

Sailors just miss state hockey final

DES MOINES — Just as they did during the regular season, Columbus and Dubuque battled to the final horn in the 13th Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament Saturday.

For the third time in five meetings, the Sailors came up one goal short and it kept them from a spot opposite Valley-Dowling in this afternoon's championship game.

With Columbus on the power play and the game knotted at 5-5 late in the third period, T.J. Mauer busted out of the Sailors' zone with a blocked shot and buried a breakaway blast with 3:32 to play. The Devils, back in the league this season after several years as an independent, protected their lead and will take on 22-0 and defending champion Valley-Dowling for the title at 4:15 p.m. today.

Columbus tries for its second consecutive third-place finish at 1:30 p.m. against Sioux City after the Waterloo Warriors play for fifth place against Mason City at 10:45 a.m. The Warriors defeated Urbandale, 4-3, in consolation action Saturday.

"We had played very, very well up to that point," said Columbus Coach Mike Brown. "It was a great hockey game ... up and down, back and forth. Until the horn sounded, the game wasn't over."

That's common practice for the Devils and Sailors. Columbus won the first meeting early in the season, 6-3, but lost 5-4 twice and one game ended in a 4-4 tie. Two of the four went to overtime.

This time, Dubuque led 2-1, after one period, then the Sailors went up, 3-2. The Devils went back ahead, 4-3, by the end of the second, but Columbus answered 15 seconds into the third. Dubuque made it 5-4 later in the period, but Jussi Aalto got the Sailors even again with 7:12 to play. Then Mauer struck.

So, the state tournament championship will spend another season out of Waterloo, where it has gone seven times between the Warriors and Columbus.

Those two metro rivals opened the tournament against each other Friday and the Sailors cruised into the semifinals with a 7-3 victory over the Warriors, without two players who were serving penalties.

Corey Simon's hat trick led the way while Ben MacLennan hammered home two goals and assisted on two others.

The Sailors put away their first shot on net — 49 seconds into the game — and raced out to a 3-0 lead before the Warriors battled back to close within 3-2 by the end of the first period.

Columbus extended its lead to 5-2 after two and 7-2 in the third before the Warriors closed out the scoring. Each team had one power play goal while Aalto added a short-hander for the Sailors.

It was the fifth meeting between the two teams this season and left

State tourney glance

Friday

First Round

Columbus 7, Waterloo Warriors 3
Sioux City 6, Mason City 4
Valley-Dowling 9, Ames 4
Dubuque 6, Urbandale 1

Saturday

Semifinals

Dubuque 6, Columbus 5
Valley-Dowling 5, Sioux City 3

Consolation

Waterloo Warriors 4, Urbandale 3
Mason City 9, Ames 4

Sunday

Seventh Place

8 a.m. — Ames (9-22) vs. Urbandale (4-17-1)

Fifth Place

10:45 a.m. — Waterloo Warriors (9-12-1) vs. Mason City (2-9-1)

3rd Place

1:30 p.m. — Columbus (12-8-2) vs. Sioux City (12-8-0)

Championship

4:15 p.m. — Valley-Dowling (22-0) vs. Dubuque (14-7-1)

Columbus with a 3-1-1 edge.

"Everybody played pretty well in our defensive zone," said Brown. "We got people back and helped out."

First round

Columbus 7, Warriors 3

SCORE BY PERIODS

Warriors..... 2 0 1 — 3

Columbus..... 3 2 2 — 7

FIRST PERIOD — 1. Columbus, Ben MacLennan (Jason Bloom) 4; 2. Columbus, Corey Simon (Jonas Ryberg, MacLennan) 8:29; 3. Columbus, Mike Sadler (Simon) 9:34; 4. Warriors, Meyer (Henn, Gericke) 11:08; 5. Warriors, Henn (McFarland) 11:25. Penalties — Gericke-Wal (interference) 3:00, Dan Bloom-Col. (tripping) 5:16, J. Bloom-Col. (tripping) 10:57, Henn-Wal. (hooking) 11:42, Meyer-Wal. (tripping) 14:14.

SECOND PERIOD — 4. Columbus, Simon (J. Bloom, Ryberg) 4:54; 7. Columbus, Simon (MacLennan, J. Bloom) 5:47. Penalties — Hileman-Wal. (tripping) 5:30, Justin Smith-Col. (elbowing) 12:58, Hileman-Wal. (high-sticking) 12:58.

THIRD PERIOD — 8. Columbus, Jussi Aalto (Smith) 6:18; 9. Columbus, MacLennan (J. Bloom, Simon) 7:25; 10. Warriors, Meyer (McFarland) 7:47. Penalties — Chamberlain-Col. (hooking) 4:19, Sadler-Col. (holding) 7:47, Aalto-Col. (hooking) 9:31; D. Bloom-Col. (elbowing) 9:39.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Warriors..... 15 9 9 — 33

Columbus..... 14 13 7 — 34

Goaltenders — Warriors, K. C. Deland (27 saves); Columbus, Jason Hedican (30 saves)

Semifinal

Dubuque 6, Columbus 5

SCORE BY PERIODS

Columbus..... 1 2 2 — 5

Dubuque..... 2 2 2 — 6

FIRST PERIOD — 1. Dubuque, Courtney (Hubanks, Mauer) 4:52; 2. Columbus, Smith (Aalto, Sadler) 6:32; 3. Dubuque, Justman (unassisted) 13:15. Penalties — Sadler-Col. (roughing) 4:33, Dupita-Dub. (roughing) 4:33, Hubanks-Dub. (high-sticking) 7:50, Smith-Dub. (interference) 14:46.

SECOND PERIOD — 4. Columbus, D. Bloom (Hedican) 5:15; 5. Columbus, Simon (J. Bloom, MacLennan) 8:58; 6. Dubuque, Riley (Baxter) 11:14; 7. Dubuque, Courtney (Mauer, Justman) 13:00. Penalties — Lloyd-Dub. (tripping) 3:08, Dupita-Dub. (tripping) 5:42, D. Bloom-Col. (cross-checking) 13:32, Dupita-Dub. (checking from behind) 13:32.

THIRD PERIOD — 8. Columbus, J. Bloom (Simon) 15:19; 9. Dubuque, Dupita (unassisted) 5:29; 10. Columbus, Aalto (Smith, D. Bloom) 7:48; 11. Dubuque, Mauer (Baxter) 11:28. Penalties — Aalto-Col. (tripping) 2:35; Mauer-Dub. (slashing) 5:44, O'Brien-Dub. (roughing) 7:28; Riley-Dub. (interference) 11:13.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Columbus..... 8 10 10 — 28

Dubuque..... 13 8 10 — 31

Goaltenders — Columbus, Hedican (25); Dubuque, Smith (23)

McEnroe captures WCT championship

DALLAS (AP) — John McEnroe settled an old score with Brad Gilbert on Saturday in winning a record fifth WCT Finals title.

McEnroe, playing just 12 hours after a four-hour semifinal victory over Ivan Lendl, beat a well-rested Gilbert 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 Saturday in just two hours and 24 minutes.

McEnroe said he is off to his best start since 1985 and looking forward to the Davis Cup against France in April.