Meramec Upsets Div. I Kaskaskia - 2 Points At A Time

It was a unique win - 77 points scored by the STLCC-Meramec men’s basketball team without a single made three pointer. Yet, the Magic will be happy nonetheless to take their 77-62 upset victory over previously undefeated Div. I Kaskaskia College (IL). The Magic came out fast in the first half.

“That was one of the best!” said thirty third year head coach Randy Albrecht. “Defensively, we had them a little befuddled. We tried to take number three out of the game, Daniel Barnes, by having a man deny him the ball all over, including at half court, and I think that really affected them. They weren’t sure how they wanted to attack. Then the team got confused, and they tried to take him out, and then we changed our defense again.”

The result was an astounding 41-15 halftime lead for Meramec, one that created a dilemma in the halftime locker room for the coaching staff who, before the game, told the Magic they would be in for the fight of their lives.

“When we got so far ahead it was like we lost a little trust,” said Albrecht. “Coach, you said it was going to be tough? We’re kicking these guys’ butts.’ So, it’s hard to fool them again at halftime into thinking that this game isn’t over. I didn’t think it was over.”

And the veteran’s sixth sense was right. Kaskaskia came storming back in the second half, reducing Meramec’s 26 point halftime lead to just nine at the 7:52 mark with a 61-52 score. “With seven minutes to go I looked at (assistant coach Ken) Libby and said, ‘You know, we could blow this,”’ said Albrecht.

But, a determined Magic squad held off Kaskaskia over the final several minutes. Meramec’s twin towers of sophomore center Dallis Johnson (Lafayette) and forward Josh Dale (Affton) combined for 50 of Meramec’s points with Dale scoring 26 and Johnson 24. The two were fed a steady diet of lob passes by the guards for easy penetration lay ups.

“I thought guards (Eric)Kiminau and Dietrick (Sooter) did a pretty decent job of handling the ball for us and getting the ball down court. They both made some nice passes for us and got us some easy buckets,” said Albrecht.

Sooter, a freshman guard from Pierce City, MO, brought high energy onto the floor as a reserve in the first half, picking off four steals in the half and getting a pair of assists. He finished with five steals and five assists, as well as four points.
“I am starting to learn how to play with the big guys and the trust is becoming stronger,” said Sooter. “So when I see them I trust them to turn my decision into a good one, such as the long pass. I just looked at a point and aimed at it and then he (Dallis Johnson) went up and made a good catch which led to a bucket.”

Johnson also collected 10 rebounds for a double-double. Sophomore forward John Alexander (Oakville) also had 10 rebounds. The Magic improve to 2-2 on the season with the win.