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The Lake Michigan College women's basketball team prepares to take on Jackson College in a district game Tuesday.

LMC women going back to nationals

Red Hawks upset KVCC in district final

By SEAN HAMMOND
HP Sports Writer

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. — The Red Hawks had been here before.

Lake Michigan College women's basketball trailed Kalamazoo Valley Community College by 13 points with 4:15 to play. In two previous games this season, Kalamazoo Valley beat LMC by



19 points both times.

This one ended differently.

LMC rallied behind guards Dennee Brown, who hit two 3-pointers down the stretch in regulation, and

Tammy Lee, who finished with a team-high 21 points. LMC (26-5) forced overtime and went on to hand Kalamazoo Valley (29-2) just its second loss in a 68-65 Red

Hawks win on Saturday at Delta College.

The victory gave LMC a district championship and a spot in the NJCAA Division II women's basketball tournament, which is held March 15-19 in Overland Park, Kan. Sixteen teams from across the country will compete.

"This was our sixth overtime game this year," LMC coach Jason Cooper said. "We felt like a renewed team once we got to overtime and we battled and fought

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through fatigue. I'm just very proud of these girls. I was excited that all that hard work paid off dividends for us."

Lee was named the district MVP. Red Hawks guards Hailey Maas and Kelsee Kinder were also members of the All-Tournament team. Maas scored 16 points in Saturday's win, as did Brown. Kinder struggled in the final, shooting 1-for-8 from the field and totaling four points.

Kalamazoo Valley entered the game 29-1 on the season, ranked No. 8 in the country and had won 28 consecutive games. It had beaten LMC 93-74 on Jan. 15 and 76-57 on Feb. 13.

"It was us learning how to play well together as a team," Cooper said. "It took us to the final of the district championship, it was a team effort."

Cooper said Kalamazoo Valley focused its defensive pressure on guards Maas and Kinder. Maas also struggled from the field (4-for-20). Lee stepped up and hit five 3-pointers.

NJCAA District G Championship game

LMC WOMEN 68, KVCC CC 65 (OT)

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE (68)

Christy Gonzalez 0 0-0 0, Kelsee Kinder 1 2-4 4, Tammy Lee 7 2-2 21, Hailey Maas 4 6-6 16, Dennee Brown 6 2-2 16, Shawnee Dame 0 0-2 0, Hailey Madison 2 0-0 4, Shannon Dingman 1 0-0 3, Rylee Thompson 1 2-2 4. Totals: 22 14-18 68.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY (65)

Sierra James 1 1-2 3, Maddie Franks 6 4-7 17, Daejia Hill 4 0-0 8, Ka-Leah 4 0-0 10, Michaela DeKilder 3 3-6 9, Jayshona Blackshire 0 0-0 0, Audrey Oswalt 0 1-2 1, Kaelin Lambert 0 0-0 0, Chloe Salman 5 2-2 17, Alexis Blake 0 0-0 0. Totals: 23 11-19 65.

LMC 17 7 14 20 10 — 68
KVCC 16 7 18 17 7 — 65

3-point goals — LMC 10 (Lee 5), KVCC 8 (Salman 5). Rebounds — LMC 52 (Madison 11), KVCC 61 (DeKilder 14). Assists — LMC 14 (Maas 5), KVCC 13 (Hill 7). Turnovers — LMC 19, KVCC 11. Team fouls — LMC 16, KVCC 15. Fouled out — Kinder (LMC). Technical fouls — none.

Records — LMC 26-5, KVCC 29-2.

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