



Courier photo by GREG BROWN

Waterloo goaltender K.C. Doland congratulates teammate Derek Hileman after the Warriors built their lead over Columbus to 7-4 during semifinal-round action Saturday at the state hockey tournament. The Warriors went on to a 7-5 victory and a berth opposite Sioux City in today's championship game.

Warriors upset top-seeded Columbus to reach finals

By JIM SULLIVAN
Courier Sports Writer

Mike Brown set the stage. Today's feature attraction at McElroy Auditorium will be the Waterloo Warriors and the Last Crusade.

The Warriors spotted Columbus of Waterloo an early two-goal lead, then pulled on their hats, cracked the bull-whip and battled back. Finally, Derek Hileman's shorthanded score from center ice triggered a final period rout that gave Waterloo a 7-5 victory over the top-seeded Sailors in the Iowa High School Hockey League

State hockey glance

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Championship Semifinals
Waterloo Warriors 7, Columbus (Waterloo) 5
Sioux City 4, Valley-Dowling 3
Consolation Bracket
Urbandale 8, Ames 2
Dubuque 6, Mason City 4

GAMES SUNDAY
SEVENTH PLACE — Ames (8-15-0) vs. Dubuque (8-14-1) 8 a.m.
FIFTH — Omaha (10-12-2) vs. Urbandale (10-16-1) 11 a.m.
THIRD — Columbus (19-3-0) vs. Valley-Dowling (17-6-1) 2 p.m.
CHAMPIONSHIP — Waterloo Warriors (15-6-1) vs. Sioux City (16-6-2), 4 p.m.

state tournament semifinals.
Minutes after the final horn

wailed, Brown walked into the Warriors' lockerroom and delivered a reminder to the winners. There's one prize left to claim in this 1989-90 season — the state championship.

"It means a lot to us," said the Columbus head coach, voice drenched with emotion. "Bring it back to Waterloo."

To get it, the Warriors must beat Sioux City in today's 4 p.m. final game. The Metros knocked off two-

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Hockey/ Warriors' win

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line defending state champion Valley-Dowling, 4-3 on an early third period goal by Jesse Monell.

So a new champion will be crowned in McElroy's throne room this afternoon. If the Warriors win, it'll be their first championship since 1985. Sioux City has never won an IHSHL state trophy. A pair of seconds — in 1988 and 1978 — are the top Metros' finishes.

In the 1989-90 regular season series, the Warriors blanketed Sioux City twice by scores of 4-0 and 2-0. No one knows it better than the Metros: as a voice from their lockerroom put it after the Valley-Dowling win, "We owe them one."

The Warriors know all about paybacks. Three times they had lost to Columbus in regular season play, including a 6-2 decision Feb. 22. But in the state tournament, the Warriors outgauge a Sailor squad seeking its first tournament title in eight years.

"It was not the best game we've played this year, but the Warriors deserve a lot of credit," said Brown. "They beat us to every loose puck, and that really snags it up."

Said Warrior coach Dave Swick, "After we got down in the first period, I said to myself, 'oh, no — not another one of these.' But the boys fought back. — And we got some breaks."

One of those breaks looked at first like a disaster move with the Warriors as the fall guys. Just 2:50 into the third period Columbus scored 4-4. Quinn Ermsler drew a high sticking minor and Tracy Henn followed him into the box, saddled with a 10-minute misconduct. But, said Swick, the misconduct "gave us a little boost." Four seconds later, Hileman gave the Warriors an even bigger one.

Andy Gericke won the draw at center ice and the puck came to Hileman, who flipped it softly along the ice, toward the Columbus net. Sailor goaltender Chris Abbott tried to play it, but it skipped off his catching glove and between his legs. It was a shorthanded, go-ahead goal for the Warriors, with two members of their top line off the ice, at 2:34.

Hileman's goal may have been a long shot, but that didn't mean he simply beat the odds.

"We have a specific drill where we work on that," said Hileman, a senior defenseman. "At the beginning of the year, I couldn't hit the net, so that long range shot and the coach (Swick) was on me about that. But it all came together at the right time."

But not from a S&P perspective, "He (Abbott) just took his head up," said Brown of his goalie on the tribekrater. "It's tough under the circumstances, but he's been a damn good goalie for us."

Columbus fired 18 third period shots at Warrior goalie K.C. Doland, but couldn't beat him. The Warriors, meanwhile, tacked on two insurance scores. Gericke converted Ermsler's feed into a goal from the right of the crease at 4:42. Defenseman Jeff Frazee's blast from the point beat Abbott at 10:43.

Oscar Dios' goal with :53 remaining gave Columbus its last tally and set the two-goal margin of victory. Back in the opening period, Dios assisted on Mikko Weissenfelt's goal that opened the scoring, a deflected centering pass at 1:11. Andy MacLennan's sizzling blast from the left center puffed Columbus' lead to 2-0 at 4:17.

But the Warriors gained strength as the period grew older, pulling within 1-1 on Jason Reiseck's score at 10:21. That set the stage for a furious second period as Columbus suddenly began to struggle in its own end.

Gericke tied the game at 1:01, but Weissenfelt united it 1:04 later. Gericke's second score of the period and Kirk Schoonover's breakaway put the Warriors ahead for the first time at 4-3 before Corey Simon's backhand at 11:44 deadlocked the game.

"They came out and played well in the second period," Brown said over and over and we did some stuff we hadn't done all year."

Swick did two things differently, too, moving Schoonover from defense to wing for more size after the period. Gericke did not score a different, he kept scoring. With three goals Saturday, he now has seven goals and nine points for the tournament. The sophomore entered post-season play with 18 goals and 43 points.

"He's come on throughout the year," Swick said.

SCORE BY PERIOD

Warriors	1	2	3	3-7
Columbus	2	2	1	1-5
FIRST PERIOD — 1 Columbus, Mikko Weissenfelt (Oscar Dios, Jason Bloom) 1:11; 2 Columbus, Andy MacLennan (Weissenfelt) 4:17; 3 Warriors, Jason Reiseck (Kirk Schoonover) 10:21; Columbus, Chris Abbott (Sabanjan Jagerder, War) (charging) 11:11; MacLennan (War) 11:44; Warriors, Andy Gericke (Simon) 10:43; Quinn Ermsler (War) 10:43.				
SECOND PERIOD — 4 Warriors, Andy Gericke (Tracy Henn) 1:01; 5 Columbus, Mike Weissenfelt (War) 1:04; 6 Warriors, Gericke (Jeff Frazee) 2:34; 7 Warriors, Schoonover (Henn) 4:05; 8 Columbus, Tracy Henn (Jeff Chalmers, Jason Smith) 4:42; 9 Columbus, K.C. Doland (Tracy Henn) 10:21; 10 Columbus, K.C. Doland (Tracy Henn) 10:21; 11 Columbus, K.C. Doland (Tracy Henn) 10:21; 12 Warriors, War (charging) 11:44.				
THIRD PERIOD — (High sticking) 1:20; 2 Warriors, Hileman (Gericke) 2:34; 3 Warriors, Gericke (Ermsler, MacLennan) 4:42; 4 Columbus, Weissenfelt (Schoonover) 10:42; 5 Columbus, Ermsler, War (high sticking) 10:42; 6 Henn, War (charging) 11:44; 7 Columbus, War (charging) 11:44; 8 Columbus, War (charging) 11:44; 9 Columbus, War (charging) 11:44; 10 Columbus, War (charging) 11:44; 11 Columbus, War (charging) 11:44; 12 Columbus, War (charging) 11:44.				

SHOTS ON GOAL
Warriors 17 13 8-33
Columbus 18 17 8-33
Goalkeepers — Warriors, K.C. Doland (40 saves, 35 saves); Columbus, Chris Abbott (35 saves, 35 saves).
Officials — Referee, Al Stoltz and Mike Weissenfelt; Linesman, Rod Gulmevaux.