

# Warriors set to begin defense of state hockey title Thursday

AMES — Waterloo's Warriors begin defense of their state high school hockey championship here Thursday and the Warriors know there will be nothing easy about repeating.

Most likely, they will have to go through three teams that finished ahead of them during the regular season to win back-to-back titles, beginning at 3 p.m. Thursday against the 18-8 Omaha Gladiators.

Ironically, it was a first-round win over the Gladiators last year that sent Waterloo on its way to the championship after the Warriors had failed to defeat Omaha during the regular Iowa High School Hockey League season.

This year, Waterloo lost to the Gladiators 4-3 in overtime and 9-3. Omaha features a potent offense that led the league in short-handed scores with 20 while averaging 6.3 goals per game. Ted Lowndes finished as the league scoring champion with 86 points in 26 games, an average of 3.31. Teammate Dusty Stolp was right behind at 3.19 points per game.

"That's their big punch," says Warriors Coach Dave Swick. "If we can keep them off the board, we've got a good shot at them."

If Waterloo can topple Omaha, it wouldn't play again until 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the semifinals where the opponent is expected to be overall league champ Dubuque, which went 22-3-1.

The second and third seeds are in the opposite bracket in Sioux City and Valley-Dowling.

As a group, those top four seeds were responsible for all of the Warriors' losses this season, although Waterloo tied Dubuque once and lost one-goal games to each of the others.

"If we happen to go all the way, we're going to have three tough games," says Swick.

"But honestly, last year I thought our chances were slimmer than this year. I think we've got enough talent to win. I don't know that there's anybody we couldn't beat. Last year I don't think I could have said that."

Omaha Coach Tim Lowndes, who plans to step down after one season with the varsity, is the older brother of the league scoring champ. He expects a battle from the Warriors.

"They played us pretty tough that one game," he said. "Our clock reads tenths of a second and I think there was less than a full second left when we beat them."

Overall, Swick rates Dubuque as the team to beat while Lowndes likes Sioux City. "Dubuque was not real impressive, but they sure won a lot of games," Swick says. Included were seven one-goal wins and another by two goals.

Sioux City dominated the league's team offensive statistics, but the Metros rang up 17-1, 16-1, 23-0 and 20-1 routs of the winless Omaha Junior Lancers.

## Final IHSHL standings

### EAST DIVISION

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pct.	GF	GA	Pn	PM
Dubuque	26	22	3	1	.865	126	63	143	382
Waterloo	26	18	9	1	.692	142	87	162	471
Mason City	26	8	17	1	.327	101	122	186	433
Ames	26	7	19	0	.269	90	139	157	394
Urbandale	26	2	23	1	.096	92	185	195	542

### WEST DIVISION

Sioux City	26	21	4	1	.827	211	57	220	510
Valley-Dowling	26	19	7	0	.731	163	76	184	400
Omaha Gladiators	26	18	8	0	.692	154	111	252	675
St. Joseph	26	14	11	1	.558	138	90	189	503
Omaha Jr. Lancers	26	0	26	0	.000	30	327	176	485

## State tournament pairings

### GAMES THURSDAY

10 a.m. — Mason City vs. Omaha Jr. Lancers  
 12:30 p.m. — Valley-Dowling vs. St. Joseph  
 3 p.m. — Omaha Gladiators vs. Waterloo  
 5:30 p.m. — Ames vs. Urbandale  
 8 p.m. — Sioux City vs. Mason City-Omaha winner  
**GAME FRIDAY**  
 8 a.m. — Dubuque vs. Ames-Urbandale winner

## Final individual leaders

### SCORING

Player	GP	Go	Ast	Pts	PPG	SH	PP	Pn	PM
Lowndes, Om.Gl.	26	50	36	86	3.31	6	10	20	48
Stolp, Om.Gl.	21	44	23	67	3.19	7	5	35	102
Reinsch, S.City	26	37	33	70	2.69	7	20	48	
Sorum, S.City	26	36	33	69	2.65	4	7	12	32
Gericke, Wat.	26	32	34	66	2.54	2	8	15	40
Krueger, Vall.-Dowl.	21	30	19	49	2.33	3	7	9	26
Byrkit, Vall.-Dowl.	26	34	26	60	2.31	4	7	14	44
Davies, S.City	26	32	23	55	2.12	3	6	7	14
Hill, Dub.	24	28	22	50	2.08	5	4	14	28
Cigrand, Dub.	24	22	26	48	2.00	4	2	21	48
Poll, Vall.-Dowl.	26	29	23	52	2.00	4	5	21	42
Monell, S.City	26	16	36	52	2.00	0	3	33	82

### GOALTENDING

Player	GP	W-L-T	SOG	Svs	GA	SH	PP	Pct.	SHO
Geiger, V.-Dowl.	20	13-5-0	546	494	52	5	14	90.5	1
Basarich, S.City	12	10-2-0	255	230	25	2	7	90.2	3
March, Dub.	24	13-11-0	555	492	63	4	11	88.6	2
Brogan, S.City	13	10-2-1	267	236	31	2	7	88.4	2
Doland, Wat.	18	9-8-1	542	479	63	1	13	88.4	0

"They're just big, hard hitters," says Lowndes. "They don't have anybody that totally stands out, but a lot of guys contribute and they move the puck really well."

In the final analysis, Swick says his team's fortunes will boil down to capitalizing on its scoring chances and how well it plays behind its own blue line. Last year, goaltender K.C. Doland had a sensational tournament.

Should Waterloo drop its opener Thursday, the Warriors would move into the consolation bracket for a 3:30 p.m. game Friday.