

September 12, 2017

Mount Mercy Fall Sports Preview

Varsity Soccer

The Mount Mercy Varsity Soccer team has the difficult task of replacing 9 seniors from last year's team, but third year head coach Brittany Myers is confident that her young team is up to the challenge. The team is comprised of four freshmen, three sophomores, twelve juniors and just three seniors. Only 6 of the team members played the whole season on varsity last year.

Leading the team this season will be seniors Abigail Hillery (Hamburg) and Emma Fredo (Buffalo) and juniors Alesia Hamm (Buffalo) and Mariah Rullan (Buffalo). Hillery, a mid-fielder is a three year varsity starter and a returning First Team All-Catholic selection. She tallied six goals and had seven assists last year. Fredo returns as the team's goalie for the second season. Rullan and Hamm will start for the third year. Rullan, a mid-fielder, scored seven goals and had five assists last year and Hamm, a sweeper, is one of the top defensive players in the league. Also expected to make strong contributions are freshmen Gianna Lauciello (Orchard Park) and Anna Schieber (Buffalo).

Myers believes that the quickness of her midfielders and central defenders, as well as the work ethic and positive attitudes of her team members, will be the strengths of the Magic this year. "We have a great group of girls who are willing to learn and improve their skills which is a rare quality. We can only get better," Myers commented.

Another advantage for the team this season is the size of its roster. "This year at Mount Mercy we have a large talent pool to select from during a game. The underclassmen on the team will have a great opportunity to learn from and work directly with the returning Varsity players which will have a great impact on their skill development as they progress through their soccer career at Mount Mercy," Myers concluded.

The team will play a 17 game schedule this year.

Varsity Cross Country

The Mount Mercy Cross Country team is counting on the experience four returning runners gained last season will lead the team to a successful season. Leading the returning runners is sophomore Grace Harrington (West Seneca. Last season Harrington placed sixth at the All-Catholic Meet, earning First Team All-Catholic Honors. Also returning to the squad are senior Chloe George (Buffalo) and sophomores Bella Morcelle (West Seneca) and Megan Jobson (Orchard Park). Newcomers to the team are freshmen Angelina Larivey (Lackawanna) and Anna Bock (Germany). Coach Bob Walsh returns for his third year as the team's coach and he believes "If everyone continues to improve and stay healthy, and if the team has the heart to persevere, we will be successful." The team opens its season at the Lake Shore Invitational on September 16th.

Varsity Volleyball

Mount Mercy's Varsity Volleyball team is returning just four players from last year's team. However, the four seniors have played a combined total of 11 varsity seasons. Emily Lewandowski (East Aurora), Paige Siebold (West Seneca) and Taylor Hoch (East Aurora) all return for their third varsity season. Tina Arroyo (Buffalo) returns for a second season. First year varsity coach Molly Gasuik expects the four seniors to lead the team this season. Gasuik served as the JV coach for the past two seasons.

Newcomers to the varsity, freshmen Kate Ryan (Buffalo) and Catherine Zak (Hamburg), along with sophomore Sara Geiser (West Seneca) are also being counted on to have strong seasons. The team will play a 12 game season and also compete in two tournaments.

Gasuik believes that the strengths of her team are in the strong back row play of libero Taylor Hoch and the team's strong front row play. "The keys to a successful season will be strong, consistent serving and on the team possessing positive attitudes and working hard every day to improve," Gasuik remarked.

Mount Mercy Academy

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