

Mohawks win opener

□ Mason City stops Sioux City in state hockey tournament.

By CHARLES EMERICK
Of The Globe Gazette

MASON CITY — It was almost too similar to last year's state tournament for the Mason City Hockey Club.

The Mohawks were called for 32 minutes worth of penalties in Friday's Iowa High School Hockey League quarterfinal state tournament game against Sioux City.

But the Mohawks were able

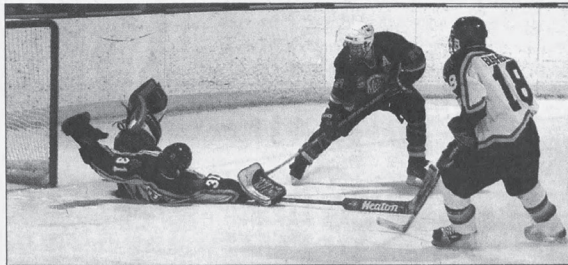
to overcome the penalties for a 5-2 victory as they advance



Sorensen

to today's semifinal game against the top-seeded Omaha Junior Lancers. "It's great," junior forward Erik Fox said. "Sioux City upset us every year and it's good to finally get a win on them in the state tournament."

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KELLI WENGL/The Globe Gazette

Sioux City's Ben Deck (center) gets a short-handed goal past Mason City's Alex Pieper in the first period of Friday's quarterfinal contest at the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament at the North Iowa Ice Arena. At right is Mason City's Jon Bushbaum.

HOCKEY

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"We're feeling good," senior defenseman Will Price said. "We knew it was going to be tough, but we feel good after this one and we need to be ready to go for (today)."

Last season, the Mohawks lost 5-2 to the Metros in a first-round game to the Metros at Sioux City. Mason City was called for 33 penalty minutes in the loss.

The Mohawks overcame the penalty problems Friday by getting good looks at the goal and converting on power-play opportunities.

"We did adjust," Mason City coach John Lloyd said, "and things turned out better. We were still getting some pretty good shots. But we scored some goals (Friday), which we're not noted for."

Sioux City took a 1-0 lead midway through the first period on a short-handed goal by Ben Deck, who led the IHSHL with 48 points during the regular season.

Mason City tied the game when Matt Paulsen knocked the loose puck by Metros' goalie Ryan Dohrmann. Kyle Huff and Robbie Springer assisted Paulsen on his 11th goal of the season.

The Mohawks would take a 3-1 lead in the second period with goals from Jake Sorensen and Bret Slife.

Sorensen, who normally plays defense but played at the wing position Friday, skated into the Sioux City zone and fired a slap shot by Dohrmann for his 12th goal this season.

Slife's goal, which was the game-winner, was his third of the season.

"Jake really drilled his shot," Lloyd said. "He got it off so quick. That was the main thing.

"We were going to the net to get most of our goals. There were a lot of scrambles in front of the net where the puck was still loose," he added.

Sioux City's Brian Swanson scored a power-play goal at 10:35 in the second period to cut into the Mohawks' lead.

Fox scored his 10th goal of the season and Brian Schloemer added his 11th as the Mohawks pulled away in the third period.

The loss drops Sioux City into the consolation bracket where the Metros face Dubuque today at 11:15 a.m.

Mason City faces the Omaha Junior Lancers for a trip to the championship game.

The Mohawks lost it two final regular season games to the Junior Lancers on Feb. 24 and 25. Omaha won those games 5-1 and 2-1.

"We have to stay out of the (penalty) box if we want to win again (today)," Price said. "That was the worst thing we did. I think our fore check is going real good and if we keep that up, we should be all right."

"It will be a good game. Those guys (Junior Lancers) are good," he added.

— See roundup of other three first round games, B2.

Score by periods: (1) (2) (3) Tot:
Sioux City 1 1 0— 2
Mason City 1 2 2— 5

FIRST PERIOD — 1, Sioux City, Ben Deck (Cory Mozak, Brandon Lake), 8:01 (sh); 2, Mason City, Matt Paulsen/11 (Kyle Huff, Robbie Springer), 9:19 (pp).

SECOND PERIOD — 3, Mason City, Jake Sorensen 12 (Paulsen), :47. 4, Mason City, Bret Slife 3 (Will Price), 6:23. 5, Sioux City, Brian Swanson (Rickey Newmark), 10:35 (pp).

THIRD PERIOD — 6, Mason City, Erik Fox 10 (unassisted), 1:18. 7, Mason City, Brian Schloemer 11 (Sorensen, Springer), 12:36 (pp).

Shots on goal — Sioux City 10-8-12—30. Mason City 7-12-8—27.

Penalties — Sioux City 4-8. Mason City 11-32.

Goalies — Sioux City, Ryan Dohrmann (27 shots-22 saves); Mason City, Alex Pieper 23-9-0 (30 shots-28 saves).