

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Battling back



Don Campbell / HP staff  
 Lake Michigan College's Sabrina Trujillo shoots while under pressure from Schoolcraft's Stefani Polkowski during the second half of Wednesday's game.



Don Campbell / HP staff  
 Lake Michigan College's LaBradford Sebree works his way around Schoolcraft's DeShawndre Black during the first half of Wednesday's game.

Trujillo leads Lake Michigan College women past Schoolcraft; LMC men fall despite late rally

By BEN SANDERS  
 HP Sports Writer

Lake Michigan College finally found a way to break down a tough Schoolcraft College defense in Wednesday's women's basketball game.

The Red Hawks used the outside shooting of Sabrina Trujillo and the inside scoring of Nicole Decker to rally from an early deficit for a 64-59 win in an early-season matchup of previously unbeaten teams.

"Any win in the month of November, when you're trying to get your team together and you don't have all your stuff in, is a great win," LMC women's coach Jason Cooper said. "To come in here and grind this out for a victory, we'll take it."

In the second game of the double-header, the LMC men lost to Schoolcraft 85-81 despite a big second-half comeback.

Trujillo finished with 23 points, including six 3-pointers.

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**LMC**

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“Sabrina’s a heck of a shooter,” Cooper said. “She can knock down six or seven in a row if she gets hot. She’s going to be a volume shooter for us. When she’s not shooting so well, we’ve got to still go with her.”

“She leads our team in rebounding, and she also did a good job defensively. She’s become an all-around player.”

Decker added 14 points, including six key ones in the final four minutes. Her basket with 54 seconds left put LMC ahead for good at 61-59.

LMC (3-0) struggled early as Schoolcraft (4-1) used a 10-0 run to build a 17-8 lead. The Ocelots kept that lead through the rest of the first half, holding a 28-25 advantage at the break.

LMC shot just 9 for 35 (26 percent) from the floor in the first half.

“Schoolcraft played a good game tonight,” Cooper said. “They have some good athleticism on the offensive and defensive end. What we had to do in our offense in the halfcourt was take better shots. I think we were rushing in the first half.”

The Red Hawks also got good long-range shooting from Taylor Brandt, who scored all nine of her points on second-half 3-pointers.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Trujillo and Brandt tied the score at 34 early in the second half, and the contest remained close the rest of the way.

T’era Nesbitt led Schoolcraft with 19 points. Rikki Sherdt had a game-high 14 rebounds, giving the Ocelots a 52-38 advantage on the boards.

The LMC men (3-2) fell way behind in the first half. Schoolcraft (5-1) had a 55-34 lead at the break.

“The first half we were outplayed in every component of the game,” LMC men’s coach Doug Schaffer said. “Defense, rebounding, decision-making on offense, all three phases were poor, the worst that we’ve played so far this season. That being said, you give credit to the opponent, who had a lot to do with that.”

“The difference was we played as a team in the second half. The first half was very individualistic. Our defense was better, and our offense was a heck of a lot better as a result of that commitment to playing better team basketball.”

The Red Hawks slowly got back in the game, and got as close as two on Mon-



Lake Michigan College’s Montel Green shoots over Schoolcraft’s Ronald Booth, left, and Marcus Williams during the first half of Wednesday’s game.

Don Campbell / HP staff

tel Green’s breakaway dunk that made it 80-78.

LaBradford Sebree hit a 3-pointer with 24 seconds left that again cut it to two at 83-81, but Ronald Booth then made two free throws to secure the win for the Ocelots.

Sebree scored 24 points and Alec Brown added 23 for LMC. Both players made five 3-pointers.

“Both of them are shot-makers and scorers,” Schaffer said. “That’s a nice weapon to have in your arsenal.”

LMC held a moment of silence prior to both games for strength and conditioning coach Bill Magley, who passed away Sunday.

“It’s been an emotional week,” Schaffer said. “(Magley) has had a huge impact on us being bigger, faster, stronger. Not only did he help transform us physically, his leadership and his spirit and care for our guys was something that had a huge impact on them. We have a lot of guys in our locker room that are grieving, because we lost a dear friend.”

**LMC WOMEN 64, SCHOOLCRAFT 59**

**SCHOOLCRAFT (59)**  
Sara Gammons 3 2-2 8, Elise Tolbert 6 0-0 13, T’era Nesbitt 7 4-8 19, Ashley Bland 7 0-0 15, Rikki Sherdt 1 0-4 2, Iayana Tucker 1 0-0 2. Totals: 25 6-14 59.

**LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE (64)**  
Shalay Stevens 2 1-2 5, Nicole Decker 6 2-2 14, Sarah Huffman 0 2-2 2, Sabrina Trujillo 7 3-4 23, Lexi Firovich 1 0-0 3, Shelby Frederick 0 2-4 2, Tammy Lee 1 0-0 3, Taylor Brandt 3 0-0 9, Madison Cameron 1 0-0 3. Halftime — Schoolcraft 28, LMC 25. 3-point goals — Schoolcraft 3 (Tolbert, Nesbitt,



Don Campbell / HP staff

Lake Michigan College’s Nicole Decker reaches for a pass against Schoolcraft’s Rikki Sherdt during the second half of Wednesday’s game.

Bland, LMC 12 (Trujillo 6, Brandt 3, Firovich, Lee, Cameron). Total fouls — Schoolcraft 15, LMC 18. Fouled out — Bland (5). Technical fouls — none. Rebounds — Schoolcraft 52 (Sherdt 14), LMC 38 (Stevens 9), Assists — Schoolcraft 12 (Gammons 4), LMC 15 (Jasmine Love 4). Steals — Schoolcraft 5, LMC 9 (Trujillo 3, Stevens 3). Turnovers — Schoolcraft 26, LMC 15. Records — Schoolcraft 4-1, LMC 3-0.

**SCHOOLCRAFT 85, LMC MEN 81**

**SCHOOLCRAFT (85)**  
Marcus Williams 9 1-4 24, Anthony Wartley-Fritz 2 0-1 4, DeShawndre Black 4 2-2 10, Ronald Booth 7 6-6 23, Tyler Johnson 5 0-0 12, Ja’Christian Biles 1 2-2 4, Davon Taylor 3 0-0 6, Moussa Harb 1 0-0 2. Totals: 32 11-15 85.

**LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE (81)**

Montel Green 2 2-2 6, Alec Brown 8 2-2 23, Michael Bush 1 2-2 4, LaBradford Sebree 8 3-3 24, Arsenio Arrington 0 2-2 2, Darrell Ivy 1 0-0 3, Mich Schaffer 3 0-1 7, Kevin Morse 3 6-7 12. Totals: 26 17-19 81. Halftime — Schoolcraft 55-34. 3-point goals — Schoolcraft 10 (Williams 5, Booth 3, Johnson 2), LMC 12 (Sebree 5, Brown 5, Ivy, Schaffer). Total fouls — Schoolcraft 20, LMC 16. Fouled out — Wartley-Fritz (5). Technical fouls — none. Rebounds — Schoolcraft 34 (Williams, 7 Taylor 7), LMC 33 (Arrington 9). Assists — Schoolcraft 20 (Black 6, Johnson 8), LMC 13 (Bush 3, Mitch Meyer 3). Turnovers — Schoolcraft 10, LMC 8. Records — Schoolcraft 5-1, LMC 3-2.

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