

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

LMC women heading back to nationals

RedHawks upend KVCC for fourth straight district title

By HP STAFF

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. — The Lake Michigan College women's team finally put together a full game.



It just so happened to come in the RedHawks' biggest game of the year, as

LMC defeated Kalamazoo Valley Community College 69-54 to win the District G championship at Delta College on Saturday.

LMC advances to the national tournament for the fourth consecutive season and for the fifth time in six years.

"We had a great defensive effort and executed our scheme very well that made it tough on them to score inside," RedHawks coach Jason Cooper said. "Our whole year we have only played one good half and haven't put together full games. As a coach, you are a little concerned at the half up, but we came out totally focused and completed the game."

Shalay Stevens paced LMC with 26 points to go with five assists, six steals and a block. Stevens, a sophomore, was named the tournament MVP.

"She (Stevens) has realized how important she is to this team," Cooper said. "She has battled and battled every game, and really picked it up down the stretch."

LMC (24-8) had lost to

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KVCC, the Michigan Community College Athletic Association West Division champion, twice this season, but found a way to gain an edge inside.

“They have very good

post players, but Shalay and Christy (Gonzalez) really stepped up inside for me,” Cooper said.

Gonzalez posted a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

LMC WOMEN 69, KVCC 54

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE (69)

Shalay Stevens 10 6-8 26, Nicole Decker 5 0-1 11, Christy Gonzalez 7 2-3 16, Sabrina

Trujillo 2 4-7 9, Lexi Firovich 2 0-0 5, Madison Cameron 1 0-0 2. Totals: 27 12-19 69

KALAMAZOO VALLEY (54)

Mallory Sewell 4 3-4 11, Destiny Froberg 2 0-0 4, Daejia Hills 4 4-6 12, Tina Thurber 2 0-0 5, Khadijah Seawood 3 3-4 9, Fallon Froberg 3 0-0 6, Michaela DeKilder 1 1-2 5, Maddie Franks 1 0-0 2. Totals: 20 13-18 54
Halftime — LMC 31-20. 3-point goals — LMC 3 (Decker, Trujillo, Firovich), KVCC 1. Total fouls — LMC 14, KVCC 17. Fouled out — none. Technical fouls — none. Rebounds — LMC 36 (Gonzalez 10). Assists — LMC 14 (Stevens 5, Decker 4). Steals — LMC 13 (Stevens 6).
Record — Lake Michigan College 24-8