

Mason City nabs hockey crown

Metros also collect honors

By Steve Allspach

Journal sport writer

Four goals by Chris Steward powered Mason City to the Iowa High School Hockey League state championship Sunday afternoon at Sioux City Auditorium.

The Mohawks, pinned in their own end for most of the first two periods as Waterloo Columbus maintained a significant territorial advantage, dominated action in the third period and posted a 5-3 triumph in the title game.

The hockey championship was the first for Mason City since the IHSHL combined its "A" and "B" divisions into one division in 1979. It was also the first state championship in any sport at the Big Eight Conference school since capturing the boys state swimming title in 1979.

While Mason City emerged with its state championship, the Sioux City Metros claimed third place when Steve Nichol rifled home a goal at 5:17 of the second overtime to defeat Waterloo Public, 3-2.

The Metros, the least penalized team in the league during the regular season, also earned the 1987 Sport-

State hockey

smanship Award and Metro goalie Scott Patrick was named the most valuable player in the 11th annual state tournament.

Columbus, which had beaten Waterloo Public in the semifinals, was seeking its fifth state title.

The Sailors finished with a 13-7-1 record and Mason City, also the regular-season champion, closed at 16-4-1.

Columbus had beaten Mason City twice during the regular season — 3-1 and 4-1 — and had lost to the Mohawks 8-5 on Feb. 4.

Steward, a 6-foot, 190-pound senior who rushed for over 1,000 yards last fall for Mason City's football team, scored three goals in the final period Sunday.

Steward got his third goal and hat trick at 10:41 to put the Mohawks in front 4-2.

However, Columbus' Neal Lanigan retaliated with a goal at 11:05 to rekindle Sailor hopes of bringing their ship home in first place.

Steward snuffed any lingering Columbus designs on tying or winning, though, when he zipped the puck past goalie Pat Lanigan at 11:43 for a 5-3 Mason City advantage.

"A Mason City team had never been past the second round of a state hockey tournament before, so this is

pretty meaningful," said Steward after the game. "I've had hat tricks before, but I can't remember getting four goals in a high school game," added Steward, who hopes to play college football and lists Morningside as one of his possibilities.

Steward was the leading goal-scorer in the tournament with seven.

Urbandale's Pete Dale, who had a hat trick in 10-7 consolation round-robin loss to Ames Sunday morning, led the tournament in scoring with six goals and six assists for 12 points.

In the other round-robin consolation game Sunday morning, West Des Moines Valley-Dowling edged Ames in overtime, 6-5.

Valley-Dowling won two games in the consolation bracket and finished fifth in the tournament. Ames was 1-1 in the round-robin and took sixth and Urbandale wound up seventh after dropping a pair of consolation round-robin outings.

In the title game, Steward put Mason City on the board first with a goal at 13:25 of the first period.

Andy MacLennan knotted the count at 1-1 with a Columbus goal at 1:35 of the second period. Matt Pete, Steward's linemate, put the Mohawks back in the lead with a goal of 6:24 of the second period, but Jason Bloom forged another tie at 2-all with a goal at 8:08 of the second period.

Steward then took charge in the final period with goals at 19 seconds and 10:41.

"We were awfully nervous the first period and really didn't play very well," said Mason City Coach John Lloyd, who was named IHSHL Coach of the Year in ceremonies after the title game. "I had to sit one of our lines down in the second period they were so jittery," continued Lloyd.

The Mohawks triggered just four shots in each of the first two periods, but fired 10 shots at all-state goalie Pat Lanigan in the final 15 minutes.

Sioux City, which lost to Mason City in the semis, finished with an 11-8-2 record. Waterloo Public closed at 13-8-0, Valley-Dowling 10-10-1, Urbandale 5-15 and Ames 3-19.

Brian Burke and Kelly Goosman also had goals for Sioux City in its win over Waterloo Public.

Summary

First period: 1. Mason City — Chris Steward (Troy Thelen, Matt Pete) 13:25. Penalties: Hannan, MC 8:55.

Second period: 2. Waterloo Columbus — Andy MacLennan (Neal Lanigan, Jeff Wiedner) 1:35. 3. Mason City — Pete (Steward, Thelen) 6:24. 4. Waterloo Columbus — Jason Bloom (Brian Wehr, Sean Wortjes) 8:08. Penalties: Cline, MC, 4:56; MacLennan, WC, 4:56.

Third period: 5. Mason City — Steward (Thelen) 0:19. 6. Mason City — Steward (Dustin Dues) 10:41. 7. Waterloo Columbus — Neal Lanigan (MacLennan, Wiedner) 11:05. 8. Mason City — Steward (Thelen, Pete) 11:43. Penalties: Bahnsen, MC, 1:56; Mason City bench (too many men on ice) 7:35; Thoreson, MC, 8:00; Wehr, WC, 9:24; Pete, MC, 13:59. Waterloo Columbus bench (delay of game) 13:59. MacLennan, WC, 14:39; Becker, WC (misconduct) 15:00.

Score by periods:
Waterloo Columbus 0 2 1 — 3
Mason City 1 1 3 — 5

Shots on goal:
Waterloo Columbus 12 13 4 — 29
Mason City 4 4 10 — 18

Goalies: Pat Lanigan, Columbus; Colby Hanf, Mason City.