

Bohannon fires 71 at CRANDIC golf

Written by Jim Ecker

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If Jordan Bohannon ever gets tired of playing basketball for the Iowa Hawkeyes, he might be able to change sports and play a few rounds for the University of Iowa golf team.

He's got a good touch on a golf course, too.

Bohannon fired a 1-under-par 71 Tuesday and finished second at the annual CRANDIC meet at Gardner Golf Course with the best competitive round of his life.

The Linn-Mar senior committed to play basketball for the Hawkeyes about two weeks ago and feels like a free man now. It translated onto the luscious green grass at Gardner.

"I was just playing good," Bohannon said. "I don't have a lot of stress after committing to Iowa.

"It was a lot of weight on my shoulders, just trying to figure out where to go for college. It kind of affected my personal life. I feel a big weight off my shoulders now."

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Bohannon, a 6-foot-1 guard in basketball, was being swamped with phone calls and correspondence from college coaches.

"It was getting annoying," he said. "I didn't really have enough time to take it easy and relax and be a kid. So I'm excited it's all over."

Bohannon carried an 84.33 stroke average coming into the CRANDIC meet, but he lowered that considerably with his 71. He collected four birdies -- all on the par-5 holes -- and had three bogeys.

His basic approach on the par-5 holes was to get near the green in two shots, chip the ball close to the pin and sink a relatively short putt. Bohannon said putting is the best part of his game, so he played to his strength.

"I have a really good touch on it," he said. "It kind of helps me out, from basketball to golf."

As it turns out, he's a shooter in both sports.

"Jordan is as good as he wants to be in any sport that he plays," said Linn-Mar coach Bill Hoefle, an accomplished golfer himself. "He does really well when he's focused and things are going right, just like he is in basketball. He makes things happen."

"The great thing about him is, he's pretty even-keeled no matter what. He's learned that through his basketball skills and he's applied it to golf. And I love the way he plays."

Bohannon said there's a similar mental approach to both sports. "There's always the next shot," he remarked.

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Hoefle was not surprised by Bohannon's strong round.

"He can play golf. He knows how to do it," the coach said. "And I'd say having the commitment done has really helped settle him, but he's always been a good player."

Bohannon began playing golf in about the seventh grade and has been a member of the Linn-Mar High School program all four years. All three of his older brothers -- Jason, Zach and Matt -- enjoy golf and basketball.

"All my brothers, we all play together. It's a lot of fun," he said. "We used to go out when they'd come home from college and stuff like that. We'd have a whole family outing."



Matt Bohannon, a senior on the basketball team at Northern Iowa, has enjoyed family bragging rights in golf, but that could be changing with the youngest Bohannon making a charge.

"Matt is a pretty good golfer," Jordan said. "He golfs with the UNI team all the time. When he has free time, he's playing golf with the team."

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J.D. Goodfellow of Iowa City West fired a 2-under-par 70 to claim medalist honors Tuesday and nip Bohannon by one shot.

Frank Lindwall and Jabe Gonder of Washington shot 72's to tie for third place and lead the Warriors to another major title this season. Washington finished at 295 for an eight-shot victory over Linn-Mar.

Five Washington golfers finished in the top-10 of the individual standings. Logan Bracey tied for seventh with a 75, while Joe Slattery and Connor Neighbors tied for ninth with 76's.

Cooper Reitinger of Prairie and Sam Martin of Xavier tied for fifth with 74s.

TEAM STANDINGS

1. Washington 295, 2. Linn-Mar 303, 3. Iowa City West 308, 4. Xavier 315, 5. Prairie 315, 6. Kennedy 324, 7. Jefferson 353, 8. Iowa City High 358.

TOP 10 INDIVIDUALS

Gardner GC, Par 72

1. J.D. Goodfellow, IC West 70

2. Jordan Bohannon, Linn-Mar 71

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3. Frank Lindwall, Washington 72

Jabe Gonder, Washington 72

5. Cooper Reitinger, Prairie 74

Sam Martin, Xavier 74

7. Logan Bracey, Washington 75

Chris Mellinger, IC West 75

9. Joe Slattery, Washington 76

Connor Neighbors, Washington 76

WASHINGTON: Frank Lindwall 72, Jabe Gonder 72, Logan Bracey 75, Connor Neighbors 76, Joe Slattery 76, Alex Slattery 78.

LINN-MAR: Jordan Bohannon 71, Max Thrune 77, Jake Sevcik 77, Brent Larson 78, Bren Greif 78, Jack Recker 83.

XAVIER: Sam Martin 74, Luke Winker 79, Brody Robinson 80, Matt Neumeyer 82, Tyler Breitbach 83, Brad Karpick 83.

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PRAIRIE: Cooper Reittinger 74, Ian Johnston 78, Matt Lorenz 80, Cal Clark 83, Griffen Clark 83, Bryce Prokop 89.

KENNEDY: Cameron Stump 79, Jonah Beman 81, Jordan Weiss 82, Jake Corkery 82, Aaron Daughetee 84, Parker Kalb 85.

JEFFERSON: Adam Van Oort 81, Nile Happel 84, Connor Hammons 94, Carter Schmitz 94, Lucas Brown 100, Austin Schmitz 103.