

September 13, 2016

## Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-Up

### Varsity Soccer

The Mount Mercy Varsity Soccer team, under the direction of second year coach Brittany Hillery Myers, opened its 2016 season with a loss. The team dropped a 4-0 decision to Sacred Heart, last year's defending champion and one of the teams that Myers expects to once again be a strong contender in the league.

Despite the loss, Myers remains upbeat and optimistic about her team. She feels that her team is ahead in its progression compared to last season. "Despite the loss, we have improved from where we started last season to where we started this year. We now know what the opponent's strengths are and can better prepare for next game," Myers commented.

Communication on and off the field is one of the team's strengths this season. "They acknowledge when they do something wrong on the field and then they talk about ways to fix it," Myers remarked. "The key to a successful season will be practicing hard and not giving up, even when things do not go well. I firmly believe that "you play the way you practice".

Myers is happy to have senior Abbie Krug (Buffalo) back from the broken jaw she suffered during last season. She believes that Krug, a team captain, is a strong role model for the many newcomers on the team. Other top returning players are senior Alyssa Siracuse (Buffalo) and sophomore Mariah Rullan (Buffalo). Junior Emma Fredo (Buffalo) is a key newcomer, moving up from the JV to serve as the team's goalie.

The Magic will play a 15 game schedule, with the home opener scheduled for September 19 at 4:30 at Pierce Field against Frederick Olmstead.

### Cross Country

The cross country team will open its season on Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup> against Mount Saint Mary. This year's team will be led by senior captains Alison Marabella (Cheektowaga) and Claire Koessler (Derby). Junior Chloe George (Buffalo) returns to the team for a second year. Three freshmen who competed in grammar school round out the team. First year runners include Grace Harrington (West Seneca), Megan Jobson (Orchard Park) and Bella Morcelle (West Seneca). The team is coached by Bob Walsh. The Magic will compete at Caz Park, their home course, on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Varsity Volleyball

The varsity volleyball team opened its season with a hard fought contest against Mount Saint Mary. The Magic lost 15-25, 18-25 and 19-25. Junior Mary Bala (West Seneca) led the team with four aces and six kills. Freshman Chloe McHugh-Freedenberg (Lakeview) had an impressive first match, recording four blocks. The team is coached by Andrea Reitz.

### JV Volleyball

The JV Volleyball team, under the direction of second year coach Molly Gasuik, dropped its opening contest to Mount Saint Mary 14-25 and 22-25. Despite the loss, Gasuik remains upbeat. "We

have many new players this year, so I was pleased with our performance in our opening match,” Gasuik said.

The coach believes that the team’s strong bond and excellent work ethic will be the strength of the team. The team is always trying to improve, by coming early to practice and staying late. Once the team develops stronger serving and on-court communication, Gasuik believes they will be successful. Gasuik’s primary goal for the season is to have the team members, as well as the team, improve from day one. She also wants the players to have fun while striving to reach their goals.

This year the team has only four returning sophomore players and Gasuik is counting on these players to lead the team. Kaitlyn Morris (Orchard Park) has improved tremendously since last season and is a top performer this season. Lauren Zimmer (Hamburg), Allison Mazurkiewicz (Blasdell) and Elise Miller (Buffalo), along with newcomers Katie Hughes (Orchard Park) and Madelyn DiGiore (Lakeview) round out the team’s top performers. The team will open its home season on September 16 against St. Mary’s of Lancaster.

## JV Soccer

The JV soccer team lost its opener to a tough Sacred Heart team 5-0. Although the team lost the game, second year coach Mary Colby was pleased with her team’s performance. “We played hard and we are learning to communicate on the field,” Colby stated. Colby singled out freshman Tierney Ashe (Buffalo) and sophomore Bridgit Hayes (Buffalo) for their aggressive defensive play.

Colby hopes to utilize her team’s positive attitude along with tough defenders and speedy midfielders on the way to a successful season. Once the team improves its on-field communication and its movement without the ball, she feels they will be able to improve upon last season’s record. Colby also expects the team to play hard every game and to learn to play together.

Sophomores Hayes, Cecilia Lauciello (Orchard Park) and Madelyn Bentkowski (Buffalo) are the team’s top returning players. Newcomers expected to have a key role this season are Ashe, Erin Jackson (Buffalo) and Jenna Eszak (Lackawanna).

## **Mount Mercy Academy**

A Catholic College Preparatory High School for Young Women

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