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Meramec Magic Athletic News  
May, 2008

Baseball Squad Preps For Tough Regional Tourney

As the baseball team wraps up the regular season this weekend, the Magic close it out with a Sunday, May 4 road contest against Rend Lake in Illinois.

Following a disappointing season with a 19-30 record (as of 4/30), the post season means a new opportunity for the team to compete in a loaded, eight team Region XVI Tournament. Despite the lackluster record, optimism is not in short supply.

“Lately, everything’s starting to come together,” said sophomore shortstop Jon Myers (Fort Zumwalt South.) “The pitching has been doing really well and the hitting is starting to come through. We switched the line up a little bit this past weekend which actually helped us out a lot. We put 10 runs on North Central both games.”

And, Myers has been a big part of it, dropping from the leadoff spot to the two hole with his power numbers. Myers has 13 home runs to go with 34 RBI’s and a .410 batting average. Augmenting Myers has been outfielder Dan Harris (North County - Bonne Terre, MO) who has had a tremendous year offensively. Harris has cracked nine home runs, and leads the team with a .429 batting average and 41 RBI’s.

On the mound, sophomore right-hander Chris Sunvold (Blue Springs, MO) has been dominant of late. Sunvold has tossed back-to-back complete game shutouts. He blanked Maple Woods 1-0 on Apr. 22, then bounced back to shut out North Central 12-0 five days later.

The Magic have a 8-14 record in Region XVI play and are looking at a seventh or eighth seed. They would start post season play on Wednesday, May 7 at either 2:00 or 4:30. The entire tourney will be played at Mineral Area College in Park Hills, MO.

“We’ll be trying to execute - that’s what it comes down to is execution,” said Myers. “Playing good, solid defense, great pitching, and look for big hits in key situations.”

Against Maple Woods (Kansas City), Meramec has definitely done that, winning all four games this season.

Softball Magic Start Region XVI Tourney Friday In Columbia

The softball squad, mustering a little post season momentum by winning three of its last four games, will begin the Region XVI Tournament this Friday (May 2) in Columbia, MO at Rock Bridge High School.

Meramec, 10-27 on the year, is the fifth seed among six teams and opens play with a noon start against fourth seeded North Central. The winner of that game gets top seeded Crowder College at 4:00.
The Magic have reason for optimism with its recent surge. On Tuesday, the team rallied from a 4-2 deficit with a big five run sixth inning and held on for a 7-4 win over Lindenwood JV. In the second game, the Magic won 10-5.

Freshman pitcher Capri Savage (Orofino, Idaho) earned both wins on the day, while Lesley Kennedy (Quitman, Ark.) hit a home run.

A day later, Savage would again gain the win pitching with a 9-3 victory over Florissant Valley. The Magic fell 6-3 in the second game, despite a home run by sophomore infielder Alex Branstetter (Parkway West.)

Branstetter leads the team with a .418 batting average and 24 RBI's. Sophomore Tabatha Bahre (Lutheran South) is hitting .318 with 20 runs scored, while Kennedy is batting .312.

All three were named to the All-Conference squad - Branstetter as a first-teamer, and Bahre and Kennedy as honorable mention.

Baseball's Myers Heads To Billikens - Signs With SLU

STLCC-Meramec sophomore shortstop Jon Myers (Fort Zumwalt South) has signed a letter of intent to play for St. Louis University next year. For the 6'2" Myers, playing Div. I baseball is a dream come true.

"It's very exciting. It's a great school academically and they're on the uprise for sports," said Myers. "I never thought I would be a Div. I athlete. I've always strived to be a Div. I athlete but going into this year I was looking more at D-II schools, I wasn't really looking at all the big schools. Then, all of a sudden I get a call."

Myers has posted strong numbers throughout his junior college career, hitting .373 with 26 RBI's and four home runs as a freshman. This season, his power has increased dramatically with 13 home runs so far, including a school record five in one day during a doubleheader with Mineral Area Apr. 12. He is hitting .410 with 34 RBI's. Two weeks ago, Myers was the NJCAA’s National Player of the Week.

The St. Peters native intends to major in secondary education and become either a science or history teacher.

Brandenburg Signs With D-II Regis University

Men's basketball sophomore center Bill Brandenburg (Kirkwood) has signed a letter of intent to continue his playing career at Regis University in Denver, Colo. Brandenburg, who was recently named a NJCAA second team All-American, had attracted interest from several NCAA Division I universities, including Cornell, Cal-Irvine, and Florida-Gulf Coast.

Brandenburg led the Magic to a 21-11 record this past season. The team was fifth in the nation among Div. II schools in defense with the 6'7" post player. He also led the team in steals, a rare accomplishment for a center.

Meanwhile, guard Jake Prosser (Francis Howell North) has inked with Central Methodist University, an NAIA institution in Fayette, MO. Prosser was an honorable mention All-Conference selection who averaged nine points and three assists per game.

He was a steady ball handler as well as a team leader both seasons for the Magic. Prosser’s season highlight was hitting a near impossible three-pointer at the buzzer against Lewis and Clark Nov. 20 to win the game, 46-44. The ball was inbounded to him in the corner, trapped by two defenders, with three seconds on the clock. Prosser heaved up a desperation prayer that found nothing but net and a Magic victory.