



## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Photo provided  
Spencer Adams Jr. is the point guard and floor leader for the Lake Michigan College men's basketball team.

### Spencer Adams Jr.:

A freshman leader for Lake Michigan College

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The Lake Michigan College's men's basketball team is very young this season with 10 of the 14 players being freshman.

First-year coach Jeremy Schaeffer believes he has already found a leader from one of those freshman in point guard Spencer Adams Jr.

"He's really taken on the role of an on-court leader and making plays for us," Schaeffer said. "He's pretty fearless. I knew right away that Spencer was the guy that wanted to guard the best guy on the floor."

Adams took an unusual path to get to LMC. During his senior season at South Haven last year, Adams wasn't receiving much attention from colleges when his older half-brother, Brian Harris, mentioned how he was going to an open gym at LMC.

Harris had originally been recruited by LMC, but chose to go to Kalamazoo Valley Community College instead. After suffering an injury and a change in head coaches at KVCC, however, Harris decided to contact LMC again.

Adams got permission to tag along on the visit and now he's playing alongside his half-brother during games.

"I definitely was interested at the shoot-around," Adams said. "(Coach Schaeffer and I) started talking and I liked it more and more. I like that he is defensive oriented because I like to play defense. We're always on the same page."

Adams first became introduced to basketball in the second grade by his uncle. He then concentrated even more on the sport starting in fifth grade, after moving to South Haven.

Adams dreams of playing in the NBA – though admits that he probably should have a Plan B – but isn't decided on what that should be yet.

Adams is the son of

Spencer Adams and Daphne Harris.

**Why do you enjoy playing defense so much?** Through high school, like my freshman and sophomore year, I just was focusing on scoring the ball. Then I was told that scoring was not the main thing about basketball that defense matters too. I started to like shutting people down and I think I'm pretty good at it now. I like guarding the best player, I like having that challenge and shutting a guy down.

**What is it like playing in the backcourt with your half-brother?** It's always fun. I never got to play with Brian in high school. He always motivates me when I'm down or after a bad play tells me "next play, next play."

**What is the biggest difference between high school and junior college basketball?** The pace is faster, you've got to pick things up quickly. It's not about individuals, it's about the team. You have to make the smart decision every single time – one costly mistake can change the game. You've got to work hard because you never know who is trying to outwork you.

**What is it like living on campus?** It's fun, you get a lot of opportunities to meet new people every day. It's basically living on your own and trying to survive by yourself. It's challenging to get up, like in high school your parents make you go to school but here you don't have to go to class but you have to be motivated to go every day. You have to find ways to eat and make sure you have clean habits. It's a different experience. Everybody that lives here is like a family.

**If you could play for any NBA team, which one would it be?** I'd want to play for the Indiana Pacers, that's my hometown (Indianapolis). I've always been a Pacers fan. Most of my family is down there, it'd be good to have them at the games.

The Herald-Palladium's Athlete Spotlight, sponsored by Whirlpool Corp., appears weekly on Monday in The HP Sports section during the school year. Athletes are chosen by HP staff members. Suggestions for Athlete Spotlight are welcome. Email suggestions to sports@TheHP.com. Athletes are limited to one selection per school year.