



For Immediate Release

December 18, 2007

For More Info. Contact: Bob Frischmann, Sports Info. Director (314) 984 7306

Meramec's Freese Finds National Spotlight In Edmonds Trade

Former St. Louis Comm. College - Meramec third baseman **David Freese** was even surprised himself when he got the call last Friday that he had been traded from the San Diego Padres organization to the St. Louis Cardinals for local favorite Jim Edmonds.

"The deal went down about 5:00 they said, and I found out about 6:00," said Freese. "I was surprised. I expected something like this was going to happen sooner or later if I kept producing. I was definitely shocked that I'm a Cardinal now, since I grew up here for 20 years or so. Out of all the teams, I'm fortunate to be a Cardinal, it's awesome!"

Freese attended Meramec from 2002-'04, playing for the Magic and coach **Tony Dattoli** in the spring of '03 and '04. He graduated from Lafayette High in '01 and opted to go to the University of Missouri for a year and not play sports.

"I played summer ball after my senior year (of high school) and then I kind of hung them up, didn't really think I wanted to play baseball anymore," said the newest Cardinal. "All my friends were saying 'you'll be back soon enough' - obviously they were right."

The year off from the game weighed heavily upon Freese, who starred at Lafayette High, a perennial baseball power.

"As the summer went on, my sophomore year was about to start I started kind of itching at playing again," said Freese. "I really missed it and I just knew that I was supposed to be playing baseball. I think I learned a lot about myself that year. I just kind of re-dedicated myself to the game."

That dedication showed brilliantly his sophomore season with the Magic in 2004. Freese emerged as a major national prospect after hitting .400 with 11 home runs and 43 RBI's. He was named the Region XVI Player Of The Year and was an NJCAA All-American.

"Meramec always treated me with a lot of respect," said Freese. "It was the start of my college career and I couldn't ask for anything more. Having Dattoli and (asst. coach Scott) Goodrich and (volunteer asst. coach Lance) Sherman being my coaches, and the guys around me, they were always real supportive. It was definitely a great place to start my college career."

His strong '04 Meramec season brought NCAA Division I South Alabama calling with a scholarship. Two stellar NCAA seasons later, Freese was drafted by the Padres in the ninth round and spent 2007 playing single A level for the Padres with the same success. Now, he's in the hands of the Redbirds and couldn't be happier.

"I'm just psyched," he said. "It's obviously a great organization. Growing up when you think Yankees, Red Sox, Cardinals - that's one of the premier big league clubs in all of sports. And now that I have the opportunity to maybe play at Busch Stadium it's just a dream come true."