

# Mason City blanks Metros, faces Columbus for crown

By Terry Hersom  
Journal sports editor

It will be Mason City and Waterloo Columbus clashing today at Sioux City Auditorium for the championship of Iowa high school hockey.

Mason City, regular-season champion of the Iowa High School Hockey League, foiled hopes for a hometown finalist Saturday afternoon, notching a 3-0 victory over the Sioux City Metros, who are hosting the state tournament for the first time.

In the other semifinal game, Waterloo Columbus used an overtime goal by Craig Becker to outlast arch-rival Waterloo Public 2-1.

The championship game will begin at 3:30 p.m., following a 1 o'clock contest for third-place honors between the Metros and Waterloo Public.

Mason City recorded two power play goals and goalie Jeff Curtis chalked up a shutout as the regular-season champs took advantage of an uncanny rash of penalties for the Metros.

The least penalized team in the league this winter, the Metros were whistled for seven minor infractions plus a misconduct penalty.

The first Sioux City penalty set the stage for the only goal the victorious

## State hockey

### Tournament schedule

#### Saturday's Games

CONSOLATION ROUND-ROBIN  
Urbandale 11, Valley-Dowling 6  
SEMIFINALS  
Waterloo Columbus 2, Waterloo Public 1 (ot)  
Mason City 3, Sioux City 0

#### Today's Schedule

CONSOLATION ROUND-ROBIN  
8 a.m. — Ames vs. Urbandale  
10:30 — Ames vs. Valley-Dowling  
THIRD-PLACE GAME  
1 p.m. — Sioux City vs. Waterloo Public  
CHAMPIONSHIP GAME  
3:30 — Mason City vs. Waterloo Columbus

Mohawks would need, a power play tally by Tino Muniz with the contest just two minutes and 27 seconds old.

Mason City made it 2-0 at 1:24 of the second period when Jeremy Sheetz, a 5-4, 135-pound sophomore, connected with each team one player short.

Capping the scoring was the Mohawks' Chris Steward, backhanding the puck past Sioux City goalie Scott Patrick on a power play breakaway at 12:13 of the middle session.

It was a difficult fate for Patrick, a skillful junior whose goaltending

helped the Metros lead the league in fewest goals allowed. Sioux City opponents scored just 46 times in 18 league contests, a meager average of 2.55, and Patrick had blanked Valley-Dowling of West Des Moines 1-0 in Friday's first-round action.

But the Metros' defense couldn't make up for their primary shortcoming — offense.

"We failed to put the puck in the net, it's that simple," said Sioux City Coach Jim Coyle. "Even when we were 5-on-3, we couldn't score. We had some good opportunities in the

SEE URBANDALE'S  
continued on page B2

#### Summary

First period: 1, Mason City — Tino Muniz (Andy Hubbard) 2:27. Penalties: Graber, SC, 1:58; Bahnsen, MC, 4:01; Nichol, SC, 10:16.

Second period: 2, Mason City — Jeremy Sheetz (unassisted) 1:24. 3, Mason City — Chris Steward (Hubbard, Muniz) 12:13. Penalties: Thelen, MC, 1:08; Swartzel, SC, 1:08; Hannan, MC, 5:33; Clafin, SC, 8:11 (minor, misconduct); Goosman, SC, 10:20; McCormick, SC, 12:52.

Third period: No scoring. Penalties: Erickson, SC, 3:38; Bahnsen, MC, 3:38; Curtis, MC, 10:17; Hubbard, MC, 10:29.

Score by periods:

Sioux City	0	0	0	0
Mason City	1	2	0	3

Shots on goal:

Sioux City	10	5	8	23
Mason City	11	14	8	33

Goalies: Scott Patrick, Sioux City; Jeff Curtis, Mason City.

Referees: Scott Lloyd, Steve Keymeyer. Linesman: John Sel.

## Urbandale's Dale has 8-point day

from page B1

first period, but then we kind of lost our steam."

Mason City had swept three regular-season meetings with the Metros, who were also 0-3 versus the Waterloo Public Warriors, their consolation foe today.

Against all others in the league, curiously, the Sioux City skaters are 10-1-2, including a 2-0-1 record against Waterloo Columbus, the other finalist.

"Depth is the big thing for us," said Mason City Coach John Lloyd. "We use three lines constantly and we have a fourth line that we're every bit as confident can come in and do the job. The only reason we don't use the fourth line more is we want to keep that No. 1 group out there as much as possible."

Steward, Troy Thelen and Matt Pete comprise the Mohawks' No. 1 offensive trio and both Steward (Mason City High) and Thelen (Mason City

Newman) were standout football running backs last fall, each rushing for better than 1,000 yards.

Mason City takes a 16-4-1 record into the title game while Columbus is 13-6-1.

In the other semifinal, Waterloo Public's Reece Bixby snapped a scoreless deadlock, scoring at 5:38 of the second period.

Columbus sent the game into overtime, however, on a goal by Jeff Wiedner at 10:16 of the final 15-minute segment.

Becker's game-winner came at 1:37 of the extra session, just 12 seconds before a Columbus power play advantage was to expire.

In Saturday's only other contest, the first of three games in a round-robin consolation bracket, Pete Dale had an eight-point outing with three goals and five assists, helping Urbandale crush Valley-Dowling 11-6.

Two more consolation matchups are slated this morning as Ames plays two games back-to-back, facing Urbandale at 8 a.m. and then Valley-Dowling at 10:30.