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Magic News

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Wrestling Squad Signs Area's Top Names For Title Run

In what may be their best run at a national title, the Magic wrestling squad and thirty eighth year head coach **Ron Mirikitani** has signed some of the area's top grapplers, putting together a deep roster with talent at every weight class. And, that's not to mention the return of two All-Americans: **Ryan Sutton** (Oakville) who won third at nationals, and **Kyle Foley** (Oakville), who won a fifth place medal at nationals as a freshman.

Heading the list of signees is McCluer North's **Donald Woods**, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Wrestler Of The Year. The 165 pound Woods made it a season-long sweep his senior year for the North Stars, going 47-0 to a state championship.

Another top signing is Mizzou grappler **Bobby Conn**, a local sensation transfer who did his prep wrestling at Marquette High. Conn was a two-time state champion for the Mustangs as a 157 pounder.

Dirk Hurrin, a four time state champion from Virginia, has signed, also transferring in after a year at Mizzou. Hurrin was ranked in the top 15 prep wrestlers in the nation his senior year - he is a 174 pounder.

From Liberty, MO, three time state champ **Deron Winn** at 184 lbs. has also signed with the Magic. He is considered one of the top recruits in the nation, based on eight national competition titles. Also from outside the area, **Jamell Jones** enters from Dover, Delaware where he was a two-time state champ at 197 pounds and was ranked thirty ninth nationally among grapplers of all weights. He is also a two-time Beast Of The East champion, a prestigious event limited to the nation's top wrestlers.

Closer to home . . . **Derrick Monteith** joins the team from Timberland High where the 157 lb. wrestler won a state title last spring and was a three-time medalist. He was also a Post-Dispatch All-Metro first team honoree. **Miles Bolin**, at 133 lbs., brings three state medals from Ft. Zumwalt West. **Ron Porter**, a 197 pound wrestler from Northwest-House Springs brings his trio of state medals to the Magic mats. Likewise, **Brad Aten** from Northwest, enters Meramec. **Quinten Bell**, a two-time state qualifier from Lafayette High, joins the Magic at 184 pounds.

Adam Bentrup (Seckman) and **Jordan Parks** (McCluer North), a pair of 174 pounders, bring their state tourney experience. **Curtis Tucker** brings a pair of 157 lb. state medals from his mat

career at DeSoto High. **Zorian Price** also brings state tourney experience at 157 lbs. out of Sumner High.

In the middle weights, **Dominique Shelton** arrives from McCluer North at 149 lbs.. From nearby Suburban North Hazelwood East, **Jay Warren** enters as a 141 pound threat. **Kyle Hatchel** won a second place state medal last spring at 133 lbs. from Francis Howell North and will wear the Meramec green and white.

At 125 lbs., several quality local grapplers will vie for action: Marquette High's **Trevor Bunch**, a second place finalist last year; **Gary Brooks**, also a second place finalist in Class 1 from McCluer South; **Donte Butler**, a four time state medalist from Sumner High; and **Brandon Wisdom**, a two time state medalist from wrestler power Pacific High.

The Magic were 10-2 in dual meets last season and won eighth place as a team at the NJCAA National Tournament.

Women's Basketball Signs Talent For New Year

Following a season that saw the Magic women's basketball team depleted by injuries, sixth year head coach **Steve Jarvis** has signed several players to augment key returners.

He will be assisted in the fall by new coach **Ed Feibig**, but not new to the basketball hardwoods. Feibig has over a quarter century of coaching experience at various area high schools. Most noteworthy was his decade-long stint at Parkway South that included a pair of state quarter final appearances.

New to the squad in the fall will be 5'10" forward/center **Cynthia Abernathy** from Wentzville Timberland High. She averaged 10.6 points a game and nearly six rebounds for the Wolves. Abernathy was also a 80% free throw shooter her senior year.

More help in the middle will come in the tall form of 6'1" **Courtney Rodgers** from Northwest High. Rodgers averaged 11 points and six and a half rebounds per game. **Molly Zehner**, a 5'10" forward from Oakville High will also help keep defensive pressure tight. Zehner is also a strong free throw shooter with a 71% average last season for the Tigers.

Laquisha Lewis, a 5'9" guard, enters the mix out of Mehlville High where she helped the 17-11 Panthers with 11 points per game.

Some key players who will form the nucleus for the squad include 5'11" forward **Michelle Senf** from Mehlville High. Big things will be expected from the All-Conference sophomore based on her 13.6 points a game and eight rebounds a game for the Magic.

Another battler on the floor returns in 5'10" forward **Lizz Tudor** from Northwest High. The scrappy Tudor scored 10 points a game to go with four rebounds and a 37% clip from three point territory. Also returning is speedy guard **Porscha Smith** (O'Fallon, IL) who tallied 5.6 points a game last season. Guard **Kelly Campbell** (Hazelwood East) will be back as well.

Bottger Delivers Address To National Conference Of Two Year Schools

Meramec Manager of Athletics **Bob Bottger** delivered a message of optimism for the future at the National Association Of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) conference in Orlando, Florida in June.

Bottger is one of the founding fathers of the organization, now celebrating its twentieth anniversary and was honored as such at the conference. The founding fathers addressed the past, present, and future, with Bottger speaking out on the present state of affairs in two year college athletics.

He told the gathering that the organization has now become a force with the NCAA, and has gained recognition for excellence by the National Association Of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. He also cautioned against too great of dependence upon corporate sponsors, which the group has had strong positive relations with in the past.

Florissant Valley's **Bill Miller** is also a founding father of the NATYCAA.

Baseball Magic/Alumni Celebs Host Summer Camp For Kids

Armed with plenty of baseballs and hot dogs, coach Tony Dattoli and the baseball team hosted a summer camp for young players 5-10 years old the week of June 18, and again the week of June 25.

Recent former Magic players **Lou Vangel** (CBC) and **Steve Bush** (Blue Springs) assisted with the instruction of 25-30 youngsters.

Also on hand to give the kids a major league thrill was a pair of Meramec alumni who both recently completed careers in the major leagues: pitchers **T.J. Mathews** (St. Louis Cardinals and Oakland A's) and **Brian Boehringer** (Pittsburgh Pirates.) Both Mathews and Boehringer are in the Magic Hall Of Fame.

Meramec alum and volunteer assistant (pitching) coach **Lance Sherman** (Meramec - UNLV) also joined in the fun.