

June 20, 2017

Mount Mercy Softball Looking Forward to 2018

Although the Mount Mercy team was proud to win the regular season championship, they are not planning on settling for just that title next season. “Although we did not get the final result we wanted, both Coach Webster and I are extremely proud of the girls. They worked hard all the time. We are looking forward to next year and our goal will be the same as this year, to win a championship,” Co-Coach Molly Gasuik commented.

This year the Magic finished as co-champions of the league with a 7-1 regular season record and an 8-3 overall record. Four of Mount Mercy’s team members won post season honors this year. Pitchers Laura Gregory (Buffalo) and Allison Rogowski (West Seneca) and infielder Emily Lewandowski (East Aurora), all juniors, were voted First Team All-Catholics. In addition to pitching, both Gregory and Rogowski played the infield. Gregory was also selected as the pitcher of the year for the league. Chloe Manikowski (Depew), also a junior, was a Second Team All-Catholic. She played several positions for the Magic this season.

Manikowski and Lewandowski will return to the diamond for their fourth varsity season in the spring. Joining them as a four year varsity player will be catcher Mary Bala (West Seneca) who suffered a broken league during the season. Gregory and Rogowski will return for their third season with the Magic. Also returning for a third season will be Taylor Hoch (East Aurora). Hoch, according to Gasuik was greatly improved this season, especially offensively.

Although a key core of veterans will return for Mount Mercy, the team will be losing two seniors to graduation. Beth Hughes (Orchard Park) was a four year member of the varsity, was the team’s starting centerfielder the past three years. She developed into a reliable offensive threat this season. Ashe, a three year varsity player, started at first base for the Magic, providing solid defensive play. She also had the ability to deliver a key hit or bunt. “We could always count on these two girls and their leadership. The team looked up to them as role models and leaned on them when things were not going our way. We will definitely miss them a lot,” Gasuik remarked.

One of the highlights for the Magic was defeating co-champion St. Mary’s of Lancaster on Mount Mercy’s home field in a back and forth battle. Gasuik also mentioned the semi-final playoff game as a highlight. The team was able to shut down the big hitters on the Sacred Heart roster to win the game. Although the season ended with a loss in the championship game, the coaches were proud of the effort exhibited by the team.

Also returning to the diamond in 2018 will be Fiona Danahy (Buffalo), Maddie McCarthy (Buffalo), Megan Cycon (West Seneca), Tina Zambron (Lackawanna) and Molly Shanahan (West Seneca).

Mount Mercy Academy

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