

## JUNIOR COLLEGE SOFTBALL

# New coach has high hopes for LMC softball

By **BEN SANDERS**

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Lake Michigan College's new softball coach wants to duplicate the school's old results.

"I'm hoping to get our program back to where it used to be in the 90s," first-year coach Tony Hamann said. "I think if we can get a

lot of the good players staying home, that can make a big difference here at LMC."

Hamann served as an assistant at LMC the past two seasons and has 11 years of experience as a travel softball coach. He said he wants to emphasize recruiting local talent.

"That's a big part of what

we need to do is get the local kids to keep playing the game they grew up with," Hamann said. "We've got several local kids that have stepped up and become a big part of the team right away as freshmen."

The Red Hawks have a young roster, with 12 freshmen among their 18 players.

Local freshmen starting for the Red Hawks include Buchanan graduate Mackenzie Orphanidis at shortstop, Niles' Tala Gentry at second base and Coloma's Katie Scheuer in center field.

Two sophomores from the area are also regulars. Niles' Hannah Porterfield plays catcher and first base,

and Bridgman's Lindsay Lowery sees time at second base and left field.

Sophomore Olivia Smith and freshman Maddison Moser are the Red Hawks' primary pitchers, and freshman Taylor Long plays catcher.

LMC has a 7-10 record overall this season, including a 1-5 mark in the Michi-

gan Community College Athletic Association West Division.

"Our goal for this year is to have an above .500 record," Hamann said. "If we could qualify to play at the regional tournament, we would be super happy with that."

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