

LMC hunting for league titles

RedHawks sweep Jackson, stay in West Div. contention

By **AARON GREEN**

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BENTON TOWNSHIP — The Lake Michigan College men's and women's basketball teams stayed in the thick of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Western Division race with a sweep of Jackson Community College on Friday night.

The men struggled in the first half, but came from behind using its defense to escape the Jets 70-68 to stay in first place of the MCCA West.

The women were never challenged as they won going away over Jackson 86-47 to stay on the heels of Kalamazoo Valley in second place.

"The position we are in right now is an instant motivator," LMC men's coach Doug Schaffer said. "Being in contention for a championships keeps them focused"

LMC (9-2 MCCA

West, 18-6) was down by as many as 14 points before rallying with its defense.

The RedHawks gave up 45 first half points, but limited the Jets (6-6, 2-8) to just 23 second half points.

Ben Kesterson and Alex Potter combined to score 29 first-half points for Jackson as the Jets got open shots and second chances.

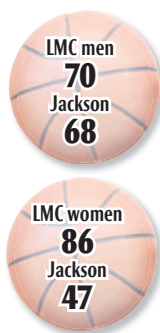
"We gave up 45 points in the first and then only 23 points in the second half," Schaffer said. "We made just enough offensive plays to win, but if we do not do what we did defensively, we do not win the game."

When the Jets did miss, they were able to get offensive rebounds and second chance points building a 45-32 halftime lead.

LMC came out much more energized in the second half.

The RedHawks inserted Michael Bush into the lineup at the point and LMC began to get better offensive looks.

Bush would finish with only one point, but he handed out nine assists.



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"Michael comes off the bench because he can spark us with his energy," Schaffer said. "He can give us a lift when we are stuck in the mud."

LMC closed the double-digit deficit quickly, but could not get any closer than four points until Micah Schaffer hit a 3-pointer to give LMC the lead.

Jackson answered with a three from Kesterson, but Montel Green rattled off six straight points to give the RedHawks the lead for good 64-59.

"Green is our X-factor on the team," Schaffer said. "Whether he is guarding the other teams best offensive player or getting a key rebound, he does what the team needs to get us the win. We would not be having the season we are having if it was not for him."

Green finished with 14 points, 13 rebounds, and four steals.

The RedHawks had

chances to put the game away late, but went only 1-5 from the free throw line in the last minute, leaving the door open for Jackson.

LMC chose to foul late leading by three, sending Kesterson to the line with 3.7 seconds left.

He made the first and intentionally missed the second, but he also missed the rim giving the ball back to LMC.

Jackson came up with the steal, but could not get a shot off as LMC held on for the win.

"Our defensive effort and rebounding were night and day between the first half and the second," Schaffer said.

LaBradford Sebree finished with a team-high 15 points for the Red Hawks and Alec Brown added 14 points.

The LMC women trailed for all of 27 seconds Friday night.

The Jets took the quick 3-0 lead, but a 9-0 run by the RedHawks put LMC in control.

Jackson (5-5, 7-13) tried

to play zone against LMC and the RedHawks made them pay knocking down 13 3-pointers.

"When teams play zone against us, we can space the floor with two or three shooters," LMC women's coach Jason Cooper said. "Our girls did a nice job of finding the gaps to get open looks. We did a good job of finding each other and sharing the basketball."

The lead continued to grow in the first half as Madison scored 14 of her game-high 23 points in the first half.

LMC led 45-24 at the break.

Jackson tried to mount a comeback in the second half, closing the gap to 15 points as LMC (9-2, 17-7) seemed to lose some of its rhythm on both ends of the floor.

LMC rebounded and began to pull away.

The Red Hawks led by as many as 40 points at 80-40.

Cameron's 23 points led four Red Hawks double digit scorers.

Sabrina Trujillo had 16 points, Jasmine Love added

11 points, and Shalay Stevens chipped in 10 points.

LMC WOMEN 86, JACKSON 47

JACKSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (47)

Kennedi Showerman 2 0-0 4, Darci Mariott 6 0-0 17, Chelsy Hall 3 1-2 8, Teqwa'zah Terry 4 0-0 8, Paige Niciporek 2 0-0 4, Akana Bushinski 1 0-0 3, Danielle Maxson 0 1-3 1, Kim Buie 1 0-0 2. Totals: 19 2-5 47

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE (86)

Shelby Frederick 0 2-2 2, Nicole Decker 2 2-2 6, Cameron Madison 9 0-0 23, Sabrina Trujillo 6 3-3 16, Jasmin Love 4 0-0 11, Tammy Lee 2 2-2 7, Shalay Stevens 4-4 10, Mallory Miller 1 0-0 2, Alexis Firovich 3 0-0 9. Totals: 30 13-13 86

Halftime — LMC 45, Jackson 24. 3-point goals — Jackson 7 (Mariott 5, Hall, Bushinski), LMC 13 (Madison 5, Trujillo, Love 3, Lee, Firovich 3), Total fouls — Jackson 11, LMC 5, Fouled out — none, Technical fouls — none, Rebounds — Jackson 40 (Hall 13), LMC 43 (Decker 18, Stevens 17), Assists — Jackson 9 (Hall 2), LMC 21 (Lee 6) Records — Jackson 5-5, 7-13; LMC 9-2, 17-7

LMC MEN 70, JACKSON 68

JACKSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (68)

Vernon Crump 1 0-0 2, Matt Bullinger 4 0-0 9, Ben Kesterson 7 3-4 24, Justen Ketchens 0 2-2 2, Alex Potter 8 2-3 19, Marques Robinson 1 0-0 2, Myles Lockridge 2 0-0 4, Rakeem Pressley 1 1-2 3, Trevor perkin 1 0-0 3. Totals: 25 8-11 68

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE (70)

Montel Green 6 2-4 14, Arsenio Arrington 3 4-5 10, Darrell Ivy 1 0-1 3, Alec Brown 5 1-2 14, LaBradford Sebree 6 0-3 15, Micah Schaffer 1 0-0 3, Kevion Morse 3 1-2 7, Jamare Washington 1 1-3 3. Totals: 26 10-22 70

Halftime — Jackson 45, LMC 32. 3-point goals — Jackson 10 (Bullinger, Kesterson 7, Potter, Perkin), LMC (8 (Brown 3, Ivy, Sebree 3, Schaffer), Total fouls — Jackson 17, LMC 15, Fouled out — none, Technical fouls — none, Rebounds — Jackson 37 (Bullinger 13), LMC 30 (Green 13), Assists — Jackson 17 (Ketchens 6), LMC 22 (Bush 9) Records — Jackson 6-6, 2-8; LMC 9-2 18-6