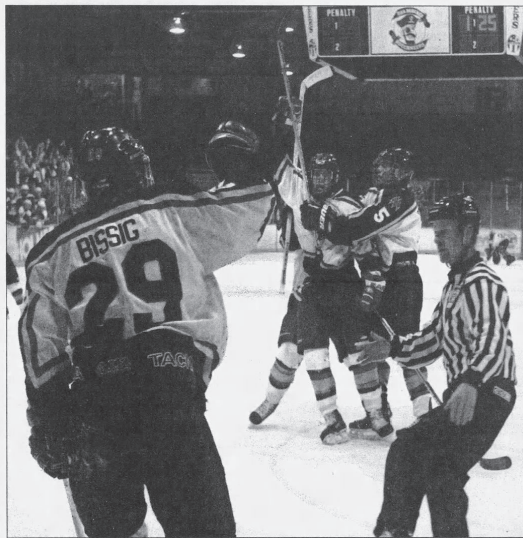


MOHAWKS MOVE ON



SARAH SCHUTTITE/Globe Gazette

Mason City's Brad Bissig joins teammates Justin Johnson and Cole Despenas (5) as they celebrate the Mohawks' fourth goal against the Waterloo Warriors Friday in the first round of the state tournament.

Murtaugh scores two goals in Mason City win

By KIRK HARDCASTLE
Of The Globe Gazette

DES MOINES — Mike Murtaugh of the Mason City Hockey Club said everything was in sync.

Murtaugh scored two goals and had an assist to help lead the Mohawks to a 6-2 victory over Waterloo on Friday in the opening round of the Iowa High School Hockey League tournament at the Metro Ice Sports Arena.

"I love it," Murtaugh said.

"We're playing awesome. Everybody's clicking. We're getting excellent play. We're getting shots, and that's what we need."

Everything was definitely clicking in the second period for Mason City against the Warriors. After skating to a 1-1 tie in the first period, the Mohawks scored three goals on 20 shots to take a commanding 4-1 lead.

The Mohawks received second-period goals from Murtaugh, Alex Maginnis

and Brad Johnson.

"The second period — that's our hockey," said Mason City coach Mark Hicks, whose team faces seventh-seeded Kansas City, which the Mohawks swept, at 2:15 p.m. today in the semifinals. "We played three guys back and two guys in floor checking, and we got a lot of goals off of that. It was really good, and we just have to continue to do that."

Hicks said his team also

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STATE SCHEDULE

Friday's games
Mason City 6, Waterloo 2
Kansas City 2, Omaha 1 (2 OT)
DM Oak Leafs 1, Sioux City 0
DM Capitans 2, Ames 1

Today's Games
7:30 a.m. — Waterloo vs. Omaha
9:45 a.m. — Sioux City vs. Ames
Noon — Oak Leafs vs. Capitans
2:15 p.m. — Mason City, Kansas City



SARAH SCHUTTITE/Globe Gazette

Mason City's Carter Angell (right) fights with Waterloo's Jon Kolthoff (27) and Charlie Bowman (25) in the first round of the state tournament Friday.

Mohawks to face Kansas City today

Mohawks

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played well in the first period, but the Mohawks only managed one goal off of eight shots.

"We just missed the net a lot," the coach said. "We could have had three or four goals in the first period, but we were just bombing them past the net into the glass."

In the first period, Matt Metcalf put Waterloo in front, 1-0, 4:46 into the period, but the Mohawks tied the contest about a minute later when Cole Despenas scored off assists from Murtaugh and Maginnis.

Murtaugh said the Mohawks settled down after allowing the first goal to the Warriors.

"We just played our game," the senior forward said. "We knew coming in that they were going to take it to us. We settled down and started making good passes and took good shots. The players our game, it's as simple as that."

The six goals by the Mohawks were more than enough for junior goal tender Brent Frein, who stopped 25 of 27 shots.

"I was pretty nervous at the start of the game," said Frein, who was making his first state tournament appearance. "I started to calm down about halfway through the first period."

Hicks, who told Frein at Thursday's practice that he would be the Mohawks' starter in goal for the opener, was pleased with Frein's effort.

"Brent did a heckuva job, a heckuva job," Hicks said. "Like I said earlier in the week, I have confidence in both of our goalies. The players also have confidence in both of them. Tyler (Brown) will also play this weekend. It's going to be good for us."

And six goals per game also helps a goalie's confidence.

NOTEBOOK: Mason City will play today's semifinal contest against the Kansas City Junior Blades without senior

forward Carter Angell.

Angell, who was third in the league in scoring with 62 points, received a game misconduct for fighting late in Friday's 6-2 opening round win over the Waterloo Warriors.

"That'll take out a big part of our offense," Murtaugh said.

"Carter's a big-time part of our offense. He's a heckuva player. He's got good hands, a good shot and he makes good passes. It's going to be tough."

MASON CITY 6, WATERLOO 2
Waterloo 10:1 — 2
Mason City 13:2 — 6

SCORING
FIRST PERIOD
W — Matt Metcalf (Jon Kolthoff, Brice Thompson), 4:46; MC — Cole Despenas (Mike Murtaugh, Alex Maginnis), 5:48 (power play).

SECOND PERIOD
MC — Murtaugh (Solhan Angell), Carter Angell, 5:29; MC — Maginnis (Despenas, Justin Johnson), 8:19; MC — Johnson (Brent Frein, Kyle Burgenner), 11:05 (power play).

THIRD PERIOD
MC — Murtaugh (Solhan Angell), 5:49; MC — Burgenner (Maginnis, Angell), 8:41 (power play); W — Thompson (Matt call), 12:11 (power play).

Shots on goal — Waterloo, 9-10-8 — 27; Mason City, 8-20-10 — 38.

Goalies — Waterloo, Ryan Larabee; Mason City, Brent Frein.
Penalties—minutes — Waterloo 12:17; Mason City 8:17.