

Prep state hockey meet opens Friday

By DOUG NEWHOFF
Courier Sports Writer

MASON CITY — Columbus of Waterloo sets out to finish what it started when the Sailors open play in the 12th state high school hockey tournament Friday night.

The regular-season championship firmly in hand, Columbus and Coach Mike Brown have realigned their sights toward the tournament title.

"We've had a really good year and we told the kids that we have a lot to be proud of," says Brown, whose team finished the regular season 17-1. "But it doesn't mean anything starting this week. We have to go right back at it.

"This is the one we really want."

It has been six seasons since the Sailors' last championship in 1982 and an unprecedented two straight years that either the regular-season or state tournament title hasn't belonged to a Waterloo team.

Columbus had four regular-season titles and a share of another heading into this season, as well as four state tournament championships. The Waterloo Warriors had two season titles and three state tourney crowns.

MASON CITY won both cham-

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State pairings

Games Friday

FIRST ROUND

1 p.m. — Urbandale (3-15-0) vs. Sioux City (13-4-1).

3:30 p.m. — Ames (5-13-0) vs. Waterloo Warriors (12-5-1).

6 p.m. — Mason City (5-13-0) vs. Valley-Dowling (7-11-0).

8:30 p.m. — Urbandale-S. City loser vs. Columbus (17-1-0).

Games Saturday

LOSER'S BRACKET

Games start at 10:30 a.m.

SEMIFINALS

Games at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Final league leaders

SCORING

Player	GP	Go.	Ass.	Pts.
Wehr, Col.....	18	28	38	66
Lanigan, Col.....	16	28	26	54
McFarland, WW.....	16	17	21	38
Krueger, VD.....	18	19	15	34
Grob, VD.....	18	17	16	33
Coyle, SC.....	18	13	19	32
Van Rooyan, SC.....	18	14	16	30
Scheetz, MC.....	17	22	7	29
A.MacLennan, Col. 15	9	19	28	
J.Bloom, Col.....	18	13	14	27
Meyer, WW.....	12	9	18	27
Keith, SC.....	14	13	13	26
Conard, Urb.....	18	10	15	25
Dale, Urb.....	17	9	16	25
Dressen, VD.....	18	8	16	24
Swanson, SC.....	18	8	16	24
Conrad, WW.....	16	13	9	22
Thoreson, MC.....	16	8	14	22
Dutkowski, Col.....	18	10	11	21
Bunger, WW.....	17	10	11	21
Burke, SC.....	18	10	10	20

GOALTENDING

Player	W-L-T	SOG	GA	PP	Pct
Patrick, SC.....	13-4-1	446	47	8	89.5
Gibson, VD.....	5-5-0	244	27	9	88.9
McGalliard, VD.....	2-6-0	255	30	10	88.2
Rchrdan, WW.....	11-5-1	446	53	14	88.1
Hedican, Col.....	13-1-0	308	39	11	87.3

Hockey

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pionships last season and Columbus was the tournament runner-up. This time around, the Sailors are the front-runners.

Offensively, Columbus brings the IHSFL scoring champion and runner-up into the tournament. Brian Wehr, second a year ago as a sophomore, finished with 66 points to win the scoring crown as a junior.

Wehr's linemate Neal Lanigan finished with a flurry and takes a 54-point season into the tournament.

But the real heart of Columbus' success has been its defense from the front-liners all the way back to goaltender Jason Hedican. The Sailors allowed the fewest shots on goal (383) of any team in the league and surrendered the fewest goals (44).

"Goaltending is going to be a key," says Brown. "Defensively, we haven't given up many shots, but you've gotta have somebody back there who can make the save. Jason has played well for us and we have confidence in him back there."

The Waterloo Warriors have gotten strong goaltending down the stretch from Dave Richardson and went 5-1-1 their last seven games.

"I've gotta be happy (about the regular season)," says Coach Dave Swick, whose team finished third. "You always want to win, of course, but we were only beaten by two teams and both finished above us in the league."

SIoux CITY brings the top-rated goaltender into the tournament in Scott Patrick, who finished regular-season play with a 89.5 save percentage. And Valley-Dowling has the strongest 1-2 goaltending punch in the tournament with Jim McGalliard and Eric Gibson.

"I think Sioux City, the Warriors and Valley-Dowling are gonna be tough," says Brown. "Valley has great goaltending and they're gonna have to be reckoned with in the state tournament. They're really playing well right now and the Warriors are definitely coming on."

Friday's play begins at 1 p.m. with Sioux City and Urbandale meeting. The Warriors play Ames in the second game with Columbus meeting the Sioux City-Urbandale loser in Friday's final game, set for approximately 8:30 p.m.

Saturday's semifinals are at 1 and 3:30 p.m. and Sunday's championship game is at 3:30. All games are being played at the North Iowa Recreational Arena.