



Apr. 20, 2009

Magic Garner 6 All-Conference Honors; McQueen Coach Of Year

Although falling one win shy of cinching at least a share of the conference crown, the STLCC-Meramec softball team (24-26 overall) was recognized with several individual All-Conference (MCCAC) honors, while second year head coach **Linda McQueen** was named Conference Coach Of The Year.

“The players are the ones that earned it,” said a gracious McQueen. “They are the ones who worked so hard and overcame so much adversity to make themselves the team that they are. I just had the best seat in the house and I thank and praise the Lord for giving me this opportunity.”

In the conference finale on Friday, Apr. 17, the Magic split with Mineral Area, losing the first game 5-1 and winning the second contest 5-4. A sweep would have assured Meramec at least a share of first place. Their 15-5 conference record was keyed by strong seasons on the part of several players.

Earning first team All-Conference accolades were sophomore first baseman **Linzi Bereitschaft** (Lindbergh) and sophomore third baseman **Tabatha Bahre** (Lutheran South.) Bereitschaft is enjoying a strong year at the plate as an offensive juggernaut, hitting .440 with 58 RBI's. Bahre is also swinging a hot bat with a .412 average to go with 41 RBI's and 47 runs scored.

Four additional players received honorable mention MCCAC honors. Freshmen **Erin Napier** (Marquette), pitcher **Jessica Eichholz** (Washington, MO), **Bridget Schade** (Herculaneum), and sophomore catcher **Samantha Reynolds** (Northwest) all were named to the prestigious squad.

Schade has posted strong numbers in all categories, hitting .426 with 60 hits, and has scored 37 runs while driving in 35. Eichholz has been a pitching workhorse, tossing 140 innings with a low 3.30 ERA. She has also contributed at the plate, batting .318 with 42 hits. Napier has pounded out 57 hits to go with 41 runs scored and a .339 average. Reynolds is hitting .327 with 48 hits thus far on the year.

“It's great to see the team being recognized for what it has accomplished and what they have done as a team,” said McQueen. Every player has contributed to the success and without any one player we wouldn't be the team that we are.”

The Magic can still achieve a major goal - qualifying for the national tournament. They'll begin Region XVI Tournament play on Friday, Apr. 24 and conclude the tourney the next day. The event is being played at east Central College in Union, MO.

“I am very excited about the possibilities for post-season play,” said McQueen. “They are definitely ready and can achieve whatever they put their hearts and minds to. They never say quit and battle through injuries - which has been a trademark of the season.”

Meramec will complete the regular season with home doubleheaders on Monday (Apr. 20) vs. Forest Park and Tuesday (Apr. 21) against Jefferson College.