Five Mount Mercy Lacrosse Players Earn All-Catholic Honors

Five members of the Monsignor Martin League and Playoff Champion Lacrosse team were voted First Team All-Catholics this season. Seniors Brigid Keane and Emily Gawlak of Buffalo and juniors Brianna Gawronski (Dunkirk), Abigail Krug (Buffalo) and Brigid Lempko (West Seneca) were honored for their performance this season for the Magic. The team ended the season with an 11-1 league record and a 15-2 overall record.

Keane ended her four year varsity lacrosse career with her second straight All-Catholic selection. She finished this season with 47 goals, 25 assists and 92 ground balls. A team captain, Keane was counted on for her leadership and dedication this season. She was the player who settled her teammates down and she displayed heart and hustle as she consistently ran from end line to end line and rarely came out of the game. She finished her Mount Mercy career with 91 goals.

Although Gawlak only played lacrosse for one year, she made the most of that one season. She collected 32 goals and 16 assists while fielding 92 ground balls. She controlled the midfield for the Magic and used her athletic skills to dominate the draw controls. Her offensive skills caused the opposing defenses to focus on her which allowed scoring opportunities for her teammates.

Krug, a third year player, was the team’s top defender this season. She was such an outstanding defensive player that she was the only defender selected to the All-Catholic squad. She was responsible for guarding the opponent’s top player and successfully picked up 57 ground balls. According to Coach Melissa Graham, statistics don’t reflect Krug’s true value to the team.

Gawronski became the first goalie in the last three years to be voted an All-Catholic. Her skills played a key role in Mount Mercy’s success this season. For all 17 games this season she had 163 saves while giving up 90 goals, good for a .64 save percentage. When a big save was needed, Graham said that Gawronski made it. She came up big in the key matchups this season, as well as during the playoff run. She improved greatly from last season and was the team’s defensive anchor, never allowing a team to score in double digits this season. She was also an All-Federation Hockey Goalie this season.

Lempko blossomed into a top scorer for Mount Mercy this season, her third on the team. She collected 45 goals and 12 assists, including 7 goals in the two playoff victories. She positioned herself behind the other team’s net and according to Graham used her quick first step around the defense to pick and choose where she would bury her shots. She had the knack of scoring key goals for the Magic all season.

“We had five people represented on the All-Catholic team – a goalie, a defender, 2 midfields, and an attack,” Graham commented. “Although we had five players chosen, we did not have the offensive or defensive MVP. I think that shows the dynamics of this team. We didn’t rely on one or two players to carry us every game. We relied on each player in their position to do their job. “

The five First Team All-Catholic selections is unprecedented for Mount Mercy. “Five is a lot of All-Catholics, the most the school has had, but the neat thing is there probably could have been at least another 5 players honored from our team because of the contributions they gave,” Graham continued. “That’s why winning the championship is so special – the other players don’t need an individual award, they have the ultimate reward of a team championship. The individual stuff exemplifies how our team operated this season.”

With seven of its top players, including three First Team All-Catholics, Mount Mercy is poised to defend its title in 2017.