

Mohawks not lacking confidence, enter tournament seeded second

By JARED PATTERSON
Of The Globe Gazette

MASON CITY — Seniors Jacob Bushbaum and Zach Buss had a bad feeling in their stomachs.

Any confidence the Mason City Hockey Club had was gone.

Winning a state title was also put on the back burner.

"I was thinking we weren't very good," Bushbaum said about a 7-1 loss to the Des Moines Capitals on Dec. 5.

But that game, according to Bushbaum and Buss, was the turning point in Mason City's season.

The Mohawks beat the Capitals 12 days later on their way to claiming the No. 2 seed for the

Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament that begins Friday in Shawnee, Kan.

"I think our younger guys just started realizing their roles," said Buss, who is third on the team with 33 points. "Now, if we play our best, we can beat anybody."

Mason City (22-4-3-1) begins the tournament against seventh-seeded Lincoln (10-17-2-1) at 6:45 p.m.

The Mohawks beat the Jr. Stars three times in the regular season, 4-2, 7-3 and 2-1.

"I just want to beat Lincoln, we're not worried about anybody else," Mason City coach Mark Hicks said.

If the Mohawks can get by the Jr. Stars, they will likely meet the third-seeded Des Moines Oak

Leafs in the semifinals.

The Oak Leafs beat the Mohawks in two of three meetings, one of which came in overtime. Mason City's win was an 8-2 triumph on Feb. 4.

"If we can get those first two, we are going to have some confidence going into the championship game," Buss said.

Last season, the Mohawks lost 6-3 in the championship game to the Des Moines Capitals.

Mason City's last championship came in the 1997 season when the Mohawks beat the Omaha Jr. Lancers 3-2.

"If we play the way we can, we'll win it," Hicks said. "I'm sure there are seven other teams saying that, but I believe it."

And everybody on the Mason City roster believes it as well.

"The last few years have been really tough," forward Gilberto Solivan said. "We are due for a state championship."



Bushbaum



Buss



ROSTER

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Yr.	School
1	Labreeze Lowery	5-10	155	G	Fr	M.C.
2	Zach Alexandres	5-10	145	D	Sr	M.C.
3	Dylan Miller	6-1	185	D	Sr	M.C.
4	Gilberto Solivan	5-10	150	F	Sr	Newman
5	Chris Jensen	5-8	165	F	Fr	Newman
6	Brent Schloemer	5-11	155	F	Jr	M.C.
8	Jeff Jones	5-11	150	F	Sr	M.C.
9	Matt Adamski	5-8	165	D	So	M.C.
12	Justin Moorman	5-11	160	F	Sr	M.C.
13	Greg Hepperly	5-7	195	F	So	M.C.
14	Matt Trees	6-0	165	D	So	C.L.
15	Matt Kleckner	6-0	175	F	Sr	M.C.
16	Dylan Fix	5-6	135	F	Fr	Newman
17	Dominique Lind	5-5	160	F	Jr	M.C.
18	Jacob Bushbaum	6-3	185	F	Sr	M.C.
19	Nils Berggren	5-11	160	F	So	M.C.
20	Josh Held	6-2	170	F	So	M.C.
22	Garrett Hepperly	5-11	165	D	So	M.C.
23	Ryan Lorentzen	5-6	165	F	Sr	M.C.
24	Mike Palmieri	6-1	155	F	So	M.C.
27	Alex Maginnis	5-10	170	F	Sr	M.C.
28	Nathan Kutz	5-11	135	F	So	C.L.
32	Zack Miller	5-8	150	D	Jr	M.C.
33	Josh Klocke	5-11	175	F	Sr	Newman
35	Austin Maginnis	5-9	140	G	So	M.C.
36	Sam Wetter	5-7	135	F	Jr	M.C.
37	Sean Kuhl	6-1	185	D	Sr	M.C.
38	Zeke Zirkel	6-2	175	D	So	M.C.
40	Spenser Poppinga	5-10	145	D	Fr	M.C.
41	Sean Barlow	5-10	180	D	Sr	M.C.
44	Zach Buss	6-0	185	D	Sr	M.C.
47	Mitch Paulsen	6-1	160	F	Jr	M.C.
49	Kory Abben	6-0	225	D	Sr	M.C.
50	Brian Gates	5-11	190	F	So	C.L.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Quarterfinals

- Game 1** — No. 1 DM Capitals vs. No. 8 KC Jr. Outlaws, noon
Game 2 — No. 3 DM Oak Leafs vs. No. 6 Ames Little Cyclones, 2:15
Game 3 — No. 4 Omaha Jr. Lancers vs. No. 5 Sioux City Metros, 4:30
Game 4 — No. 2 Mason City Mohawks vs. No. 7 Lincoln Jr. Stars, 6:45

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Consolation

- Game 5** — Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 3, 9 a.m.
Game 6 — Loser Game 4 vs. Loser Game 2, 11:15 a.m.

Semifinals

- Game 7** — Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 3, 1:30
Game 8 — Winner Game 4 vs. Winner Game 2, 3:45

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

- Game 9** — Loser Game 5 vs. Loser Game 6, 9 a.m.
Game 10 — Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6, 11:15 a.m.
Game 11 — Loser Game 7 vs. Loser Game 8, 1:30
Game 12 — Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8, 3:45 (title game)



PATTERSON'S PREDICTION

What two teams have the best chance?

If the Mohawks and Oak Leafs win their opening games, the winner of that game will knock off the Capitals in Sunday's championship game.