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For Immediate Release

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MOUNT MERCY SPORTS ROUND-UP

VARSITY SOCCER

Last week the Mount Mercy Magic lost a close game and earned a tie in double overtime. The team hosted Nardin, losing a hard-fought contest 3-1. The Magic tied the game at 1 on senior Sarah O'Shei's goal at the 21 minute mark of the first half. Freshman Mariah Rullan was credited with the assist. Senior goalie Emily Gawlak was impressive in goal with her aggressive style, earning praise from the opposing coach. Mount Mercy applied consistent offensive pressure but was unable to capitalize on its scoring opportunities.

Mount Mercy and City Honors battled to a 2-2 tie in double overtime. Junior Alyssa Siracuse knotted the game at one on a penalty kick early in the second half, answering City Honors goal. The teams remained tied until City Honors scored with two minutes left in the second overtime. The Magic did not stop battling, scoring the tying goal with less than 30 seconds left in the second overtime. Mariah Rullan converted Alyssa Siracuse's corner kick into a goal. Coach Brittany Hillery Myers commented "I was proud that the team kept fighting until the end, proving that you should never quit. I thought our goalie Emily Gawlak and senior sweeper Brigid Keane both played really strong defensive games."

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Despite losing two matches last week, the young Mount Mercy volleyball team continues to improve. The team has four sophomores and three juniors, along with three seniors that see extensive action. Coach Andrea Reitz is confident that once the team's communication improves, the team's play will also improve.

The team hosted Nardin, losing in three games, 15-25, 8-25 and 22-25. The team's play at the net steadily progressed throughout the match, with several blocks in the third game. Senior right side hitter Lauren Derwin led the team with three aces and five kills. Sophomore setter Emily Lewandowski did a good job running the offense and combined with junior Emily Diebold to form a strong blocking presence at the net. Reitz said, "The girls gave a 100% effort and the communication is definitely starting to improve."

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The team lost in four games to host Mount Saint Mary, falling 17-25, 25-23, 19-25 and 10-25. Sophomore Mary Bala played a strong match, accumulating 10 digs, three aces and serving a nine point run for the Magic. Coach Reitz commented, "I was pleased that we picked up our first win of a game this season. We competed hard but our communication was lacking in the fourth game. I thought our serve reception was excellent but we need a better overall effort at all times."

CROSS COUNTRY

The Magic competed against Immaculata last week. Mount Mercy only had one runner with enough practices to compete. Senior Jessica Teibel had a great individual race, just missing establishing a personal best with a time of 31:26 for the 3.1 mile course. Teibel is in her third year of cross country for Mount Mercy. Coach John Ptak was very pleased with Teibel's efforts and thought she was off to a great start.

GOLF

The Mount Mercy golf team is undergoing a rebuilding process after losing the majority of its team to graduation. Junior Emmaline Robinson carded the team's low score against Buffalo Seminary with a 61. Jena Mattina-Chmiel, also a junior, chipped in with a 63. Low finishers against Immaculata were Robinson with a 58, Mattina-Chmiel with a 59 and Kate Haettich with a 64. Coach Jimmy Burdick was pleased to see that Kate Haettich is making real progress in her return from shoulder surgery and that Emmaline Robinson's game is improving rapidly.

JV SOCCER

Despite dropping both games last week, the Mount Mercy JV Soccer team continues to improve each and every game. Many team members have not played competitive soccer so it is a learning experience for all. Coach Mary Colby singled out the play of some of her team members. Colby said: "I thought that Emma Fredo did a great job in goal. Angelina Baumgaden played very aggressive as a midfielder and Taylor Stoklosa has several great free kicks."

JV VOLLEYBALL

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They young Mount Mercy JV Volleyball team lost two matches last week but continues to show improvement each and every game. The Magic hosted Nardin and lost 17-25 and 11-25. Coach Molly Gasuik remarked: "We are a young team that is improving every day. I thought that we played very well the first game. Our offense and defense was good, the girls were playing well and it was fun to watch. In both games our serving was strong. Overall we gave a great effort and improving every day!"

Against host Mount Saint Mary Mount Mercy lost 17-25 and 13-25. Sophomore Allison Rogowski led the team with 5 aces, and had many good passes on defense.

Freshman Kaitlyn Morris had 2 aces, while fellow freshmen Haley George and Emily Eberl each had an ace. Gasuik was pleased with her team's energy in this match but was disappointed with the many serving errors that her team had.

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