

Metros shock No. 1 Mohawks

□ Sioux City knocks off Mason City in IHSHL semifinals

By CHARLES EMERICK
For The Globe Gazette

WATERLOO – Regular season success never guarantees postseason prosperity.

And with a record of 31-1-1, the Iowa High School Hockey League's regular-season champion Mason City Mohawks knew this very well. But in the semifinal round of the state tournament Saturday afternoon in Young Arena, the Sioux City Metros stuck an arrow directly into the bullseye which rested on the backs of the No. 1 Mohawks.

Sioux City's Kevin Lohry had a hand in four goals as the Metros toppled the Mohawks 6-4 and advanced to today's championship game against the Des Moines Oak Leafs.

"Mason City was in first place all year and we knew we could beat them," Lohry said. "We have the talent and we finally put it all together for this tournament."

Lohry, who recorded four goals and two assists in a 10-7 victory over Waterloo Friday, scored three of the Metros goals. He also had an assist.

The Metros totaled just 17 shots on goal, but managed to slip six of those by Mohawk goalie Brandon Lind.

Mason City coach Mark Hicks called it bad defensive performance by the Mohawks.

"I have to give Sioux City credit," Hicks said. "We went up on them and then we just folded. We probably played the worst game we could have defensively. I'm not

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RICK CHASE/Waterloo Courier

Mason City's Mike Murtaugh flips a shot past Sioux City goalie Beau Erickson to give the Mohawks a 2-0 lead early in the first period of their loss to Sioux City.

'Drowning' feeling accompanies heartbreak loss

By DOUG BARRETT
Of The Globe Gazette

WATERLOO – Drowning.

That was how coach Mark Hicks described his feelings as he watched time wind down on Mason City's bid to win an Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament championship.

"You don't know what it's like to be out there with something like this on the line," Hicks said. "You're in

desperation. It's like you're drowning and you need to get to shore."

Coach said it best. There were the Metros, going crazy as the clock ticked onward to one of the biggest wins of their season. A few feet away stood the Mohawks, working and praying for a lifeline that wasn't there.

The IHSHL state tournament is a crazy thing. To get to it a team must play well through a grinding 33 game

schedule. To win it, a team must string three good – and sometimes great – games together over three straight days.

Have a bad shift, run into a hot goalie or get caught flatfooted as the puck takes a crazy bounce; all the above and more can end a state title dream. How else can you explain how a team outshoots another 31-17 and loses by two goals? How else can you explain how 18-11

beats 31-1?

"That's the beauty of our league," Hicks said. "You come down here for three days and anyone can win."

"We're not going to look at it like we were 31-1 and had a crappy state tournament. No, we came up against a tough team in a tough tournament. That's a credit to all the coaches and players we have in the organization. It's better than what people out-

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Loss hard to swallow

DROWNING

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side give it credit for, and I'm proud to be part of it."

Saturday wasn't the end, and that's something Hicks also pointed out. The Mohawks get to play the Des Moines (Capitals or Oak Leafs) for third this morning at 11:30; and while it isn't what they came here for, but it's better than a kick in the pants.

Today also marks the last go round for Hicks and this group of seniors, some of whom he has known and has

been coaching for six years.

"I just feel bad for them," Hicks said. "They didn't deserve to go out like this. But in the same breath, it's a good life lesson that you have to be ready."

"Every one of these seniors, they'll be successful in their business life, they'll be successful coaching hockey and put something back in the game. That's what I take out of it. They're pretty good kids."

Coach said it best. It is hard watching people you care about come up short. But it's not so bad when you know this isn't their last shot.