Depew) with the first two runs of the game. Sacred Heart answered with five runs in the top of the fourth. Mallory Ashe (Buffalo) knocked in Bala with the Magic’s third run of the game but the team could pull no closer. Lewandowski added two hits and Manikowski had one. Gregory took the loss on the mound, giving up 11 hits and 6 earned runs in seven innings.

In their second game of the week, Mount Mercy avenged a non-league loss to Nardin, coming from behind in the bottom of the seventh inning to claim a 5-4 victory. Once again the Magic struck first, with Olivia Balys’ (Orchard Park) single bringing in the first run of the game in the bottom of the third inning, giving the team to a 1-0 lead. Nardin struck for four runs in the next three innings, building a 4-1 advantage. Mount Mercy closed the gap to 4-3 after an RBI from Bala and another from Balys. The Magic’s defense shut down Nardin in the seventh, entering the bottom half of the inning down 4-3. Balys reached base to start the seventh. She was sacrificed to second by Fiona Danahy (Buffalo). After a walk put runners on first and second, Manikowski drove in the tying run with a single. Another walk loaded the bases and Laura Gregory earned another walk, bringing in the winning run. Manikowski finished with three hits and an RBI. Gregory added a hit and two RBI’s. Allison Rogowski (West Seneca) picked up the win, giving up 6 hits and two earned runs while striking out six.

Mount Saint Mary was the team’s second win of the week. They were shut out by the Magic 6-0. Gregory rebounded from the loss on Monday to pitch her best game of the year. She struck out nine batters and gave up only two hits in seven innings of action. She also helped her cause at the plate, going two for four with a double. Manikowski, Rogowski, Bala, Ashe, Balys and Taylor Hoch (East Aurora) each had a hit for Mount Mercy. Bala, Hoch, Ashe and Beth Hughes (Orchard Park) each had an RBI.

Playing their third game in three days and their fourth in five days, did not slow down the Magic at all as they pounded Immaculata 21-2 in four and a half innings. Rogowski earned the victory on the mound, striking out six, while giving up four hits and two runs. She also had three hits, including two doubles and two RBIs. Ashe and Danahy paced the team at the plate with three hits and two RBIs each. Lewandowski, Manikowski, Gregory, Bala and Hoch each added two hits apiece. Hoch also had four RBIs.
Lacrosse

The Mount Mercy Lacrosse team remained in first place in the league after winning both league contests and a non-league as well. The three victories give the Magic an overall record of 11-2 and a 9-1 league mark with two games remaining.

The Magic opened the week with a non-league contest against Springville. They opened up a 5-1 lead, thanks in part to two goals from Brigid Keane (Buffalo). Clare McKeone (Hamburg) was a key offensive player for the Magic totaling three goals and an assist. Brigid Lempko (West Seneca) and Arielle Brown (Buffalo) each added two goals. Emily Gawlak (Buffalo) and Anne Bamrick (Buffalo) each added a goal. Gawlak and McKenzie Cerrone (Colden) each had an assist. Keane finished with three goals and two assists, as well as a career high 11 groundballs. Goalie Brianna Gawronski (Dunkirk) tallied seven saves.

In their next game, the Magic decided to focus on defense and set a goal of a shut-out. The team met its goal successfully, shutting out Immaculata 13-0. It was the first shut-out for the team in
many years. Mary Barnes (Fredonia) had the best game of her career, striking for three goals. Keane scored three goals and had an assist. Lempko, Brown and Gawlak each added two goals. Lempko also had an assist. Bamrick contributed a goal and two assists. Gawronski notched nine saves and recorded the first shut-out of her career.

Mount Mercy closed the week with a win against Saint Mary’s of Lancaster 15-8. The team started the game slowly, falling behind 5-3 at the half. However the team regrouped at the half and came out and played to its skill level in the second half, outscoring their hosts 12-3. Keane led the way offensively with five goals. Gawlak (Buffalo) added three goals and Barnes, McKeone and Brown each scored twice. Lempko added a goal and an assist. Keane and Brown also had an assist. Gawronski had eight saves, giving her a total of 102 saves so far this season and 59 goals against, a .63 save percentage.
Tennis

The Mount Mercy Tennis team closed its regular season with a 3-2 loss to Niagara Catholic. Junior Emily Gall (Buffalo) won her second singles match in a tie breaker. She lost the first set 6-7, won the next 7-6 and then came out on top in the tiebreaker 10-8. Sophomore Sophia Robinson (Buffalo) easily won her match at third singles 6-2 and 6-1. Also competing for the team were seniors Caeley Robinson (Buffalo) and Erin Donovan (Buffalo), junior Marisa May (Buffalo), sophomore Paige Siebold (West Seneca) and freshman Breanna Sikora (Buffalo). The team will compete in the All-Catholic championships this weekend.