

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Oak Leafs clinch league crown

The Des Moines Oak Leafs finished a season sweep of the Des Moines Capitals with a 3-2 win Sunday to clinch the Iowa High School Hockey League regular season title for the first time.

The Oak Leafs fell behind 2-1, but tied it on Josh Twinn's goal with 10 seconds left in the second period. Derek Hansen then scored the winning goal at the 10-minute mark of the third period.

Joseph Harcharik opened the scoring for the Oak Leafs on a power-play goal in the second period, his 47th of the season. He also had an assist and set a league record with 87 points. The old record was held by Ted Lowndes of the Omaha Gladiators who set the previous mark of 86 points during the 1990-91, 26-game season.

(Twinn's) goal at the end of the second period gave us a big push into the third period," Oak Leafs coach Doug Borud said.

Harcharik and A.J. Simon assisted on the winning goal.

The Capitals' goals were scored by Nate Jacobs in the first period to open the scoring and by Patrick Rice.

The win gave the Oak Leafs a 3-0 record against the Capitals this year. They earlier won 3-1 on Nov. 22 and 7-2 on Dec. 22 this season.

The Oak Leafs are 28-2-0 while the Capitals are 24-5-2. The Capitals lead the all-time series 16-8, which dates to 1998 — the Oak Leafs' first season in the league. It is the first time the Oak Leafs have swept the Capitals.

Borud was pleased with his team's effort.

"We played very well," he said. "We played defense better than we played all year. We really played hard in the defensive zone."

Both teams have qualified for the state tournament Feb. 24-26 at 95KGGG Arena.