

October 27, 2015

Mount Mercy Academy Sports Roundup

Cross Country

The cross country team competed against Sacred Heart last week. The race course at Ellicott Creek Park was much better marked and the team was able to post respectable times. Senior Angelica Miller (Buffalo) led the team with a time of 27.11. Yamilet Montanez (Buffalo) once again finished in the second position for the Magic with a time of 29.08. Sophomore Erin Witek (Buffalo) ran her best race of the year, running strong and crossing the finish line at the same time as fellow sophomore Chloe George (Buffalo). The two finished with a time of 31:21. The team closes its season with a meet against Nardin and the All-Catholic Meet at Knox Farm State Park.

Varsity Soccer

The Magic closed out its regular season with a 2-2 tie in a non-league game against Niagara Catholic. Senior Anna Allman (Orchard Park) scored the game's first goal on a cross from freshman Mariah Rullan (Buffalo). Niagara Catholic notched the next two goals before Rullan converted a beautiful pass from fellow freshman Alesia Hamm (Buffalo) to tie the game and force overtime. Neither team was able to score in double overtime. Mercy had 35 shots on goal during the game.

During its quarterfinal game against Immaculata, the Magic avenged an earlier 1-0 loss they suffered while playing in poor conditions with a convincing 5-1 victory. Junior Alyssa Siracuse (Buffalo) played an exceptional game for the Magic, scoring three goals and adding an assist. She scored her first goal in the third minute of the contest, aided by Rullan's assist. She added her next goal with 18 minutes left in the first half, converting a long ball from sophomore Abby Hillery (Hamburg). Junior Anne Bamrick (Buffalo) scored the third goal of the half just before the first half expired. After Immaculata closed the gap to 3-1, Siracuse completed her hat trick to retain the three goal advantage. Hillery closed the scoring with fifteen minutes left on a cross-field pass from Siracuse. The Magic then advanced to the semi-finals to face Sacred Heart.

Despite a valiant effort, the team lost to league champion Sacred Heart 2-1 in overtime. The first half was a defensive struggle, ending up in a scoreless tie. With 29 minutes left in the second half, Sacred Heart scored the game's first goal. Mercy's stellar senior goalie Emily Gawlak (Buffalo) was injured on the play, sustaining a concussion. Sophomore Emma Fredo (Buffalo) a recent JV call-up was pressed into action. Siracuse continued her torrid scoring pace, adding a goal a few minutes later to tie the game. Fredo made several key saves to keep Sacred Heart off the scoreboard. The game went into overtime and with two minutes left in OT Sacred Heart scored, ending the Magic's season.

"We played really well against the top team in the league," Coach Brittany Myers stated. "The game could have gone either way. We may not have won the game, but we made excellent progress this season. I am very proud of my team and their accomplishments this season."

Varsity Volleyball

The Magic closed their season with two losses last week. The team faced Olmstead and dropped three games 14-15, 23-25 and 19-25. Sophomore setter Paige Siebold (West Seneca) led the team's offense with seven assists. Unfortunately poor communication hampered the team's efforts.

Against Immaculata, senior Sarah Zulawski (Buffalo) had her best match of the year in her final game, accumulating ten kills and eight digs. Unfortunately it was not enough as Mount Mercy lost 13-

125, 22-25 and 18-25. Despite the loss, Coach Andrea Reitz was pleased with her team's efforts. "We played a very good team and we competed with them."

JV Volleyball

Two hard fought matches that ended in defeat concluded the Magic's season. The team showed consistent improvement throughout the season and worked hard in each and every match.

After a week with no matches, Mount Mercy started slowly against Olmstead, losing the first game 20-25 and the second game 22-25 before bouncing back to dominate the third game 25-8. Coach Molly Gasuik was pleased with her team's defensive play and noted that their serving was exceptionally strong in the third game.

The Magic won the first game against Immaculata 25-23 and then lost two close games 22-25 and 20-25. Strong serving from freshman Haley George (Elma) paced the team in the first game. She tallied four aces to help lead the team to victory. The second game of the match was marred by a brief power outage. This interruption slowed the Magic's momentum and allowed Immaculata back into the game.

"This was the best match we have played all year," Coach Molly Gasuik remarked. "Everyone was on their A game. We came out strong, we were loud and we were into it from the beginning. I couldn't be happier about how the team played. We have improved tremendously from day one."



Mount Mercy Academy

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