



Globe Gazette file photo

Mason City's Joe Burgmeier (left) and Isaac Gribben celebrate a goal this season.

Mohawks open state tourney today

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MASON CITY — The Mohawk Hockey Club was the last team to slip into the Midwest High School Hockey league tournament.

That doesn't mean it doesn't have a chance to make some noise when the tournament kicks off today.

"I think everyone down there has a shot," said coach Mark Hicks, whose team meets the top-seeded Des Moines Oak Leafs today at 6 p.m. in Ames. "We're going to have to play our best game of the year. But it's a one-game series, anything can happen."

Mason City, the No. 8 seed, enters the tournament at full strength.

Most of the year injuries forced the Mohawks' top lines to skate too much and rest too little.

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Gribben



King



Hrubetz

HOCKEY: Mohawks go in at 100 percent

From B1

But the healthier the Mohawks got in the latter part of the season resulted in better performances — and upset wins — that allowed them to eke into the playoffs.

"We're 100 percent,"

Hicks said. "It's been good to be able to practice with a full lineup. The last couple weeks we've played as well as we have all year.

Before, we were just running out of gas. Having an extra line is giving our top guys an extra break."

The Mohawks face an Oak Leafs team that won the regular season title

and scored lopsided wins of 8-2 and 5-1 in the teams' regular season meetings.

"I think you throw out those records," said Hicks, whose team is 7-1-1 in its last nine games.

Mason City enters today's game with some firepower in its corner, though.

Defenseman A.J. Hrubetz and forwards Hunter King and Isaac Gribben each made the league's all-star game.

Gribben was second in the league in scoring with 65 points while King was

third with 59.

"You're looking at three of the probably the top-10 players in the league,"

Hicks said. "A.J. Hrubetz is probably one of the two or three best defenesman in the league. And the other two are both top-five forwards."

Today's games

Noon — No. 4 Kanas City Stars vs. No. 5 DM Capitals.

2 p.m. — No. 3 Waterloo vs. No. 6 Sioux Falls.

4 p.m. — No. 2 Quad Cities vs. No. 7 Cedar Rapids.

6 p.m. — No. 1 DM Oak Leafs vs. No. 8 Mason City.