

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

TURKEY CUP: D.M. OAK LEAFS 4, D.M. CAPITALS 1



JUSTIN HAYWORTH/THE REGISTER

The Des Moines Oak Leafs raise the Turkey Cup after defeating the Des Moines Capitals 4-1 on Tuesday night at 95KGGO Arena in Urbandale.

More photos from Tuesday night's game available at DesMoinesRegister.com/Photos

Oak Leafs win the Cup with third-period surge

Teams scrap to a 1-1 tie after two periods before 8-0 squad breaks through.

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REGISTER STAFF WRITER

The Des Moines Oak Leafs survived a scrappy game with the Des Moines Capitals on Tuesday night to claim the sixth annual Turkey Cup 4-1.

Heading into the final period, the score was tied 1-1.

"I knew that if we just kept playing our game, eventually things would go our way," said Oak Leafs coach Jeff Richer. "It was just a matter of time." It didn't take long.

Less than 30 seconds into the third period, Tyler Belling's

shot off a Matthew Vogl pass put the Oak Leafs (8-0) up 2-1, before the Capitals had the opportunity to go on the attack.

After killing a penalty during which the Capitals nearly tied the score, Chris Kunnen scored his second goal of the night with 2:45 remaining as the Oak Leafs took charge. Chad Minard added a final score on an open-net breakthrough.

The opening period was filled with big hits and plenty of close calls, but the teams appeared headed for the intermission scoreless.

But just as the announcement came that one minute remained, Kunnen took a pass from Charlie Clough and ripped a shot past Capitals

goalie Derek Temple.

The Capitals (6-2) answered midway through the second period.

After killing a penalty of their own, they took advantage of a power-play chance as Taylor Smith beat Oak Leafs goalie Kyler Pietz, with assists going to Matthew Van Dyke and Taylor Olson.

The teams meet again on Dec. 20, and Capitals coach Scott Long says he believes that if his team plays like it did Tuesday night, it'll be fine.

"As long as we play like that, we'll win more games than we lose," said Long, who was proud of his team's effort in playing "buzzer to buzzer."