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

All-American Trio Boosts Meramec To Top Ten National Finish

Powered by a trio of All-Americans, the St. Louis Community College - Meramec wrestling team recorded its seventh top ten team finish in its history at the NJCAA National Tourney. The Magic earned 48 1/2 team points, good enough for an eighth place finish among Div. I teams.

Ryan Sutton (Oakville) at 197 lbs. won a third place medal, heavyweight Cedric Powell (Duncan, OK) took home a fourth place medal, and freshman Kyle Foley (Oakville) at 149 lbs. won fifth place. All three were named All-Americans.

Powell also won the Most Falls Award of the tourney, recording four pins.

However, it was the freshman Foley who initially advanced the farthest, making it to the semi-finals in the championship bracket before losing to Iowa Central's Matt Burns by fall. In his final match, for fifth place, Foley gutted out a tough 2-1 victory over Lincoln's Justin Hale. What made the winning end to his season even more satisfying was the fact that during the regular season Hale had beaten Foley all three times they had wrestled.

Sutton also had a strong tournament, winning four bouts and only losing one match. He clinched his third place medal with a 10-3 win over Northwest Wyoming's Nathan Barzee.

Also participating in the tourney for the Magic were Darrin Green (Oakville) at 133 lbs., Peter Koelinger (Webster Groves) at 141 lbs., Jose Caceres (Miami-Killian) at 165 lbs., Jason Akers (Parkway South) at 174 lbs., and Mitch Barnett (Liberty, MO) at 184 lbs.

At the tourney, Meramec volunteer coach David Mirikitani was inducted into the NJCAA Wrestling Hall Of Fame for his years of both service and accomplishments to the sport.