



### Baseball Team Wraps Up Season With 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Finish At Regionals

Although seeded fifth among the eight teams in the Region XVI Tournament, the STLCC-Meramec squad battled their way to a third place finish before finally getting the door shut on their season in a 10-0 loss to Jefferson College May 10.

The Magic lost a heartbreaker, 6-5, to Mineral Area to open tournament play May 6. Meramec hosted the prestigious tourney for the first time this decade. However, the Magic were perfectly suited to the loser's bracket, winning three straight games there before the loss to Jefferson.

A win over the Vikings would have catapulted Meramec from the loser's bracket into the championship game. But, the Magic enjoyed the spoiler role, knocking out second-seeded Crowder College 7-4. Ultimately, the top-seeded Maple Woods squad won the tournament, defeating Jefferson.

The 3-2 record in the tournament bumped Meramec over the .500 mark for the year, finishing with a 31-30 record. For seventh year head coach **Tony Dattoli**, it was his fifth winning season. He also marked his two hundredth Magic victory in April. Dattoli is 217-180-2 and holds the distinction of most ties (2) as a head coach over his predecessors.

The Magic definitely had strong offense behind them in '09, highlighted by a trio of hitters over the .400 mark: freshman catcher/outfielder **Taylor Holman** (Fort Zumwalt West) hit a sizzling .480; sophomore **Mike Gumm** (St. Charles) hit .477; and freshman shortstop **Jerry Roam** (Francis Howell North) hit .421. Gumm also won the RBI crown with 43 runs batted in, while first baseman **Brett Nelson** (Owensville, MO) was second with 34.

It was also Gumm and Nelson one-two in home runs with Gumm smacking seven while Nelson belted six. Holman led in on-base percentage at .549.

Pitching wins leaders were lefty **Jason Nicholas** (Warrenton) with four (4-3) and **David Williams** (Maplewood) also with four (4-4). The duo were also one-two in ERA on the staff with Williams at 3.69 and Nicholas at 4.66. Its little wonder the duo was also neck-and-neck in strikeouts with Williams recording 74 K's to Nicholas' 61. Sophomore hurler **Kevin Mahler** (Mehlville) recorded a respectable 4.93 ERA.

### Meramec Baseball Record Intact As Howard College Falls

When Howard College (Texas) fell to Temple Junior College 8-2 on May 13, every member of the 1970 Meramec baseball team was breathing a collective sigh of relief - their record still stood! The 1970 squad holds the national distinction of being the only baseball team in Junior College Division I history of entering the national tournament undefeated.

Coach **Ric Lessmann's** 1970 Warriors were 27-0 heading to Grand Junction, Colorado before going 2-2 for a fourth place national trophy.

Howard College was 57-0 on the season before suffering the loss to Temple. They went on to sweep the remainder of their season games, including the post season, and won a national championship with a 63-1 mark.

### **Freese On Mend While Cardinals Ponder Third Base Dilemma**

The St. Louis Cardinals are pondering their immediate future at third base with Troy Glaus' recovery from January shoulder surgery not looking optimistic for a 2009 return.

Meanwhile, STLCC-Meramec alum **David Freese** (Lafayette) is on the mend himself, having undergone ankle surgery recently while rostered with the AAA Memphis Redbirds. Freese opened the season on the major league roster of the St. Louis Cardinals before being sent down to Memphis as a hot-hitting Joe Thurston emerged as a third base fill-in.

However, Thurston has hit a horrendous slump at the plate, his batting average having slipped to .237 as of May 30, forcing the Cardinals front office to examine their options.

Freese played for Meramec and coach Tony Dattoli in 2003 and '04, earning first team All-American honors and Region XVI Player Of The Year in '04.

### **Softball's Linzi Bereitschaft Earns All-American Kudos**

First baseman **Linzi Bereitschaft** (Lindbergh) slugged her way to a second team All-American award with a .437 average. She also made a run at the all-time Meramec season RBI's record, knocking in 70 runs. The record is 83 held by **Rachel Adams** (Seckman) in 2005.

Bereitschaft, a sophomore, also scored 46 runs, making her offensive play a major component of the 29-29 record, the team's best mark in four years.

She is the team's first All-American (not including Academic All-Americans) since 2004.

### **6 STLCC-Meramec Athletes Named NJCAA Academic All-Americans**

In the largest single group of honorees ever in the same year, six STLCC-Meramec student-athletes have been named NJCAA Academic All-Americans, distinguishing themselves for their hard work both in the classroom and in athletics.

**Nikki Torno** (Oakville), a sophomore middle hitter on the volleyball team, captured the award for the second year, a rare feat. The baseball team saw three members of its pitching staff win the honor: sophomore Kevin **Mahler** (Mehlville), freshman Mitch **Kohnen** (Duchesne), and sophomore **Dallas Tew** (Scott City, MO).

Sophomore midfielder **Matt Mantia** (Webster Groves) earned the award as a soccer player, while **Molly Zehner** (Oakville), a prominent part of the women's basketball squad, was also named to the elite honor.

To earn the Academic All-American distinction a student-athlete must have completed three semesters of college course work with 45 or more credit hours while attaining a 3.6 cumulative GPA or higher.