

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

LMC men boost roster

Red Hawks eye another trip to NJCAA nationals

By **AARON GREEN**
HP Sports Writer

The Lake Michigan College men's basketball team continues to add talent and athleticism to its roster and is looking for another trip to the National Junior College Athletic Association National Tournament.

The Red Hawks finished 20-14 last year, but got on a roll late in the season to qualify for the National tournament.

The tournament run was the first for the men since 2005.

LMC has added both local new talent and some good regional talent from Chicago and Indiana to help add depth.

"I am very happy with this year's recruiting class," Lake Michigan College coach Doug Schaffer said. "It is nice to get a strong infusion of local talent, but the brand new residence halls has helped us gets kids from farther away."

If the Red Hawks are to make another long post season run, they will have

to do it with a bunch of new faces as Lake Michigan only has four sophomores on the team and only two that played last season.

"Our preseason schedule is going to be very important because we have a lot of new players without college experience," Schaffer said. "That is going to put a lot of pressure on the experienced guys to lead and show what it takes to play junior college basketball."

Guards Micah Schaffer from St. Joseph and Alec Brown of Niles are back in the backcourt to help stabilize the Red Hawks.

Schaffer is a pure shooter who has deep range.

Brown is a combo guard capable of driving the ball and knocking down the three.

Kevin Morse red shirted last season, but will be a major contributor at the guard and forward.

Labradford Sebree is the fourth sophomore. Sebree transferred from Cochise Community College in Arizona who will see time at guard and forward.

Despite the lack of returning players, Lake Michigan should have

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good depth and be able to go close to 10 deep to help keep players fresh.

“Last year we had one leading scorer who scored about 20 points a game,” Schaffer said. “This year we will be much more balanced making it tougher for teams to prepare for us. We can go eight to 10 players deep to keep kids fresh both in games and during the long season.”

Forward Arsenio Arrington (6-feet-7) out of Chicago brings length and leaping ability to the forward spot and should start right away.

He is able to play above

the rim and finish giving the Red Hawks an inside presence and a strong rebounder.

Michael Bush will take over the point guard spot.

Bush is from South Bend and brings quickness and the ability to penetrate to the attack.

Montel Green of South Bend is a slasher and finisher at the rim. He plays longer than his 6-4 frame and can also hit the outside

shot.

A.J. Gibson of St. Joseph, Mitch Meyer of Stevensville, and Matt Griesinger of Niles help round out the talented roster.

All should see playing

time early as LMC works on solidifying its rotation.

“We want to be competitive in a very competitive conference and then be playing our best basketball at the end of the year,”

Schaffer said. “We have to be patient. There are going to be mistakes, but over the season we will see the improvement both as individual players and as a team.”

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