

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

A new start



Don Campbell / HP staff See more photos:heraldpalladium.mycapture.com

Lake Michigan College's Shannon Dingman and KVCC's Chole Salman chase down a loose ball during Wednesday's game at Lake Michigan College.

LMC basketball teams sweep rival KVCC in conference openers

By **BEN SANDERS**
HP Sports Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College basketball teams started the new year and conference play with a sweep of rival

Kalamazoo Valley on Wednesday. The LMC women shook off a slow start to beat Kalamazoo Valley 89-64, and the LMC men built a big early lead

and then hung on for a 79-76 victory. Both games were Michigan Community College Athletic Association West Division openers.

"It was a good New Year's for us," LMC women's coach Jason Cooper said. "We kind of got jump started, came together, and got a fresh mindset of what we're going to do this year. Starting off with a great conference win against a rival like that is tremendous

See LMC, page C2



Don Campbell / HP staff See more photos:heraldpalladium.mycapture.com

Lake Michigan College's John Robinson pushes through KVCC's defense during a Wednesday's game at Lake Michigan College.

LMC

From page C1

for us.”

In the women’s game, LMC (1-0 MCCA West, 9-3) scored the game’s first basket, but Kalamazoo Valley (0-1, 8-3) responded with 13 straight points to build an early lead.

“KVCC was knocking down shots and we weren’t,” Cooper said. “I think that they understand how intense this rivalry is. We were calm under the storm. We knew it would be a long game, long process, and then our defensive rebounding came through and then the scoring and shooting from outside was tremendous.”

LMC fought back and took its first lead at 23-22 on a 3-pointer by Shannon Dingman. It was the first of seven 3-pointers for Dingman, who finished with a game-high 26 points.

“When she’s playing well, she’s an excellent, excellent shooter,” Cooper said. “She’s improved tremendously in other facets of her game. She’s become a complete player.”

Kalamazoo Valley led 34-31 late in the second quarter, but LMC closed the half on a 10-0 run, with Shawnee Dame scoring the last six points.

Dingman opened the second half with another 3-pointer, putting LMC up 44-34. The Red Hawks closed the third quarter with another 10-0 run to lead 60-44 and weren’t threatened again.

Kelsee Kinder had 18 points for LMC and Hailey Maas added 15. Both also had seven assists, often kicking the ball out to Dingman for open shots.

“They did try to take away the lane from Kelsee and Hailey,” Cooper said. “That just opened up the 3-point shot for Shannon, and she just knocked them down tonight.”

Hailey Madison added 12 points and 14 rebounds, and Dame grabbed 11 boards, helping the Red Hawks to a 44-31 rebounding advantage.

Chloe Salman led Kalamazoo Valley with 22 points and Ka-leah Ryan added 12.

In the men’s game, LMC (1-0, 4-8) led nearly the entire way, holding a 41-25 halftime advantage over



Don Campbell / HP staff See more photos:heraldpalladium.mycapture.com

Lake Michigan College’s Kelsee Kinder passes while under pressure from KVCC’s Ka-Leah Ryan (10) and Makayla Barnhart (50) during Wednesday’s game.



Don Campbell / HP staff See more photos:heraldpalladium.mycapture.com

Lake Michigan College’s Gavin Rasler shoots over KVCC’s Austin Knapp during Wednesday’s game.

Kalamazoo Valley (0-1, 6-6).

“We came out, we executed well, held them to 25 points in the first half,” LMC coach Jeremy Schaeffer said. “It’s been an emphasis of ours all season, trying to cut down what we allow other teams to do.”

LMC built its lead as high as 55-33 before Donny Lewis brought Kalamazoo Valley back. Lewis scored 25 of his game-high 31 points in the second half, and his 3-pointer with 10 seconds left cut the lead to 77-74.

LMC’s Spencer Adams was then fouled and

made two free throws to secure the victory.

“I’ve had nightmares about Donny Lewis for the last two nights,” Schaeffer said. “Watching film of him and his ability to go left and get to the rim and hit jump shots. He’s talented. He got a rhythm, and we just struggled to find a way to knock him off of that rhythm.”

LMC had a more balanced offense. Eleven different Red Hawks scored, led by Cortez Moore with 13 points. Bryce Saxton scored 11, and Gavin Rasler added 10 points and a game-high eight rebounds.

“We’ve in practice been

communicating that we don’t have superstars,” Schaeffer said. “We’re a team that on any given night, we’re going to look up and go ‘Oh, that was our leading scorer tonight’ and it’s not a surprise to me.”

“If we continue to play as a team I see us doing some good things.”

Gabe Stokes had 18 points and nine assists for Kalamazoo Valley.

LMC WOMEN 89, KALAMAZOO VALLEY 64

KALAMAZOO VALLEY (64)
Emma Burns 4 0-0 8, Jayshonna Blackshire 3 0-0 7, Ka-leah Ryan 5 2-2 12, Sierra Maas 4 6-6 15, Shannon Dingman 9 1-2 26, Hailey Madison 5 2-4 12. Totals: 34 11-15 89.

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE (89)
Shawnee Dame 4 0-0 8, Brooke Becker 5 0-0 10, Kelsee Kinder 7 2-3 18, Hailey Maas 4 6-6 15, Shannon Dingman 9 1-2 26, Hailey Madison 5 2-4 12. Totals: 34 11-15 89.

Kal. Valley 20 14 10 20 — 64

LMC 16 25 19 29 — 89

3-point goals — Kal. Valley 6 (Salman 4, Blackshire, Bragg), LMC 10 (Dingman 7, Kinder 2, Maas). Total fouls — Kal. Valley 16, LMC 9. Fouled out — none. Technical fouls — none. Rebounds — Kal. Valley 31 (James 8), LMC 44 (Madison 14, Dame 11). Assists — LMC: Kinder 7, Maas 7. Records — Kal. Valley 0-1 MCCA West, 8-3; LMC 1-0, 9-3.

LMC MEN 79, KALAMAZOO VALLEY 76

KALAMAZOO VALLEY (76)
E.J. Fincht 1 1-2 3, Aron Lee 1 0-0 2, Grant Mitchell 3 2-2 8, Tanner Eubank 1 0-0 2, Gabe Stokes 7 2-3 18, Rodney Turner 4 0-0 12, Donny Lewis 14 2-5 31. Totals: 31 7-12 76.

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE (79)
Cortez Moore 5 2-2 13, Brian Harris 2 3-4 9, Spencer Adams 3 2-3 8, Bryce Saxton 4 0-0 11, Gavin Rasler 4 2-2 10, John Robinson 1 0-0 3, Deion Gatson 3 0-0 6, Jaquany Rouser 1 0-0 2, Adam Nicks 3 0-0 8, Jake Shafer 1 0-0 2, Jason Walter 3 1-2 7. Totals: 30 10-13 79.

Halftime — LMC 41-25. 3-point goals — Kal. Valley 7 (Turner 4, Stokes 2, Lewis), LMC 9 (Saxton 3, Harris 2, Nicks 2, Moore, Robinson). Total fouls — Kal. Valley 13, LMC 10. Fouled out — none. Technical fouls — none. Rebounds — Kal. Valley 35, LMC 41 (Rasler 8). Records — Kal. Valley 0-1 MCCA West, 6-6; LMC 1-0, 4-8.

Contact: bsanders@TheHP.com, 932-0366 @HPRanCandore