

## Laker Men Win First Game of Season

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408 Laker country fans stood and applauded. The Lakers had done the almost unthinkable. 32 seconds showed on the scoreboard, and Mercyhurst would not touch the ball again, but more importantly on the scoreboard the score: 80-59. No, the Lakers didn't suffer another humiliating loss on their home court but they reversed roles and put a spanking on the visiting team; something they have failed to do all season. Most of the problems that LSSU has been struggling with were not seen in this game, namely losing.

The bench production was up in this game. The bench shot 4-9 (44%) from the field, 3-4 from the free throw line, and pulled down 8 rebounds.

The FG% was up from their season average of 44% to a more than solid 53%. The three point percentage sky rocketed from the season average of less than 40% to an outstanding 58%. The Laker team showed teamwork in basketball as they had 4 more assists than the season average with 17, which almost proves the point that you need to play team ball to win, supported by the fact that the Lakers average almost 4 more assists in games that they have, according to the score a realistic chance of winning. Last game against Gannon, LSSU only posted 7 assists. Does this mean the Lakers are getting better?

The Laker defense definitely was by showing that they held Mercyhurst to a pathetic 33% from the field on the first half of the game. This played a part in the Lakers never relinquishing the lead they held from the first seconds of the game given to them by Tim VanOudheusden's jumper.

With 6:32 left in the first half, Scott Perking, coming off a career high 25 points, lit up the scoreboard with a three ball that gave the team a 12 point lead. Once they had the lead, the only place to go was up. In the closing minutes of the half they extended their point lead to 18 and ended the half up by 16, something they have yet to do this year.

The second half has been the strong point for the Lakers this year were they have actually been able to outscore opponents. This game was no different. Short runs went back and forth, but the Lakers never led by less than 11 and carried their first half momentum into the second to win their first game of the season by 21 points.