

# Mohawks expect physical contest

□ Mason City went 1-1-1 against Warriors during regular season

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*Of The Globe Gazette*

**DES MOINES** — They couldn't have been much closer.

The Mason City Hockey Club and the Waterloo Warriors split the season series, 1-1-1, and the two square off at 1 p.m. today in the opening round of the Iowa High School Hockey League tournament.

"Waterloo probably has two of the best players in the league on their team," Mason City coach Mark Hicks said of forwards Matt Metcalf and Brice Thompson. "They match up with any of our forwards. They also have a big, strong defense.

"We just have to be patient and capitalize on our chances when we get them."

Third-seeded Mason City won the first meeting, 3-2, in Mason City on Nov. 7. Sixth-seeded Waterloo clipped the Mohawks, 3-2, in overtime on Nov. 29 in Waterloo.

The two teams skated to a 5-5 tie on Jan. 7 in Waterloo.

"They've been physical games," Hicks said. "We've



SARAH SCHUTT/The Globe Gazette

Mason City coach Mark Hicks gestures to his players during a regular season game this season at the North Iowa Ice Arena.

had an edge in the shots on goal.

"If we continue to get the shots we've got in the past, we just need to bury them and we'll be all right."

Hicks said he's not sure if Brent Frein or Tyler Brown

will start in goal today for the Mohawks.

Frein, a junior, is 16-6 with three shutouts and has a save percentage of .907. Brown, a senior, is 6-1-1 with one shutout and a .927 save percentage.

"I have confidence in both of them," the coach said. "And I know the team has confidence in both of them.

"It doesn't really matter who gets the nod. They're both playing well and they're both at the top of the league."