Men's Basketball Clinches 23rd Straight Winning Season With Victory

Clinching their twenty third straight winning season, the St. Louis Community College - Meramec men's basketball team swept the annual series against Florissant Valley (12-13) with a 77-64 win Saturday. The win gives the Magic a 16-10 record and insures a winning campaign with just four regular season games left before the Region XVI Tournament.

But, the host Norsemen came out in the spoiler role, banging four three pointer's in the first three minutes and racing to a 14-4 lead over an out-of-synch Magic squad.

"We knew they could shoot. At first, we just weren't getting up to them," said sophomore guard Jake Prosser (Francis Howell North.) "They got range on their three point shots and then we started getting a little more pressure and that's why not so many were falling for them."

Once Meramec stopped the bleeding defensively, it was just a matter of time before the pieces fell into place. With 8:21 left in the first half, two free throws by Josh Dale (Affton) would give the Magic their first lead at 22-21. While Meramec stayed cold from three point territory in the first half, with Stan Crawford (Hazelwood Central) making their first of ten attempts at the buzzer, Florissant Valley made the gym even chillier.

After establishing their early 14-4 lead at the 2:55 mark, Flo only notched 10 additional points through the next 17:05 with Meramec grabbing a 32-24 halftime lead.

"We just were missing all our three's and then we started attacking the basket more and we made our lay ups inside and around the basket," said center Bill Brandenburg (Kirkwood.)

Brandenburg finished with his eighth double-double of the season with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Prosser was the high scorer with 18 points despite sitting much of the first half with two early fouls. Crawford had 11 points and Eddie White (Parkway West) had 10 points.

The Magic keep their conference and regional championship hopes alive with the win. They have just one loss in each category, entering a key weekend road trip to Penn Valley and North Central that will play a large role in post season regional seeding. The conference title will come down to the final home game of the year against Three Rivers Feb. 20.