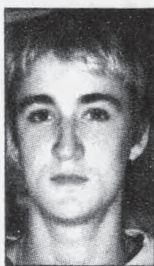


Abben



Fox

Capitals rally past Mohawks

By DOUG BARRETT
Of The Globe Gazette

DUBUQUE — The Mason City Hockey Club's dream of winning another state championship will have to wait for another year.

The Mohawks (26-9-0-1) were unable to cool a three-goal third period rally by the Des Moines Capitals and fell, 5-4, in the semifinal round of the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament Saturday.

The Mohawks face Sioux City (21-14-0-0) in the third-place game today at 11:30 a.m. Des Moines (27-8-0-1) will face the Omaha Jr. Lancers for the state championship this afternoon.

"We outplayed them for two periods, but they outplayed us in the third period," said first-year Mohawk coach Mark Hicks. "We've just got to stay focused for 45 minutes."

Mason City's Jon Bushbaum was called for checking from behind with the game

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STATE HOCKEY

Saturday's Results

Lincoln Jr. Stars 4, Waterloo 1
DM Oak Leafs 8, Dubuque 1
DM Capitals 5, Mason City 4
Omaha Jr. Lancers 1, Sioux City 0 (OT)

Today's Games

7th place (7 a.m.) — Waterloo vs. Dubuque
5th place (9:15 a.m.) — Lincoln vs. Oak Leafs
3rd place (11:30 a.m.) — Mason City vs. Sioux City
Championship (1:45 p.m.) — Omaha vs. Capitals

HOCKEY

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tied at 4-all and 3:50 to play in the third. Des Moines made the penalty stick as Josh Betcher fired home the Jeff Cheeseman assist 12 seconds later.

The call was a bit unexpected, especially since the game was a physical contest from the outset. But the judgement exposed one of Mason City's only weaknesses — penalty killing. Of the five goals Mason City allowed Saturday, three were scored when the Mohawks were shorthanded.

"I don't know what to say, it was a good game," said Hicks. "It's probably going to be one of the best games of the tournament."

"It's tough to lose that way, but the team that deserved to win won in the end. There's nothing we can do about it."

Mason City charged out to a 4-1 first period lead on goals by Kyle Abben, Erik Fox, Justin Johnson and Cole Despenas. Despenas' goal came with 1.7 seconds to play in the period.

But the physical play seemed to wear on the Mohawks. Mason City took 16 shots in the first period, eight in the second and two in the third. Des Moines took seven shots in the first, two in the second and 19 in the third.

Des Moines' Eric Adamson made the score 4-2 with an unassisted goal in the second period. Capital forward Brad Krueger made the score 4-3 47 seconds into the third period. Zach Gates tied the game at 4-4 with his goal at the 6:44 mark of the third.

Abben led the Mohawks with a goal and two assists. Fox had a goal and an assist. Brad Bohl had a pair of assists.

Cheeseman led the Capitals with a goal and two assists.

All-star game set

A week after scrapping with each other for a state championship, select Iowa High School Hockey League players will put their skills on display in all-star competition. The East and West All-Stars will meet Saturday, March 2 at Young Arena in Waterloo. The game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Six Mason City Hockey Club players were chosen to represent the East team. Brandon Lind (goalie), Cole Despenas (forward) and Brandon Millard (defenseman) were named as first team all-stars. Forwards Erik Fox, Kyle Abben and Kyle Huff round out the Mason City contingent.

Krueger had a goal and an assist.

The Mohawks close out their season against a team they swept during the regular season. The Metros are paced by forward Kyle Barrett, who entered state tournament play with 23 goals and 32 assists.

"We've got some senior guys, and tomorrow is their last game. I think they'll get us going again," said Hicks.

Des Moines	1	1	3	—	5
Mason City	4	0	0	—	4

SCORING

FIRST PERIOD — 1. Mason City, Kyle Abben (Brad Bohl), 2:22. 2. Mason City, Erik Fox (Abben, Bohl), 8:53. 3. Des Moines, Jeff Cheeseman (Brad Krueger), 10:36. 4. Mason City, Justin Johnson (Cale Lang), 12:39. 5. Mason City, Cole Despenas (Fox, Abben), :01.

SECOND PERIOD — 6. Des Moines, Eric Adamson (Unassisted), 10:27.

THIRD PERIOD — 7. Des Moines, Krueger (Chad Costello, Cheeseman), :47. 8. Des Moines, Zach Gates (Eric Butterwick, Johnny Johnson), 6:44. 9. Des Moines, Josh Betcher (Cheeseman), 11:32.

SHOTS BY PERIOD — Des Moines 7-2-19 — 28

Mason City 16 8 2 — 26

GOALIES — Kyle Walsh, Des Moines (26 shots, 22 saves). Brandon Lind, Mason City (28 shots, 23 saves).

PENALTIES-MINUTES — Des Moines 3-6. Mason City 4-8.