

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

LMC doubles up at nationals

Basketball teams both win district titles

By HP STAFF

The Lake Michigan College women's basketball team is headed back to the NJCAA Division II national tournament for a third straight season.

This time they'll be joined by the LMC men's team.

The LMC women defeated Glen Oaks Community

College 63-50 on Saturday to win a district championship. The LMC men are headed to nationals for the first time since 2005 after defeating Lansing Community College 91-78.

Both games were held at Delta College in Saginaw.

"It's been a great week," LMC men's coach Doug Schaffer said.

Both national tournaments will be held March 18-22. The women's tournament is in Overland Park,

Kan. and the men's event is in Danville, Ill.

The LMC women are back in nationals for the fourth time in five years despite a roster filled mostly with freshmen.

"It's so exciting for this program and these girls," LMC women's coach Jason Cooper said. "It's just a great feeling for all that hard work, that they've earned the opportunity to play at the national level."

LMC, ranked No. 13,

used a balanced attack to defeat Glen Oaks for the third time this season. Kaitelyn Smith led the Red Hawks with 16 points and nine rebounds, Lexi Hobbs had 15 points and 18 rebounds, and DeYahna Styles added 15 points, six rebounds and six assists. As a team, LMC held a 46-38 rebounding advantage.

"It was a grind-out game," Cooper said. "Playing good

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What's next

► The Lake Michigan College men's basketball team advances to the NJCAA Division 2 men's national championships, to be held March 18-22 at Danville Area Community College in Danville, Ill.

► The LMC women's team advances to the women's national championships, March 18-22 at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kan.

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defense was great for us.”

The LMC men overcame an early 28-13 deficit to rally for their fifth straight victory.

“We clawed our way back and really outplayed them in the second half,” Schaffer said. “We hit our stride and we’re playing our best basketball here at the end of the season.”

Ken Coates led LMC with 32 points and nine rebounds, good enough to be named MVP of the district tournament. Also named to the all-tournament team were Terrell Clinton and Alec Brown.

Clinton had 11 points, 12 rebounds and six assists in Saturday’s game. Brown had 17 points, six assists and three steals.

Loren Johnson added 14 points and Roy Napier had 11 points and five assists.

Andrews University at USCAA finals

Results of Saturday night’s United States Collegiate Athletic Association’s Division II men’s basketball championship game between Andrews University and Penn State Beaver were unavailable at presstime.