## **Meatball and Barley Soup**

Lorraine Wheelan - Fort Pierce, FL Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers

1 tablespoon olive oil 2 medium carrots, peeled and diced 2 ribs celery, diced 1 cup onion, diced 3 cloves garlic, finely diced 6 cups low-sodium chicken broth 1 3/4 cups barley 1 pound ground pork 3/4 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped 1 1/2 teaspoons salt 1/2 teaspoon pepper 1 can (15.5 ounces) cannellini beans, drained and rinsed 8 cups escarole or spinach, roughly chopped

In a large pot, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the carrots, celery and onion. Cook for 8 minutes. Stir in the garlic and cook for 2 minutes.

Add the broth, two cups of water and the barley. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low. Cover and cook for 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, mix together the ground pork, 1/4 cup of the Parmesan, parsley, 1/4 teaspoon of salt and 1/4 teaspoon of pepper. Roll into thirty meatballs about one tablespoon each.

Drop the meatballs into the soup. Stir in the beans. Return to a simmer and cook for 5 minutes.

Stir in the escarole (or spinach) and the remaining 1/2 cup of Parmesan, 1-1/4 teaspoon of salt and 1/4 teaspoon of pepper.

Ladle into bowls and garnish with grated Parmesan, if desired.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 3734 Calories; 153g Fat (34.0% calories from fat); 260g Protein; 407g Carbohydrate; 87g Dietary Fiber; 374mg Cholesterol; 5011mg Sodium. Exchanges: 24 Grain(Starch); 25 Lean Meat; 6 1/2 Vegetable; 16 1/2 Fat.

Soups, Chili and Stews

% Calories from Fat: % Calories from Carbohydrates: % Calories from Protein: Total Fat (g): Saturated Fat (g): Monounsaturated Fat (g): Polyunsaturated Fat (g):	34.0% 40.3% 25.7% 153g 51g 59g 15g	Vitamin B12 (mcg): Thiamin B1 (mg): Riboflavin B2 (mg): Folacin (mcg): Niacin (mg): Caffeine (mg): Alcohol (kcal):	7.0mcg 6.5mg 3.2mg 1017mcg 71mg 0mg 0
Cholesterol (mg): Carbohydrate (g): Dietary Fiber (g): Protein (g): Sodium (mg): Potassium (mg): Calcium (mg): Iron (mg): Zinc (mg): Vitamin C (mg): Vitamin A (i.u.): Vitamin A (r.e.):	374mg 407g 87g 260g 5011mg 8377mg 1725mg 46mg 32mg 45mg 41528IU 4241RE	Food Exchanges Grain (Starch): Lean Meat: Vegetable: Fruit: Non-Fat Milk: Fat: Other Carbohydrates:	24 25 6 1/2 0 0 16 1/2

## **Nutrition Facts**

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Calories 3734		Calories from Fat: 1268
		% Daily Values*
Total Fat 153g		235%
Saturated Fat 51g		255%
Cholesterol 374mg		125%
Sodium 5011mg		209%
Total Carbohydrates	407g	136%
Dietary Fiber 87g		349%
Protein 260g		
Vitamin A		831%
Vitamin C		76%
Calcium		173%
Iron		254%

<sup>\*</sup> Percent Daily Values are based on a 2000 calorie diet.