

Soccer, Volleyball Usher In 2009-'10 Campaign

The countdown has begun to the 2009-'10 sports seasons for STLCC-Meramec and the hunt for the ultimate sports dream - a national championship! Fall sports begin later this month with Men's and Women's Soccer, and Volleyball taking center stage. Meramec has a tradition of consistently fielding highly competitive teams every year and many of those athletes moving on to quality four year universities, some at the NCAA Division I level.

The women's soccer team defends its Region XVI championship with head coach **Jeff Karl** returning for his twenty seventh season as the founding coach of the program. Karl's leadership is an advantage going into the season with his 319 career victories tops on the all-time national junior college women's soccer leader list. Under Karl, the team won back-to-back national championships in 1991 and 1992. He is a member of the Magic Hall Of Fame and of the St. Louis Soccer Hall Of Fame.

The squad does not officially open its season until Saturday, Sept. 5, facing Parkland College on the road in Champaign, IL at 3:00.

Returning players include several fine kickers whose experience will help guide the '09 squad: forward **Casey Caldwell** (Lindbergh) stood out with three goals and five assists and shows promise of developing into a scoring leader; defender **Rachel Aubuchon** (Affton) blanketed opponents' scorers and held them at bay; also a defender, **Kelsey Consiglio** (Rosati Kain) managed to chip in a goal and an assist from the backfield; and sweeper **Chelsea Tetrault** (Parkway North) also augments a fine defense.

Coach Jeff Karl describes Tetrault as a "smart, heady player who knows the game." Tetrault can play anywhere in the backfield and has strong speed. In '08 the team achieved six shutouts over opponents and over the season gave up only 1.78 goals per game. Meanwhile, the offense averaged 2.63 goals per contest.

New signees include a trio from a traditionally soccer rich school – Kennedy High. Defender **Samantha Heberer**, midfielder **Kristen Marchetto**, and forward **Whitley Menner** all arrive from the Celts. Heberer tallied three goals and three assists from the defense, while Menner booted in three goals.

Also joining the Magic in '09 include midfielder and set up specialist **Shelby Roberts** from DeSoto High – she had three goals and seven assists for the Dragons. **Kristin Wilson** enters via DuBourg High as a midfielder/forward.

Transfers include midfielder **Lauren Moran** (Lindbergh) who joins with high level experience after a year at Mizzou. Also entering following a year at Fontbonne University is forward **Tricia Jokerst** (Union, MO)

If the Magic can find their scoring punch, the traditionally strong defense will keep Meramec in

the game as the Magic will be in the hunt for their first national tournament appearance since 2002.

Full Tilt Of August Matches Awaits Men's Soccer Squad

Getting off to a fast start during the August heat, the men's soccer team will participate in two exhibition matches before a busy end of the month with regular season action beginning.

Eighth year coach **Brian Smugala** (three as assistant, five as head coach) hopes to finally capture the Region XVI title from a talent-loaded field of teams and propel Meramec to its first national tournament appearance since 2000.

Sophomore **Almin Sabotic** (Mehlville), who led the Magic in scoring last year, will pair with DeSoto High product **Clint Carder** to lead the scoring punch. Sabotic has a chance at the Meramec two year scoring record of 29 goals if he has a stellar season - he scored 13 goals in '08. Carder was the St. Louis area prep scoring leader in '08 at DeSoto with an eye-popping 35 goals and 20 assists. Also a proven scorer, **Steve McMahon** (Lafayette) returns from a strong freshman campaign.

Three other key returning players include midfielder **Brett Bozesky** (CBC) the versatile **Austin Killian** (Lindbergh), and midfielder **Justin Billmeyer** (Gibault.)

Talented goalie **Chris Eason** (Lindbergh) returns for a second season and will be joined by another former Flyer goalie - **Mihailo Pantelic** to hold down the nets.

A key test will be the Friday, Aug. 14 scrimmage against NCAA Div. II University of MO - St. Louis team. Last year, optimism abounded when the Magic battled the Tritons to a 0-0 tie in the August exhibition. The 7:00 start will be at the UMSL soccer field.

The actual season will start Saturday, August 29 in Lincoln, IL vs. Lincoln College, a perennially tough and talented opponent for Meramec. A week later, the Magic take part in the MO Juco Invitational Tournament in Cottleville (St. Charles County) taking on three quality opponents (Oakton-Chicago, Allen County, Illinois Central) who are usually in the national rankings. The marathon event is over the Labor Day weekend, with the Magic playing on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, Sept. 3-6.

Volleyball Team Enters 2nd Season Under Franken

Second year head coach **Jenell Franken** will continue her rebuilding with the volleyball program as she enters her second season and first full season of recruiting new players. The team begins exhibition play on Saturday, Aug. 22 hosting a multi-team jamboree at Meramec at 11 a.m.

The season itself will kick off with the Magic traveling to Lebanon, IL for the McKendree Tournament on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 28-29. Times and matches over the two days will be

announced later.

Busch Stadium Baseball Tradition Slated For Sept. 16

In what has become an annual tradition, the Meramec baseball team will play STLCC-Forest Park at Busch Stadium immediately following the St. Louis Cardinals Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1:15 game against the Florida Marlins.

The Magic and Highlanders will play a 9 inning exhibition scrimmage game, complete with umpires, with a two hour and thirty minute time limit.

The tradition began in September of 2005 when Meramec and Forest Park played at the former Busch Stadium and became a part of history as the final amateur game at the old stadium.

Tickets to the Cardinals game are available through coach **Tony Dattoli**. He can be reached at 314-984-7785. Fans at the Cardinal game may stay for the Meramec-Forest Park game.

Healthy Freese Heats Up August At AAA Memphis

A healthy **David Freese** is back in the swing of things, playing third base as the regular starter at the St. Louis Cardinals AAA farm club in Memphis. Since returning to play from ankle surgery in May, Freese has homered twice and is hitting the ball extremely well.

Freese is currently on the St. Louis Cardinals 40 man roster and is tentatively slated to join the Redbirds Sept. 1 when expanded rosters take effect. He spent the first two weeks of the season in April with the Cardinals, officially starting his Major League career.

The Meramec alum starred for the Magic in 2003 and 2004 before being drafted by the San Diego Padres in 2006 in the ninth round. In January, 2008, Freese was traded to the Cardinals for center field fan favorite Jim Edmonds. Freese was promoted to the Triple A Memphis club and enjoyed an outstanding 2008 season, prompting the call-up this spring to replace the injured Troy Glaus at third base.