

## COLLEGE SOFTBALL

# LMC honors 1993 softball national championship team

By HP STAFF

**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Twenty years ago, Coach Kathy Leitke led the Lake Michigan College women's softball team to the National Junior College Athletic Association national championship playoffs in Kansas.

The team took the win by scoring the only run in the final game against Glendale Community College (Ariz.), making it the first national championship for the LMC softball program.

During halftime of a recent Red Hawks' men's basketball game, Leitke and several team members joined current athletic director Jason Cooper in commemorating the 20th anniversary of winning the title.

Cooper presented the team members with a small gift.

"I'm so glad we get the chance to celebrate this amazing memory with you," Cooper said to them.

"Your achievement is an inspiration to all of our student athletes, and to the faculty and staff as well, to strive for excellence at all times."

LMC ended the 1992-93 season with a 50-6 record. Some of the outstanding players on the team recognized in the tournament were shortstop Joy Kroemer, third baseman Kelly Szczechowski and catcher Mary McNamara-Jones.

Teammates Margaret Antcliff, Wendy Berryman, Jamie Mandarin, and Dawn Goss helped the team finally win the title after 12 appearances in the finals in 13 years.

At the time, Leitke told The Herald Palladium, "When we returned to our hotel ... well, I don't know if anyone got any sleep that night. There was a lot of talking and crying. The kids just didn't want the indescribable feeling of winning a national championship to end."



Contributed photo

Members of the 1993 Lake Michigan College national championship softball team were honored recently during halftime of a men's basketball game. Back row, left: Coach Kathy Leitke, Joe Spitale, Joan Alfs, Shelly Taylor, Stephanie Henderson, Wendy Swinehart and Pam Elkins. Front row, left: Jamie Spitale, Jen Ohi-Smith and Joy Dulen.