Mount Mercy Lacrosse Aims to Defend Its Title

Trying to top the success of last year’s championship season will not be easy, but Mount Mercy’s Lacrosse team is ready to embrace the challenge. With several key veterans returning to the team, second year head coach Beth Schroeder expects that her team will grow stronger, achieve all the goals that the team set before the season and defend their Monsignor Martin championship.

Returning from last season’s 15-2 overall and 11-1 league team are three All-Catholic performers; Brigid Lempko (West Seneca), Brianna Gawronski (Dunkirk) and Abby Krug (Buffalo). Lempko, a senior, is a four year team member and was one of the team’s top scorers last year, amassing 45 goals and 12 assists. She is an attack for the Magic. Gawronksi, also a senior, is the team’s goalie. In all 17 games last season she had 163 saves while giving up 90 goals, good for a .64 save percentage. She was the first goalie in three years to be named an All-Catholic. Krug, a senior, is a defender. She is a four year player and was the team’s top defender last year. She was such an outstanding defensive player that she was the only defender selected to the All-Catholic squad last year. She was responsible for guarding the opponent’s top player and successfully picked up 57 ground balls.

Other players that Schroeder is expecting to be key contributors are seniors Arielle Brown (Buffalo) and Jill English (Hamburg). Both players are in the fourth year on the team. Brown is an attack/mid fielder and English plays defense. Newcomers that are being counted on for major contributions are three newcomer; sophomore Mariah Rullan (Buffalo) and freshmen Tierney Ashe (Buffalo) and Brigid Burke (Buffalo).

Schroeder believes that some of her team’s strengths will be: playing together as one, communication, strong leadership and dependability. She also feels her team is highly motivated to do well this season and repeat as champions. The team has a healthy respect for all of its opponents. “We are going onto the field each and every game with a drive to beat any team that we are competing against. In the past our toughest opponents were Mount Saint Mary’s and Sacred Heart. This year we are not going to look past any opponent,” Schroeder remarked.

The Magic are working hard to have a successful season. “The key to a successful season will be working as a team to achieve our goals, capitalizing on big games throughout the season and never giving up. We are striving to build a strong bond between players in order to create strong leadership and communication. We are going to use every game played as a learning experience; to learn ways to improve and what to do better the rest of the season,” Schroeder stated.

The team will play an eleven game season, with the season beginning on April 7th at Pierce Field against Buffalo Seminary.
Mount Mercy’s All-Catholic goalie Brianna Gawronski hopes to defend the goal and the team’s championship.
Caption: Brigid Lempko, a returning All-Catholic is expected to lead Mount Mercy’s offensive attack.

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