

# Warriors set for state tourney

By ROD PAYNE

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**WATERLOO** — Looking back to September, the pending Waterloo Warriors' hockey season was a blur for new head coach Doug Dietz.

The ex-Warrior and Waterloo Black Hawks player was immediately blindsided when incumbent goalie Cal Petersen opted to move from the Cedar Valley and take up residency far from Young Arena.

Enter senior forward Jordan Sheeley, who jumped at the opportunity to play between the pipes in hopes of giving his team a chance.

"I knew Sheeley could play in goal because he is a multi-sport athlete and has that natural ability," Dietz said. "Besides that, he likes to play the position and to tell you the truth, I am really surprised just how well he has done."

That bold move has paid off for the Warriors, who travel to Ames this weekend to participate in the Midwest High School Hockey League playoffs. Seeded third, Waterloo (24-6-2-0) opens at 2 p.m. Friday against sixth-seeded but dangerous Sioux Falls (20-8-2-2), which was 1-0-1 against the Warriors during the regular season.

"We had this vision at the beginning of the season that we would make the playoffs," Sheeley said. "But I did not think we would get 50 points and be seeded this good."

Sheeley has been instrumental in the Warriors' success, as he leads the league with 24 wins and seven shutouts.

"I am happy with the shutouts, but the wins are what really matters here," added Sheeley. "We have bonded so well as a team and we rely on each other so much that there

## MHSHL tourney

### At ISU Ice Arena

#### GAMES FRIDAY

Noon — Kansas City Stars (24-7-1-0) vs. Des Moines Capitals (21-7-2-2)

2 p.m. — Waterloo (24-6-2-0) vs. Sioux Falls (20-8-2-2)

4 p.m. — Quad Cities (24-5-2-1) vs. Cedar Rapids (17-10-2-3)

6 p.m. — Des Moines Oak Leafs (25-5-2-0) vs. Mason City (16-13-1-2)

#### GAMES SATURDAY

##### Semifinals

Noon — Waterloo/Sioux Falls winner vs. Quad Cities/Cedar Rapids winner  
2:30 — K.C./D.M. Capitals winner vs. D.M. Oak Leafs/Mason City winner

##### GAME SUNDAY

##### Fifth place

8 a.m. — Consolation winners

##### Third place

10 a.m. — Semifinal losers

##### Championship

Noon — Semifinal winners

is no time for any stars. We are focused on winning that first game, then working hard to play at noon on Sunday (in the championship game)."

Sheeley is getting plenty of help from his defense, led by senior Zachary Wolff.

"Our defense is very young but quick to get back in the zone and that has surprised a lot of people," Wolff said. "We have built a great confidence in each other and have worked very hard all year to get to this point."

"Getting to the tournament was always our goal and now that we are here we need to play our best because there are a lot of tough teams at this point."

The Warriors gave up 53 goals in 32 games, which ranked third in the league.

"We finished in the top three in goals-allowed this year and that's not only a tribute to Sheeley, but to all the guys that have worked so hard at playing defense," noted Dietz.

The Warriors will count on a balanced offensive attack to help relieve the pressure in Sheeley's crease.

Cedar Falls senior Marshall Cook leads the team in points (46) and assists (28) and like Sheeley was on the 2008-2009 championship Warrior squad.

"We don't have one person here who is a superstar like we did with Brian Dobes and Jake Irely back then," Cook said. "We are a lot younger, but I really believe we have more overall talent."

"This team is so confident in what we can do and it starts with Sheeley in the net. He has really stepped up and played great in net, and I think our talent will take us a long way. I am going to enjoy every minute of this."

Cook finished the season tied for eighth place in the league in scoring, with fellow Cedar Falls High student Jon Skarlis right behind with 41 points, including a league-high eight game-winners.

Jake Lichty and Austin Jackson round out the top scorers with 38 and 35 points, respectively.

"I just hope that we have these guys prepared to play the way we know they are capable," Dietz said. "We have three very good lines, whereas most of the teams in this league only have two."

"As a hockey guy, I have really enjoyed this season, teaching these kids," Dietz added. "Sometimes, I worry way too much and let things bother me. It is not like we have any extra pressure on us to win this weekend, because we have had pressure all year to win."

"Now the talking is over and we just need to be mentally prepared to play the teams ahead of us."