

October 6, 2015

For Immediate Release

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Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-up

Varsity Volleyball

Consistency continues to be an issue for the varsity volleyball team as the Magic lost three contests last week.

Mount Mercy lost a hard fought four game match against Mount Saint Mary, 11-25, 23-25, 26-24 and 20-25. The teams had several long volleys throughout the match with some strong hitting by both teams. Sophomore setters Emily Lewandowski (East Aurora) and Paige Seibold (West Seneca) were credited with 5 assists and 4 assists, respectively. Senior Lauren Derwin (Lackawanna) had several strong hits for the Magic. Coach Andrea Reitz was pleased with her team's communication in the last three games.

Sarah Zulawski (Buffalo) led the team's attack with eight kills in a three game loss to Sacred Heart. The team was outscored 20-25, 10-25 and 10-25. The Magic had difficulty with ball control and had too many errors, leading to the loss.

The Magic closed the week with an away contest against Nichols, falling 18-15-12-25 and 17-25. Senior libero Molly Dedloff (Gowanda) led the way with 12 digs. Slow team defense and a lack of communication contributed to the team's defeat.

Varsity Soccer

Mount Mercy finished the week with one win and two tough losses. Despite the losses, the young team continues to improve and compete.

Earlier in the season Sacred Heart routed the Magic by eight goals. The second time around Sacred Heart barely managed to escape with a 3-2 victory. Goals were scored by freshman Mariah Rullan (Buffalo) with an assist from senior Brigid Keane (Buffalo) and senior Anna Campbell (Buffalo) assisted by Alyssa Siracuse (Buffalo).

The Magic earned a 1-0 victory over Mount Saint Mary. Senior goalie Emily Gawlak (Buffalo) recorded her first career shutout. Junior Arielle Brown (Buffalo) scored the lone goal in the second half, finishing a corner kick from freshman Alesia Hamm (Buffalo) to provide the Magic with the win.

Nichols defeated Mount Mercy 3-1 on a cold, rainy and blustery day. Sophomore Abby Hillery (Hamburg) scored the Magic's lone goal on a header. Senior Sarah O'Shei (West Seneca) was credited with the assist. Coach Brittany Hillery Myers commended her team for how hard they played and how they overcame the aggressive Nichols squad. The team is looking forward to its rematch on October 15th.

Cross Country

Mount Mercy's cross country team had no meet last week, the team spent time preparing for its home meet this week at Cazenovia Park.

Golf

The Mount Mercy golf team completed its season last week. Junior Jena Mattina-Chmiel (Orchard Park) had the team's low score at Cazenovia for both matches. She carded a 66 last Monday in a steady rain against Buffalo Seminary and lowered her score to a 61 against Immaculata later in the week. Emmaline Robinson (West Seneca), also a junior, recorded a 75 in the Buffalo Seminary match and a 71 in the second contest. Junior Diana Henshaw (West Seneca) finished with an 85 in the rain. The highlight of Henshaw's round was chipping a 30 foot shot into the hole. All three golfers will return to the links for the Magic next year.

CREW

The Mount Mercy crew club Varsity 4 boat competed in the Head of the Genesee Regatta in Rochester and finished in ninth out of 11 boats. Seniors Megan Fabian (West Seneca), Rebecca Rozeski (Orchard Park) and Sarah Foy (Buffalo) rowed 5000 meters finishing with a time of 21.32. The Mercy crew kept a strong pace and had a very strong finish, holding off two boats and finishing just seconds behind the majority of boats in the race. It was a close race and the Magic rowers are confident that they will improve at their next regatta.

JV Volleyball

The junior varsity volleyball team finished the week with a one win and two losses. The team lost to Mount Saint Mary and Sacred Heart but closed the week with a victory against Nichols.

The team fell to Mount Saint Mary 9-25, 18-25 and 10-15. The Magic started slowly in the first game but played much better in the last two games. The team's strength in this match was it serving. Freshman Haley George (Elma) served well under pressure, serving five straight points which brought the team within one point of Mount Saint Mary. Coach Molly Gasuik said: "The girls did not give up, Mercy was down 7-1, and they stuck together and made it a close, exciting game. The second game was extremely fun to watch. The girls did not stop playing until the whistle blew."

The Magic dropped the first game to Sacred Heart 11-25, won the second 25-22 and fell in the third game 25-13. Sophomore Grace Ippolito (Orchard Park) served six crucial points in the second game, putting the Magic ahead 22-18. Tina Arroyo (Buffalo) had two blocks and added the final point on an ace serve. Freshman Lauren Zimmer (Hamburg) had three digs in the second game as well.

Mount Mercy bested host Nichols in two games, 25-18 and 25-14. It was a total team victory. Emily Eberl (West Seneca) had seven serves in a row. Gasuik said "After a tough loss against Sacred Heart on Thursday October 1st, we talked about how we needed to come out strong and set the tone especially in the first game. Today against Nichols that is exactly what we did. We came onto Nichols home court and we set the tone. Everything was spot on, our serving, our serve receive, and our hitting."

JV Soccer

Mount Mercy's junior varsity soccer team continued to gain valuable experience and exposure to competitive soccer. The team is still struggling to score as it was shut out by both Sacred Heart and Nichols. Two players, freshman Cecilia Lauciella (Orchard Park) and sophomore Claire Hildebrand (Buffalo) were singled out by Coach Mary Colby. She praised Lauciella for her strong play at the sweeper position and Hildebrand for her efforts as the center midfielder.

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Mount Mercy Academy

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