

March 28, 2016

Youthful Mount Mercy Softball Team Ready For a Breakout Season

After missing out on the playoffs last year on a tie breaker, the Mount Mercy varsity softball team is primed to return to the playoffs in 2016. With the experience gained by last year's team and the addition of some talented newcomers, Coach Doug Webster, in his sixth season as the coach, is optimistic about this season's team.

Leading the team will be four year senior starters Olivia Balys (Orchard Park) and Catherine Rogers (Cheektowaga). Both players have seen extensive action in the infield and are expected to continue in the infield this season. Webster expects strong leadership from the pair. He is also counting on two juniors, Beth Hughes (Orchard Park) a three year starter returns to centerfield and Mallory Ashe (Buffalo) returns to the varsity for a second year, splitting her time between first base and pitching.

"I expect pitching to be our strength this year. We go in to every season expecting to compete and every game expecting to win so our expectations are always high. If our pitchers have a strong season on the mound we will be very competitive in the league." Webster remarked.

Headlining the pitching position this season is a pair of sophomore transfers. Laura Gregory (Buffalo) joins the team after pitching for Hutch-Tech and Allison Rogowski (West Seneca) pitched for West Seneca East last year. Also expected to see some action on the mound are Ashe and freshman Megan Cycon (West Seneca).

Four sophomores, Emily Lewandowski (East Aurora), Mary Bala (West Seneca), Chloe Manikowski (Depew) and Fiona Danahy (Buffalo) saw considerable action last season and Webster is counting on these four players to once again play an important role on the team. Taylor Hoch (East Aurora), a sophomore transfer from Iroquois is also being counted on to play an important role on the team.

Rounding out the roster are three outfielders; senior Sarah O'Shei (West Seneca), junior Emily Diebold (Lancaster) and sophomore Emma Fredo (Buffalo).

Webster expects Sacred Heart to be the team to beat again this season. He also noted that St. Mary's of Lancaster won the Championship last year and their starting pitcher is returning so he expects them to be a challenge as well.

Webster is counting on his young team coming together and maturing quickly. "Of the 15 players on our roster, nine of them are freshmen or sophomores. Obviously we will need them to step up big for us and produce if we are going to be successful," Webster concluded.

The Magic open their season on April 6th with a non-league contest at Fredonia and opens its home season on April 12th against Springville at Cazenovia Park.



Mount Mercy Academy

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