

Warriors capture state hockey title, 3-1

By DON KRUSE

Courier Sports Writer

The Waterloo Warriors completed their own version of a "Miracle on Ice" Sunday when they captured the Iowa High School Hockey League championship.

Slow to come down from a high that saw them upend city-rival Columbus High on Saturday, the Warriors polished off Sioux City, 3-1, at McElroy Auditorium with a goalie who was on fire.

K.C. Doland, the top netminder in the regular-season, turned away whopping 45 shots and kept the Warriors in the game when the Metros were taking the fight to them.

The victory by the Warriors brings the IHSHL championship back to Waterloo for the first time since 1985, when they last won a title.

Columbus took third with an 11-3 victory Sunday over Valley-Dowling, which had won the last two championships.

It wasn't until Quinn Ernster made good on his second chance at a penalty shot with 5:44 gone in the third period did Waterloo break a 1-1 tie and take its first lead.

But the story of Sunday's final was Doland, a lanky junior whose 91.5 save percentage was best in the league and had been in the nets when Waterloo blanked the Metros 4-0 and 2-0 in the regular season.

Dave Swick, coach of the Warriors and a veteran of many hockey seasons, said it was a performance like few he's seen before in the high school ranks.

"K.C. was unbelievable. You

couldn't get the puck past him."

The only time Sioux City scored, Landon Blachford pushed a power play goal past Doland for a 1-0 lead at 6:54 into the first period.

Waterloo tied it before the period was over when Kirk Schoonover's slap shot from the blue line sailed past Metros' goalie Jeff Brogan with 12:09 gone.

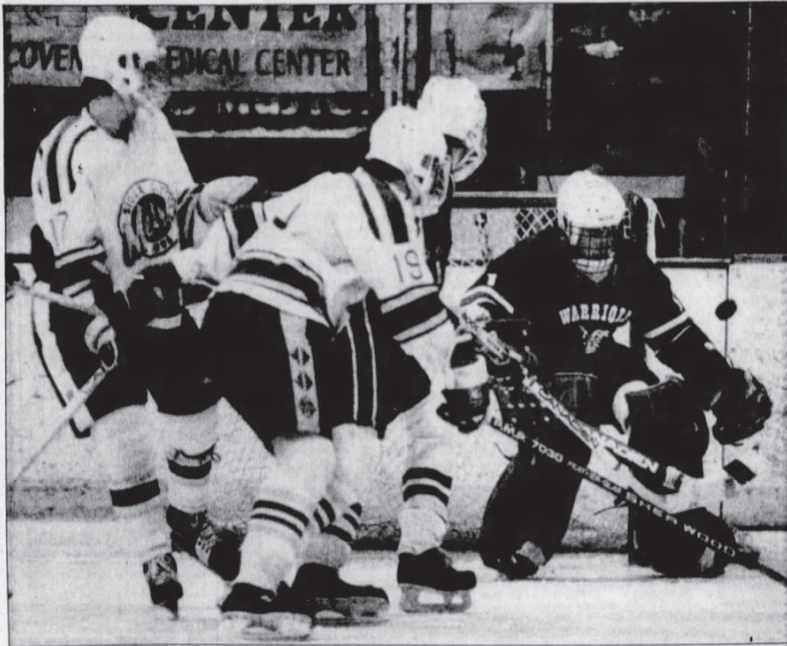
The opening was your usual feeling-out period, a bit conservative with only one penalty. But it may have been even a bit slower for the Warriors, who were outshot 15-5 in the first 15 minutes, and 28-10 after two periods.

"The first 10 minutes we really were out of it," said Swick. "We couldn't get untracked. If it wasn't for K.C. we couldn't have been in the game."

Swick said the Warriors answered a tough challenge by having to face three solid teams in three days of the tournament. They defeated Omaha on Friday before pulling off a major upset on Saturday with a 7-5 win over Columbus, which had the best record (18-2) during the regular season. Waterloo had finished with the fourth-best mark (13-6-1), while Sioux City, at 14-6-2, was second in the West Division behind Valley-Dowling, 16-5-1.

Swick said he was sure he knew the reason for his team's lack of smooth play early.

"I hate to keep coming back to the Columbus game, but that was the best we played in the tournament. It was like a championship game to us."



Waterloo Warriors goalie K.C. Doland deflects another shot from a Sioux City stick during the finals of the state hockey tournament Sunday. Doland led the Warriors to a 3-1 win and the state title.

The turning point in Sunday's game came when Sioux City's Brian Augustine was called for a tripping penalty in the third period as Ernster was skating in from the point on a breakaway. Up until then Waterloo

had been assessed five penalties, and the Metros one.

The infraction against Augustine gave Ernster a penalty shot, which he had missed the first time but was awarded another when Brogan

Courier photo by RICK CHASE

Ernster skated to the blue line.

"I thought the call was terrible —

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a gross injustice to our team," said Sioux City coach Dave Davies. "Let the kids decide the game, not the officials."

Swick said it was clearly a penalty shot call on both counts.

"Quinn was going for a breakaway and the man brought him down. The rule book says that's a penalty shot. On the second one, there was no question about it — he (Brogan) moved and the goalie is not allowed to come out of the crease like that."

The Warriors got some insurance later when defenseman Derek Hileman scored on a power-play slap shot with 13:19 gone in the final period.

Then with 1:30 left in the game and trailing 3-1, Sioux City pulled its goalie and went with six skaters, but the Metros could not set up against Waterloo's defense and dent Doland's armor.

"Our club is built around our defensemen and a goaltender," said Swick. "We have four good defensemen, and they all played well. Columbus has one of the most potent offenses there is, and to shut them down you have to have some good defensemen."

The Warriors' title was their fourth in the 14 years the tournament has been held. They won in 1980, 1983 and 1985.

Doland is the first Warriors' goalie to win MVP honors, although forwards Steve Kammeyer (1980) and Brian Cook (1983) won the coveted honor for Waterloo.

"To win a tournament like this you have to have a hot goalie," said Swick. "I'm glad we had K.C. on our side. There's no question he was the man of today's game."

Columbus 11, Valley-Dowling 3—Corey Simon and Justin Smith each scored a hit trick to lead the Sailors in the third place game.

Smith had the game's first two goals, coming at 1:28 and 1:55 of the first period, but Simon, who assisted on both of them, was the first to get the hat trick.

Simon, who had 37 goals and 36 assists during the season, scored three times in the second period.

Dan Bloom's goal at 11:55 of the first period gave the Sailors a 3-2 edge and it came while Columbus was skating with a two-man advantage. They went on to lead 4-3 after 15 minutes.

"After the first period we really played well," said Columbus coach Mike Brown.

"It's a tough game to play emotionally, but our seniors wanted it. It shows what this team is made of."

The big play in the game came in the second period when Columbus goalie Chris Abbott stopped what would have been a game-tying breakaway goal by Eric Ohmart. The Sailors were leading 4-3 when Abbott gloved the shot, and then Columbus went on to push across four goals in the period.

Brown said he had no reservations about coming back with Abbott in goal after the Warriors defeated Columbus for the first time after three losses during the season. Abbott and David Lanigan, both sophomores, have shared goaltending duties for Columbus. Lanigan came in with just under 7 minutes left in the second period against Valley-Dowling.

"We stuck him back in there today because we didn't want anybody to feel responsible for yesterday. We were going to split it, no matter what."

"We had a heckuva year, and we ended it on a positive note."

Simon added three assists to go with his three goals, and Dan Bloom also had three assists.

Columbus outshot the Tigers 53-22, and Valley-Dowling served 34 minutes out of the 40 that were meted out.

CHAMPIONSHIP

WARRIORS 3, SIoux CITY 1

Warriors	1	0	2-3
Sioux City	1	0	0-1
FIRST PERIOD—1, Sioux City, Blachford (Bruker) 6:54; 2, Warriors, Schoonover (Gericka, Hann) 12:09. Penalties—W (tripping) 6:58.			
SECOND PERIOD—No scoring. Penalties—Ernster-W (high sticking) 2:53; Hileman-W (hooking) 8:07; Blachford-SC (holding) 8:46; Hann-W (elbowing) 9:16.			
THIRD PERIOD—3, Warriors, Ernster (Penalty shot) 5:44; 4, Warriors, Hileman (Gericka) 13:19. Penalties—Johnson-W (elbowing) 4:33; Augustine-SC (tripping, penalty shot) 5:44; Hann-W (roughing) 9:45; Hileman-SC (slashing) 9:45; Post-SC (holding) 11:47.			
SHOTS ON GOAL			
Warriors	5	5	9-19
Sioux City	15	13	18-46

Officials—Steve Kammeyer, referee; Rick Kemp and Del Donaldson

THIRD PLACE

COLUMBUS 11, VALLEY-DOWLING 3

Valley-Dowling	3	0	0-3
Columbus	4	4	3-11
FIRST PERIOD—1, Columbus, Smith (Simon) 1:28; 2, Columbus, Smith (Simon, D.Bloom) 1:55; 3, Valley-Dowling, Nail (Ohmart) 4:00; 4, Valley-Dowling, Furwangler (Krueger) 4:31; 5, Columbus, D.Bloom (Smith) 11:55; 6, Columbus, Dize (Buckley, D.Bloom) 7; Valley-Dowling, LeTourneau (Furwangler, Krueger) 13:03.			
Penalties—Smith-C (roughing) 5:14; Roche-VD (holding) 7:45; Ohmart-VD (tripping) 9:09; Krueger-VD (interference) 10:01; David-VD (spacing and misconduct) 11:36.			
SECOND PERIOD—8, Columbus, Simon (unassisted) 4:58; 9, Columbus, J.Bloom (Simon) 8:27; 10, Columbus, Simon (J.Bloom, Buckley) 10:45; 11, Columbus, Simon (D.Bloom) 13:56. Penalties—Malmann-VD (elbowing) 1:55; J.Bloom-C (elbowing) 5:22; Nail-VD (tripping) 5:22; Dize-C (interference) 10:57.			
THIRD PERIOD—12, Columbus, Smith (unassisted) 2:23; 13, Columbus, Jake Bloom (Bullivan, Jason Bloom) 5:11; 14, Columbus, Chamberlin (unassisted) 6:48. Penalties—Nail-VD (tripping) 4:38; Post-VD (high sticking) 4:58; Post-VD (cross checking) 7:30; Hase-VD (slashing) 12:01; Post-VD (elbowing) 12:01; Roche-VD (tripping) 13:28.			
SHOTS ON GOAL			
Valley-Dowling	10	6	6-22
Columbus	18	18	19-53

Officials—Jan Campbell, referee; Del Donaldson and Tim Frazer, linemen

Seventh place: Dubuque 3, Ames 2
Fifth place: Omaha 8, Urbandale 2