

Men's Basketball Heads To Arizona For Scottsdale Tourney

The men's basketball team, at 8-5, hopes to start off the new year with a tournament championship as they play in the Scottsdale Tournament Jan. 2-4 in the Phoenix, AZ area. The Magic open play against South Mountain, AZ on Jan. 2 in opening round play. The eight team tournament features colleges from six different states.

The Magic will be playing after a two week layoff for the holidays, but are coming off an exciting 78-77 road victory over St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley on Dec. 18. In that game, the Magic drained 11 three pointer's for nearly half its point total.

And, sophomore guard **Tyler Tiemann** (Steelville, IL) had the game of his life, hitting five of those three pointer's, including four-for-four in the first half. "After I made the second one," said Tiemann, "I started feeling it. My teammates just kept passing it to me when I was open."

The Magic, after a strong Flo Valley comeback, actually found themselves trailing, 70-67, with four minutes remaining in the contest. That's when guard **Marcus Seidel** (CBC) made a hustling play on an offensive rebound to draw the score closer.

"The ball just came off the rim and there was no really weak side rebounding," said Seidel, "so I just got in there and picked it up off the ground and made the lay up. If I would have missed that, I would have been really upset."

Seidel's score brought the Magic to within one at 70-69. After a Norseman bucket for a 72-69 Flo lead, sophomore forward/center **Adam Kaatman** (Hazelwood West) hit a three pointer with three minutes left to tie the game at 72. After a defensive stop, pre-season All-American forward **Jake Hackerson** (Seckman) hit a short jumper in the paint for a 74-72 lead that Meramec would not relinquish.

"We beat them three times last year," said coach **Randy Albrecht**. "They wanted to beat us badly tonight and they came very close to getting the job done."

Hackerson, meanwhile, has recovered from his October knee injury and is back in the line-up. He made an immediate impact his first game back at Lincoln Land Dec. 4, scoring seven points in the last three minutes of a tight game to lead the Magic to a 62-57 win.

"I just went in the game and got an opportunity to drive baseline and made the lay up," said Hackerson. "Then, I got the other opportunity to hit the three right after. It felt really good to get back on the court and just play some basketball."

However, freshman forward **Clay Zerr** (St. Charles) injured his ankle versus Florissant Valley Dec. 18 but has recovered. Zerr has been providing tremendous play with his strong rebounding ability (averaging nearly five boards per game) and smart play-making skills.

Also providing consistently strong numbers is forward **Alex Jackson** (Ladue.) Jackson recorded his third double-double of the season against Lewis and Clark Dec. 16 when he scored 19 points along with 12 rebounds.

Meramec has one statistic swayed sharply in its favor - points scored against points allowed. The Magic are averaging about 81 points per game while only giving up an average of 66. The 66 points allowed per game is the fifteenth best defensive team average in the nation.

Women's Basketball Magic Resumes Region XVI Play

The women's basketball team will look for better success on its home floor when it resumes action Saturday, Jan. 6 in a 3:00 contest against Region XVI foe Penn Valley. The Magic were swept three games in the Broward Holiday Classic Tournament Dec. 29-31 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The squad starts the month at 6-10 with a tough January schedule that includes Penn Valley, rival North Central, Mineral Area, and Forest Park. The Magic will be looking for revenge Jan. 24 on the road at Forest Park - the Highlanders upset Meramec 71-70 Nov. 29.

Defense has been the weakness of late with the Magic giving up 91, 78, and 73 points during the Broward Tourney. However, scoring has been a bright spot - sophomore center **Samantha Turner** (Oakville) scored 18 points in the final tourney game against Edouard Montpetit College, along with 16 points from freshman **Lizz Tudor** (Northwest) and 10 points from sophomore guard **Ceara Brown** (University City.)

"The offense is built so **Michelle (Senf)** and me can get the ball but other people have to step up and score for us to win," said Brown.

Brown and Senf, a 5'11" freshman forward from Mehlville High, have been doing just that, scoring consistently in double digits. Despite her scoring prowess, Senf feels another aspect of the game is critical.

"You can score just 20 points in a game and still win if you have awesome defense," she said. "We just need to play everything all-out, one hundred percent."

Senf is one of three players averaging double digit scoring at 12 ½ points. Brown leads with nearly 14 points per game, and Turner is averaging 10 ½. Freshman guard **Jonica Booth** (Ft. Zumwalt S.) is also providing offense with eight points per game.

Wrestling Squad Heads To 'Tough' Colby Invitational

A preview of the NJCAA National Tournament is what the wrestling squad can expect in the Colby Invitational Tournament in Colby, Kansas Jan. 5-6 with its line up of some of the strongest Juco wrestling programs in the country.

The team is coming off a strong showing at the Triton Invitational Tourney in the Chicago area Dec. 9 where six Magic grapplers medalled. Winning his second championship of the yet young season was **Ryan Sutton** (Oakville) at 197 lbs. Heavyweight **Cedric Powell** (Duncan, OK) won a second place medal, while **Darin Green** (Oakville) took third at 133 lbs. **Mitch Barnett** (Liberty, MO) was a fourth place medalist at 184 lbs, while **Kyle Foley**, 149 lbs. (Oakville) and **Kyle Jones** (TX), 174 lbs., each won a fifth place finish.

Following Colby, the team will compete in all dual meets for the remainder of the regular season, including the Meramec Duals Jan. 26-27 at home.

Freshman **Nick Hanify** (Washington, MO) is looking to improve and help the Magic. The 157 lb. wrestler is coming off separate knee surgeries his junior and senior years of high school that slowed his progress. "After I had my knee surgery I had to change my stance but I still shot the same way which kind of messed it up because I was shooting across and getting all off balance," said Hanify. "From my junior and senior years trying to lead with my left leg but still having that right leg mentality just threw everything off."

Troy High Repeats As Meramec Holiday Tourney Champs

In yet another classic championship game, Troy High made a comeback from a 17 point third quarter deficit to repeat as Meramec Holiday Festival Tournament champions with a 57-54 win over Webster Groves Dec. 30.

In the third place game, a three pointer by St. Charles West **Alex Bazzell** with seconds remaining gave the Warriors a 44-42 win over DeSmet.

Marquette High won the Ken Braden Sportsmanship Award. The following players were named to the 10 man All-Tournament team: **Richard Rose** and **Kent Rau** (Troy), **Sam Pearson** and **Marvin McNutt** (Hazelwood Central), **Brian Maurer** and **Kramer Soderburg** (St. Charles West), **Drew Hanlen** and **Alonzo Wrickerson** (Webster Groves), **Andy Rosburg** (Marquette), and **Ronald Patton** (Kirkwood.)

Meramec men's basketball head coach **Randy Albrecht** served as the tournament director. Assistant coach **Ken Libby** was the tournament coordinator, while assistant coach **Al Yanko** was the tournament manager.