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## For Immediate Release

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### MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY SPORTS ROUND-UP

#### Cross Country

The Magic competed against Mount Saint Mary at a challenging Ellicott Park course last week. Two sophomores Erin Witek (Buffalo) and Chloe George (Buffalo) made their cross country debuts for Mount Mercy. Witek was the team's top finisher, completing the 3.1 mile course in a time of 32:06. Senior Jessica Teibel (Williamsville) ended with a time of 32:42 and George finished right after Teibel with a time of 32:55. Coach John Ptak commented: "the team ran a strong race on a challenging course that was not well or clearly marked. We have some new additions to the team and I am excited to see how our team progresses."

#### Varsity Soccer

Mount Mercy dropped a hard-fought game to Nardin 2-0 but also earned its first two victories of the season this past week. The Magic topped Niagara Catholic 5-2 and edged Christian Central 2-1.

Senior goalie Emily Gawlak (Buffalo) played a strong game against Nardin, recording 22 saves, finishing with a 92% save percentage. Coach Brittany Hillery Myers commented that the team played hard against one of the league's top teams and she expects to see Nardin again in the playoffs.

Against Niagara Catholic junior Annie Bamrick (Buffalo) started the scoring on a far post goal at the 20 minute mark of the first half. Freshman Mariah Rullan (Buffalo) picked up the assist on a cross. Juniors Alyssa Siracuse (Buffalo) and Abbie Krug (Buffalo) teamed up for the second goal. Siracuse took a cross from Krug and put it into the net. Bamrick and Rullan teamed up again on the third goal. Senior Sarah O'Shei (West Seneca) scored an unassisted goal from 35 yards out for the fourth score and junior Arielle Brown (Buffalo) added the final goal. She carried the ball down the field and scored an unassisted goal. Myers was pleased with her team's efforts. "Everyone played a great game. We moved the ball as a team. It was the team's first win and it was rewarding to see the excitement in all of their eyes. There is some great chemistry evolving between the players."

The Magic battled back from a 1-0 deficit against Christian Central to earn the victory. Siracuse, on an assist from Abby Hillery (Hamburg), knotted the game at 1. With five minutes to play, Bamrick, with an assist from Siracuse, scored the game winning goal. Myers commented: "We controlled 90% of the game and really worked well together moving the ball." Unfortunately it was not all good news for the Magic as junior assistant captain Abbie Krug suffered a broken jaw and will be lost for the rest of the season. Myers remarked "We will certainly miss Abbie's talents."

## Varsity Volleyball

The volleyball team continued its improved play, dropping a hard-fought 4 game match to Nichols and defeating Niagara Catholic in three games.

Nichols won the first two games of the match 25-18 and 25-23 before the Magic took the third game 25-18. However, Nichols came back to win the fourth game 25-10. Sophomore Libero Taylor Hoch (East Aurora) had 11 digs to pace Mount Mercy. Coach Andrea Reitz felt that the team gave its best effort and that communication is continuing to improve.

The Magic had little trouble downing host Niagara Catholic, winning 25-10, 25-13 and 25-8. The entire team played well and senior Sarah Zulawski (Buffalo) led the way with 8 service aces.

## Golf

Jena Mattina-Chmiel (Orchard Park) paced the golf team during their three matches this past week. She carded a 61 at the Grover Cleveland course and had a 58 and a 56 at Cazenovia. Coach Jimmy Burdick commented that Mattina-Chmiel has played very consistently the past three matches. Emmaline Robinson (West Seneca) and Diana Henshaw (West Seneca) also saw improvement in their scores, finishing with bests of 70 and 82, respectively.

## JV Soccer

In its only action for the week, the JV soccer team won its first game of the year, defeating Nichols 1-0. Freshman Anna Hagner (Buffalo) scored the winning game for the Magic. Sophomores Phoebe Palmisano (Buffalo) and Emma Fredo (Buffalo) combined for the shut-out.

## JV Volleyball

Mount Mercy's JV Volleyball team collected its first two wins of the season last week, defeating Nichols in three games and sweeping three games from Niagara Catholic.

Nichols took the first game of the match 25-20 but the Magic stormed back to win the second and third games 25-21 and 25-10. Freshman Allison Mazurkiewicz (Blasdell) and sophomore Allison Rogowski (West Seneca) paced the team with 5 serving aces each. Coach Molly Gasuik was pleased with the overall results: "We struggled in the beginning and did not play to our potential. As the match went on we all came together and started to play like a team. Our serving and serve receive was excellent. It was an intense but fun game to watch." Rogowski led the way in the first game, serving 21 serves in a row. Gasuik felt that the victory was due to team work and everyone contributing to the win.

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