

## Target Center a home away from home for Lions

Written by Jim Ecker

Saturday, 08 January 2011 21:10 - Last Updated Monday, 10 January 2011 20:12

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MINNEAPOLIS -- The Linn-Mar Lions enjoy playing basketball at the Target Center in downtown Minneapolis.

The top-ranked Lions won their fourth straight game in the Timberwolves Shootout Saturday night with an 81-35 cakewalk by an injury-depleted squad from Apple Valley, Minn.

Linn-Mar (9-0) won games here in 2006, 2007 and 2010 before prevailing again Saturday.

"For some reason we've always felt comfortable on this floor and in this arena," Linn-Coach Chris Robertson remarked. "It's been a fun trip for our guys. We've never lost here, so we like to come."

Matt Bohannon topped the Lions with 19 points and Shane Benton added 17. Marcus Paige, who announced Saturday he'll play his college basketball at North Carolina, collected 16 points, 5 assists, 4 rebounds and 3 steals in 23 minutes.

Ian McBrayer finished with 10 rebounds and nine points for Linn-Mar.

Apple Valley senior Tom Schalk, a 6-foot-7 senior who had been averaging 30 points, sprained his ankle Thursday and did not play against Linn-Mar. Neither did point guard Tyus Jones, a talented freshman who has been sidelined with a lacerated kidney.

LINN-MAR (81): Benton 6 5-7 17, Paige 7 0-0 16, Bohannon 8 0-2 19, McBrayer 4 1-1 9, Montague 2 2-2 6, Lassen 1 0-0 2, Krusie 1 0-0 2, Kitelinger 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 0-0 0, Lancial 0 0-0 0, Gentzler 0 0-0 0, Holland 0 0-0 0, Thul 1 0-0 3, Gogg 1 0-0 2, Hutchins 0 0-0 0, Malone 0 0-0 0, Soyer 2 1-1 5. Totals 33 9-13 81.

APPLE VALLEY (35): Fronk 1 0-0 3, Sonie 2 0-0 5, Crockett 3 1-2 7, Bronson 2 1-2 5, Johnson

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2 4-6 8, Hechsel 0 0-0 0, Christian 2 0-0 4, Boris 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 0-0 0, Stewart 0 1-2 1, Christiansen 0 0-0 0, Austin 1 0-0 2, Tobroxen 0 0-0 0. Totals 13 7-12 35.

Halftime -- Linn-Mar 43, Apple Valley 21. 3-point goals -- Linn-Mar 6 (Bohannon 3, Paige 2, Thul), Apple Valley 2 (Fronk, Sonie).