For Immediate Release  
August 20, 2007  
For More Info. Contact: Bob Frischmann, Sports Info. Director (314) 984 7306  

**Meramec Volleyball Team Looks to Future with Talented Local Freshmen in 2007**

The St. Louis Community College at Meramec volleyball team “will have a freshmen dominated team this year. Only three players return from last season’s team. The good news is that there are a lot of talented local freshmen. Our team goal is to win the regional tournament and advance to nationals,” stated Magic coach Lee Clauss Jr. That task, although difficult, will be made easier in that Meramec is hosting the National Junior College Athletic Assn Region XVI tourney in 2007. “Our team has the ability to win,” Clauss added. The Magic reached the semi-finals last year with a 22-21 record; in conference action the team tied for second and won the Midwest Community College Athletic Conference Sportsmanship Award.

“We have a very good group of hitters and our defense will be solid,” Clauss stated. “The biggest challenge will be in developing setters. When our setters get used to the speed of the college game we should do very well”  

Four freshmen setters, all with local ties, will be competing for playing time. After 2 ½ weeks of practice, Sarah Greenlee (Herculaneum), 5-4, has emerged and the team’s top setter so far. Sarah Hatton (Northwest House Springs), 5-4, has shown a lot of improvement and has made solid contributions during recent scrimmages. Christina Przada (St. Elizabeth), 5-7, has split her court time at setter and defensive specialist. Emi Gardner (Lindbergh), 5’7, who many thought would be the team’s top setter, has been unable to practice the past two weeks because of an off court accident. Good things are expected from her when she returns.

The top returning player is Amy Moran (Mehlville), a 5-10 middle hitter. At Mehlville, Moran participated in a lot of sports but did not play volleyball. She really developed as a player last year and earned a starting role in the lineup. She ended the season ranked among the top 25 for Blocks per Game in the NJCAA Division II rankings and was voted the Magic’s Most Improved Player. Samantha Huson (Windsor), 5-9, also saw a lot of playing time. Moran and Huson shared one of the middle hitter positions last year until Moran made it her own at the end of the season. “Sam looks good at outside hitter this year,” Clauss states. “There is a noticeable improvement in her hitting and blocking.” Stacey Baxter (St. Clair), 5-8, was a key reserve last year with spot starts as an outside hitter and as a defensive specialist. Her experience and versatility should help her to gain more court time this year.

The top newcomer is a 5-11 transfer from Southwest Missouri State University-West Plains, middle hitter Leana Proetz (Pacific). Now married, she was Leana Boyce in high school. Proetz was Clauss’ top priority recruit when she was a high school senior (class of 2004). She elected to sign with nationally ranked SMSU-WP instead and was a starting middle hitter for the Grizzlies her freshman season. She did not play the last two years. “When she asked me about playing this year I was thrilled,” Clauss said. “Leana has emerged as our team leader and will serve as our Captain this season.”

Freshman hitters who will make significant contributions this season are 5-10 Kristin Braasch (Maplewood), Player of the Year in the South Central Athletic Assn Conference; 5-10 Julianne Seebeck (Oakville); and 5-11 Nikki Torno (Oakville) who earned Suburban West All-Conference team honors last season. All three are solid all around players and have been impressive in practice.
Anchoring the back row will be Freshmen **Kylie Schweiss** (Rockwood Summit), 5-7, who really stood out as the top defender in the scrimmages and **Carista Coleman** (Oakville), a 5-2 defensive specialist with the nickname “Popcorn” because of the way she is all over the court.

A milestone Clauss would like a repeat performance is his team’s winning the school’s prestigious President’s Cup for posting the highest grade point average for the spring semester. “All the girls excel both on the court and in the classroom,” said Clauss. “This could be the best team in my ten seasons at Meramec.”

Here is a brief player profile for each member of the 2007 Magic currently on the roster:

**Stacey Baxter** – Stacey is a 5’ 8” returning sophomore from St. Clair High School who split time as an Outside Hitter and Defensive Specialist last year. She has a strong serve and good court presence. Stacey provided a spark coming off the bench last season and will be setting her sights for a starting role this season.

**Kristin Braasch** Kristin is a 5’ 10 Middle/Outside Hitter from Maplewood High School. She was the Player of the Year for the South Central Athletic Association Conference. Kristin was third in the entire St. Louis Area in Service Aces, second in her conference in Kills per Game and tied for first in Blocks per game.

**Carista Coleman** – Carista is a 5’ 2” Defensive Specialist from Oakville High School. Carista had almost 200 digs for her team at Oakville last year and was one of their primary passers receiving serves.

**Emi Gardner** – Emi is a 5’ 7” Setter from Lindbergh High School. Playing in one of the top conferences in the area, Emi earned 2nd team All-Conference honors while splitting time between setter and defensive specialist.

**Sarah Greenlee** – Sarah is a 5’ 4” Setter from Herculaneum High School. She was a 1st Team All-Conference selection in 2006 and played on the varsity team all four years at Herky.

**Sarah Hatton** - Sarah is a 5’ 4 Setter from Northwest House Springs High School. At Northwest, Sarah earned Second Team All Conference honors.

**Samantha Huson** – Samantha is a 5’ 9” returning sophomore Middle Hitter from Windsor High School. She is a strong hitter who greatly improved her blocking last season. Sam will compete for playing time at Middle and Outside hitter this year.

**Amy Moran** – Amy is a 5’ 10” returning sophomore Middle Hitter from Mehlville High School who attended Missouri State College for one year prior to coming to Meramec. She was our team’s Most Improved Player last year and finished the year ranked in the NJCAA DII top 25 in Blocks per Game.

**Leana Proetz** - Leana is a 5’ 11 Middle Hitter originally from Pacific High School who graduated in 2004. She received several High School honors at Pacific and then played one year at Missouri State College-West Plaines where she was a starter on their nationally ranked team.

**Christina Przada** - Christina is a 5’ 7 Setter from St. Elizabeth Academy. Christina is a Metro Women’s Athletic Assoc. Blue All Conference player who was sixth in the entire St. Louis Area in Service Aces and listed third in her conference Overall Leaders in Kills per game.

**Kylie Schweiss** - Kylie is a 5’ 7 Defensive Specialist/Outside Hitter from Rockwood Summit High School. Kylie missed half of the season due to a sprained ankle, yet showed enough in limited
play to earn Suburban South Honorable Mention All-Conference honors. She is an outstanding defensive player who could also see action as an outside hitter and possibly at the setter position.

Julianne Seebeck - Julianne is a 5’ 10 Outside Hitter from Oakville. Julianne is also listed among the Suburban West League Leaders in Kills per game. She is a very good all around player who serves well and plays good defense.

Nikki Torno - Nikki is a 5’ 11 Outside Hitter from Oakville High School. Nikki was named to the Suburban West All-Conference team and is listed among the League Leaders in Kills per Game.