

Warriors fall one win short at nationals

By ROD PAYNE

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SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Six games in five days.

That was the quest that needed to be taken for the 18-teams involved in the USA Hockey National High School tournament this past week.

The Waterloo Warriors were up to the task as they battled the Regis Jesuit Raiders for the championship here Sunday.

The journey, however, left ill feelings in the Warriors hearts as they fell short of the prize in a 4-3 loss to the Raiders.

"This was a heck of a journey for these guys and I am very proud of them," Warriors coach Doug Dietz said. "They really exceeded mine and the rest of the coaches (Mike Lamb and Joe Giachino) expectations. It was a definite journey they will never forget and it came through hard work and dedication."

In the beginning the Warriors (4-2) charged hard to the

front with two quick goals for a 2-0 advantage.

Alex Schutte lit the lamp first three minutes into the game, and Austin Jackson followed three minutes later putting the Warriors in front 2-0. The goal was Jackson's eighth of the tournament along with four assists.

"We had two nice goals to start, but just couldn't keep it going at that time," added Dietz.

The Raiders (6-0) opened up their offense, starting with a power play goal with nine minutes remaining in the first.

The second period went well into the 10-minute mark before the Raiders once again displayed their attacking mode.

Three consecutive goals by the Raiders, in a four minute span, created a 4-2 advantage that they would never give up.

"We never got complacent but we did kind of sit back on our heels," Dietz said.

"They (Regis) were a hard playing team and once they got that first goal we just had a little trouble stopping the bleeding."

Tim Brown tacked on a power play offering with under a minute to play in the second frame cutting the deficit to 4-3.

From that point on it was all defense as neither team could score in the final period, giving the Raiders the trophy.

Despite a long trip home, the Warriors have enjoyed great success this season, as they compiled a 34-1 regular season record, and went on to win the Midwest High School Hockey League Championship with a 4-2 victory over the Kansas City Jets.

"It has been a great year and these guys will be hurting for awhile," Dietz said. "They just need to soak it in and let the healing begin," added Dietz. "It was a season of a lifetime for these guys and again I can not tell you how proud this coaching staff is

of them

"I would also like to say that the support we got from the Cedar Valley this year was just unbelievable," continued Dietz. "My coaches and I would like to give out a special thank you to them. It was great and they do not know how much that means to us."

Waterloo	2	1	0-3
Regis	1	3	0-4

FIRST PERIOD - 1. Waterloo, Alex Schutte (David Becker, Jon Skarlis) 13:55, pp; 2. Waterloo, Austin Jackson (Sean Cavanaugh, Chance Kremer) 10:51; 3. Regis, Ryan Wagner (Connor Wigton, Luke Slouka) 9:02, pp. Penalties - Sean Brennan, Regis (tripping) 14:20; Becker, Wat. (interference) 10:25; Tim Brown, Wat. (crosschecking) 9:36.

SECOND PERIOD - 4. Regis, Wagner (Jacob Monk) 6:05; 5. Regis, Brian Burlage (Marshall Conrad) 3:54; 6. Regis, Wagner (Brady Hall) 2:21, pp; 7. Waterloo, Brown (Jake Lichty) 4:3, pp, Penalties - Becker, Wat. (tripping) 16:02; Becker, Wat. (interference) 11:54; Schutte, Wat. (slashing) 3:54; Burlage, Regis (roughing) 2:10; Madison Nikkel, Regis (tripping) 2:07.

THIRD PERIOD - No scoring. Penalties - Collin Brecher, Wat. (hooking) 12:03; Connor Hyde, Wat. (holding) 10:55; Jacob Sessler, Wat. (bench penalty) 6:43; Wigton, Regis (too many men on ice) 4:28.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Waterloo	10	5	8-23
Regis	11	9	6-26

Goalies - Waterloo, Chance Kremer (22 saves), Regis, Sam Harden (20 saves).

Officials - Referee, Thomas Albindia. Linesman - Ryan Kemp and Lucas Bisbee.