

## Sports Special

## Mohawks put it all together



Mohawk coach John Lloyd addresses the championship trophy with senior stakeholders (front, from left) Jeremy Solberg and David Hopper, and back, from left) Cory Clapton, Jason Andrejgg and Ben Fautler.

By Tom Thoma  
Of The Globe-Gazette

**MASON CITY** — They're calling it the Mason City Mohawks version of "Miracle on Ice." And with good reason. A team that had a 14-12 regular season, a team that had been hampered by injuries and illness, a team that entered the state tournament with the sixth seed, somehow put it all together to produce a state championship.

A week after the Mohawks JV finished second in its own state tournament, Mason City won the varsity championship in Omaha, defeating DeSoto 4-3 (in overtime) and Des Moines 5-1, and then shocking the Omaha Junior Lakers 3-2 in the title game. This was a talented Omaha team that was 24-1-1. But this tournament

was not won solely on talent.

After the final loss, the Mohawks huddled on the ice, according to junior public Isaac Sorenson. Senior Jason Andrejgg addressed his teammates.

"He said it wasn't physical ability or how tough we were," Sorenson said. "It's just that we had the heart to do it." But there was toughness. Out-sized defensemen knocking bigger players off the puck time and again; forwards taking control when center mattered most; and Sorenson coming up big.

Sorenson was his own picture of toughness. He had suffered a concussion toward the end of the season and was told by doctors that "coming back this year wasn't a good idea."

"But since we only had one goalie left and since hockey's the thing I love the most," he said, "I thought I'd rather

play hockey and take that risk."

Problem: Remy Abu-Jarrah got the win against DeSoto. Then Sorenson got the win against Des Moines. He said that victory gave the Mohawks confidence, and we know we had a shot at the Lakers.

"I just tried to play as well as I could because the team had been skating their hearts out," he said. "I went all out, too, and kind of got in a zone."

Sorenson was named tournament MVP. And Mohawk coach John Lloyd said he got MVP like play from everyone.

"Every line skated their hearts out," he said.

As for individual awards, Andrewg, Michael Haindell and Jim Shovin were named to the Chicago Showcase all-star national tournament. Andrewg and Zane Kantaris were named first-team All-Staters while Haindell and

Ben Fautler were honorable mention. Lloyd, who guided the Mohawks to a state title 10 years ago, was named coach of the year. He was assisted by Ron Harris and Steve Fautler.

Kara Barrett was named an All-State cheerleader.

Bob Klocke, president of the Mason City Youth Hockey Association which sponsors the Mohawks, said the championship will be a tremendous way to kick off the association's 25th anniversary.

"It's really something to get fired up about," he said.

First, though, comes a public celebration of this championship on Tuesday at the Mason City Holiday Inn. A public open house will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. and the team banquet will be held afterward.

# MIRACLES ON THE ICE '97

## MOHAWKS IOWA HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE VARSITY STATE CHAMPIONS



BOTTOM ROW CHEERLEADERS: Kara Barrett, Molly Morison, Cassi Fredin, Michelle Rodgers, Gina Dougherty, Karen OR, Chris Hrusavec. 2nd ROW: Manager-Dave Hopper, Goalie-Isaac Sorenson, Nate Startler, TJ Shovin, Jerry Springer, Brad Price, Dan Kivke, Remy Abu-Jarrah. Coach - John Lloyd. 3rd ROW: Tom Zarnke, David Hopper, Jeremy Solberg, Jason Andrejgg, Jim Shovin, Mike Haindell, David Russell, Shawn Grauen, Eric Martin. 4th ROW: Asst. Coach - Steve Fautler, Asst. Coach - Ron Harris, Cory Clapton, Zane Kantaris, Ben Fautler. NOT PICTURED: Jim Anderson

## MOHAWKS JR. VARSITY 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE CHAMPIONS

**OPEN HOUSE**  
All Friends of  
Mohawk Hockey are invited to  
Congratulate the Players on  
Tuesday, March 18th,  
5-6 PM at the Holiday Inn  
in Mason City.



FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Lucas Seider, Jason Pak, Adam Beller, Jerry Springer, Adam Ackerman, Sean Olson. 2nd ROW: Coach - John Lloyd, Remy Abu-Jarrah, Jake Zeman, Jason Beas, Luke Davis, Luke Ward, TJ Shovin, 3rd ROW: Asst. Coach - Ron Harris, Asst. Coach - Steve Fautler, Tom Zarnke, Eric Martin, Joe Price, Bob Hanson, Aston Austin. 4th ROW: Bill Barnett, Erik Overbeck, Gabe Pak, Dudy Howe. NOT PICTURED: Ben Sauter.

The Mason City Youth Hockey Association Thanks All Individuals and Business Sponsors Who Have Made These Championships and All Other Youth Hockey Programs Possible.