

March 22, 2016

Mount Mercy Academy Basketball Team Receives Prestigious Honor

The 2016 Mount Mercy Magic Varsity Basketball Team was named the winner of the 2016 Brian Hanson Sportsmanship Award. The honor, named for Brian Hanson, a long time girls' basketball official who passed away from cancer, is awarded to the girls' basketball team in Western New York that exhibits the best sportsmanship throughout the season.

The award is selected based on a vote of the members of the Western New York Girls' Basketball Officials (WNYGBO). The group's president, Mr. Michael Talluto presented the award to the team at a recent assembly.

"Every year we honor the one school out of the 109 schools that have girls' basketball in Western New York," Talluto said. "The team that best exemplifies the best sportsmanship on the court is voted on by our members. This year the vote was a runaway victory for Mount Mercy Academy."

While presenting the award to Coach John Glose and captains Olivia Balys (Orchard Park), Leah McQuiller (Lackawanna) and Mallory Ashe (Buffalo), Talluto continued, "It is really easy to be sportsmanlike when your team is 21-0, it is a much more admirable accomplishment when your team does not win every game."

Principal Margaret Staszak was very pleased by the team's recognition. "I am so proud of our basketball team for receiving the Good Sportsmanship Award from the Girl's Basketball Referee's Association. We know that it's easy to be a good winner, but to lose with grace is an even more important a lesson for our players. I am proud of all our students for demonstrating kindness and compassion in so many ways, but to be recognized for exhibiting civility and politeness is extremely validating of what we teach at Mount Mercy," Staszak stated.

Coach Glose said, "I am extremely proud of this team. In addition to their outstanding sportsmanship, their attitudes, work ethic, and dedication were outstanding. This team gave everything they had day in and day out."

The members of the team were Buffalo residents Anne Bamrick, Abigail Krug, Marissa May, Grace O'Neil, Alesia Hamm and Mallory Ashe Orchard Park residents Olivia Balys and Elizabeth Hughes, Lackawanna resident Leah McQuiller, Hamburg resident Clare McKeone and West Seneca resident Brigid Lempko.

Mount Mercy finished its season with a 12-12 overall record.



Mount Mercy Varsity Basketball Team

Front: Anne Bamrick, Brigid Lempko, Clare McKeone, Mariah Rullan, Leah McQuiller.

Back: Coach John Glose, Mallory Ashe, Olivia Balys, Beth Hughes, Emma Fredo, Grace O'Neil, Marissa May, Abby Krug, Alesia Hamm.

Mount Mercy Basketball with Mike Talluto

Olivia Balys, Leah McQuiller, Mr. Michael Talluto, Mallory Ashe, Coach John Glose

Mount Mercy Academy

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