

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

LMC men seeking big improvement

Red Hawks return 3 starters from last season

By **AARON GREEN**
HP Sports Writer

The Lake Michigan College men's basketball team

is ready to take the next step in its rebuilding process.

The Red Hawks believe the experience they gained last year will translate into wins this season.

LMC finished 12-15 last year, and under head coach Doug Schaffer, the Red Hawks are looking to finish at or near the top of the

Michigan Community College Athletic Association West Division.

Schaffer is in the second year of his second stint as LMC coach.

"We are proud how last year evolved and it has given us momentum heading into this season," Schaffer said. "The fact that we had

no returning players who saw any real time last season to now is a big difference."

The Red Hawks are off to a quick 2-0 start and playing some quality basketball.

"We are happy with our 2-0 start which we hoped for," Schaffer said. "We re-

alize we have a long way to go to realize our potential. It is about us going to work every day to reach our goals. Every year we want to compete for the league title."

LMC returns a lot of talent, including three starters from last year.

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RED HAWKS

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The backcourt returns with point guard Loren Johnson and shooting guard Roy Napier back.

Johnson, who led Lakeshore to the 2012 Class B state title game, is a smooth-handling point guard who can penetrate and distribute the ball.

Napier, a Benton Harbor graduate, is a quick guard with the ability to drive and shoot.

Forward T.J. Scott, a Coloma graduate, is also back and brings some physical play.

The other starters for the Red Hawks will be red-shirt sophomores Ken Coates and Terrell Clinton.

Coates, who played at Covert, is an explosive scorer who should bring

some much-needed offense to LMC.

Clinton, who played at Benton Harbor, is a 6-7 slasher who can finish at the rim and has a good jump shot.

“All five of our starters are from Benton Harbor,” Schaffer said. “They did not (all) go to Benton Harbor High School, but they all are from our community.”

LMC should have plenty of depth off the bench as well, as the Red Hawks will go 10 players deep.

Alec Brown and Juwan Thompson will be first off the bench and give the starters breaks.

St. Joseph’s Austin Sheskey and Micah Schaffer will back up both guard spots.

Bridgman’s Cam Reeves is a shooter from his forward spot, and Chris Calvin is working his way into

the rotation.

“I am pleased with the infusion of local talent. That is what community college athletics is about,” Schaffer said. “We are excited about how local kids have responded to our recruiting efforts and hope the community will support them.”

LMC’s depth and experience should give the Red Hawks an advantage over many of the teams in the MCCA.

“We have much better depth than last year and that should allow us to compete night in and night out,” Schaffer said. “With five sophomore starters and all of them having played a year of college basketball, on paper we are much better than last season. We should know pretty quick how good we really are with a couple of quality road games.”