



Men's Soccer Beats East Central 3-1, Improves To 9-2-1

With a convincing 3-1 win over Rival East Central College on Sept. 29, the STLCC-Meramec men's soccer team bumped their season mark to 9-2-1, one of their fastest starts out of the gate in many years.

At 14:26 into the game, sophomore and team captain **Almin Sabotic** (Mehlville) broke a scoreless tie with a shot off a cross by sophomore midfielder **Justin Billmeyer** (Gibault.) Billmeyer had recently been shifted from the backfield as a defender to the midfield to strengthen the scoring attack.

Later in the first half, with 11:38 remaining, freshman forward **Zane Smugala** (Vianney) added what would turn out to be the game-winner when he took a pass from **Clint Carder** (DeSoto) and had the goalie one-on-one. The goalie came out in a last-ditch effort to block the shot and Smugala easily beat him, lifting the ball up over his head. Freshman midfielder **Jake Macker** (Kirkwood) also assisted on the play. It was Smugala's first goal of the season and first collegiate goal.

However, in the second half, the Falcons would make it interesting. Just 15 minutes into the half they scored a goal to make it 2-1 and keyed a bitter, hard fought half hour of soccer that eventually saw East Central coach **Robert Peters** get ejected by the referee for excessive arguing. Sophomore goalie **Chris Eason** (Lindbergh) played a solid 90 minutes in the nets. He is among the nation's leaders as a goalie with a 0.827 goals against average.

The Magic fought off all of East Central's attempted scoring drives before freshman **Patrick Swaney** (CBC) put the game on ice with a goal with 3:49 remaining, and a 3-1 final. **Kory Dowell** (Bayless) assisted on the score. Swaney, a late acquisition in August, was slated to originally play for NCAA Division I LaSalle University but had a sudden detour of plans when he had to have emergency tonsillectomy days before the start of classes. The surgery kept him from traveling to LaSalle to start the semester so Swaney decided to stay home his freshman year and play for the Magic.

Sabotic leads all scorers with 8 goals and 3 assists. Carder, a scoring juggernaut his high school senior year with 45 goals, has 5 goals and 3 assists. Dowell has 5 goals and 2 assists. Swaney has a pair of goals to go with 4 assists.

October will be a key month, including the Region XVI Tournament to be hosted by Blue River College in the Kansas City area. The Magic are seeking their first championship since 2000. A key test will come on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 2:00 when they host Maple Woods of Kansas City in a

rescheduled match due to rain on Sept. 26. Maple Woods is sporting an 8-0-1 record and defeated the Magic a year ago.

Women's Soccer Looks For Strong October In Defense Of Crown

Coming off a 2-5 September mark, the STLCC-Meramec women's soccer team will be hoping they saved their best for last as they head to the stretch run of October in defense of their Region XVI championship. The team dropped a 2-1 decision to Southwestern Illinois College on Sept. 30

In that game, sophomore forward and team captain **Casey Caldwell** (Lindbergh) scored the Magic's lone goal. She leads the team with 4 goals on the young season. It was the second defeat in a row at the hands of Southwestern Illinois. In their previous match on Sept. 20, the Blue Storm downed Meramec 3-0. She was assisted by freshman midfielder **Lauren Moran** (Lindbergh).

The Magic did pick up a key win over STLCC-Forest Park on Sept. 19, 3-2. In that contest, it was the Caldwell-Moran duo again accounting for the scoring. Caldwell had a pair of goals while Moran picked up the other score. Freshman **Olivia Aholt** (Washington, MO) assisted on Moran's goal, while **Amy Guarino** (Rockwood Summit), **Chelsea Tetrault** (Parkway North), and **Kelsey Consiglio** (Rosati Kain) assisted on Caldwell's goals.

The Magic will start October play with a Saturday, Oct. 3 noon home match against Blue River, before a road rematch with Forest Park on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. They will begin defense of their crown on Friday, Oct. 30 when the Region XVI Tournament begins. That event will be hosted by a new entry in the region, St. Charles Community College. The title game will be the next day, on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Volleyball Magic Holding Their Own at 9-9, Magic Classic Oct. 2-3

The STLCC-Meramec volleyball squad has already shown a marked improvement over last season's team, thanks to strong recruiting by second year coach **Jenell Franken** and a tenacious team work ethic. The team dropped a match to East Central on Sept. 30 to even their record at 9-9.

In a Region XVI Tournament preview on Sept. 26, despite dropping two of three matches, the Magic did whip Cottey College in consecutive games. The Magic have also had Lewis and Clark College's number, defeating the Trailblazers twice this season.

The team will host the Meramec Classic on Oct. 2-3 (Fri.-Sat.) before hosting Lewis and Clark on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 6:30.

The team is led by sophomore captains **Alicia Eubanks** (Windsor), a defensive specialist, and **Meghan O'Sullivan** (Windsor), an outside hitter. Middle hitter **Nicole Hopp** (Francis Howell North), a transfer from State Fair College, has also been a force on the floor.