

HOT
CORNER

WEEKEND PLANNER

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE STATE TOURNAMENT

Capitals, Oak Leafs hoping for showdown

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Des Moines' two high school hockey teams seek one more faceoff this season — this time with a state championship on the line.

The Des Moines Capitals and Des Moines Oak Leafs start play in the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament today at the Ice Sports Arena in Shawnee, Kan.

The regular-season champion and defending state champion Capitals (29-1-0-0) play Kansas City at noon today in the quarterfinals. The Oak Leafs (22-6-1-1) play Ames at 2:15 p.m.

If the two teams advance through the eight-team bracket, they will meet in the state title game Sunday.

"Our goal is to make it to the championship game and make it an all-Des Moines championship," Oak Leafs coach Doug Borud said. "The last two years we had to knock each other out in the semifinals. Des Moines has had a good year."

Both teams posted all-time best regular-season records and are the top scoring teams in the league.

A Des Moines team has participated in the state final each of the past five years.

"I hope we run into them," Capitals coach Scott Krueger said. "That will be great for Des Moines hockey."

The Capitals lost one game this season, to Mason City. They have scored a

Schedule

TODAY'S GAMES

- Noon — D.M. Capitals (1)
vs. Kansas City (8)
2:15 — D.M. Oak Leafs (3)
vs. Ames (6)
4:30 — Omaha (4)
vs. Sioux City (5)
6:45 — Mason City (2)
vs. Lincoln (7)

SATURDAY'S GAMES

- 9 a.m. — Consolation bracket
11:15 — Consolation bracket
1:30 — Semifinal
3:45 — Semifinal

Sunday, March 6

- 9 a.m. — 7th place
11:15 a.m. — 5th place
1:30 — Consolation, 3rd place
3:45 — Championship

league-leading 146 goals and allowed a league-low 43 goals through 30 games.

Forwards Derek Elliott, Brett Ferguson and Mike Giles — who all attend Valley — rank in the league's top 10 in points.

Goaltender Steven Erbstein of Valley is tied for third with a .911 save percentage.

"Our team is consistent in playing," Krueger said. "If they were not, I'd be worried. I expect them to step it up. I think they have a lot left in them."

Two of the league's top four points leaders play for the Oak Leafs — Dowling Catholic senior forward Brian Spring and Johnston sophomore Joseph Harcharik, each with 65 points.

Johnston junior Derek Hansen also ranks in the top 10 with 42 points.