

# WINNING WAYS



Mohawks Hockey Club's Cody Malsbys (left) fights for the puck during a game earlier this season.

Glenn Kasper photo



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The Mohawks' Charlie Johnson (right) battles for a puck in a game earlier this season.

in scoring with 65 points apiece.

Burgmeier has 32 goals and 33 assists, while Malsbys has 30 goals and 35 assists.

A newcomer has also given the Mohawks an added threat and is a nice complement to Burgmeier and Malsbys.

Freshman Lucas McKinnon has stepped right in to contribute quality ice time for Mason City.

McKinnon ended the regular season third on the team in points with 26 (10 goals, 16 assists).

"Lucas has just done a phenomenal job," Hicks said. "Over the 13 years I've coached, we've had a few freshmen step in and play big roles and he's probably played the biggest role out of any of them that I can remember."

Along with sophomore goalie Anthony Piscopo, who is 14-5, allowing an average of 2.74 goals per game, this team has the ingredients to make a run in Ames, but it won't be easy.

"It's going to be tough. There's not a bad team in the tournament, so no matter what seed you're at, whether it's first or eighth, it's going to be a tough tournament," Hicks said.

"When you can move the puck and know where your teammates are going, it's a great thing."

This team is nearly the polar opposite of a team a year ago that failed to make it into the postseason and it may have left a bit of a chip on the shoulder.

"Not being there last year was devastating for us," Hicks said.

A little bit of that disappointment may have crossed over to the start of this year, but clearly, it has been corrected.

"This team is way different than it was last year and the beginning of this year," Malsbys said.

Malsbys, along with Burgmeier, have been a large reason for the Mohawks' second-half turnaround.

"They're arguably two of the best players in the league," Hicks said. "There's a lot of pressure that they put on themselves to perform, they're very competitive, and they always seem to come on the rink and get the job done."

And the numbers back that up.

The pair is tied for second in the league

## HOCKEY

### From B1

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## Mohawks playing their best heading into tournament

By BLAKE SCHULTZ  
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**M**ASON CITY — In the first month of the season for the Mohawks Hockey Club couldn't have gone much worse.

The Mohawks were 2-10-1 through 13 games and near the bottom of the league standings, but head coach Mark Hicks never thought his team would miss the playoffs.

"To be honest, yeah I did (think we would make it)," Hicks said. "I had a lot of confidence in our team and I saw the schedule we had and I thought this is right where we'd be."

The Mohawks (15-12-1-0)

### MHSF Points Leaders

Rank	Name	Team	G	A	Pts
1	Robert Larkin	Mason City	21	38	59
2	Joe Burgmeier	Mason City	22	26	48
3	Colin Malsbys	Mason City	20	28	48
4	Conner Cox	DM Oak Leafs	20	23	43
5	Will Clarke	DM Oak Leafs	20	12	32
6	Michael Johnson	DM Oak Leafs	20	12	32
7	Mark Williams	Ames	20	11	31
8	Justin Johnson	Waterloo	19	17	36
9	Colton Price	Waterloo	19	12	31
10	Scott Scahill	Waterloo	19	12	31
11	Robert Lavin	DM Oak Leafs	19	11	30

enter today's Midwest High School Hockey League tournament as a sixth seed and will take on the third seed and defending league champion, Waterloo at 2 p.m. inside the Ames/Town Square Ice Arena.

The weird thing is a game against Waterloo is what started the Mohawks' run into the tournament race.

On Dec. 18, Waterloo

came into Mason City as one of the top teams in the league, but on that night, the Mohawks didn't seem to care.

Mason City came back from a two-goal deficit to beat the Warriors 4-3 in a shootout and the win sparked big things for the Mohawks.

The Mohawk Hockey Club followed up that win by taking its next six contests and 12 of its last 14 games.

But what changed from the first half to the second?

"Once we got on that little streak, we just kind of got our confidence going," said junior Joe Burgmeier.

See **HOCKEY, B3**

### TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Ames/Iowa Ice Arena

• No. 1 Waterloo Warriors (20-7-0-1) vs. No. 6 Mason City Mohawks (15-12-1-0). Today at 2 p.m.

• No. 2 Kansas City Jets (23-9-0-0) vs. No. 7 Lincoln Jr. Stars (12-12-0-4). Today at 4 p.m.

• The winners of these two games meet in the championship semi-finals. The losers meet in the consolation semi-finals. Both games will be played Saturday.

• No. 4 Omaha Jr. Lancers (17-13-0-0) vs. No. 3 Des Moines Capitals (15-11-0-2). Today at noon.

• No. 1 Des Moines Oak Leafs (25-1-0-1) vs. No. 8 South City Mustangs (12-15-0-1). Today at 6 p.m.

• The winners of these two games meet in the championship semi-finals. The losers meet in the consolation semi-finals. Both games will be played Saturday.

• No. 5 Waterloo Warriors (20-7-0-1) vs. No. 6 Mason City Mohawks (15-12-1-0). Today at 2 p.m.

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