

Warriors face tough opener at state hockey meet

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — The two highest-scoring teams in the Iowa High School Hockey League are in Waterloo's bracket as the Warriors begin their quest for the IHSHL state tournament championship this weekend.

Waterloo (16-9-1) faces off against Sioux City (21-5) Friday at 4 p.m. in a quarterfinal-round game with the winner advancing to meet the Des Moines Capitals-St. Joseph winner in Saturday's semifinals.

Both Sioux City and the regular-season champion Capitals scored 163 goals during 26 regular-season games.

"I think we just have to do the

things we do well," said Warriors coach Mike Brown. "We've got to play well defensively and forecheck and not give them a lot of room. If we give them a lot of room, they will be all over us."

Waterloo and Sioux City were in opposite divisions and didn't meet during the regular season. That makes it all the more difficult to prepare, Brown added.

"I don't really like it," he said. "I'd be much more comfortable having seen them once than not knowing what we're going to get into. We've just got to go play hard and make decisions on the run.

"It's harder both ways — for us and them."

The Warriors will take nine double-digit scorers into tournament play, led by Josh Braby's 47 points. Ryan Shaw has 37, Bryce Anderson 35 and Mike Messerer 31. Jon Schell and Brandt Clark have contributed 16 apiece with Blake Knoll and Cory Wagner at 12, and Chad Cutsforth at 11.

Goaltender Treye Kettwick posted a .903 save percentage during the regular season when Waterloo gave up an average of just 2.5 goals per game.

Sioux City's potent 6.3 goals-per-game offense features eight players

who have scored at least 27 points. Kyle Worner has 49, Brett Sanders has 42, Ben Deck has 40, Matt Tonjum is at 37, Greg Gill scored 34 points in just 13 varsity games, Robbie Lessard and Brant Mozak are at 32 and Dustin Browning is at 27.

Jake Hindermann stands 13-4 with a .902 save percentage in the nets.

Other quarterfinal-round games Friday at Bode Ice Arena pit the West Division champion Omaha Gladiators (21-5) against Ames (8-16-2) and Mason City (17-9) against Kansas City (21-5).

The championship game is set for 3 p.m. Sunday.

Waterloo captures third at JV tournament

SIoux CITY— Josh Dicken tallied a hat trick and Zach Smith knocked in the winning goal as the Waterloo Warriors defeated the Des Moines Capitals for the first time this season, 4-3, to capture third place at the IHSHL junior varsity state tournament last weekend.

The Warriors, who outlasted the Omaha Lancers in a six-overtime game in the opening round, bowed 5-1 to Kansas City in the semifinals. Sioux City won the tournament with a 2-1 win over Kansas City.