

Jason Bohannon eyes European contract

Written by Carl Gonder

Saturday, 12 February 2011 16:28 - Last Updated Sunday, 13 February 2011 00:19

Jason Bohannon sees his basketball future on European soil.

The former Wisconsin Badger was in attendance on Friday night at Linn-Mar High School to see brother Matt in action and said he hopes to hear from a German club team in the next few days.

"It is just a tough market this year," Bohannon said. "The economy is kind of rough so a lot of teams don't have the money to bring Americans over, so they are filling their rosters with European guys."

Bohannon was recently released by the Iowa Energy, the Des Moines-based affiliate of the 16-team NBA Development League.

"That first overseas job is the toughest one to come by," Bohannon said.

Bohannon said he recently hired an agent in Germany who is trying to land him a contract with a team in Heidelberg, a second-division team.

"They are in the second division right now," he said. "I heard it was a good situation for me in a good town. They are right in the middle of the pack now so if they can get into the top two in their division, they will move up."

Heidelberg is in the southwest part of the country and has a population of about 145,000.

Bohannon said he was hoping for an offer from the team this weekend. He was told that the club is trying to replace a vacant import spot.

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“I’m supposed to hear tomorrow about their interest level,” he said.

Bohannon said that there are five divisions in Germany and Americans playing at every level.

Bohannon helped Wisconsin to four straight NCAA tournament berths and played on two Big Ten championship teams. He also ranks among the all time school leaders in games won over four years (105), made 3-pointers (fourth all time) and career free throw percentage (84.8%; third all time). He averaged 8.7 points per game over four seasons and was the 2008 Big Ten Sixth Man of the Year.

Bohannon scored nearly 1,700 points in three seasons at Linn-Mar, the most in Metro history. He was a three-time First Team All-State selection and was named “Mr. Basketball” in the state of Iowa in 2005.