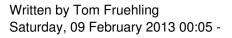
Lions' Uhlir stands tall in win over Cougars



Listed at 5-foot-10, Linn-Mar reserve point guard Nic Uhlir may stand that tall on his tippy-toes.

But the sophomore shooting specialist is playing big at just the right time.

Averaging just 4.8 points a game in part-time play, he pumped in 17 Tuesday with five 3-pointers in a 65-41 win over Dubuque Wahlert.

He followed that up Friday night at home with another team-high 16 points on four more long-range bombs to lead the Lions past Kennedy, 57-42.

"He may not be the biggest guy on the court," said Coach Chris Robertson of his late-season scoring sensation. "But he plays with a big heart.

"He's fearless out there. That's what I love about him"

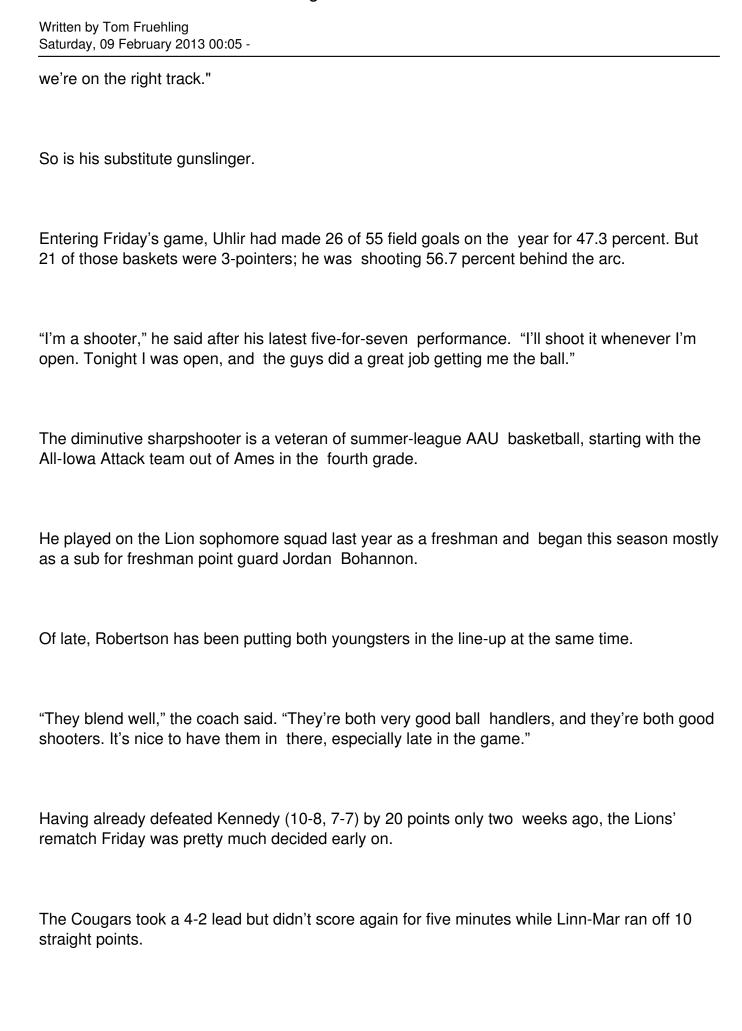
Coming off the bench late in the first quarter, Uhlir hit three-straight looping two-handed treys in the span of two minutes to spark a 13-0 Linn-Mar run. When he surprisingly put the ball on the floor and drove for a layup with a minute to go in the half, the Lions took a 27-10 lead they didn't come close to losing.

Peaking just as post-season action approaches, Linn-Mar (11-8, 10-4 MVC) has now won nine of the last 11 games, nine straight in the conference.

"We're playing with a lot of confidence right now," said Robertson. "Finally.

"Early in the season we were losing a lot of close games. Now that we've started winning some,

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Written by Tom Fruehling Saturday, 09 February 2013 00:05 -

When Uhlir got hot, the Lions took a 27-14 lead at halftime.

The third period was something of a helter-skelter affair, which seemed to suit Kennedy. The Lions went five minutes without a field goal but still maintained a 13-point margin going into the final period.

"Even when we had a couple of lapses on offense," said Roberston, "I thought we continued to guard real well. To hold Kennedy in the low 40s is pretty good."

Linn-Mar takes its winning streak to Dubuque Hempstead next Tuesday, then finishes at home two nights later against Iowa City West.

"We've got a tough road," said the ever-confident Uhlir, "but our team chemistry is way up."

KENNEDY (42): Blake Murdock 2 3-4 7, Anthony Carter 3 0-0 7, Johnathon Koelling 1 0-0 2, Austin Holzer 0 0-0 0, Derek Jacobus 0 0-0 0, John Bardsley 3 0-0 8, Brandon Buck 0 0-0 0, Pat Martin 2 2-2 6, Ben Struss 2 6-6 10, Taylor Oltmann 1 0-0 2, Draven Fuller 0 0-0 0, Drew Heitland 0 0-0 0, Totals 14 11-14 42.

LINN-MAR (57): Matt Lassen 3 6-6 12, Jordan Bohannon 2 0-0 4, Jon Schlotterback 3 1-2 7, Jimmy Roth 4 1-5 9, Derik Gogg 1 0-0 2, Nic Uhlir 5 2-3 16, Lane Halupnik 0 0-0 0, Matt Meier 3 0-0 7. Totals 21 10-16 57.

Halftime – Linn-Mar 27, Kennedy 14. 3-point goals – Kennedy 3 (Bardsley 2, Carter), Linn-Mar 5 (Uhlir 4, Meier). Total fouls – Kennedy 16, Linn-mar 15. Fouled out – none.