

For Immediate Release

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For More Info. Contact: Bob Frischmann, Sports Info. Director (314) 984 7306

STLCC - Meramec Magic Athletic News

April, 2008

**Revamped Softball Squad Eyes Conference Title,
National Tourney Berth As Its Season Goals**

It's been a soggy start to the season marked by numerous weather-related cancellations, but based on what the Magic have shown thus far, optimism is abounding. The team has won both games against local opponents, downing East Central and Jefferson Colleges in strong fashion.

Prior to that, Meramec got off to a rocky start in the Phoenix, Arizona Tournament to teams that had a huge head start on them in terms of outdoor practices and games in their desert climate. The Magic, thanks to the brutal February weather in St. Louis, had not had a single day of outdoor practice.

"We did really well for how much we've been practicing," said freshman third baseman **Tabatha Bahre** (Lutheran South.) "We hadn't even had a practice outside on a field. I think we're right where we needed to be for the season. Being inside puts a big damper on it because it's just not realistic in the gym."

Following their return and a sporadic break in the weather, the Magic showed their full potential in a 4-1 win over East Central Mar. 26. Heavy rain wiped out the second game of the scheduled twin bill.

"We were pumped, we were so ready for that game, first game in Missouri finally," said sophomore catcher **Sonya Galloway** (Farmington.) "In Arizona we did a lot of good things, showed what we could do, we just wanted to bring it back and show Missouri what we could do."

The veteran receiver caught freshman hurler **Jessie Launius** (Parkway South) in that game and gave the pitcher high marks for her first collegiate win at home.

"She missed some spots but it worked out fine because they still swung," said Galloway. "We got them out, that's all that matters. She took a lot of balls herself instead of letting them go by, that's really key for a pitcher to do."

In the Meramec Invitational Tournament Mar. 28-30, the Magic dropped a pair to Iowa power Indian Hills on Friday, 11-0, and 8-7. Galloway smacked a two run homer in the 8-7 loss. But, the team bounced back the next day to down rival Jefferson College 5-0 with Launius going deep with a round-tripper.

The team is led by new head coach **Linda McQueen**, a former Meramec player and member of the Magic Hall Of Fame. McQueen, who is also the varsity head coach at Lutheran South High, has made an immediate impact on the team.

"It's really good for us to get somebody in who knows what they're doing when we know that she knows what she's doing," said Galloway. "It's so exciting. She's so nice you can talk to her about anything. She's awesome!"

The Magic would like to capture the conference title, which they haven't won since 2005, and make it back to the national tournament. They were last there in 2004 when the Magic made it to the national title game. Players have high hopes they can get the job done.

"We want to win conference, that's where we want to be," said Bahre. "That's our goal for the season. We won our first game and that was a conference game so one under our belt, a few more to go."

Baseball Magic Face Strong April 1 Test In Jefferson College

Jumping out of the March frying pan and into the proverbial April fire of a tough schedule marred by weather, the Magic baseball team will travel to Hillsboro for a doubleheader Tuesday (Apr. 1) against the perennial nemesis Vikings (12-7.)

Meramec, who recently had a six game win streak, are currently in the throws of a 1-6 tailspin they hope to break out of Tuesday. The Magic are 8-15 on the year.

In a doubleheader split at Forest Park Mar. 25, the Magic lit up the scoreboard and opposing pitchers with a 23-6 shellacking. The Magic put 16 runs on the board in the fourth inning on 15 hits.

Two batters, **Jon Wilson** (St. Charles) and **Dan Harris** (N. County - Bonne Terre, MO) actually received three at-bats each in the inning. Harris had a huge game with a grand slam and seven RBI's. **Chris Sundvold** (Blue Springs) pitched the entire five innings for the win and improved to 2-1 on the season.

Shortstop **Jon Myers** (Ft. Zumwalt S.) leads the team in hitting with a .375 average, followed by Wilson at .361 and Harris at .343. Myers has bashed four home runs, while Harris has three. Harris leads the RBI race with 18, while Myers trails with 14.

The team was washed out of a Saturday, Mar. 29 doubleheader at St. Charles College that will be re-scheduled.

Hall Of Fame Induction Slated For Apr. 14 At Holiday Inn SW

The Twelfth Annual Magic Hall Of Fame Induction Dinner will unfold on Monday, Apr. 14 at 6:30 at the Holiday Inn Southwest at Watson and Lindbergh Roads.

Two standout softball players and a soccer sensation highlight the evening as inductees. **Juliet Lilledahl-Scherer** was a speedy, base-swiping catcher on the 1993 and '94 squads that went a combined 81-33 and finished fourth nationally in '93. Likewise, **Angie Scharnhorst** played for two stellar squads in 1995 and '96 that combined for an overall 89-27 mark, as well as third and fifth place trophies at nationals.

Soccer player **Mike Kelley** helped first year head coach **Pat McBride** win a national title in 1976. The team rebounded from a slow 5-4-1 start to win its last 12 games in a row, knocking off 23-0 Mercer County in the championship game.

For tickets, call Bob Bottger at 314-984-7786.

Albrecht Turns Broadcast Analyst For A Day For KFNS

Proving to local KFNS Radio what Bobby Knight has been to ESPN, head basketball coach **Randy Albrecht** was recently a special guest analyst on the morning three hour sports show hosted by **Frank Cusumano** Mar. 20. The broadcast originated live from Ozzie Smith's Restaurant at West Port Plaza.

Albrecht was joined on the broadcast team by former St. Louis University basketball head coach **Rich Grawer**. Albrecht was also a head coach at SLU, prior to Grawer.

Beside breaking down the NCAA Match Madness, Albrecht even offered insight to Cusumano on the air about the 2008 edition of the St. Louis Cardinals.