

Mohawks top Metros for third, 3-2

□ Mason City opens up early lead, holds on for win in consolation game

By DOUG BARRETT
Of The Globe Gazette

DUBUQUE — The Mason City Hockey Club wrapped up its season Sunday with a

third-place finish in the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament.

The Mohawks (27-9-0-1) clinched third with a 3-2 win over the Sioux City Metros (21-15-0-0) at the Five Flags Center. Mason City, which lost a close 5-4 semifinal game with the Des Moines Capitals, rallied to finish on high note in the first season under new head coach Mark Hicks.

"It's tough to get motivated," said Hicks. "But the guys did a nice job. They played hard and pulled it out in the end."

Mason City followed the same blueprint it has used all season, start fast and build an early lead. Sophomore forward Cole Despenas broke open a scoreless tie on a feed from Erik Fox and Kyle Abben with 5:19 to play in the first period.



Fox



Hicks

TOURNAMENT FACTS

Championship
Omaha 3, DM Capitals 0
MVP — Ben Morris (Omaha)
3rd Place
Mason City 3, Sioux City 2
5th Place
DM Oakleafs 7, Lincoln 2
7th Place
Waterloo 3, Dubuque 2

Abben made the score 2-0 with his goal with 11:07 to play in the second.

Sioux City cut the lead to 2-1 on a Kyle Jacobsen goal seven minutes into the third period. Fox connected with Abben for Mason City's final goal with 2:07 to play in the third.

"Other than losing last night I'm happy," said Fox, a senior from Hampton. "I'm happy we didn't come out here and not try. Everybody came out and did their best all weekend."

"For the seniors it's our last tournament, so I'm happy that at least we got some hardware."

Fox is one of six seniors the Mohawks lose to graduation. The others include Justin Servantez, Mike Lukes, Kyle Huff, Jon Bushbaum and Ryan Whitcomb.

However, the Mohawks return Despenas and Abben, who were top-10 scorers in the Iowa High School Hockey League. Also back for another campaign will be goalie Brandon Lind.

"We have a lot of young outstanding players," said Fox. "Cole and Abben, they're going to be leaders next year. Younger players like (Carter) Angell and (Justin) Johnson,

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they're going to have to be leaders, too."

ALL-STATERS

Several Mohawks earned all-state recognition at Saturday night's awards banquet.



Despenas

Despenas was first team all-IHSHL. Lind and defenseman Brandon Millard were second team selections. Huff, Abben and Fox were honorable mention choices.

This same group of six will represent Mason City at next weekend's IHSHL All-Star Game, which will be held Saturday in Waterloo. The

Mohawks lead the league in all-star game selections.

CHAMPIONS

The Omaha Jr. Lancers beat the Capitals, 3-0, to win the IHSHL title. Forward Kyle Sheldon finished the game with a pair of goals. Goalie Ben Morris was named tournament MVP.

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|------------|---|---|---|---|
| Sioux City | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Mason City | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

SCORING

FIRST PERIOD — 1. Mason City, Cole Despenas (Erik Fox, Kyle Abben), 9:41.

SECOND PERIOD — 2. Mason City, Kyle Abben (Brad Bohl, Despenas), 3:53.

THIRD PERIOD — 3. Sioux City, Kyle Jacobson (Kyle Rogers, Travis Shoemaker), 6:54. 4. Mason City, Abben (Fox), 12:53. 5. Sioux City, Jack Brooks (Rogers), 13:49.

SHOTS BY PERIOD

| | | | | |
|------------|---|----|---|----|
| Sioux City | 5 | 5 | 6 | 16 |
| Mason City | 8 | 10 | 3 | 21 |

Goalies

Travis Shoemaker, Sioux City (21 shots, 18 saves). Brandon Lind, Mason City (16 shots, 14 saves)

Penalties-Minutes

Sioux City 7-17, Mason City 5-10