

Bohannon breaks Metro 3-point record

Written by Tom Fruehling

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Could it be that the last of the Bohannon boys is the best of the bunch?

Linn-Mar senior Jordan Bohannon, the youngest of the four basketball brothers, scored the Lions' game-ending nine straight points Tuesday night to preserve an 82-76 win over Xavier in a barn-burner of a battle in the Saints' gym.

He tallied 13 of his game-high 33 points (11 for 19 from the field) in the fourth quarter as the short-handed but gritty Saints made a mad-dash pull of a late comeback.

After Xavier sophomore Jackson Joens nailed a 3-pointer with 36 seconds left to bring his team within two points, Bohannon calmly shut the door by swishing four free throws in a row.

"Obviously, Jordan is the guy we wanted to have the ball in his hands," Linn-Mar coach Chris Robertson said. "The difference in the game was free throws down the stretch. He made some key shots."

Besides six straight charity shots in the last minute, the sharp-shooting point guard also canned a 3-pointer with 2:20 left to out put the Lions ahead by seven. It was his third trey of the night and the 231st of his four-year career, breaking the Metro mark of 230 held by his older brother Jason.

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"It was a fun game all around," said Bohannon, whose baby face belies a killer instinct. "Very competitive. Coach (Ryan) Luehrsmann always gets his guys ready to play."

Even, as it turns out, when he's missing key players.

After two losses last week when sophomore spark-plug Matt Mims was out with a bad ankle, the Saints Tuesday were without leading scorer and team catalyst Mitch Burger. He hurt his ankle in practice on Monday but hopes to play on Friday.

"It hurt not to be out there tonight," the senior guard said. "But I was really proud of the way our kids played. They stepped up."

Luehrsmann, too, said he was pleased with his squad's performance, despite the fact that the Class 3A fourth-ranked team (now 13-5, 9-4) has lost three in a row.

"We executed really well and had a great game offensively," he said. "Scoring wasn't problem."

In fact, both teams shot an even 60 percent from the field and the Saints made 11 of 19 from 3-point range. Free throws were the difference.

Although Mims opened the game with a long bomb, Bohannon came right back with one of his own and Linn-Mar (now 12-5, 10-3) gradually took over a lead the rest of the way.

It wasn't just Bohannon who carried the whole load.

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