

April 10, 2018

### Mount Mercy Academy's Lacrosse Team Moving In a New Direction

Mount Mercy Academy's lacrosse team will have a different look this season. The team will be led by a new coach and will also be missing many of its top players from the past few seasons. The team lost several starters to graduation, including its two All-Catholic selections, the team's top scorer and the top goalie in the league.

Kristi Reed, a six year member of the Frontier lacrosse program, takes over the coaching reins this season. A former goalie, Reed played goalie for the Falcons and was the MVP of the All-WNY team as a senior and had the best save percentage in WNY that year. She played lacrosse at Buffalo State during her freshman year, but switched to ice hockey for her remaining years.

Reed will rely on the experience of her nine returning players this season. Four year varsity player Mary Barnes (Fredonia) will be one of the team's captains this season and should be a top scorer for the Magic. Juniors Mariah Rullan (Buffalo), Julia Orcutt (West Seneca), Madeline Kotwica (Orchard Park) and Madeline Szwed (Cheektowaga) and sophomores Tierney Ashe (Buffalo) and Brigid Burke (Buffalo) also return for Mount Mercy. Rullan and Orcutt, along with senior Abby Hillery (Hamburg) will also serve as captains. Reed expects Hillery, as well as junior newcomer Megan Cycon (West Seneca) and freshman Gracee Donovan (Orchard Park) to play key roles this season.

Although the spring weather has not been too conducive for practices this season, Reed has formed some opinions about the strength of her team. "I believe great teams start with great leadership. The captains are my right hand, they help to motivate and inspire the team as a whole. In addition to great leadership, the rest of the team gets along very well and works as a cohesive unit. When someone doesn't quite understand something, there is a teammate there to lend a helping hand or give a suggestion on how to improve. Lastly, my girls are not afraid of hard work. We have been outside in snow, rain and wind and there has not been a single complaint. They handle everything I throw their way and I am very excited about the season ahead," Reed remarked.

The team expects each and every game to be against a tough opponent. "All the teams we play will be in our minds the toughest. We will not play down to any team, we will rise above," Reed commented.

The team began its fourteen game schedule on April 9<sup>th</sup> with a game against Sacred Heart. "I'm excited to get to our first game as I am curious what the girls will turn out. We only have 7 returning players and almost half the team had never played prior to tryouts. It's amazing how well everyone picked it up and the hard work they give every day," Reed stated.



## **Mount Mercy Academy**

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