



For Immediate Release

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For More Info. Contact: Bob Frischmann, Sports Info. Director (314) 984 7306

Volleyball Magic Enter Clearwater, Florida Weekend Tourney

Fresh off a four game victory over Florissant Valley Wednesday night, the St. Louis Community College - Meramec volleyball team begins play in the Clearwater Christian Tournament Friday afternoon in Florida. Tenth year head coach **Lee Clauss, Jr.** expects the competition to be as strong as the Florida ocean's waves.

"We played Clearwater Christian College before and they're an excellent team," said Clauss. "They were the number one Christian college team in the nation last year, national champions, and this year they're very strong again."

The Magic, 12-16 on the year, open play Friday afternoon against Baptist Bible College before playing the host national champions later that evening. The team will play three matches Friday, and a pair on Saturday morning before returning home.

"Everyone's looking forward to Florida," said sophomore captain **Leana Proetz** (Pacific.) "It'll be a nice break from Missouri and get to play volleyball and be on the beach, what more can you ask for?"

One thing the Magic can ask for is a respite from a recent rash of injuries that has left the team in dire straits late in games with a thin bench. Earlier in the week, six players had injuries or illnesses but fortunately not all are deemed long term. For Meramec, it's been a waiting game to have the entire team healthy at once, including at last weekend's Meramec Tournament.

"In our tournament Saturday we had five people that we were counting on at the beginning of the year that were unavailable," said Clauss. "We just didn't have enough bodies. We only had eight healthy players."

While bodies may be running low at times, optimism and enthusiasm among the players is not. The team is revving up, and healing up, for the stretch run of the season and the regional tournament that Meramec hosts on Sat., Nov. 3.

"I'm very confident - we have a few injuries right now," said sophomore outside hitter **Stacey Baxter** (St. Clair.) "We're not real healthy but the ones who haven't been able to practice I feel are doing a good job and I honestly think we can go better from here on out."