

November 3, 2015

Mount Mercy Magic Soccer Season Round-Up

An overall record of 5-11-2 does not indicate how competitive and skilled the Mount Mercy Magic Soccer team was. After downing rival Immaculata 5-1 in the quarterfinals, the season's highlight for the coach, the team battled into the championship semi-finals. Mount Mercy lost a hard-fought game to eventual Monsignor Martin League and playoff champion Sacred Heart 2-1 in overtime. Throughout the course of the season the team improved in its skills and teamwork as they adjusted to a new coach.

Coach Brittany Hillery Myers said, "They learned to play together as a team rather than individually. The number one team (SHA) beat us 10-2 in one of our first games of the season but at the end of the season we lost to them in OT (2-1) during the semifinals. It is evident that we are the most improved team in the league and I am proud of our team's accomplishments."

An important change that Myers made that helped make the team more competitive was to move senior Emily Gawlak (Buffalo) from the forward line to goalie. The move paid off as Gawlak notched two shutouts and had over 200 saves in the 15 games she played. This total was more than 100 more saves than any other Monsignor Martin League goalie.

Senior Brigid Keane (Buffalo) and freshman Alesia Hamm (Buffalo) were the defensive stalwarts for Mount Mercy. "Brigid Keane is solid one hundred percent of the time. She has more stamina than anyone I have seen in awhile. She played the entire game, every game. In addition, her speed was phenomenal. If someone got past her somehow, she hustled to win the ball back," Myers commented. She then added "Alesia Hamm helped us out significantly on defense this year. As a freshman on varsity, she was timid at first. She has improved tremendously over the season and she will now be our sweeper next year since Brigid will be graduating. "

Third year varsity player junior Alyssa Siracuse (Buffalo) was the team's top scorer, finishing with eight goals and four assists. Junior Anne Bamrick (Buffalo) added five goals and an assist. Freshman Mariah Rullan had three goals and five assists. Senior Sarah O'Shei (West Seneca), juniors Abbie Krug (Buffalo) and Arielle Brown (Buffalo) and sophomore Abby Hillery each tallied two goals this season. Seniors Anna Allman (Orchard Park) and Anna Campbell (Buffalo) both scored a goal.

Although the entire team improved throughout the season, Myers singled out Hamm, O'Shei and junior Grace O'Neil (Buffalo) as the three players who improved the most.

Myers has high hopes for next season with many of the top players returning and being able to utilize the skills and strategies they learned this season. She also discovered that sophomore Emma Fredo (Buffalo) has the skills to play goalie. Fredo was called up after the JV season had ended and was forced into action due to Gawlak's injury in the semi-finals. She "played amazing and kept us in the game," according to Myers.

Coach Myers summed up the season this way. "It was a heartbreaker losing in OT in the semifinals. We have a great group of girls and I was honored to coach them. They play hard, love the sport, and were easy to adapt to change. I will miss seeing them every day but I am already looking forward to next year!"

###

Mount Mercy Academy

A Catholic College Preparatory High School for Young Women
88 Red Jacket Parkway | Buffalo, New York 14220 | www.mtmercy.org | T (716) 825-8796 | F (716) 825-0976