

Mount Mercy hosts Heart opener

Written by Metro Sports Report
Sunday, 03 March 2019 06:03 -



There's good news and not-so-good news for the Mount Mercy men's basketball team in the Heart of America Conference tournament.

Here's the good news: The Mustangs drew the No. 8 seed and will host No. 9 Graceland in the opening round Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Hennessey Recreation Center.

Here's the not-so-good news: If the Mustangs defeat Graceland, they'll face top-ranked Benedictine in Atchison, Kan., in the quarterfinals on Thursday. Benedictine finished a perfect 24-0 in the conference this year and is 14-0 at home.

Mount Mercy finished in a four-way tie for seventh place in the Heart of America Conference with an 11-13 record with Culver-Stockton, Graceland and MidAmerica Nazarene. All four teams made the 10-team playoffs and are seeded No. 7, No. 8, No. 9 and No. 10 on tiebreakers.

Coach Aaron Jennings and the Mustangs won both games against Graceland during the regular season, 68-67 in Lamoni and 85-77 in Cedar Rapids.

HEART OF AMERICA TOURNAMENT

Tuesday

Opening Round

No. 9 Graceland (15-15) at No. 8 Mount Mercy (16-14)

No. 10 MidAmerica Nazarene (16-13) at No. 7 Culver-Stockton (15-15)

Thursday

Quarterfinals

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Mount Mercy/Graceland at No. 1 Benedictine (28-2)
Culver-Stockton/MidAmerica Nazarene at No. 2 Peru State (20-10)
No. 5 Grand View (16-13) at No. 4 Clarke (15-15)
No. 6 Central Methodist (17-13) at No. 3 William Penn (20-10)