

Columbus, Warriors open state tourney

Hot meets cold at the Des Moines Ice Arena Friday when Waterloo's two high school hockey teams collide to kick off the 13th state tournament at 1 p.m.

The Warriors ride a wave of success into the tournament, going 6-4-1 since Christmas. Columbus rides a tailspin, going 4-5-2 since the holiday break.

Their tournament date will be their fifth meeting of the season with the Sailors holding a 2-1-1 regular-season edge.

"I have mixed emotions about playing the Warriors again," says Columbus Coach Mike Brown. "They have played real well the second half."

"The other part of the emotion is that we haven't played real well the second half. I have confidence we can play with anybody in the league, we just have to show up and do it."

"That's the bottom line right now. Put up or shut up."

Meanwhile, Valley-Dowling opens its bid for a third state tournament title and second straight against winless Ames in the 6:30 p.m. game Friday. This, assistant coach Kevin Kahoot says, is the year the Tigers were looking to before peaking at the end of last season and skating away with the state title.

Valley put together a 20-0 regular-season record with a deep and balanced attack to go with strong defensive play. Opponents averaged just 20 shots on the Tiger net.

League runner-up Dubuque played Valley to a pair of one-goal games and lost four by a single goal while going 12-7-1. Dubuque surged into

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second place in the league by winning its last three games while Columbus, which had held that spot all season, dropped its final two.

Brown isn't conceding anything to Valley.

"It won't surprise me if they don't win it," he said. "Really, all the way down through the Warriors (sixth place), I think if somebody has a good weekend they can win it all. There's a lot of pressure on Valley."

Brown's Sailors felt that pressure last year, cruising through the regular season and then losing in the tournament semifinals.

"We just haven't been consistent," says Brown of Columbus' second half. "We have to get some consistency back into our game and play defense."

Offensively, Columbus has the league's No. 3, No. 4 and No. 6 scorers in Jason Bloom, Justin Smith and Corey Simon. Bloom had 48 regular-season points, Smith 47 and Simon 44.

The Sailors won't have Benji Buckley available. He's out with a broken leg.

The Warriors, says Coach Dave Swick, may be coming of age.

"I think some of our younger players are coming into their own a little bit," he says. "Kids like Jason Reiseck, Andy Gericke, Quinn Ernster ... they're starting to do a little more with the puck."

"They weren't quite strong enough early in the year, but now they're doing some things with it. We have

Warriors' Nelson wins NBA honor

NEW YORK (AP) — Don Nelson, who led the Golden State Warriors to nine wins in 11 games in February, was named Wednesday as the NBA's Coach of the Month.

Nelson has guided the Warriors to 11 straight home victories, their longest home winning streak in 13 years. The Warriors' 9-2 record in February included wins over both participants in last year's finals — a 121-118 victory over the Lakers in Los Angeles and a 121-119 victory over Detroit.

Nelson beat out New York's Rick Pitino, who led the Knicks to a 9-2 mark in February and has piloted the team to 21 straight home victories.

five or six kids like that."

The Warriors' offensive leader is captain Tom Meyer, who finished 10th in league scoring with 38 points. Tracy Henn was right behind with 34.

"I'd like to get a little more balance," says Swick. "We depend too much on one line."

The Warriors have defeated every team ahead of them in the final standings except Dubuque and Valley-Dowling.

"Even in our game against Valley, we played well enough and had plenty of chances," Swick notes. "It should be a good state tournament."

In the four-game series between the local rivals, Columbus won the first two games by 4-1 margins, the third was a 3-3 tie and the Warriors won the final meeting, 4-1.

Two Warriors won't be able to play — Kirk Schoonover and Mike Geraghty. They have one-game penalties to serve for their parts in fights during their last regular-season game.

Tournament play continues Saturday with semifinal games at 1:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. The championship game is scheduled for 4:15 p.m. Sunday.

Tournament pairings

**First Round
GAMES FRIDAY**
1 p.m. — Columbus (Waterloo) (11-7-2) vs. Waterloo Public (8-11-1)
3:45 p.m. — Mason City (11-8-1) vs. Sioux City (11-9-0)
6:30 p.m. — Valley-Dowling (20-0-0) vs. Ames (0-20-0)
9:15 p.m. — Dubuque (12-7-1) vs. Urbandale (4-15-1)

**Semifinals
GAMES SATURDAY**
1:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m.
**Championship
GAME SUNDAY**
4:15 p.m.

Final IHSHL standings

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vall.-Dowling	20	0	0	40	146	38
Dubuque	12	7	1	25	92	73
Columbus	11	7	2	24	103	83
Mason City	11	8	1	23	89	73
Sioux City	11	9	0	22	106	76
Wat. Warriors	8	15	1	17	73	84
Urbandale	4	15	1	9	59	137
Ames	0	20	0	0	36	142

Final Leaders

Player	GP	Scoring										
		G	A	TP	SH	PP	PN	PM	PCT			
Hudin, MC	20	27	27	54	4	9	7	14				
B. Krueger, VD	20	23	24	49	1	3	8	16				
J. Bloom, Col	20	26	22	48	0	4	17	34				
Smith, Col	20	15	32	47	1	2	16	32				
Strako, VD	20	15	30	45	1	3	8	16				
Simon, Col	19	16	28	44	0	9	5	11				
Keith, SC	20	28	12	40	0	5	7	22				
Dressen, VD	20	19	20	39	0	3	12	24				
Riley, Dub	20	18	21	39	1	3	26	32				
Meyer, Wat	19	29	9	38	3	8	39	83				
Dopita, Dub	19	20	15	35	2	4	21	42				
Henn, Wat	20	14	20	34	1	6	10	22				

Player	W-L-T	SOG	Goalkeeping			
			SV	GA	PP	PCT
McGillid, VD	13-0-0	259	235	24	5	90.7
Geiger, VD	7-0-0	143	129	14	4	90.2
Swanson, MC	4-0-1	129	116	13	1	89.9
Smith, Dub	6-4-1	364	325	31	8	88.4
Brogan, SC	3-0-0	104	92	12	5	88.5
Medican, Col	11-4-2	548	475	73	10	86.7
Doland, Wat	8-9-0	476	412	64	18	86.6