



# DOUBLED UP

## Capitals knock off Mohawks in IHSHL championship game



SARAH SCHUTT/The Globe Gazette

Mason City's Brad Bissig (29) buries his head in disappointment after the Mohawks lost to the Des Moines Capitals, 6-3, in the Iowa High School Hockey League title game Sunday at the Metro Sports Ice Arena. In the background is Carter Angell (13) approaches Mohawk goalie Brent Frein.

□ D.M. Capitals outshoot Mohawks 36-19 in title game victory

By KIRK HARDCASTLE  
Of The Globe Gazette

DES MOINES — This wasn't the way it was supposed to end for Cole Despenas and the other 12 seniors on the Mason City Hockey Club.

The top-seeded Des Moines Capitals received two goals from Spencer Krohn and stopped the Mohawks, 6-3, in Sunday's Iowa High School Hockey League championship game at the Metro Ice Sports Arena.

But if Despenas had to lose in a championship game, he said he's glad it was to the Capitals.

"A lot of those guys are my buddies," Despenas said. "I've hung out with them. Next weekend, I have Chicago Showcase tryouts, and I'll be with all of them."

And the Capitals have complete bragging rights over Despenas as the Capitals won all four meetings against the Mohawks this season.

The Capitals, who outscored the Mohawks 17-9 in the four meetings, outshot the Mohawks 36-19 on Sunday.

Des Moines Capitals' coach Scott Krueger called his team's defense against the Mohawks outstanding.

"We gave them three shots in the first period," he said. "We held the highest scoring team in the league to nothing in 2 1/2 periods."

"They (the Mohawks) fly the zone a lot. We didn't want our defensemen pressing. They stayed back and didn't give up any odd-man situations."

In Sunday's contest, the Capitals jumped out to a 4-0 lead and withstood a late third-period Mohawk rally to claim their

See MOHAWKS, B4

### TOURNAMENT RECAP

**Sunday's Results**  
Championship Game  
DM Capitals 6, Mason City 3  
Third-place Game  
DM Oak Leaves 4, Kansas City 2  
Fifth-place Game  
Omaha Jr. Lancers 6, Sioux City 2  
Seventh-place Game  
Waterloo 6, Ames 2

**Saturday's Results**  
Semifinal Games  
DM Capitals 2, DM Oak Leaves 1  
Mason City 8, Kansas City 2  
Consolation Games  
Omaha Jr. Lancers 7, Waterloo 3  
Sioux City 7, Ames 4



Despenas

By KIRK HARDCASTLE  
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DES MOINES — Mason City Hockey Club coach Mark Hicks still called it a successful season.

Mason City, which was seeking its first title since 1997, dropped a 6-3 decision to the Des Moines Capitals in Sunday's Iowa High School Hockey League championship game at the Metro Ice Sports Arena.

"That's the beauty of the state tournament," Hicks said. "If you don't win it all, it ends on a disappointing note."

"We had a great year from start to finish. We had great support from North Iowa. We have a great bunch of kids, and I feel bad for them."

Senior forward Cole Despenas said it's a plus making it to the title game.

"But you always think what could have happened if you just gave a little bit more," he said. "We had a few bad bounces and everything didn't go our way."

"It's going to hurt for awhile."

In Hicks' three seasons as coach, the Mohawks have placed third (2002), fourth (2003) and second.

"If you finish in the top four in this league, it's a successful season," the coach said. "It's just a credit to Mason City Youth Hockey and the surrounding area that supplies our players."

Hicks called the Youth Hockey Association a great organization to work for.

"It's the best in the state, the best in the Midwest," he said. "I'm really proud to be a part of it and I know the kids are."

Next season, Hicks will have to replace 13 seniors, including three of the top five scorers in the league.

Hicks called this group of seniors a special bunch.

"They're funny," he said. "They're always in good spirits. They keep me feeling young."

"They have a good time when they come to the rink."

## Power-play goal dooms Mohawks in title game

**Mohawks**  
From Page B1

first tournament title since 2000.

"They just worked a little harder," Despenas said. "They beat us to the puck. They were a little bit faster and a little bit stronger."

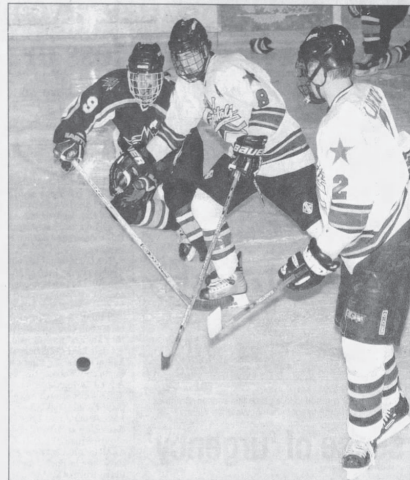
—Mason City's Cole Despenas

The goal would prove to be a break-breaker for the Mohawks.

"It was a stab in the back, basically," said Mason City's Mike Muraugh, who scored two goals. "They got so much momentum and were pumped up and ready to go."

They were relaxed, and we were all freaking out not knowing what to do because we were down 1-0."

The Capitals pushed their lead to 3-0 with a pair of sec-



Top: Mason City's Mike Muraugh (9) tries to recover the puck from the Des Moines Capitals' Roch Naert (6) and Marc Lawrence (2). Left: The Capitals' Brad Krueger (7) slides across the ice as he tries to stop a pass from Mason City's Zach Buss in Sunday afternoon's championship game.

SARAH SCHUTT  
The Globe Gazette



ond-period goals and made it 4-0 15 seconds into the third period.

"First-minute goals and last-minute goals are killers," Mason City coach Mark Hicks said.

The Mohawks managed to trim the deficit to 5-3 at the 11:57 mark.

The Capitals scored an empty-net goal with 49 seconds remaining to push the lead back to three goals.

"Until they scored that sixth one, I thought we were going to get at least four and put some heat on them," Hicks said. "I was confident and all the guys were until the end. Nobody gave up."

—Mason City's Cole Despenas

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—Mason City's Cole Despenas

9-3-3  
1-2-3-6

**SCORING**  
First period  
14:51 (Power play)  
DM — Brent Ferguson (Mike Lawrence), 14:51 (Power play)

**Second Period**  
DM — Derek Elliot (Roch Naert, Steven Erickson), 7:41 (Short-handed)  
DM — Spencer Krohn (Nate Jacobs, Tim Ramsey), 8:22 (Power play)  
MC — Alex Magnus, 11:28 (Power play)

**Third Period**  
DM — Brad Krueger (James Brock), 11:57  
MC — Mike Muraugh (Cole Despenas), 6:01 (Power play)  
DM — Kevin Fleming (Ryan Moe), 7:31  
MC — Alex Magnus, 11:28 (Power play)  
DM — Spencer Krohn (Nate Jacobs), 11:57 (Power play)  
DM — Brent Ferguson (Mike Lawrence), 14:51 (Power play)

**Shots on goal** — Mason City 9-9-7

16 Capitals 15-11-12 — 36  
Penalties — Mason City 6-20  
Goalies — Mason City: Tyler Brown, Brent Frein (3); Capitals: Steven Erickson.