

Warriors claim seventh in state hockey

By **KENN MacADAM**
Courier Sports Writer

The Omaha Jr. Lancers' regular-season title in the Iowa High School Hockey League was no fluke.

The Lancers proved that Sunday by beating Mason City, 5-2, in the championship game of the IHSHL postseason tournament, capping an undefeated season that saw Omaha win all 24 regular-season games and three more in the tourney.

But it didn't come easy.

"There definitely was some pressure," said head coach Scott Pionk, who was named the IHSHL Coach of the Year following the game. "Every game we won, it wouldn't have mattered if we didn't win the last one."

Four players made sure the last game wasn't a loss for the Lancers, who became the first non-Iowa team to take home the tournament trophy.

Jed Ortmeyer, who had the league's second-highest points per game total at 2.28, had a pair of goals and an assist, as did Kyle Korbel. Robert Pullum, who was selected the tournament MVP and led the league with 25 goals during the season; had a goal and two assists, and Tom Ogee, tied for the regular-season points lead with 50, had three assists.

Earlier Sunday, Tim Markey scored four goals for the second straight game and the Waterloo Warriors capped a successful tournament run with a 4-0 whitewashing of Dubuque in the seventh-place game.

The win was Waterloo's second in four tournament games, equalling the team's victory total during a 2-18-2 regular season, and avenged a back-and-forth, 7-6 loss to the Devils in Thursday's preliminary round.

The win also represented Waterloo's largest victory margin of the season and the first time all year the Warriors had outshot an opponent (25-21). Ryan Eldridge stopped all 21 Devils shots for the shutout.

Some of the team's credit for its tournament improvement goes to Markey, who didn't become eligible until the end of January, but the other players also contributed to the success.

"Markey played well — he finally got his legs underneath him the last week or two — but actually all the kids came out and played pretty good," said Warriors head coach Mike Brown. "We had a good tournament. Even in our first two games (both losses), we only lost by one goal each time.

"It's a good way to end the season. Everyone goes away feeling good

about themselves."

Markey and Waterloo goalie Steve Cak earned honorable mention honors on the all-state team, and Markey was named a member of the Chicago Showcase team that will compete in the Windy City on April 19-23.

In Sunday's third-place game, Des Moines beat Ames, 7-3, and Sioux City topped the Omaha Gladiators, 4-3, in the fifth-place game.

WATERLOO 4, DUBUQUE 0

Waterloo	1	1	2	—	4
Dubuque	0	0	0	—	0

FIRST PERIOD — 1. Waterloo, Tim Markey (Jim Dwyer, Neal Ticknor) 10:58. Penalties — Cory Olsen, Dub (tripping) 7:05; Tony Snook, Dub (tripping) 10:36; Brent Westphal, Wat (cross-checking) 14:59.

SECOND PERIOD — 2. Waterloo, Markey (Dave Hedeman) 1:10. Penalties — Dan Richman, Dub (slashing) 9:36; P.J. Carney, Dub (tripping) 13:39.

THIRD PERIOD — 3. Waterloo, Markey (Jason Verbraken) 1:19; 4. Waterloo, Markey (unassisted) 14:32. Penalties — Olsen, Dub (roughing) 7:39; Chad Rose, Wat (roughing) 7:39; Ben Brown, Wat (tripping) 8:19; Trent Clermen, Dub (hooking) 12:47; Rose, Wat (roughing) 13:55.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Waterloo	7	10	8	—	25
Dubuque	8	5	8	—	21

Goaltenders - Waterloo, Ryan Eldridge (21 saves); Dubuque, Jim Gornick (21 saves).

Referee — Ian Campbell. Linesmen — Tim Frazier, Keith Hendrickson.

Championship

OMAHA JR. LANCERS 5, MASON CITY 2

Mason City	0	2	0	—	2
Omaha Lancers	1	2	2	—	5

FIRST PERIOD — 1. Omaha, Kyle Korbel (Jed Ortmeyer) 6:58. Penalties — John Newell, Om (interference) :39; Steve Russell, MC (interference) 6:42.

SECOND PERIOD — 2. Omaha, Je. Ortmeyer (Robert Pullum, Tom Ogee) 5:46; 3. Mason City, Matt Bloxham (Jim Sanft, John Kleven) 9:37; 4. Omaha, Pullum (Ogee) 12:59; 5. Mason City, Bloxham (unassisted) 13:16. Penalties — bench minor, MC (too many men) 4:01; Mikko Laukka, MC (illegal equipment) 4:49; Newell, Om (holding) 8:25; Dan Gross, Om (holding) 8:58; Russell, MC (tripping) 9:20; Todd Davidson, Om (interference) 11:15.

THIRD PERIOD — 6. Omaha, Je. Ortmeyer (Korbel) 3:09; 7. Omaha, Korbel (Pullum, Ogee) 14:41. Penalties — Andy Blaisdell, MC (hooking) 3:03; Kleven, MC (roughing) 13:30; Jason Anderog, MC (roughing) 15:00.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Mason City	4	7	6	—	17
Omaha Lancers	7	16	16	—	39

Goaltenders — Mason City, Mike Fryar (33 saves); Ryan Ruschhoff (1 save); Omaha Lancers, Brian Nieman (15 saves).

Referee — John Wells. Linesmen — Del Donaldson, Steve Kammeyer. A — 926.

ALL-STATE TEAM

FORWARDS — Andrew Murdoch, Ames; Brian Kipfel, Des Moines; Sloane Kromminga, Des Moines; Mike Anderson, Mason City; Andy Blaisdell, Mason City; John Kleven, Mason City; Tom Ogee, Omaha Lancers; Jed Ortmeyer, Omaha Lancers; Robert Pullum, Omaha Lancers.

DEFENSE — Chris Sprong, Ames; Mikko Laukka, Mason City; Ryan Perell, Omaha Gladiators; Jake Ortmeyer, Omaha Lancers; Kyle Korbel, Omaha Lancers; Seth Schramm, Sioux City.

GOALTENDERS — Scott Clemmensens, Des Moines; Brian Nieman, Omaha Lancers; Jimmy Bjernmyr, St. Joseph.

COACH OF THE YEAR — Scott Pionk, Omaha Lancers.

REFEREE OF THE YEAR — John Wells (Ames).

HONORABLE MENTION

FORWARDS — Tim Markey, Waterloo; James Klaus, Ames; Dustin Morrison, Ames; Chad Ingle, Des Moines; Dan Richman, Dubuque; Chad Hafertier, Omaha Gladiators; Cory Nelson, Omaha Gladiators; Jason Swanson, Omaha Lancers; Mark Doran, Sioux City; Nate Kelly, Sioux City; Mike Stoneburg, Sioux City.

DEFENSE — Steve Russell, Mason City; Jim Sanft, Mason City; Eric Johnson, Omaha Gladiators; Dan Gross, Omaha Lancers; John Newell, Omaha Lancers; Randy Napier, St. Joseph; Chris Hedquist, Omaha City.

GOALTENDERS — Steve Cak, Waterloo; Jim Gornick, Dubuque; Mike Fryar, Mason City; Chad Steward, Omaha Lancers.

CHICAGO SHOWCASE TEAM

FORWARDS — Markey, Waterloo; Klaus, Ames; Kipfel, Des Moines; Kromminga, Des Moines; Anderson, Mason City; A. Blaisdell, Mason City; Kleven, Mason City; Nelson, Omaha Gladiators; Pullum, Omaha Lancers; Swanson, Omaha Lancers; Kelly, Sioux City; Stoneburg, Sioux City.

DEFENSE — Sprong, Ames; Laukka, Mason City; Perell, Omaha Gladiators; Korbel, Omaha Lancers; Je. Ortmeyer, Omaha Lancers; Napier, St. Joseph; Hedquist, Sioux City; Schramm, Sioux City.

GOALTENDERS — Clemmensens, Des Moines; Bjernmyr, St. Joseph.

COACH — John DeCenzo, Omaha Gladiators.