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Revenge is sweet: The Des Moines Oak Leafs are going to the semifinals of the Iowa High School Hockey League State Tournament after beating defending champ Sioux City, 1-0, on Friday. Sioux City beat Des Moines last season.

Oak Leafs get redemption, oust defending champion

Sioux City defeated Des Moines for title in three OTs last season.

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Pregame rituals were not necessary for the Des Moines Oak Leafs, only a good memory.

Oak Leafs defenseman Joshua Marean scored the game's only goal in the first period, giving his team a 1-0 win over Sioux City Friday in the opening round of the Iowa High School Hockey League State Tournament at Urbandale.

Sioux City won last year's championship, defeating the Oak Leafs, 6-5, in triple overtime. Marean remembered that game, and the words of advice he received afterward.

"Our outgoing seniors told us if we lined up with them again to destroy them. Well, we didn't destroy them, but we did what we had to do to win," Marean said. "It's great to come back in the very next state tournament and eliminate them from the winner's bracket; they have no chance now."

Revenge and redemption replaced the Oak Leafs' usual beforehand bravado.

"We usually listen to a speech from an army general, but today we didn't do that," Marean said. "Just our normal stretching and taping of the sticks."

Marean scored just his sixth goal of the season after a deflected shot came to him as he moved inside the blue line.



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He shoots, he scores: Des Moines Capitals forward Spencer Krohn beat Ames goalie Tom Elston in a 2-1 win Friday. The Capitals will face the Oak Leafs today.

"In previous games, I'm never the one to score," Marean said. "But it just so happened to be me this time. I'm shocked I was the only one to score."

Oak Leafs goalie Tim Thomas did not need further support, stopping all 37 shots he faced for his third shutout of the season.

"He's been doing that all year for us," Oak Leafs coach Doug Borad said.

Thomas made several

difficult saves, including three critical stops with three minutes left.

Thomas snared a wrist shot from the left face-off circle by Tyler Hansen, then blocked two point-blank shots from 2003 tournament most valuable player Kevin Lohrey seconds later.

"He was pretty close, and I saw him out of the corner of my eye and I knew I had to get to the post as fast as I could," Thomas said.

Sioux City goalie Beau Erickson was nearly his equal, missing just one of 38 shots.

Erickson led the IHSHL in shutouts and was second in save percentage during the regular season.

The Oak Leafs will play in an all-city semifinal at noon today against the top-seeded Des Moines Capitals, who defeated Ames, 2-1.

"We didn't overlook Ames. We respected Ames, and if we hadn't, I think we'd have been on the other end of the score," Capitals coach Scott Krueger said.

The Capitals won the regular-season championship with 50 points (25-5), and built a 2-0 lead early in the second period when Brad Krueger set up Austin Olson for his first goal of the season.

"I'm good friends with him, and we've been looking for that goal for a long time," Brad Krueger said. "I told him when he got it, it was going to be a big one."

The Little Cyclones scored 38 power-play goals during the season, but never went on the man-advantage during the game.