

Lions get boost from Jared Printy

Written by Jim Ecker

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The Bohannon and Printy families have accomplished great things in the Linn-Mar basketball program over the years with state titles, scoring records and plenty of excitement.

Now there's a member of each family on the Linn-Mar boys basketball team as the Lions prepare for another campaign.

Jordan Bohannon has started for the Lions ever since he was a freshman and enters his final season with 998 career points and a scholarship to Iowa tucked away in his back pocket. Jared Printy played at Cedar Rapids Washington the past few years and transferred to Linn-Mar for his final season of high school basketball before heading off to Western Michigan.

Bohannon and Printy give the Lions plenty of firepower on a club that features 11 seniors and other top players like Riley Murphy, Jordan Brandt and Beau Klostermann.

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Linn-Mar coach Chris Robertson said Printy has made a smooth transition to his new school.

"He's been a great fit," Robertson said. "It helped him that he knew a lot of our guys from the AAU circuit. He's known Jordan and Riley and Brandt for a lot of years.

"From that standpoint it was very smooth. He's fit right in with our guys."

Jordan Bohannon, an all-state guard, is the fourth and final brother from his family to star for the Lions, following Jason, Zach and Matt. All of his brothers won state titles and he wants one, too.

Jared Printy's cousins, Jordan and Jaime, also starred at Linn-Mar. Jordan Printy is one of the assistant coaches for the Linn-Mar boys team following his collegiate career at Indiana State, and Jaime (Printy) Brandt is the head girls basketball coach at Linn-Mar following her all-Big Ten career with the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Jared Printy averaged 12.2 points at Washington last season before moving to Linn-Mar. He's a good 3-pointer shooter and gives the Lions some much-needed size as a 6-foot-5 guard.

"Obviously it helps when you get a player of that caliber coming over," Robertson said. "He's kind of been THE guy over there (at Washington) the last few years, so he knows how to play.

"Right now it's just finding his way and figuring out where it all fits here, but he's done a terrific job and obviously he's really going to help

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us. He's unselfish, he's a good passer and runs the floor really well, which is going to fit in nicely here.

"He's going to have to defend and rebound for us, because he's going to be one of our bigger players," said Robertson. "From that standpoint, maybe he's going to have to do more than he's used to or done in the past. But so far he's done a tremendous job."

Bohannon has been a prolific 3-shooter during his career with 169 triples, including 77 last season in 23 games, so having shooters like Printy and Murphy on the floor will help keep defenses from ganging up on Bohannon.

"It does take a little pressure off," Robertson said. "Teams aren't always going to be able to send two guys or help a lot when it comes to Jordan."

Bohannon led Linn-Mar in all three major categories last season with 17.8 points, 4.6 rebounds and 4.2 assists. Robertson said Bohannon has worked even harder on putting the ball on the floor and getting to the basket.

"Obviously if he's going to play the point at Iowa, he's going to have to do more than just shoot the ball," Robertson said. "I think he's worked hard at pushing the tempo and getting into the paint."

"I think he's really motivated for his senior year. He wants his team to have a great year and I think it's helped that he's got that commitment (to Iowa) off his shoulders and the recruiting part is over. Now he can sort of relax and see how far he can get this team."

All three of Bohannon's older brothers have played Division I basketball with Jason at Wisconsin, Zach at Air Force and Wisconsin, and Matt currently at the University of Northern Iowa.

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Linn-Mar finished with an 18-5 record last season and lost to Kennedy by four points in the substate finals. Four key members of that team are playing sports in college with Nic Uhlir (Augustana basketball), Lane Halupnik (Coe basketball), Trevor Noble (Coe football) and Ryan Schmidt (Iowa football) all leaving holes to fill.

Brandt gave the Lions a boost off the bench last year and has moved into a more prominent role this season.

"He just knows how to play. I think that's the biggest thing," Robertson said. "He's not going to wow you with his physical abilities or anything like that, but all of a sudden you're going to look at the boxscore and he's going to have eight to 10 points and four to five rebounds, two or three steals. Just does a lot of little things.

"We found last year, once we put him in it was hard to take him out. He just does so many good things for the team."

Robertson said Klostermann, a 6-foot-4 center, is quick, runs the floor well and is a good shooter.

Printy and Klostermann are the tallest players on the team, so the Lions do not have much size. Robertson said the Lions will need to compensate in other areas.

"We're going to have good experience and a lot of seniors," he said. "I think offensively we'll be a fun team to watch. Obviously we want to play fast and we have a lot of guys that can shoot it from the outside.

"The challenge is going to be how we defend, especially defend inside, and how we rebound. If

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we can figure out those two parts of the game, then I think we have a chance to be pretty good, but it's definitely a concern we have right now."

Robertson listed Reese Phillips, Tyler Voves, Forrest Cronin, Bryce Miller and Brennan McGaffee as players who could help the Lions off the bench as the season begins. McGaffee is currently nursing a knee injury from football and will be sidelined until Christmas, according to Robertson.

The Lions host Waukeez in the season opener next Tuesday.

ROSTER

Seniors

Jared Printy (6-5), Riley Murphy (6-0), Evan Towlerton (6-1), Levi Werkman (6-0), Jordan Bohannon (6-1), Andrew Kraus (6-2), Beau Klostermann (6-4), Austin Angel (6-2), Forrest Cronin (6-2), Bryce Miller (6-3), Jordan Brandt (6-0).

Juniors

Nate Mentzer (6-0), Reese Phillips (6-2), Tyler Voves (6-1), Brennan McGaffee (6-1), Treigh Noble (6-2), Dylan Hand (6-3), Aaron Pistulka (6-2), KirbyKerr (6-3), Luke Sloterdijk (6-3).