

COLLEGE SOCCER



Don Campbell / HP staff
 Lake Michigan College's Julio Contreras (left) and Owens Community College's Agustin Bonjour chase down a ball during the second half of Saturday's game.

A soccer debut

Lake Michigan College teams take the field for the first time

BY JOE FRIES
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BENTON TOWNSHIP — In the midst of construction equipment being used as part of the campus' expansion, Lake Michigan College took another large step forward on Saturday afternoon.

Administrators, parents and students lined the sidelines to support the newest RedHawks as the inaugural men's and women's soccer matches were played against Owens Community College.

The men's team opened play with a full squad of freshmen, most of whom are recent, local high school graduates. The team had little time to get settled in as it faced an Owens team which is ranked in the top 30 nationally.

Early game jitters were evident for the RedHawks, but goalkeeper Danny Martinez did his part to keep the game close as Owens controlled the game for most of the first half in the 4-2 victory over LMC.

Down 2-0 in the 58th minute, Lakeshore graduate Tyler LaLonde etched his name in the Lake Michigan College record books as the first



Don Campbell / HP staff
 Lake Michigan College's Skylar Cooper (right) tries to push past Owens Community College's Elizabeth Theaker during the first half of Saturday's game.

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goal scorer in school history.

In the 79th minute, LaLonde added another to tie the game at two. Ross Smith assisted on both LaLonde goals.

Owens netted two goals in the final ten minutes to put the game away, but RedHawks coaches Jeremy and Jason Woolery felt as though his players and the school accomplished a great deal.

"I'm ecstatic with the way things went today and I'm so excited I can barely put words together," said Jason Woolery. "I couldn't be happier with the way this has gone and everyone, from the administration to the parents to the athletes, has been so supportive and this day has been a culmination of all the support and hard work we've put in."

The women's team, also coached by the Woolery brothers, gave up four goals in the first half and lost 5-0. Although the first half was tough for the newly constructed team, it improved as time went on, just as the school it represents has done over the years.

"This is a huge opportunity for us at Lake Michigan College because it represents how far we've come," said athletic director Jason



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Lake Michigan College's Tyler LaLonde tries to slip a shot past Owens Community College's keeper during the second half of Saturday's game.

Cooper. "Having our first men's and women's soccer games while being surrounded by the construction of our new dorms gives us a glimpse of what the future holds for the student-athletes and the community we care about so much."

"Lake Michigan College is changing," said Clint Gabbard, vice president of student services. "Right behind you, you'll see some

dirt being moved around which will be our new student residence hall set to be ready for fall of 2014. We're excited about that and it is symbolic of what this day represents. It represents student athletes that are able to pursue two passions at once, both the passion to pursue their career dreams while also continuing to do what they love and that is playing soccer."

Men

Owens Community College 4, Lake Michigan College 2

Goals — Owens: Campbell, Martin, Whittaker, Gentles. LMC: LaLonde (2)
Assists — Owens: Bonjour (2), Martin, Whittaker, Gentles. LMC: Smith (2)
Saves — Owens: Wicher 5, LMC: Martinez 9. Halftime — Owens 2-0.

Women

Owens Community College 5, Lake Michigan College 0

Goals — Burkholder (2), Grindle, Gasser, Powell.
Assists — Groll
Saves — Owens: Brinkman 1, LMC: Nemeth 10.
Halftime — Owens 4-0.