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Cucchi Takes Over Reins Of Women's Soccer Program

Longtime STLCC-Meramec assistant coach **Mike Cucchi** is the new women's soccer head coach, replacing all-time wins leader **Jeff Karl** who recently announced his retirement. Cucchi is excited at the opportunity to lead the Magic into a new era.

"It's an honor with a lot of pressure with some big shoes to fill," said Cucchi. "Jeff did a marvelous job through the years. It's a very, very sought-after job and I'm just honored to have the opportunity."

Cucchi was a stellar assistant for the last three seasons (2008-'10) with the women's team, and served as an assistant with the men's team for three years (2005-'07) prior to that. He is a popular, well-known local pundit of the sport.

"We are excited to have Mike Cucchi assume the duties of head women's soccer coach," said Meramec Manager of Athletics Bob Bottger. "He will provide a smooth transition as he served as an assistant coach the past three seasons. Mike is very knowledgeable and is quite excited about the opportunity."

Cucchi's knowledge started to take off at the prep level, playing for the legendary CBC High School program where he won All-State honors. On the collegiate level, the midfielder booted for Rockhurst University, earning All-Conference kudos. At Rockhurst, Cucchi led the Hawks to the NAIA Final Four as a junior, and to the national championship game as a senior.

John Kargacin, also a veteran of the St. Louis soccer scene and a longtime assistant coach for the Magic, will return in that role for his tenth season.