

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

LMC women have high goals



Don Campbell / HP staff

Lake Michigan College's Hailey Maas averaged more than 20 points a game last season.

Maas, Kinder look to lead experienced Red Hawks back to nationals

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The Lake Michigan College women's basketball team has gone to the NJCAA Division II national tournament six of the past seven seasons.

The Red Hawks return five sophomores from last season's regional champions, including standout guards Hailey Maas and Kelsee Kinder, so the goals are high once again.

"The expectation for our program for the last seven years is always winning regionals, going to the national tournament, competing for a conference championship," LMC coach Jason Cooper said. "That is still the No. 1 goal of the team."

Maas was a second-team NJCAA Division II All-American and first-team all-conference selection as a freshman, averaging 20.4 points, 7.1 rebounds, 4.8 assists and 2.3 steals per game.

Kinder averaged 16.1 points per game and earned

third team all-conference honors.

"It's a luxury to have your starting backcourt back for their sophomore year," Cooper said. "They're playing very well together. That experience is going to pay dividends when they start competing in the regular season."

The other three returning sophomores were also regular contributors. Guard Shannon Dingman averaged 9.7 points and earned honorable mention all-conference honors. She's joined by forwards Haley Madison and Shawnee Dame.

"That's a great core to come back from a very good season last year, making it to the national tournament," Cooper said. "I'm very excited about this season."

Cooper named freshman forwards Jade Mosier and Brooke Becker as potential impact newcomers. He's also looking for freshman guard Raasheedah Harris, who redshirted due to inju-

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ry last season, to be a “huge offensive threat for us in the backcourt.”

Though he’s optimistic about this season, Cooper noted that it’s still early in practice and there is much

work ahead.

“Playing as a team and understanding what I need as a coach, these young ladies have really stepped up,” Cooper said. “Right now we’re just trying to find ourselves as a team and find what our strengths are.”

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