

Mohawks win ice title

By Tom Thoma
Of The Globe-Gazette

OMAHA — The defense was devastating.

The goals rocked the nets in textbook-like fashion.

The result was a state championship for the Mason City High hockey team Sunday — 10 years to the day after the **M o h a w k s** won their last title.

Mason City pulled the upset of the season, defeating the Omaha Junior Lancers 3-2 in the state finals in Omaha.

"It was just one excellent hockey game," said Mason City coach John Lloyd, who was voted coach of the year for the third time. "Every line just skated their hearts out."

Make no mistake about the significance of this win. The Junior Lancers were the powerhouse of the Iowa High School Hockey League, losing just once all season before Sunday.

Mason City, on the other hand, had finished sixth in the league.

But Lloyd saw things changing in the last three games of the season, when the Mohawks — hampered by injuries throughout the season — got most of their key players back. They posted nine shutout periods, losing only to Des Moines 2-1 in overtime.

But Mason City avenged that loss on Saturday, setting the stage for Sunday's title game.

Omaha led 1-0 at the end of the first period, but the Mohawks scored three times in the second — on goals by Eric Harlan, Jim Shovein and Jason Anderegg.

On the first goal, Shovein dished the puck to Clopton, who



Lloyd

Skate Champs

Mason City	0	3	0	—	3
Omaha Lancers	1	0	1	—	2
FIRST PERIOD — Jed Ortmeier (O), assist Tom Ogee, 6:30.					
SECOND PERIOD — Eric Harlan (MC), Jim Shovein, Cory Clopton, 2:26. Jim Shovein (MC), Zane Kantaris, 8:01. Jason Anderegg (MC), 10:11 (unassisted).					
THIRD PERIOD — Jeremiah Johnson (O), Ogee.					
Goalies — Mason City, Isaac Sorensen; Omaha, Brett Roth.					
Shots on goal — Mason City 7-9-9 — 25; Omaha 7-9-5 — 21.					
Penalties-minutes — Mason City 2-4, Omaha 2-4.					

passed it across the front of the net as Harlan was breaking in.

On the second, Zane Kantaris — who was shifted from forward to defense in those final three regular-season games — brought the puck down the right-hand side and found Shovein breaking in on the net.

Anderegg's goal came after the Mohawks had a shot blocked and Omaha got the rebound. But the Junior Lancer was knocked off the puck, and Anderegg powered it over the shoulder of goalie Brett Roth.

Mason City goalie Isaac Sorensen turned in his second-straight standout game, earning him the Most Valuable Player award.

Lloyd didn't play the senior in Friday's first game, choosing to go with junior Romy Abujobarah instead.

"His practices hadn't been good, so I played Romy and I think that got Isaac going," Lloyd said. "He played an excellent game against Des Moines Saturday, so I decided to put him in again. I couldn't be more proud of him."

Sorensen and the defensemen had a huge task in stopping Omaha's line of Jed Ortmeier, Tom Ogee and Jeremiah Johnson.

"No one had been able to touch them," Lloyd said. "They were able to score at will all season."

But not Sunday. Ortmeier

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scored in the first period and Johnson in the third, and that was it.

"The coaches all asked me if I was going to shadow them, and I didn't think we would," Lloyd said. "If you do, you take one of your best scoring lines away; they're not doing anything (offensively), they're just keeping them from scoring."

"So we decided to play the body. Every time we lined up against them, we just played the body — keep them off the puck, keep them out of the zone and not let them set up anything.

And it worked."

Along with honors for Sorensen and Lloyd, three Mohawks were named to the Chicago Showcase all-star tournament. Anderegg, Shovein and Michael Blaisdell will represent the Mohawks in the April event which features top high school players.

And it all happened before a big crowd of Mohawk fans.

"There were lots of Mason City people in one section," he said, "and these guys really gave 'em a game to watch."