



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



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Lake Michigan College's Kelsee Kinder shoots over Glen Oaks' Leasia Jackson during the first half of Wednesday's game.

Kelsee Kinder:

A team-first leader for LMC

By **AARON CRIDER**
HP Sports Writer

Kelsee Kinder will be missed when she graduates from Lake Michigan College at the end of the semester. The sophomore is a scoring standout, averaging 17 points a game and can play both ends of the court.

"In the recruiting process, we looked at her quickness and ability to handle the ball," said LMC women's coach Jason Cooper. "She's a person that can concentrate on offense and defense. Those were some of the things we were looking for."

"She's had more responsibilities with ball handling and is doing some great things. We are excited she can play multiple positions, and that her backcourt does pretty well for us."

But it's more than Kinder's ability to play basketball that drew Cooper to her. Not only does she lead in scoring next to fellow sophomore Hailey Maas, she is the main motivator for the Red Hawks.

"(We) recruit individuals that have a good soul, good families and show dedication," said Cooper. "You have to have great role models, people that just don't care about themselves."

Her team-first mindset and ability to motivate people should be great assets in her professional life. A graduate of Divine Child High School in Dearborn, Kinder plans to transfer to a four-year university to study nursing.

In a Red Hawks game against Ancilla College, the 5-foot-7 guard didn't hesitate once to drive into the paint for her buckets.

She had the same mentality against Glen Oaks and walked away with a game-high 25 points with four rebounds, three assists and two steals.

"Her stature is small, but her heart is big. She's grown tremendously as a person and as a player," said Cooper. "She sees a situation and makes her team better."

What are you studying? Nursing. I'm graduating with my Associate's in science, and then I plan to transfer into a nursing program somewhere else. I don't know where yet, hopefully somewhere good.

Where are some schools you are thinking of transferring to? Somewhere down south. If not there, somewhere close so my family can see me play.

Why did you choose LMC? I didn't know where I wanted to go. Davenport was my first choice, and my last visit was LMC. Coach Cooper kept calling me, and my dad talked me into a visit. I fell in love with the campus.

What's your experience been like on the LMC women's team? It's been a roller coaster. I love it. I don't regret my decision. It is a family here.

What is your favorite team memory? Winning the regionals last year and going to nationals. We had a great season last year. KVCC beat us twice (in regular season), but it's hard to beat a team three times. We were focused and we beat them, and that was the best.

What is your favorite LMC experience? Everyday is a new experience here. After this year I'm going to miss it. I wish I could stay for all four years.

The Herald-Palladium's Athlete Spotlight, sponsored by Whirlpool Corp., appears weekly on Monday in The HP Sports section during the school year. Athletes are chosen by HP staff members. Suggestions for Athlete Spotlight are welcome. Email suggestions to sports@TheHP.com. Athletes are limited to one selection per school year.