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Lake Michigan College men's basketball coach Jeremy Schaeffer runs a Red Hawk boys basketball camp Thursday, at St. Joseph High School. Schaeffer was an assistant coach with the team last season.

# A similar look

Jeremy Schaeffer takes over as men's basketball coach at Lake Michigan College

By **BEN SANDERS**  
HP Sports Writer

Lake Michigan College is replacing a Schaffer with a Schaeffer.

Jeremy Schaeffer is the new men's basketball coach at LMC. He has been an assistant coach at the school for five years, including the last four under Doug Schaffer.

Though the names are spelled differently and there's no relation, Schaeffer has been heavily influenced by the Schaffer family. That includes not only Doug, but also his brother Gregg Schaffer, who was recently hired for a second stint as head coach at St. Joseph, and his father Jerry Schaffer, a legendary coach at River Valley.

Both have been assistants at LMC.

"The basketball knowledge that that family possesses is untouched," Schaeffer said. "I actually grew up around that family, and see them as my family, whether we spell our names the same or not. I expect those connections and relationships to continue."

Doug Schaffer resigned as coach to focus on his new role at LMC as Vice President of Student Services.

"Jeremy has been a fabulous assistant for the last four years, and I believe is very ready for this opportunity," Doug Schaffer said. "It made the decision a lot easier having someone like Jeremy waiting in the wings who I know carries the same value system and program goals that I had. It just makes it easier to step down knowing that someone like him is taking over."

Schaeffer went to high school at River Valley, and played basketball

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**JEREMY SCHAEFFER**  
Lake Michigan College  
men's basketball coach

at Lake Michigan College. He spent time as an intern under athletic director Jason Cooper, and is currently the director of student services at LMC's Bertrand Crossing Campus in Niles.

"The school is near and dear to my heart," Schaeffer said.

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# SCHAEFFER

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Schaeffer wants the program to continue to have a local focus. He ran a boys basketball camp this week with over 100 participants, and has several incoming freshmen from area schools.

"I'm excited to be able to try and continue the local basketball success, looking for guys who have played in our local high schools," Schaeffer

said. "A lot of local guys, and then we'll continue to infuse some of those guys when we need to from other places."

Schaeffer also wants his players to be successful off the court.

"One of the things I'm most excited about is to try and continue the academic success we've had as a program," he said. "We had seven out of seven sophomores graduate with their associates degree."

Those seven graduating sophomores have left the new coach with

an inexperienced roster.

"We're definitely going to be young this first season," Schaeffer said. "We'll see early in the season how we develop."

"Right now we're building great depth, and feel confident that we're going to be able to be a team that can find that .500 mark and then above. It's all about how we develop and progress through the year, and hopefully the same as in past years, we continue to get better as the year goes on."