

For Immediate Release

December 1, 2006

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Meramec Magic Athletic News December, 2006

by Sports Info. Director Bob Frischmann

Men's Basketball Goes On Offensive With 100 Pt. Games

It was an eruption unmatched in 42 seasons of St. Louis Community College - Meramec men's basketball - back-to-back games scoring more than 100 points. The historic moments unfolded at the Thanksgiving Classic at Mineral Area College Nov. 24 and 25 and couldn't have come at a better time - on the heels of a four game losing streak.

"We really needed a win," said thirtieth year head coach Randy Albrecht. "The kids have battled pretty hard but unfortunately we've played some pretty good teams. Looking back, I probably over-scheduled them a little bit early - I knew some of the teams would be tough."

At Mineral Area, the Magic took on Division I Dyersburg State (Tenn.), out running and gunning the Eagles. Freshman guard **Drew Lansford** (Belle, MO) scored a game (and season) high 18 points on a flurry of fast break lay-ups.

"I just ran the break," Lansford simply explained. "They full court pressed us, I just got down there, and I had an opportunity to score some lay-ups. I think we did real good on defense. We caused them to have some turnovers and that got us some fast breaks."

The 102-69 blowout of Dyersburg was a well-rounded effort with five total Magic players scoring in double figures. Sophomore forward **Alex Jackson** (Ladue) recorded a rare double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Sophomore guard **Marcus Seidel** (CBC) had 13 points and 7 rebounds, while another sophomore guard, **Richard Williams** (Lindbergh) had 12 points.

But it was freshman forward **Jake Prosser** (Francis Howell North) who stuck the fork in Dyersburg, canning four out of four free throws in the final 50 seconds to break the century mark. The 100 point output was the team's first in three seasons.

"I think it's great," said sophomore guard Marcus Seidel. "We definitely needed a win. The last four games that we lost could have gone either way. When you lose four close games in a row it's hard to be confident. A win tonight helped a lot."

Alex Jackson, a 6'6" forward agreed that the win couldn't have come at a better time.

"It makes our confidence very high," said Jackson. "When we go out there and play good teamwork, we're going to win every time I feel."

Confidence must have been sky high the next night at Mineral Area when the Magic took on Chicago-area foe Spoon River. Meramec downed them by a whopping 105-52 score for a second straight 100 point explosion. Again, offensive balance was supplied by five players in double digits led by 19 points from sophomore center **Adam Kaatman** (Hazelwood West.)

Freshman forward **Cameron Hicks** (Clayton) had 16 points, Williams scored 15, sophomore guard **Tyler Tiemann** (Steeleville, Il) had 11 points, while Seidel scored 10.

The Magic will start December with a tough, Division I opponent at home when they host Kaskaskia Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3:00. Another key December date is Dec. 18 when Meramec travels to Florissant Valley for a 7:00 game and the first of its Region XVI slate.

Talent-Laden Rawlings Juco Shoot-Out Slated For Dec. 10

A treasure trove of talent for NCAA Div. I and pro scouts, the Rawlings Juco Shoot-Out, is slated for Sunday, Dec. 10 in the Meramec gym. All the match-ups pit Missouri schools versus Illinois schools, a mini "border war".

Meramec starts the day off at noon taking on Shawnee, with Moberly Area facing Southwestern Illinois at 2:00. Poplar Bluff power Three Rivers, featuring head coach **Gene Bess** and his 1,000 plus career wins, takes on Vincennes at 4:00. Bess is the only head coach in the history of college basketball to win one thousand games, a feat he achieved last February when Three Rivers beat St. Louis Community College - Forest Park.

Mineral Area faces Highland at 6:00, while State Fair battles Lincoln in the nightcap at 8:00. The Shoot-out traditionally attracts 30 or more frontline Div. I scouts from New York to California, as well as a handful of NBA scouts.

Women's Basketball Looks For Consistent Third Scorer

The women's basketball team at 4-5 has had several positives emerge in the team's first nine games, most notably the one-two scoring punch of sophomore guard **Ceara Brown** (University City) and freshman forward **Michelle Senf** (Mehlville.)

"Michelle's done a nice job," said fifth year head coach **Steve Jarvis**. "We understood going in that she had the ability to score - she's done that pretty consistently for us."

Senf is the Magic's leading scorer, averaging 15 points per game, including 22 points in a 70-52 win over Florissant Valley Nov. 18. Right behind her is the sophomore Brown, averaging nearly 14 ½ points. Brown has also unleashed some strong offensive showings, including 26 points in a 77-70 loss to Spoon River Nov. 4, and 17 points in the win over Flo Valley.

"A lot of it has been Michelle and Ceara leading the charge scoring and that third scorer is the one that has been rotating around," said coach Jarvis. "Sam's had some decent games too."

Sophomore center **Samantha Turner** (Oakville) has proven herself following a strong freshman season. Averaging nine points per game, Turner has been a steady scorer, including 13 points in a 74-59 loss to John Wood Nov. 11, and 14 points in the season opening 83-43 blowout of Missouri Baptist JV.

Several other players are showing strong play, including forward reserve **Lauren Soukup** (Seckman), one of only three returning players.

"She (Lauren) just gives us another strong body in there to kind of bang around," said Jarvis. "If we can just get her to finish the shots a little bit she'll be able to get us some garbage baskets. She's been working hard on her free throws because she gets fouled a lot."

Scoring behind Brown, Senf, and Turner could be by committee as different role players step up on given nights.

"I think **Jonica Booth** (Ft. Zumwalt South) has kind of stepped up and scored a little bit for us too - she's averaging about nine a game," said Jarvis. "She's come into her own as a scorer."

Also contributing early has been guard **Porscha Smith** (O'Fallon, II), and forwards **Kathleen Spisak** (Parkway South) and **Lizz Tudor** (Northwest.)

Defense has also been a strong point, allowing opponents only an average of 65 points per game. Coach Jarvis anticipates the team getting better and better as the season progresses as the new mix plays together more.

"We're getting there, we just have to get our confidence," said Jarvis. "It doesn't get any easier going on the road playing but I think that helps us down the stretch."

Wrestlers Take Balanced Attack To Triton Open Dec. 9

The wrestling squad prepares for the Triton Invitational Dec. 9. A weakness in some recent years, the upper weights, has been shored up considerably and that strength was apparent at the University of Missouri Open Nov. 19 when 197 lb. freshman **Ryan Sutton** (Oakville) won the championship, and heavyweight **Cedric Powell** won a third place medal.

Sutton faced Ben Driskill of Cumberland College (Tenn.) in the title bout. "I won it by a pin in the first period off a really big throw," said Sutton. "It just felt right. I set my hips into it, locked it up, and went with it. I caught him off guard and off balance with it and was able to get him on his back and get the fall."

The freshman has had a strong start to the season, going 11-4 through three tourneys with one title and a fourth place medal at the Central Missouri State Open. Sutton went 2-2 at the season opening Lindenwood Tournament, losing to a pair of returning All-Americans. With a little experience under his belt, he now feels on a roll.

"I was happy with how I wrestled in all three matches before the title bout at Mizzou," said Sutton, referring to his undefeated day in Columbia. "I was able to wrestle smart enough to get a solid lead and then work off that and get points when needed. I was able to dictate the pace of all those matches. I feel that's something I can do. I can wrestle very successfully when I'm able to dictate the pace."

Dictating his matches has been heavyweight Powell. The heavyweight from Duncan, Oklahoma also used a throw to win his third place match at Mizzou, defeating Truman State's Loyde Braidlow in just 32 seconds.

"He came out there and tied up with me in a body lock," said Powell of his opponent. "I just looked over at Dave (volunteer coach Mirikitani) and asked him what he wanted me to do. He just told me whenever I was ready to throw him. So, I just let it go and threw him right on his back."

The throw has been Powell's most lethal finishing move, and one that opposing coaches have taken notice to.

"A lot of them are running from me," said Powell. "Most of the coaches are trying to give them the heads up about the stuff I do. So, most of the time, I'm playing 'catch him' with the guy circling away from me or backing up the whole match."

Powell also feels he can be a role model and mentor to the large number of freshman grapplers on the squad who are inexperienced in the collegiate ranks.

"I'm going to be a role model for most of them. I've talked to a lot of them and tried to give them the viewpoints. It's going to help them out a lot, especially when nationals and districts come around to have somebody to be there with them and talk them through it."

Coach **Ron Mirikitani** notes that several other grapplers will return to the line-up in Wisconsin following injuries. Freshmen **Kyle Foley** (Oakville), **Darrin Green** (Oakville), **Nick Hanify** (Washington, MO), **Peter Koelinger** (Webster Groves), and **Ezra White** (Parkway North) have all been wrestling very well.

Fiala, Viefhaus Named To NJCAA Baseball Golden Anniversary Squad

A pair of Meramec baseball infielders from the 1970's have been honored with their selection to the NJCAA Juco World Series Golden Anniversary Team.

Steve Viefhaus, a member of the 1974 national championship team, and **Neil Fiala**, a 1975 player, were recently selected to the elite squad. The two, along with the likes of former Minnesota Twins great Kirby Puckett, were part of a 21 man roster chosen from over 1,000 players who have participated in the annual rite of May in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Fiala played one season at Meramec (in which the Warriors finished as national runners-up) before transferring to Div. I SIU-Carbondale. After two seasons there the middle infielder was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals and spent some time in the Major Leagues.

"The week I had at Grand Junction (in 1975) was a fantastic week," recalled Fiala, now the head baseball coach at Southwestern Illinois College. "Everything I did seemed to go well. I really have always enjoyed playing in the big games and big tournaments. I seemed to always do better when something is on the line."

Fiala plans to travel to Colorado to take part in the on-field ceremonies planned in May to celebrate the fiftieth year of the Junior College Division I World Series.

Cheerleader Squad To Rescue - Wows Statewide Convention

If "impromptu" could win awards, the Meramec Cheerleaders would be world champions. Several members of the group traveled to the Lake of the Ozarks on less than 24 hour notice Nov. 2 to perform at the Missouri Community College Association. Entertainment that had been scheduled cancelled on short notice.

"The seven put together stunts, a cheer, and the spirit dance they performed at the Science Center during the summer," said third year coach **Sandy Yanko**. "These kids did an outstanding job for a last minute request. They got up the next morning at 5:00 a.m. and several had to be at work or class by 9:00 a.m."

Making the trip was third year team member and captain **Jarvis DeBrecht**, **Nicole Basile** (new to the squad from Heidelberg, Germany who learned the dance two hours before performing), **Twylaa Taylor**, **Brittany Wright**, **Mindee Zervas**, **Amber McCallister**, and **Christina Salama**.