



### Softball Squad Earns 2<sup>nd</sup> In Regionals; 3 Named All-Region XVI

Undefeated in the winner's bracket of the Region XVI Tournament, it took a "secret weapon" to defuse the Magic's national tournament berth hopes. That secret weapon stepped to the plate in the form of Mineral Area freshman Emily Blumenthal.

With STLCC-Meramec up 9-6 in the seventh inning and the bases loaded with two outs, Blumenthal smacked a game-winning grand slam home run for a 10-9 Mineral Area win that would send the tourney to one more final game between the two teams, one that would see Meramec get trounced 9-1 to end their season.

Despite the sour ending to the season, Meramec has plenty to look back on and be proud of. The team finished second in Region XVI and its overall mark was at the .500 point - 29-29, a marked improvement over the previous year's 12-31 record. And, several players were lauded for their fine seasons.

**Linzi Bereitschaft** (Lindbergh), **Tabatha Bahre** (Lutheran South), and **Bridget Schade** (Herculaneum) were all named to the All-Region XVI first team. Bereitschaft, a sophomore first baseman, was a pure hitter, pounding out a .437 average to go with 70 RBI's, just shy of the school record of 83 RBI's in a season. Bahre, a rock-steady third baseman, batted .400 with 51 RBI's and a team-leading 56 runs scored. Schade, a freshman, batted .433 with 40 RBI's and 50 runs scored.

Bereitschaft and Bahre were also first team MCCAC All-Conference while Schade was an honorable mention selection. **Erin Napier** (Marquette), sophomore catcher **Samantha Reynolds** (Northwest), and freshman pitcher **Jessica Eichholz** (Washington, MO) were also honorable mention All-Conference honorees. Second year head coach **Linda McQueen** was named Conference Coach Of The Year.

Two hurlers were the work horses of the pitching staff: Eichholz and **Jessica Tranter** (Australia.) Eichholz tossed 173 innings with an ERA of 3.48. Tranter pitched 178 innings with a 3.44 ERA.

Also contributing substantially to the team's success were sophomore outfielder **Allie Petry** (Westminster Christian Academy), sophomore utility player **Capri Savage** (Orofino, ID), freshman hurler **Tiffany Stock** (Pacific), freshman outfielder **Michelle McQueen** (Lutheran South), and sophomore middle infielder **Kristen Kaltenbach** (Herculaneum.)

Physical Education Instructor **Kim McCall** steps in to take over the program as new head coach for the 2009-'10 season.

### Baseball Magic Set To Host Region XVI Tourney May 6-10

The baseball Magic will boast home field advantage for the Region XVI Tournament that begins on Wednesday, May 6 and completes play on Sunday, May 10. The entire tourney will be played at Meramec's main baseball field with 9:00, 11:30, 2:00, and 4:30 games Wednesday through Saturday.

The Magic, like their softball counterparts, are at the .500 mark, sporting a 26-26 record with four regular season games remaining. Those games will be played as a pair of doubleheaders this weekend (May 2-3) at North Central College in Trenton, MO.

The regional tourney will feature seven teams and will be seeded on May 4. Meramec is expected to be a middle seed in the pack. The event is a double elimination tournament with games lasting seven innings. The title game will be nine innings.

All-Conference and All-Region awards have yet to be named. However, one milestone was reached on Apr. 4 when the team defeated St. Charles 5-0 - it was the 200<sup>th</sup> Meramec win for seventh year head coach **Tony Dattoli**.

Shortstop **Jerry Roam** (Francis Howell North) is the lead off hitter, and is leading hitters with a .417 average. He's also tops on the team with 63 hits. **Michael King** is hitting an even .400, while **Mike Gumm** (St. Charles) is batting .372 with a team-leading 40 RBI's. Other .300 hitters include sophomore first baseman **Nick Berding** (Affton) at .336, **Brett Nelson** (Owensville) at .333, and second baseman **Justin Wilson** (St. Charles West) at .331.

On the mound, **David Williams** (Maplewood) has been one of the main hurlers, throwing a staff best 63 innings and a team low 3.69 ERA. He also leads the team in strikeouts with 74 K's, averaging over one per inning. Sophomore lefthander **Jason Nicholas** (Warrenton) has also been stellar, throwing 56 innings following major elbow surgery less than two years ago.

## Howard College Chases 39 Year Old Meramec Baseball Record

STLCC-Meramec was the only Division I junior college to do it some 39 years ago in 1970. Their distinction of being the only team in history entering the NJCAA Division I National Tournament undefeated is in jeopardy.

The Meramec Warriors were 27-0 under coach **Ric Lessmann** heading into nationals at Grand Junction, Colorado in 1970. The team won its first two games at the event before dropping its next two for a 29-2 final mark and a fourth place tournament finish.

As of May 1, Howard College of Big Spring, Texas is 50-0 and ranked number one in the latest NJCAA poll. Twenty two of their wins have been by ten runs or more. Only three of their wins have been by one run. Howard has six games remaining in the regular season before entering regional play.