MIZZOU TIGERS NEWS RELEASE

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//FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE//
11/23/87

MISSOURI SPORTS CALENDAR

Nov. 28	Women's Basketball at Amana-Hawkeye Tournament, Iowa City, Iowa
	Wrestling at Northern Open, Madison, Wis.
Nov. 29	Women's Basketball at Amana-Hawkeye Tournament, Iowa City, Iowa
Dec. 2	Women's Basketball vs. Central Missouri State, 7:30 p.m.

MISSOURI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NOTES

Tigers Open Season at Iowa Tournament: The Missouri women's basketball team opens the 1987-88 season with a tough assignment. The Tigers travel to the third annual Amana-Hawkeye Tournament hosted by the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Missouri plays host Iowa, ranked seventh in the preseason poll, at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Southern Illinois and Georgia, both ranked and NCAA participants last year, meet at 3:30 p.m. Saturday. The consolation game will be at 1:30 Sunday followed by the championship game at 3:30.

Missouri opens the home season on Wednesday, Dec. 4, against Central Missouri State in a 7:30 p.m. game at the Hearnes Arena.

Probable Starters:

F Monique Lucas, 5-11, Jr., St. Joseph, Mo. (8.7, 4.1)
F Sharon Bax, 5-10, So., Rich Fountain, Mo. (2.8, 1.7)
or Lisa Sandbothe, 6-1, Fr., Washington, Mo.
C Tracy Ellis, 6-1, Sr., Dayton, Ohio (7.6, 5.2)
G Sandie Prophete, 5-8, Jr., East Orange, N.J. (8.4, 4.4)
G Lisa Ellis, 5-10, Sr., Elsberry, Mo. (7.9, 3.3)

The Coaches: Joann Rutherford begins her 13th season with the Tigers and has a 260-114 record for that time. The Tigers have won 20 or more games in 10 of Rutherford's seasons and have gone to the NCAA tournament five of the last six years.

Vivian Stringer has been at Iowa for four years, posting an 85-30 record. She is 335-81 in 15 years of coaching. Stringer led Cheyney State to the Final Four in 1982.

Andy Landers has a 207-53 record in eight years at Georgia and is 289-74 overall. He has been national coach of the year the past two seasons and has won 20 or more in seven of his eight seasons.

St. Louis native Cindy Scott has coached SIU for 10 seasons, with a 195-93 record. She has guided the Salukis to five consecutive 20-win seasons. She has been Gateway Conference coach of the year the past two seasons.

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The Series: The Tigers have never met Iowa. They are 3-4 against SIU, having won the last meeting 83-76 in Columbia on Feb. 23, 1983. Missouri is 0-2 against Georgia, losing 70-67 in the 1984 Mid-America Classic and 80-67 at Georgia last year.

Missouri: The Tigers return only six players from last year's 20-9 squad that tied for the Big Eight regular season championship. Injuries have slowed the Tigers progress during preseason. Freshman Darlene Orlando, the tallest Tiger at 6-2, suffered a stress fracture in her leg during the fall and has only been back at practice for three weeks. Coach Joann Rutherford said it will probably be January before Orlando is 100 percent. Senior Lisa Ellis had arthroscopic surgery on her knee two weeks ago and returned to practice Monday. Junior Sandie Prophete suffered a slight hamstring pull in practice last week. Senior Tracy Ellis and junior Monique Lucas has been playing well and will be counted on to carry the Tigers during the early going. Freshmen Lisa Sandbothe and Stacey Primus are battling for starting duty and one may get the call if Lisa Ellis or Prophete can't go.

Iowa: The Hawkeyes were 26-5 last year, going 17-1 in the Big Ten to tie for the title. They finished ranked ninth in the AP poll. Iowa defeated Georgia 62-60 in the Midwest Regional last year then lost to Louisiana Tech 66-65. The Hawks, who hold the record for single game attendance, return starters Fran Price, a 5-9 sophomore forward who averaged 7.9 points and 5.1 rebounds, and Michelle Edwards, a 5-9 senior who averaged 18.2 and 3.8.

Georgia: The Bulldogs were 27-5 last year, ranked sixth in the final poll. They are ranked fifth in the preseason poll by Off the Glass and 14th by Street and Smith. They have been to the NCAA tournament all six years, including Final Four appearances in 1983 and 1985. Georgia lost to Old Dominion in the finals in 1985. The Bulldogs lost all-American Katrina McClain, hailed by several sources as the national player of the year last season. They return only one starter--Carla Green, a 5-9 junior who averaged 11 points and 4.5 rebounds. They are a young team with only one senior, Kelly Tempel.

Southern Illinois: The Salukis were 28-3 and went 20-0 in the Gateway Conference to win their second consecutive league title. They defeated 14th-ranked LSU 70-56 in the NCAA tournament last year and are ranked 17th in preseason polls. SIU returns three starters. Leading the way is Bridget Bonds, a 5-11 senior forward who averaged 14.2 points and 8.1 rebounds last year. Bonds was the Gateway most valuable player and a District IV all-America. Mary Berghuis, a 6-2 senior who averaged 11.7 and 7.1, and Dana Fitzpatrick, a 5-8 junior who averaged 10.0 and 5.5, are the other returning starters.

Coach Joann Rutherford on Missouri status: "Injuries have hurt us through the preseason. They've hurt our conditioning and hurt us playing together. A couple of our freshmen, Lisa Sandbothe and Stacey Primus, are coming through and will have to help us inside."

On tournament competition: "It is definately a tough tournament. Everyone is ranked except us. This gives us a chance to play somebody. We are tired of playing against each other. It gives us a chance to see where we are. Our veterans will rise to the occasion, I have no doubt about that. These games will give us good experience. We will surprise some people--if we are healthy. We have got to gear up for the Big Eight and playing this caliber of competition early will help us mature and get better against good teams."

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SPORTS NEWS SERVICE
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Donna Hart and Jack Watkins, assistants

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Wrestlers Look For Second Straight Successful Tournament

COLUMBIA, Mo., Nov.__ -- Basking in the glow of a successful showing at the St. Louis Open on Nov. 20-21, the Missouri wrestling team takes to the road this weekend as the 1987-88 squad travels to Madison, Wisc., to compete in the Northern Open on Saturday, Nov. 28.

The Northern Open, which is held on the campus of the University of Wisconsin, will feature over 250 athletes from 30 universities and colleges. Iowa, Iowa State, Minnesota, Northern Iowa, Michigan, Northwestern and host-school Wisconsin are among the ranked teams that will be participating in the tourney.

"It's definitely one of the biggest tournaments in the country," said Missouri coach Wes Roper, referring to the Northern Open. "This tournament is important to us because we'll be wrestling teams that will be at the national championships this spring. It's a good measuring stick of where we are at this point."

The Tigers, 1-0 in dual meet action, opened their season on Thursday, Nov. 19, when Mizzou hosted the University of Illinois at Parkway South High School in St. Louis, Mo., and defeated the Illini, 19-15.

In that meet, Missouri received victories from Bobby Crawford (118), Danny Hayes (142), Mike Gilsdorf (150) and Craig Martin (167). Mizzou also collected points from ties by Chip Bunner (134), Jim Hardy (177) and Jim Prettyman (heavyweight).

Considering that the Illini (27th) were ranked higher in the Amateur Wrestling News poll than the Tigers (29th), Coach Roper was very pleased.

"It was a real close match," Roper said. "It was really an exciting bout. There were about 1,600 people in the stands, and it really pumped us up. Our guys were ready. None of freshmen (Bunner, Darrin Davis [158] and Joe Taylor [190]) gave up a lot of points; in fact, one scored some."

The Tigers had their share of point scorers last weekend at the St. Louis Open. Mizzou, paced by Martin's first-place finish in the 167-pound class, enjoyed an outstanding tournament.

Martin, a senior from Florissant, Mo., posted three victories en route to his title, including a 1-0 triumph over Mike Farrell of Oklahoma State in the finals.

"Craig seemed sluggish in his first match of the tournament, but wrestled well in his 11-4 win over Dan Niebuhr of Oklahoma State in the semis," Roper said. "He beat a strong wrestler in Farrell for the title. Farrell was ranked fourth in the country in the 177-pound class in pre-season rankings."

Also placing for the Tigers in the meet were Dan Lovelace (126-pound class) who finished second, Jim Hardy (177-pound division) who took third, and Danny Hayes (142-pound class) who grabbed fourth.

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1987 Volleyball Season Ends in Salina, Kan.

COLUMBIA, Mo., Nov. __ -- Seasons come and seasons go. For the Missouri volleyball team, the 1987 season will be one to remember in terms of individual success, but one to forget in light of team disappointment.

The Tigers, 9-22 overall and 1-11 in Big Eight action, suffered a four-game loss to eventual Big Eight post-season tournament champion Oklahoma on Friday, Nov. 20. The loss marked the second straight season that Mizzou had fallen from the tournament in the opening round.

It should be noted that from the very beginning of the season the Tigers were never at full strength. Returning outside hitter Sherri Gentry was out the entire season with her right knee in a cast.

At the same time, senior Margaret Yanics played very sparringly during the first week of the season before Missouri coach Craig Sherman decided it would be best to have her at full strength next year. Yanics will apply for a hardship year of eligibility due to the injury.

Despite the injuries and the team setbacks, Missouri did have its share of outstanding individual performances. Seniors Sharon Zaehringer, Stacy Young and Dana Peterson had solid seasonsin their final campaigns at Mizzou.

Zaehringer, who doubled as an outside hitter and setter in 1987, gained second team all-Big Eight honors for her play, while Young, a middle hitter, received honorable mention all-Big Eight plaudits.

"Sharon Zaehringer had a great year and really kept the team together," Sherman said. "Stacy Young came on very strong in the middle of the year and was a great captain both on and off the court. Dana Peterson had a very steady season, despite some injuries that plagued her."

Zaehringer played a large part in the Tgiers' offensive fire power. An outside hitter from Clinton, Iowa, Zaehringer led the team with kills (378) and was second on the team in hitting percentage with a .256 mark. She also tied for four school records during the '87 campaign.

Young, a senior from Newburgh, Ind., led Missouri in several categories: hitting percentage (281), block solos (36), block assists (58), total blocks (94) and block per game average (0.89). She also set two school records and tied another.

Peterson, an outside hitter from Independence, Mo., was fourth on the team in hitting (116), but led the squad in dig per game average (2.98). Her total dig total was third best (289) on the team.

"The seniors had a super year," Sherman said. "I just wish there had been more depth on this team to support them. Next year, we will need a full team. I'm glad that the freshmen got so much experience this season; hopefully, they'll be a step ahead of the rest.

"Next year, we will be a better passing team. Our younger players did not have the strength to hit around Division I blocks. We will work on strength and quickness during the off-season and come out a very strong team in 1988."

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