
Plenty of fresh faces for LMC women's hoops

Red Hawks have 9 freshmen on roster

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After a 29-6 overall record and a seventh-place finish in the national tournament a season ago, the Lake Michigan College women's basketball team is hoping a big freshman class will grow up quickly and help get the Red Hawks back to the national tournament.

Nine of the 13 women on the team are freshman.

"We're getting a young team with a lot of freshman ready to play at a high level," said coach Jason Cooper. "They need to understand the speed and competition of this level, but once we figure that out and compete we'll achieve our goals."

Along with making it back to the national tournament, those goals include winning the Michigan Community College Athletic Association title.

"Our goal is always to

compete for a conference and regional championship," Cooper said. "If we do those things then we have a chance to play for a national championship, but those things all have to happen in order."

With such a young team, the Red Hawks will be counting on returning players such as shooting guard Sabrina Trujillo and forwards Nicole Decker and Sarah Huffman.

"Trujillo was our third leading scorer last season and our top two moved on to Division 2 schools," said Cooper. "Decker worked really hard all summer long and has shown big improvements while Huffman is our best defender. I can play (Huffman) in all five spots comfortably."

The fourth sophomore on the team is forward Shalay Stevens, a transfer from Kellogg Community College.

"All four of those girls really understand the college game," Cooper said.

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lineup will consist of Trujillo, Decker, and Stevens along with freshman guard Lexi Firovich and former Brandywine player Tammy Lee, who was in competition for the starting point guard job with fellow freshman Jasmine Love.

“It’s a little nerve-racking starting a freshman at point,” said Cooper. “Point guard is the toughest position to run coming in. I understand what they need coming in, but you kind of have to throw them into the fire and hope they improve every game.”

Huffman will be the first one off the bench and may occasionally start.

Cooper sees team defense along with good running and shooting abilities as strengths of this team while lack of experience and depth are weaknesses.

“We’re kind of a jack-of-all-trades team,” said Cooper. “The hardest part will be learning how to finish out an opponent. Once we figure that out we’ll be pretty good.”

The team with the best chance of stopping the Red Hawks, according to Cooper, will be Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

“(KVCC) has around eight returners and a full roster of 18 or 19 players. They are very deep at every position,” said Cooper. “The league is very strong this year; there are a couple of new coaches in the league. It’s really going to depend on if our freshman can step up early and be ready when the conference schedule starts in January.”