

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Many new faces for LMC men

Just two sophomores return as Schaeffer takes over program

By **BEN SANDERS**

HP Sports Writer

Lake Michigan College will start the men's basketball season with a new coach and a lot of new players.

Coach Jeremy Schaeffer begins his first season as head coach with just three sophomores on the roster and many incoming freshmen.

"I think our goal is really to continue to get better," Schaeffer said. "I think we have a high ceiling, but it's going to be how much work we're willing to put in on a day-to-day basis to go from a bunch of guys with individual skills to a team that can mesh on the court."

Though Schaeffer is a new head coach, he spent several years with the pro-

gram as an assistant under Doug Schaeffer.

"The basketball piece is something I've been doing for a while, and this is just a next step and an exciting step," Schaeffer said. "It's been a fun early season watching those things come together."

Returning sophomores include guard John Robinson and 6-6 forward Jason Walter.

Sophomore guard Brian Harris is new to the Red Hawks, but has experience after transferring from Kalamazoo Valley.

"Offensively I'm going to be looking for those guys to be leaders," Schaeffer said. "The three of them really have more than just a task of being good players on the floor, but also helping the freshmen learn what college basketball's all about."

Schaeffer said that the freshmen are still battling

See **RED HAWKS**, page C5



Don Campbell / HP staff

Lake Michigan College's Jason Walter shoots over Delta College's Dan Stenback during the first half of a game last season. Walter returns for the Red Hawks this season.

RED HAWKS

From page C1

for playing time. Among those who have emerged are 6-6 forward Cortez Moore, who, along with Robinson, led Benton Harbor to the 2014 Class B state title game.

“He’s matured and really figured out where he fits,” Schaeffer said. “He’s got perimeter skills and plays small forward and power forward for us.”

Guards Bryce Saxton, Deion Gatson and Spencer Adams will bring athleticism to the backcourt, while guard Adam Nicks and forward/center Jake Shafer bring shooting abil-

Most of the Red Hawks roster consists of local players. In addition to Moore and Robinson being from Benton Harbor, Walter is from Coloma, Shafer is from Watervliet, Harris, Adams and James Smith attended South Haven, Saxton and Gatson are from Cassopolis, and Gavin Rasler and Donovan Jennings attended Niles.

“We love that we can be a team of local guys,” Schaeffer said. “I think that it’s something we can take pride in.

“We’ve got the area pretty well covered. We hope the communities that followed them stay in touch.”

Contact: bsanders@TheHP.com, 937-0366 @HPBenSanders