

Warriors ready for second season

■ Another title up for grabs this weekend at MHSHL tournament

By DOUG NEWCOFF

Sports Editor

AMES — Back in November, the Waterloo Warriors set their sights on a Midwest High School Hockey League championship — or two — this season.

The regular-season title slipped through the Warriors' hands after a 30-game grind where just 12 points separated league champion Lincoln from seventh place in the final standings.

Friday at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Waterloo (20-6-6-2, fourth place) will regroup for a run the MHSHL Tournament crown. The Warriors meet fifth-seeded Mason City (20-6-1-2) at 4 p.m.

"It was kind of an up-and-down regular season," said coach Shawn Weiske.

"We haven't been dominant. But we thought we could, but hopefully this weekend we are."

The Warriors went 1-2 against the Mohawks this season, losing 4-3 and 5-3 and a 4-2 victory.

"They beat us twice, but both of those games could have gone the other way," said Weiske.

Waterloo has plenty of firepower. Offensively, the Warriors were third in the league with 130 goals scored. Individually, Jake Ives found the net 44 times and added 37 assists as he finished second to Lincoln's Jagan Kantor (50 points) for the scoring title. Dawson Subinman finished sixth with 36 points and Spencer Warren tied for 10th with 45 points.

In the nets, senior Brian Dobes is among the MHSHL's best. He finished 20-4 with nine shutouts, a 1.93 goals-against average and a .916 save percentage. How well the defense in front of Dobes performs will be a key this weekend.

"Defense wins championships," said Weiske. "We need to do a better job in our own zone outworking guys without the puck, especially in the slot area, and eliminating second chance shots. Dobes will take care of the first shots. We've got to make sure we clear the puck to the corners and the gray areas and we'll break it out from there."

Every game will be a battle, Weiske added.

"This year, anybody could win it. We want to outwork them and look in the mirror at the end of the game and say we gave it everything we had."

In the end, Weiske believes that type of effort will be rewarded.

"We fully expect to go in there and be in the championship game," he added. "Anything less than that and we will be disappointed."

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Tournament glance

At Ames/ISU Ice Arena

(Seatings in parentheses)

Games Friday

Quarterfinals

10:30 a.m. — (1) Kansas Junior Eagles vs.

(6) Mason City Stars

1:30 p.m. — (2) Des Moines Capitals vs.

(7) Outagamie

4:30 p.m. — (4) Waterloo vs. (3) Mason

City

6:30 p.m. — (5) Lincoln vs. (8) Des

Moines Ice Leafs

Games Saturday

Semifinals

11:30 a.m. — K.C. Eagles-K.C. Stars

winners vs. D.M. Caps-Outagamie winner

1:30 p.m. — Waterloo-Mason City winners

vs. Lincoln-D.M. Ice Leafs winner

Consolation semifinals

7:30 a.m. — K.C. Eagles-K.C. Stars

loser vs. D.M. Capitals-Outagamie loser

8:30 a.m. — Waterloo-Mason City loser

vs. Lincoln-D.M. Ice Leafs loser

Games Sunday

7:30 p.m. — Seventh place

8:30 a.m. — Fifth place

11:30 a.m. — Third place

1:30 p.m. — Championship