

Jewell to take over LMC softball team

Veteran coach won more than 300 games at Grace Christian

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John Jewell is ready for a new challenge.

Jewell will take over as the softball coach at Lake Michigan College next season. He's spent the last 20 years coaching Grace Christian.

"It's a challenge for me, especially to go from a small high school," Jewell said. "I'm just very excited. I can't wait to get started." Jewell had plenty of success at Grace Christian, putting together a career record of 323-145 despite the school's small enrollment, which was at 53 this past school year.

"My years at Grace Christian were wonderful," Jewell said.

"That prepared me to get where I'm at now."

Jewell said that he was contacted by LMC about the job several years ago, but wasn't ready at that time. He had discussions with the school again this year and decided it was time to make the move.

LMC has struggled in recent seasons, including a 6-22 mark in 2016. Jewell is hopeful he can change that.

"Lake Michigan College has a pretty storied past of having a pretty good program, and I per-

sonally would like to put them back on the map," Jewell said.

"I've said for years there's enough talent in this area to win at Lake Michigan College. It's just a matter of getting the program where it needs to be, and getting the kids to think hey, that's a place where I might want to start my softball career."

Jewell said that one of his keys to success at Grace Christian was consistency — the players knew who the coach was going to be. He hopes to bring that to LMC.

He'll also bring his top assistant with him — his wife, Laurie Jewell, who won a high school state championship as a player at Lake Michigan Catholic.

"She's very experienced," John Jewell said. "She played a lot of ball, has great experience working with girls also."

"We're different in our coaching style. Philosophy's pretty much the same. She might be a little tougher than I am. It's been a good mix."

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