Mount Mercy Softball Ready to Take the Next Step

After finishing the regular season as co-champions and battling its way into the championship game, the Mount Mercy Softball team is ready to take their success one step farther this season. With seven starters returning to the diamond from last year’s team, including four All-Catholic selections as well as three All-Western New York selections, the outlook is bright for the team.

Leading the way this season will be senior pitchers Laura Gregory (Buffalo) and Allison Rogowski (West Seneca). Both players are two- time First Team All-Catholic selections and Gregory was a member of the All Western New York Small School team and Rogowski earned Honorable Mention All WNY. In addition to their pitching prowess, both players are strong hitters and are able to play anywhere in the field.

Also expected to play key roles this season are returning First Team All-Catholic and Honorable Mention All-WNY infielder senior Emily Lewandowski (East Aurora) and two-time Second Team All-Catholic pick senior Chloe Manikowski (Depew). Manikowski fills many roles for the Magic. She pitches, catches and plays the infield.

Three other seniors, Taylor Hoch (East Aurora), Fiona Danahy (Buffalo) and Maddie McCarthy (Buffalo) and sophomore Tina Zambron (Lackawanna) also return to the team. Three new players are expected to contribute this season as well. Junior Alesia Hamm (Buffalo) an All-Catholic selection in two sports joins the team for the first time and freshmen Katie Bednarz (Buffalo) and Ryllie Padilla (Buffalo) are being counted on by Coach Molly Gasuik. Also on this year’s roster is sophomore Mary Gollwitzer (Buffalo) and freshman Natalia Weltjen (Orchard Park). This is Gasuik’s first year as the head coach of the team; she served as co-coach last year.

Gasuik expects the team to have strong pitching and defense this season in addition to strong hitting. She feels that there are many strong teams in the league and mentions that Saint Mary’s of Lancaster is the defending playoff champion.

“I am excited to get the season started,” Gasuik remarked. “These girls work hard and are more than ready to get outside on the field and begin playing.” The team opens its fifteen game season on Friday April 13th.