

J-Bo II shines as Lions top Warriors

Written by Jim Ecker

Saturday, 26 January 2013 00:13 - Last Updated Saturday, 26 January 2013 00:38



Jordan Bohannon's older brothers helped the Linn-Mar Lions win state basketball titles before moving onto the collegiate ranks at the Division I level.

If the youngest Bohannon is feeling any pressure to emulate his brothers, he's sure handling it well for a freshman.

Bohannon popped in a career-high 16 points Friday night as Linn-Mar dumped Washington, 58-37, in a Mississippi Valley Conference game at the Washington gym.

Bohannon nailed four 3-pointers, including back-to-back treys in the third quarter that gave the Lions a 29-21 lead.

Linn-Mar assistant coach Jordan Printy played with Jason Bohannon and Zach Bohannon in high school and has spent a lot of time in open gyms with Matt Bohannon and now Jordan. He sees a familiar strain in Jordan.

"Definitely," said Printy. "You can tell how much of a competitor he is, just like his brothers. They love to compete."

Jason Bohannon was the original J-Bo. Jordan has been dubbed J-Bo II.

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"You definitely see a little bit of Jason's game out there a little bit," said Printy, who played at Indiana State before joining the Linn-Mar staff this season. "The way he shoots off the dribble and just the way he shoots in general. They can all shoot it."

Jordan Bohannon had a front-row seat when his brothers were being recruited by college coaches like Bo Ryan of Wisconsin and Ben Jacobson of Northern Iowa. Ryan landed Jason and Zach for the Badgers, while Jacobson signed Matt for the Panthers.

"I just sat there in the corner and listened to everything the coaches said," Jordan remarked.

He also listened to what his brothers told him, especially about playing with confidence.

"Never get down on yourself," he said they told him. "Once your confidence goes down, you never get it back up. If you keep that up, you keep playing well. That's all that matters."

Bohannon shot only seven times against Washington, but picked his spots well and made them count. His first 3-pointer gave Linn-Mar its first lead at 9-7. He knocked down a 15-footer late in the first half to snap a 19-19 tie and give the Lions a 21-19 edge at intermission.

His consecutive 3-pointers in the third quarter made it 26-21 and 29-21, then his fourth and final triple made it 39-24. He canned two free throws with 2:44 left for a 53-33 bulge.

"I thought he was really good," said Linn-Mar Coach Chris Robertson. "The nice thing about Jordan, he kind of lets the game come to him."

"He's not going to force shots or try to do too much. He just kind of runs the show. He's a great leader for a freshman. He gets guys in the right spots."

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"He can shoot it, obviously," said Robertson. "That's one thing we'd like him to do more. Those were big ones he hit and helped stretch the lead out."

Washington (1-14, 1-9) gave Linn-Mar a good battle in the first half, but the Lions (7-7, 6-4) slapped a tight press on the Warriors in the third quarter and forced a string of turnovers. The Lions outscored the Warriors 15-4 in the third period to take command.

"For a stretch in the second half, that was probably as good as we've played all year," said Robertson.

Bohannon was the leading scorer in the ballgame with his 16 points. Jimmy Roth collected a double-double for the Lions with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Jon Schlotterback added 10 points for the winners.

Printy said he's enjoyed working with Bohannon in practice this season.

"The biggest thing is how hard he works. He works every day in practice," said Printy. "He's always working to get better."

"He probably learned a lot from his brothers. I know how close they are as a family. You've got to respect the way he works."

"He's always looking to get better. I'm looking forward to working with him the next three years."

Robertson thinks the youngest Bohannon has handled things very well as the fourth brother from a famous family to play at Linn-Mar.

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"It's obviously a great family and they're very supportive," said Robertson. "He's got a great network there.

"He's so young, I don't think he feels any pressure at this point. He's just out there playing.

"I think that's the one nice thing about each one of those brothers," the coach said. "They didn't rest on the older brother and what they did.

"They all went out there to make a name for themselves. And Jordan's stating a pretty good case for himself right now."

Linn-Mar lists Bohannon at 6-feet tall, which appears to be somewhat of a stretch at this point.

"I'd say with shoes on he's pretty close," Robertson remarked. "I think he's hitting a little growth spurt, too, so hopefully he can get up to about 6-3 for next year.

"Yeah, he's going to be a good one."

Peter Holmes led Washington with 10 points.

LINN-MAR (58): Uhlir 0 3-4 3, Martins 0 1-2 1, Dick 1 0-0 2, Lassen 1 0-0 2, Bohannon 5 2-2 16, Schlotterback 3 4-4 10, Strellner 0 0-0 0, Roth 3 5-6 11, Halupnik 0 0-0 0, Meier 1 3-3 5, Larson 0 0-0 0, Nelson 0 0-0 0, Gogg 3 0-0 6, Schmidt 0 2-2 2. Totals 17 20-23 58.

WASHINGTON (37): Anderson 1 0-0 2, Bergstrom 2 0-0 4, Butterfield 1 1-2 4, Taylor 0 0-0 0, Snitker 0 2-2 2, Nelson 0 0-0 0, Rosenthal 3 0-0 6, Holmes 3 4-5 10, Oney 0 0-2 0, Severson 0 0-0 0, Soenksen 0 0-0 0, Clark 1 0-0 2, Good-Jones 0 0-0 0, Kramer 2 2-3 7. Totals 13 9-14 37.

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Halftime - Linn-Mar 21, Washington 19. 3-point goals - Linn-Mar 4 (Bohannon 4), Washington 2 (Butterfield 1, Kramer 1).