

Sailors, Warriors start state tournament on winning notes

By JIM SULLIVAN
Courier Sports Writer

Camcorders sprinkled around McElroy Auditorium caught them on tape — two metro hockey teams playing the game in fast forward.

And high-speed starts meant clear-cut victories for the Waterloo Warriors and Columbus in the Iowa High School Hockey League tournament quarterfinals Friday afternoon.

The Warriors reeled off three first period goals, then put their forechecking on pause before pulling away to a 7-3 victory over Omaha. Columbus used a quartet of goals in the first 15 minutes as a warmup, erupting for nine more in the second period. The Sailors cruised to a 15-2 win over Urbandale.

In the other quarterfinal game played Friday, two-time defending champ Valley-Dowling blanked Ames, 6-0.

The big wins by Waterloo Warriors and Columbus set up Saturday morning's intricacy clash in the semifinals. Big first periods helped get them there.

For the Warriors, the early 3-0 lead, said Coach Dave Swick, was the difference between the tournament win and an 0-1-1 regular season mark against Omaha.

"I was worried about this game, but getting those first three goals gave us momentum," Swick said. "We played a real good first period."

Controlling play in the corners, the Warriors muscled up several good scoring chances. Finally, Darin Johnson broke through at 5:31 when his centering pass was deflected in. Warrior top scorer Andy Gericke, on his way to a big day, tipped in Jeff Frazee's right point shot for a power play score at 10:51. He turned a fanned Omaha clearing pass into a wrist shot tally from the right circle just 1:55 later.

After that, the Warriors "went into a shell," Swick said, as Omaha took control and narrowed the lead to 3-1 early in the second period. Back came the Warriors with a flurry. Tracy Henn popped in a rebound at 12:35 and Gericke changed Quinn

State Hockey Tournament

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Championship quarterfinals
Valley-Dowling 6, Ames 0
Waterloo Warriors 7, Omaha 3
Columbus (Waterloo) 15, Urbandale 2

Consolation bracket
Omaha 7, Mason City 3
Ames 4, Dubuque 3, OT

Ernster's feed into a hat trick goal at 14:02.

"We started forechecking again," Swick said. "That fourth goal (by Henn) may have been the biggest of the game."

Henn and Gericke, on an empty netter, added third period scores for the Warriors. The Henn-Ernster-Gericke line piled up six goals and five assists, three from Ernster. Gericke got his four goals by being in the right place at the right time, Swick said.

"He was just sliding into the slot, where he should be," the Warrior coach added. "The puck came to him with the goalie down on the second and third ones, and he threw it in — nothing wrong with that. When you get a goal like that, there's a lot of hard work involved."

Columbus, the most potent IHSHL team with a 7.7 goals per game average, worked over two Urbandale goalies for 47 shots. The four scores in the first period set the top-seeded Sailors free, and that's exactly what Coach Mike Brown wanted against the No. 8 seed.

"We told the kids not to let up," Brown said. "We didn't want to give them any opportunities. We wanted to jump on them from the opening faceoff."

It took the Sailors 5:22 to score. Defenseman Jeff Chamberlain finish off a Sailor flurry with a low drive from the right point. Less than two minutes later, Oscar Dios' backhand smacked the back of the net after Urbandale failed to clear the puck. A pair of pretty, two-on-one, give-and-go scores capped off the first period barrage. Chamberlain tallied at 9:54 and Mikko Weissenfelt at 11:22.

The Sailors poured in on in the second, with a half-dozen scores in the opening 10 minutes. Urbandale

got on the board at 12:34, then Columbus closed out the period with three goals in the final 1:56.

Two more third period scores set the final margin.

"We played really well," Brown said. "That was about as creative as we've been in the offensive zone. We moved the puck around and we beat them to the loose ones."

Dios finished with the hat trick with four different Sailors scored two each.

Valley-Dowling, trying for its third consecutive title, broke away from Ames with four goals in the second period. Nick Krueger got the hat trick for the winners.

WARRIORS 7, OMAHA 3

Omaha	0	2	1	—3
Warriors	3	2	2	—7

FIRST PERIOD — 1. Warriors, Darin Johnson (Jason Reasek) 5:31; 2. Warriors, Andy Gericke (Jeff Frazee) 10:51; 3. Warriors, Gericke (unassisted) 12:46. Penalties — Beau Bartzel, Om. (tripping) 10:00.

SECOND PERIOD — 4. Omaha, Mike Smith (Ted Lowndes, Dusty Stog) 6:53; 5. Warriors, Henn (Quinn Ernster) 12:35; 6. Warriors, Gericke (Ernster) 12:35; 7. Omaha, Dan Rice (Doug Ivester) 14:42. Penalties — Ivester, Om. (roughing) 11:09.

THIRD PERIOD — 8. Warriors, Henn (Ernster) 8:47; 9. Omaha, Lowndes (unassisted) 12:34; 10. Warriors, Gericke (Henn) 14:54. Penalties — Reasek, War. (slashing) 9:00; Simcho, Om. (unsportsmanlike conduct) 11:48; Derek Hieman, War. (tripping) 12:34.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Omaha	7	14	—28
Warriors	13	14	—35

Goalkeepers — Omaha, Marc Eiter (13 shots, 10 saves) and Scott Warwick (22 shots, 18 saves); Waterloo, K.C. Doland (26 shots, 25 saves).

Officials — Steve Kammayer and Rick Kemp, referees; Del Donaldson, linesman.

COLUMBUS 15, URBANDALE 2

Urbandale	0	1	—2
Columbus	4	9	—15

FIRST PERIOD — 1. Columbus, Jeff Chamberlain (unassisted) 5:22; 2. Columbus, Oscar Dios (Mikko Weissenfelt, Ben MacLennan) 7:05; 3. Columbus, Chamberlain (Justin Smith) 9:54; 4. Columbus, Weissenfelt (Smith) 11:22. Penalties — Weissenfelt, Col. (elbowing) 9:12; Jason Rose, Col. (cross checking) 13:13.

SECOND PERIOD — 5. Columbus, Dios (Weissenfelt) 3:07; 6. Columbus, Corey Simon (Jason Bloom) 5:49; 7. Columbus, MacLennan (Benji Buckley) 6:31; 8. Columbus, Dan Bloom (Simon) 7:36; 9. Columbus, Dios (MacLennan) 9:18; 10. Columbus, D. Bloom (Smith) 10:15; 11. Urbandale, Matt Workman (Chad Conard) 12:34; 12. Columbus, J. Bloom (MacLennan, Buckley) 13:04; 13. Columbus, Simon (Rose) 13:16; 14. Columbus, Smith (unassisted) 13:40. Penalties — Todd Martin, Urb. (hooking) 7:36; Martin, Urb. (checked from behind, misconduct) 11:08; Kacy Bird, Urb. (roughing) 13:42; John V. Eism, Col. (high sticking) 13:42; Chris Ahlers, Urb. (high sticking) 14:51.

THIRD PERIOD — 15. Columbus, MacLennan (D. Bloom, Chamberlain) 6:58; 16. Columbus, Rosa Barbatti (Rose, Buckley) 12:43; 17. Urbandale, Dennis Widlund (unassisted) 14:52. Penalties — Scott Rast, Urb. (high sticking) 1:33; Matt Wallukat, Urb. (roughing) 4:48; Widlund, Urb. (slashing) 6:17; Rast, Urb. (high sticking) 12:54; Tom Smyth, Urb. (misconduct) 12:54.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Urbandale	8	7	—15
Columbus	11	18	—47

Goalkeepers — Urbandale, Todd Zwanzinger (22 shots, 10 goals) and Ryan Walker (25 shots, 5 goals); Columbus, David Langgan (18 shots, 18 saves); Officials — Al Stoff and Mike Waddick, referees; Rick Golienvaux, linesman.