

Valley loses, but Miller wins on ice

Steve Miller, a 5-foot 10-inch, 165-pound center who led Valley of West Des Moines into the championship game of the state high school hockey tournament Sunday afternoon, won most-valuable-player honors despite the Tigers' 6-4 loss to Columbus of Waterloo in the title game.

Miller, a junior who led the Iowa League in scoring during the regular season, had a goal and an assist Sunday to raise his three-game tournament total to eight goals and nine assists for 17 points.

Valley was in the game until the Sailors' Brian Kiety sealed the verdict with an open-net goal with 4 seconds remaining. Kiety, Scott Dolan and Bryan Trowbridge all had a pair of goals for Columbus, which now has won five of seven titles since the state tourney began.

Todd Grifford, Keith Armstrong and Randy Watkins had the other Valley goals.

Columbus ended with an 18-1 record while the Tigers, who also lost twice to the Sailors in the regular season, bowed out at 16-3.

Only Dowling in 1979 and Waterloo in 1980 have been able to dent the Sailors' domination of the prep hockey scene.

In Sunday's other games, Urbandale outskated Waterloo, 8-2, behind four goals by Scott Cross to take third place; Hoover-Roosevelt of Des Moines edged Mason City, 5-4, for fifth, and Dowling of West Des Moines took seventh with a 7-6 overtime victory over Ames.