

# Mohawks skate into semifinals

□ Three first-period goals help Mohawks down Waterloo, 5-2

By **DOUG BARRETT**  
Of The Globe Gazette

**DUBUQUE** — The Mason City Hockey Club wanted to open the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament on a positive note.

Consider that mission accomplished.

The Mohawks (26-8-0-1) advanced to the semifinal round of the state tournament with a 5-2 win over Waterloo (13-20-1-1) Friday at the Five Flags Center. Mason City will face the Des Moines Capitals this afternoon at 1:30.

"I think it was a great game," Mohawk coach Mark Hicks said. "The first ones usually are pretty tough, but we came out fired up and got three quick goals."

The Mohawks got off to a fast start with a pair of goals 30 seconds apart in the first period. Kyle Huff slapped home the rebound of Jon Bushbaum's shot with 10:54 to play in the first. Kyle Abben made the score 2-0 on a



Abben



Zach

## STATE HOCKEY

### Friday's Results

DM Capitals 6, Lincoln Jr. Stars 2  
Mason City 5, Waterloo 2  
Sioux City 3, DM Oak Leafs 1  
Omaha Jr. Lancers 7, Dubuque 3

### Today's Games

9 a.m. — Lincoln Jr. Stars vs. Waterloo  
11:15 a.m. — DM Oak Leafs vs. Dubuque  
1:30 p.m. — DM Capitals vs. Mason City  
3:45 p.m. — Sioux City vs. Omaha Jr. Lancers.

feed from Erik Fox 32 seconds later.

Abben added a second goal, on assists from Fox and Cole Despenas with 4:37 to play in the first. Luke Langdale got Waterloo on the board with a goal at 10:23 in the first.

Mason City went into the first intermission with a 3-1 lead and never trailed in the game.

"Our two top lines scored all the goals, but I thought our best line of the night was the third one," said Hicks. "Carter Angell, Justin Johnson and Evan Zach — they did the job. I told them they needed to play defense and they played great defense."

Instead of playing safe with its third line, Mason City kept up the pressure started by the first two lines.

"That was our job," said Zach. "We were to not give up goals and play tight defensively. We were in a one-man forecheck, we had one guy high all the time, we didn't want them to score any goals."

The Mohawk defense was tight across the board, especially in penalty killing situations. Mason City drew eight

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minutes worth of penalties in the second period, but didn't give up a power play goal until Waterloo's Bryan Corwin made the score 4-2 23 seconds into the third period.

"Ryan Whitcomb had a great game and (Brandon) Millard and (Brad) Bohl and (Cale) Lang and (Mike) Lukes. All those guys just played great I thought," Hicks said.

The Capitals (26-8-0-1) advanced to the semifinals with a 6-2 win over Lincoln in the first game of the tournament. Mason City went 2-1

with the Capitals this season.

"We matched up real well with them this year," said Zach. "We beat them twice, but they got us once. I think we can beat them tomorrow. We're playing good."

Waterloo	1	0	1—2
Mason City	3	1	1—5

### SCORING

**FIRST PERIOD** — 1. Mason City, Kyle Huff (Jon Bushbaum), 4:06. 2. Mason City, Kyle Abben (Erik Fox), 4:38. 3. Mason City, Abben (Fox, Despenas), 8:09. 4. Waterloo, Luke Langdale (Jason Dobes, Brandon DeWolf), 10:23.

**SECOND PERIOD** — 5. Mason City, Bushbaum (Huff), 9:40.

**THIRD PERIOD** — 6. Waterloo, Bryan Corwin (Langdale), 14:37. 7. Mason City, Fox (Despenas, Abben), :35.

### SHOTS BY PERIOD

Waterloo: 11-4-7—22. MCHS: 12-7-10—29.  
**GOALIES:** Brandon Lind (MC): 22 shots, 20 saves. Andy Wright (W): 29 shots, 24 saves.