

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Several new faces on LMC women's roster

Expectations remain high for Red Hawks

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The Lake Michigan College women's basketball team is searching for that one piece that is missing from its program.

The Red Hawks have been to the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division 2 national tournament three out of the last four years, including a second-place finish in 2011.

Last year, LMC finished eighth in the tourney and posted a 28-7 season record.

LMC enters this season

ranked 18th in the nation and is looking to challenge for the Michigan Community College Athletic Association title and a return trip to nationals.

It is the fifth straight year the Red Hawks have been ranked in the top 20.

"We have had a great run and our expectations are high," coach Jason Cooper

said. "Going to play in the national tournaments has been a great opportunity for our program."

Only one starter returns off of last year's team, point guard DeYahnna Styles.

"She (Styles) has grown up a lot going into her second year," Cooper said. "She has taken on a leadership role both on and off

the court."

The rest of the rotation is made up of freshmen and two transfers.

Sophomore transfer Lexi Hobbs will join Styles in the starting lineup.

Freshman Kaitlyn Smith from Hartford will man the post and freshman Sabrina Trujillo from Colorado will play shooting guard.

Nicole Decker and La-corsica Metz are splitting time at the last starting spot.

"We are trying to figure out our rotation and playing everyone early," Cooper said. "We then will get a better understanding of what we are looking for. We are set up with players that

See **RED HAWKS**, page B3

## RED HAWKS

► From page B1

can do multiple things so it just may come down to match ups.”

LMC's recruiting has expanded outside the region as it has two players from Colorado and one from Peoria, Ill.

“Girls come here to win championships,” Cooper said. “Most of our players want to play at a four-year school. With the success we have had, we have girls contacting us to come and play. When you have that kind of individual goal, it is easy to channel it into team success.”

LMC will need to make

sure its young and talented group begins to develop quickly if it is to make a run late in the season.

“With freshman you have flashes of greatness mixed with inconsistency,” Cooper said. “For me, the key is to get them to play hard every possession so we are in position to challenge in March.”