

Lions trimmed by No. 1 Trojans

Written by Mike Condon

Friday, 16 January 2015 23:57 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 January 2015 07:34



The Linn-Mar Lions came into Friday night's showdown with top-ranked Iowa City West intent on winning.

"We didn't show up just to play them close," said Coach Chris Robertson. "Our mindset was to win the game."

They nearly pulled it off and may have got the job done had it not been for the play of West junior Alex Henderson.

The pesky guard came off the bench to hit all six of his field-goal attempts. He finished with 15 points as the Trojans closed the game on an 8-3 run to escape with a 61-56 win over the No. 8 Lions before an enthusiastic crowd in the Linn-Mar gym.

Robertson said Henderson was on the Lions' scouting report.

"He was on there," Robertson said. "They have so many good players that you just can't focus on any one guy. (Henderson) played a really good game."

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It wasn't just his offense. Henderson was one of the crew that made the going tough for Linn-Mar's talented guard tandem of Jordan Bohannon and Nic Uhler.

"They are all about defense," Bohannon said. "They make it tough to get shots off."

Bohannon, who finished with five 3-pointers and a game-high 24 points, nearly willed his team to the upset. His 3-point basket with 46 seconds left cut West's lead to 57-56.

Connor McCaffery converted two foul shots for West (11-0, 7-0 MVC) with 37 seconds left, forcing the Lions to look for a tying trey.

"They are just so long," Robertson said in reference to West. "It makes it tough to get a shot off, especially when they can get their hands on you."

The Lions worked the ball around to Uhler, who launched up a long 3 with just under 10 seconds remaining. It was well off the mark and McCaffery was fouled with just under three seconds remaining. His two free throws sealed the verdict.

"I knew it was going to be one of those games," Bohannon said. "We were keeping it close and I figured it would come right down to the end."

The Lions got off to a slow start, falling behind 17-6 after a David DiLeo trey to start the second quarter.

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The Lions and Trojans played a hard-fought game in the gymnasium. The Lions were led by their star player, who scored 20 points. The Trojans were led by their star player, who scored 15 points. The game was a close contest, with the Lions winning by a narrow margin.