Warriors fall to **Dubuque in opener**

By KENN MacADAM Courier Sports Writer

Two low-scoring teams engaged in a high-scoring battle Thursday as the Dubuque Devils beat the Waterloo Warriors, 7-6, in the preliminary round of the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament.

The game between the nine-team league's bottom two squads wasn't decided until the final minute, when Dubuque's Jeff Smith beat Waterloo goalie Ryan Eldridge with 46 seconds left to play, deflating the hopes of most of the 450 or so fans at Young Arena

Smith's late goal gave him a double hat trick of sorts - he finished with three goals and three assists. Dan Richman had a hat trick of his own and an assist for Dubuque, which was scheduled to face the top-seeded Omaha Lancers at 3:30 p.m. today.

Thursday's scoring outburst marked season highs for both teams. The previous high for the Warriors, who scored the fewest goals in the

league (32), was five early in the year against Dubuque. The Devils, the league's second-lowest scoring team with 59 goals, scored six goals late in the season against the Omaha Gladiators

Waterloo coach Mike Brown was happy to see his offense come to life, but he felt let down by the defense.

"We played terrible in our own zone," he said. "We got outnumbered to the net on both of their last two goals. We just gave them opportunities and they took advantage of them.'

The Warriors (2-19-2) had turned the game around and taken a 6-5 lead at 9:30 in the third period when Jason Boller netted a shorthanded goal just eight seconds after Jim Dwyer had done the same, the second time in the game Waterloo scored goals within eight second of each other.

But the Devils (4-18-1), who had grabbed the lead on three different

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RICK CHASE / Courier Staff Photograp[he

Dubuque Devils goaltender Jim Gornick stops Tim Markey's breakaway shot during the second period of the Devils' 7-6 state tournament win Thursday over the Waterloo Warriors at Young Arena. The Warriors play again tonight, at 6 o'clock.

HOCKEY

Warriors bow, 7-6, in state tournament

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occasions already, had an answer this time, too, as Richman tied the game and got his hat trick when he took a pass from Smith and fired a clean shot past Eldridge at the 12:14 mark.

Exactly two minutes later, with Smith lurking near the Waterloo crease. Richman shot him a pass from the right wing and Smith redirected it past Eldridge.

The Warriors tried desperately to retie the game, but a wraparound shot refused to find the net and Brad Heggebo's last-second slap shot from the blue line was knocked down by Dubuque goalie Jim Gornick.

Waterloo was led by Dwyer and

Tim Markey, both of whom had two goals and two assists.

The loss put Waterloo into the losers' bracket, where it will face the Sioux City-Ames loser at 6 p.m. tonight.

The goals came fast and furious Thursday. The teams burst onto the scoreboard with five goals in the last 7 1/2 minutes of the first period, and the Warriors had the lead after Markey's second goal, which came following the faceoff eight seconds after he'd assisted on Brent Westphal's game-tying goal.

The Warriors went up 4-2 when Dwyer's shot crept past Gornick early in the second period. But Dubuque powered back with three goals in 3:03, not including a goal that was disallowed because the Devils had a man in the Waterloo crease.

"That was the turning point right there," said Dubuque coach Brian Plunkett.

"When the goal was disallowed and we came right back and stuffed it in there (21 seconds later), that showed a lot of character."

The Warriors proceeded to retake the lead on their pair of shorthanded goals, but that only set the stage for Richman and Smith.

Dubuque Waterloo

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Waterloo 2 3 2—7 FIRST PERIOD — 1. Dubuque, Jeff Smith (unassist-ed) 7:30; 2. Waterloo, Tim Markey (Jim Dwyer, Brad Heggebo) 9:20; 3. Dubuque, Smith (Travis Wilming) 10:24; 4. Waterloo, Brent Westphal (Markey) 12:56; 5. Waterloo, Markey (Dwyer) 13:04. Penalties — Smith, Dub (charging) 10:49. SECOND PERIOD — 6. Waterloo, Dwyer (Markey) 2:57; 7. Dubuque, Dan Richman (Smith, Eric Olson) 10:38; 8. Dubuque, Marc Brock (Drew Arensdorf) 13:08; 9. Dubuque, Richman (Smith) 13:41. Penalties — Trent Clemen, Dub (holding) 4:49; Jason Boller, Wat (checking from behind, misconduct) 10:02. THIRD PERIOD — 10. Waterloo, Dwyer (David Hedeman) 9:22; 11. Waterloo, Boller (Hedeman) 9:30; 12. Dubuque, Richman (Smith) 12:14; 13. Dubuque, Smith (Richman) 14:14. Penalties — Heggebo, Wat (hooking) 7:50; Hedeman, Wat (unsportsmanlike conduct) 11:07. Broch Con Cont conduct) 11:07

SHOTS ON GOAL			
Dubuque	7	14	12 -
Waterloo	6	7	9-

-22 Goaltenders - Dubuque, Jim Gornick (16 saves);

Waterloo, Ryan Eldridge (26 saves). Referee - Del Donaldson. Linesmen - Rick Kemp, Tim Frazee. A - 447.