For Immediate Release  
February 27, 2008  
For More Info. Contact: Bob Frischmann, Sports Info. Director (314) 984 7306

Meramec Women's Basketball Hosts  
Region XVI Tourney Fri.-Sat.

If the St. Louis Community College - Meramec women's basketball team is going to advance to the Region XVI title game Saturday, they're going to have to do one of the toughest things in sports - beat the same team three times in one season. That monumental first step will come against third seeded Cottey College (Nevada, MO) in the tourney's semi-final Friday at 7:30 at Meramec.

The Magic, 15-15, are the two seed and tournament host. Despite a pair of wins over Cottey this season, each by eight point margins, coach Steve Jarvis still sees the game as an uphill battle.

“We had to shoot the lights out at their place to win,” said Jarvis. “We’re going to have to shoot well to beat them. They got four kids who average in double figures and their leading scorer averages 18. It’s going to be a challenge. It’s tough to beat somebody three times.”

Freshman guard Capri Savage (Orofino, ID) shot out the lights and everything else in the game at Cottey Feb. 2. She finished with 33 points and 11 rebounds, while sophomore Jonica Booth (Ft. Zumwalt S.) had 23 points in the 75-67 road win.

“The challenge is not being overconfident,” said sophomore forward Michelle Senf (Mehlville.) “Just because we beat them twice doesn’t mean we’re going to step in there and they aren’t going to give us a game.”

Senf, the leading scorer and rebounder for the Magic with 14 points and seven boards a game, will be looked to take advantage of the home floor, an edge Jarvis feels could be extra important against Cottey.

“You hope you shoot well here since we shoot everyday here,” said Jarvis. “I think that will help us. Their gym is a little smaller gym. It’s kind of a different background shooting-wise so hopefully that will give us a little bit of an advantage.”

Another advantage for the home floor Magic could be the intangible edge of teammates pulling together for one another.

“The advantage comes from within our hearts,” said Booth. “We could play anywhere, on our floor, on their floor, it all depends on how we’re going to play as a team. The crowd will be here, but as long as we have each other, we’ll always have an advantage.”

In the other semi-final Friday, top seed Penn Valley, 10-0 in the region, plays fourth seed N. Central, 5-5 in regional play, at 5:30. The championship game is at 2:00 Saturday.