Men's Soccer Thumps KC Opponents; Moves To 14-3-1

Winning their sixth game in a row, the St. Louis Community College - Meramec men's soccer team extended their recent momentum surge with a pair of convincing wins this weekend, thumping their visiting Kansas City opponents by a combined 16-3 margin. The nationally thirteenth ranked Magic are now 14-3-1.

On Saturday, the Magic raced out to a 4-0 halftime lead before coasting over Maple Woods 6-2. Midfielder Corey Kossman (CBC) had two goals and two assists, while Ted Huels (Kennedy) had a goal and two assists.

"I think it was just flat-out intimidation," said forward Ben Hamilton (Glendale - Springfield, MO) "We just ran them into the ground the first ten minutes. We got up 3-0 the first ten minutes and just kind of cruised after that and played a lot of possession."

On Sunday, against Blue River, the game plan was much the same. Meramec scored twice in the first 3:33, opened up a 4-0 halftime lead, and went wild in the second half, winning by a 10-1 margin. It was the first double digit offensive outburst for the Magic since 2001.

"Coaches Smugala and Tim (Abeln) and Mike (Cucchi) had said both yesterday and today we're going to have to get out and get ahead early and Ted and Corey came out of the blocks quick," said freshman forward Scott Gyllenborg (Lindbergh.) "When you put that amount of pressure on any team it's hard for them to not concede."

Gyllenborg was a big part of the pressure against Blue River with a goal and two assists. But it was Ben Hamilton, the team's scoring leader, who cracked the Trail Blazer's defense wide open with three goals and an assist.

"They tried to pull an outside trap with a flat back four and it just wasn't working," said Hamilton. "We were playing it really well, perfectly timing our runs - getting through and just knocking balls through their defense."

Not only did Hamilton and Gyllenborg exploit the porous defense, but so did Kossman with a pair of goals. Chipping in a goal apiece was Mike Riti (Webster Groves), Matt Mantia (Webster Groves), Steve Jeon (Parkway South), and T.J. Neusel (CBC).

The Magic complete the regular season with a home contest Thursday against Florissant Valley at 4:00. They begin post season play at home on Saturday against an opponent yet to be determined.